NPL Site Narrative for Sheridan Disposal Services

SHERIDAN DISPOSAL SERVICES
Hempstead, Texas

Conditions at proposal (June 10, 1986): The Sheridan Disposal Services Site is approximately 9 miles north-northeast of Hempstead in a largely agricultural area of Waller County, Texas. On the site are a 42-acre land evaporation system, a 12- to 22-acre surface impoundment (depending on water levels), an incinerator, and nine storage tanks. The company collected a wide range of petrochemical and general industrial wastes from Gulf Coast industries, starting in the late 1950s. The State ordered the surface impoundment closed in 1976. In response, the facility constructed the evaporation system for treatment of accumulated rainwater and covered approximately 7 acres of the impoundment with construction debris and soil. By 1984, the State concluded that Sheridan Disposal Service lacked technical and financial resources to adequately close the site and revoked its waste disposal permit.

There is potential for water to move between the water-table aquifer and the first confined aquifer below. The upper aquifer is contaminated with chloroform, dichlorobromomethane, and isophorone, according to limited data collected by EPA and parties potentially responsible for wastes associated with the site. The extent of contamination of both aquifers is being studied in an ongoing remedial investigation of ground water. The deeper aquifer provides drinking water for approximately 500 people within 3 miles of the site.

The site is in alluvial deposits about 250 feet from the Brazos River, within the 100-year floodplain. Elevated levels of metals were found in sediments downstream of the site. Metals or organics above upstream levels were not found in the surface water. A water overflow from the site in 1978 caused a fish kill in Clark Lake, a private lake adjacent to the site. Recent EPA air testing found no toxic compounds above background levels.

In April 1984, approximately 60 potentially responsible parties set up the Sheridan Site Committee. It began negotiating with the State and EPA and hired a contractor to investigate ground water. The Committee has also taken these actions: transferred 1.5 million gallons of water from the impoundment to the evaporation system; repaired, strengthened, and raised dikes around the impoundment and the evaporation system to above the 100-year floodplain; and transferred 6,000 gallons of oil floating on top of the impoundment to on-site tanks.

Status (March 31, 1989): On February 3, 1987, the Sheridan Site Committee entered into an Administrative Order on Consent with EPA under Section 106 of CERCLA and Section 7003 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act to conduct a remedial investigation/feasibility study to control the source and migration of contaminated ground water from the site. Tests conducted in 1987 identified benzene, tetrachloroethylene, and trans-1,2-dichloroethylene in the water-table aquifer. The lower aquifer had no contaminants above detection limits.

Under a unilateral order issued by EPA in 1987, eight potentially responsible parties lowered the water level in the pond.

The Committee's Source Control Risk Assessment/Feasibility Study and Remedial Investigation for management of ground water migration were recently finalized.

For more information about the hazardous substances identified in this narrative summary, including general information regarding the effects of exposure to these substances on human health, please see the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) ToxFAQs. ATSDR ToxFAQs can be found on the Internet at ATSDR - ToxFAQs (http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/index.asp) or by telephone at 1-888-42-ATSDR or 1-888-422-8737.