



Velsicol Burn Pit Superfund Site St. Louis, Michigan

Site Description

The [Velsicol Burn Pit](#) is site of approximately 5 acres in a low-lying area in the northwest portion of St. Louis, Michigan. It is approximately 1,000 feet northwest of the Pine River, within the boundary of the Hidden Oaks Golf Course, and across the river from the separate [Velsicol Chemical Corp.](#) Superfund site.

The Velsicol Chemical Corp. used the Velsicol Burn Pit site as an off-site disposal area where it burned industrial solid and liquid wastes for volume reduction or other disposal purposes. In addition, solid waste from the city of St. Louis was burned at this location. According to records, liquid waste was burned weekly in an open pit.

The Burn Pit was initially proposed to the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) in the early 1980s. However, prior to final listing, Velsicol excavated approximately 68,000 cubic yards from the Burn Pit and disposed of the waste at the former Velsicol chemical plant property in accordance with a 1982 consent judgement. Historically the Burn Pit was considered part of the Velsicol Chemical Corp. Superfund site. Based on contaminant data obtained during the Velsicol Chemical Corp. remedial investigation, a large amount of residual contamination was discovered at the Burn Pit. EPA reevaluated the Burn Pit and added it to the NPL, as a separate site, in 2010. Velsicol filed for bankruptcy in 1999 and all work is funded from the Superfund.

The Burn Pit site has been divided into two operable units, with operable unit 1 associated with the former burn pit boundaries and operable unit 2 associated with groundwater. Operable unit 2 will begin once operable unit 1 is complete to allow for the evaluation of groundwater after treatment of the source material. Operable unit 1 consists of three remedy components and includes:

- The use of in-situ thermal treatment for principal threat waste;
- The hookup of nine homes to municipal water as a precautionary measure; and
- Excavation and off-site disposal of ash piles at the site.

The major contaminants of concern include non-aqueous phase liquid (NAPL) consisting of high concentrations of 1,2-dichloroethane, 1,2-dibromo-3-chloropropane, chlorobenzene, lindane and benzene. Groundwater data, to date, does not show large-scale contamination.

Site Status and Cleanup Actions to Date

- The remedy includes use of in-situ thermal treatment to address the NAPL. The remedial design for this treatment will be completed by the end of 2017 and the project will be ready to evaluate thermal treatment vendors in early 2018.
- Due to limited funding, the remedial designs for the hookup of nine homes to municipal water and for the excavation and off-site disposal of ash piles remaining on site have not begun.
- The groundwater operable unit will begin once the in-situ thermal treatment portion of the remedy is complete.

Unfunded Action

The unfunded fiscal year 2017 remedial action consisted of in-situ thermal treatment of source areas containing non-aqueous phase liquid. The in-situ thermal treatment remedy is estimated to cost approximately \$23 million.

Funding Status

Remedial action funding has not been provided to date.