



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Kerr-McGee Chemical Corp. (Columbus) Site
(Columbus, Lowndes County, Mississippi)

Fact Sheet No. 3

May 2014

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is committed to informing the citizens affected by cleanup activities of the Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation Site of previous, current and future activities at the Site.

Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation Site
Public Meeting

Location

Columbus Municipal School District
924 20th Street North
Columbus, MS 39701

Date

May 5, 2014

Time

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

For additional information concerning cleanup efforts or should you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of the following:

Kerisa Coleman, Community Involvement
Coordinator
Office of Superfund Public Affairs and Outreach
(404) 562-8831 or Toll Free (877) 718-3752
Coleman.kerisa@epa.gov

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Remedial Project Manager
Superfund Remedial Branch
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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
61 Forsyth Street, SW
11th Floor
Atlanta, GA 30303

SITE HISTORY

The facility was operational from approximately 1928 to 2003. While operational, Kerr-McGee manufactured pressure-treated railroad products such as wooden cross ties, switch ties, and timbers. The production processes at the site utilized creosote and creosote coal tar solutions to produce pressure-treated wood products. The facility also used pentachlorophenol (PCP) for wood-treating from the 1950s until the mid-1970s.

Tronox, successor to Kerr McGee and the sole potentially responsible party, declared bankruptcy in 2009. Prior to the 2009 bankruptcy filing of Tronox, LLC, the site was regulated under the state and federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) programs. Due to the bankruptcy, EPA could no longer effectively manage all aspects of the site under the RCRA authority. As a result, the responsibility for the Site was transitioned to the Superfund Program.

Pursuant to a 2011 Consent Decree and Environmental Settlement Agreement, the Greenfield Environmental Multistate Trust LLC (the Trust) is responsible for implementing all environmental actions at the Site consistent with its obligations to the beneficiaries of the Trust. The beneficiaries of the Trust for the Site are the EPA and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ).

ACTIONS TO DATE

- In 2012, the Button & Bows Day Care facility located on 14th Avenue was provided a new playground surface to address potential environmental concerns. This improvement was a joint financial effort of the property owner and the Trust.
- In April 2012, Tetra Tech, the contractor selected to prepare the RI/FS Workplan, opened a local office in Columbus to provide more direct project and community support.
- EPA expedited sampling activities in and around the 14th Avenue Ditch based on a request from city officials and the Memphis Town Community Advisory Group (CAG). EPA's involvement in the Ditch Improvement Project (DIP) is expected to prevent or minimize the continued migration pathway from the former facility to the surrounding neighborhoods. In 2013, EPA issued an Action Memo which provides the rationale for removal action that is required to collaborate with the City's DIP.

SITE LOCATION

The Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation Site is comprised of approximately 90 acres and is located at 2300 North 14th Avenue, Columbus, Lowndes County, Mississippi. The Site includes two areas: (1) the former plan site where wood treating activities occurred and (2) the pine yard, located adjacent to the northeastern corner of the plant site that was used to store untreated wood and scrap metal.

PROJECTED ACTIVITIES

- Specific to the DIP, the Trust is preparing remedial design construction documents for bidding and contractor selection, which is currently scheduled for summer 2014. The Trust is also working with the city on an overall agreement to work together on the project.
- The first phase of Limited Remedial Investigation (LRI), which is designed to determine the type and amount of contamination in residential yards near the Site, is currently scheduled to begin in June 2014.
- Representatives from EPA, MDEQ and the Trust will be contacting property owners near the former Kerr-McGee manufacturing facility to get written permission in the form of an access agreement to collect soil samples from their property.
- Representatives will also obtain signatures on access agreements from the owners of approximately 20 properties in Columbus that are not expected to be impacted by the Site or any other manufacturing facility. These properties will be used to identify background concentrations for the contaminants of concern in the area.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Community input is needed to understand community concerns about the Site and EPA's involvement.

Information can be found at the Information Repository located at:

Columbus-Lowndes Library
314 North Seventh Street
Columbus, MS 39701

The Memphis Town Community Advisory Group (CAG), which is sanctioned by the EPA, meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM at the Genesis Church located at:

Genesis Church
1820 23rd Street North
Columbus, MS 39701

KERR-MCGEE/ANADARKO SETTLEMENT

- As a result of the 2011 Tronox Bankruptcy Settlement, Tronox made partial payment in the amount of \$270 million towards environmental claims--\$5.5 million of which was received for the Columbus, MS Site.
- On April 3, 2014, the U.S. Department of Justice (US DOJ) and EPA announced that Kerr McGee Corporation, certain of its affiliates, and their parent Anadarko Petroleum Corporation agreed to pay \$5.15 billion to settle a lawsuit in the Tronox bankruptcy case. Based on a prior court-approved settlement agreement in the case, the Trust is expected to receive approximately \$67 million of this money to use for clean-up at the Columbus Site. Approximately \$604 million will be paid to the Tort Trust, which is not managed by the government. Due to the court and public review/comment process, receipt of the funds is not expected before the end of 2014.
- The Settlement requires an injunction against the assertion of duplicative or derivative claims.
- The Public Comment Period: April 14, 2014 – May 14, 2014. Comments may be submitted electronically or by U.S. mail:

Email address to submit comments: pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov

Mailing address to submit comments:

Assistant Attorney General
U.S. DOJ-ENRD
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, DC 20044-7611

- Comments from the public meeting on May 5, 2014 at the Hunt Gymnasium will be transcribed and submitted to the court as public comments.
- Objections to bankruptcy motion to approve settlement are due May 15, 2014, at 4 p.m. Eastern Time, and a hearing on approval of the settlement is scheduled for May 28, 2014, at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in New York, NY at 11:00 AM Eastern Time.
- For more information on the proposed settlement, visit the following website:
<http://www.justice.gov/enrd/6377.htm>
- For more information on the Tort Claims Trust, contact the following: **Garretson Resolution Group at (800) 753-2480** or send email to helpline@tronoxortrust.com. You can also visit the following website:
<http://tronoxortrust.com>.