



# Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation

*Columbus, Mississippi*

## EPA Seeks Public Comment on Proposed Cleanup Plan for Portion of Site

July 2020 Fact Sheet

### Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is soliciting public comments on its proposed plan to clean up a portion of the Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation Superfund Site in Columbus, Mississippi. The proposed plan is posted on EPA's website. **EPA is conducting a 30-day public comment period on the proposal from August 4 to September 5, 2020.**

This fact sheet summarizes the proposed plan and provides instructions for submitting public comments. In addition, due to public health concerns related to the COVID-19 virus, the EPA will not hold an in-person public meeting about the Proposed Plan. Instead, EPA has posted a pre-recorded video presentation summarizing the proposed plan and public comment process.

The Proposed Plan and a Recorded Presentation are available online at:

[www.epa.gov/superfund/kerr-mcgee-chemical-columbus](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/kerr-mcgee-chemical-columbus)

**WE WANT YOUR COMMENTS!**

The 30-day public comment period will be August 4 to September 5, 2020.

### Proposed Plan

Due to the size and complexity of the Site, the cleanup has been divided into several Operable Units (OUs). This proposed plan focuses on OU-2, which includes neighboring properties near the former chemical manufacturing facility (see Figure 1, page 2).

Between 2010 and 2019, EPA, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and the Multistate Trust conducted extensive soil sampling of 96 nearby properties in the surrounding North, Southwest and Southeast neighborhoods. A total of 11 properties were found to have dioxins and/or furans in the soil at levels requiring cleanup. No cleanup is required at the other 85 properties to protect human health or the environment.

# Proposed Plan (continued)

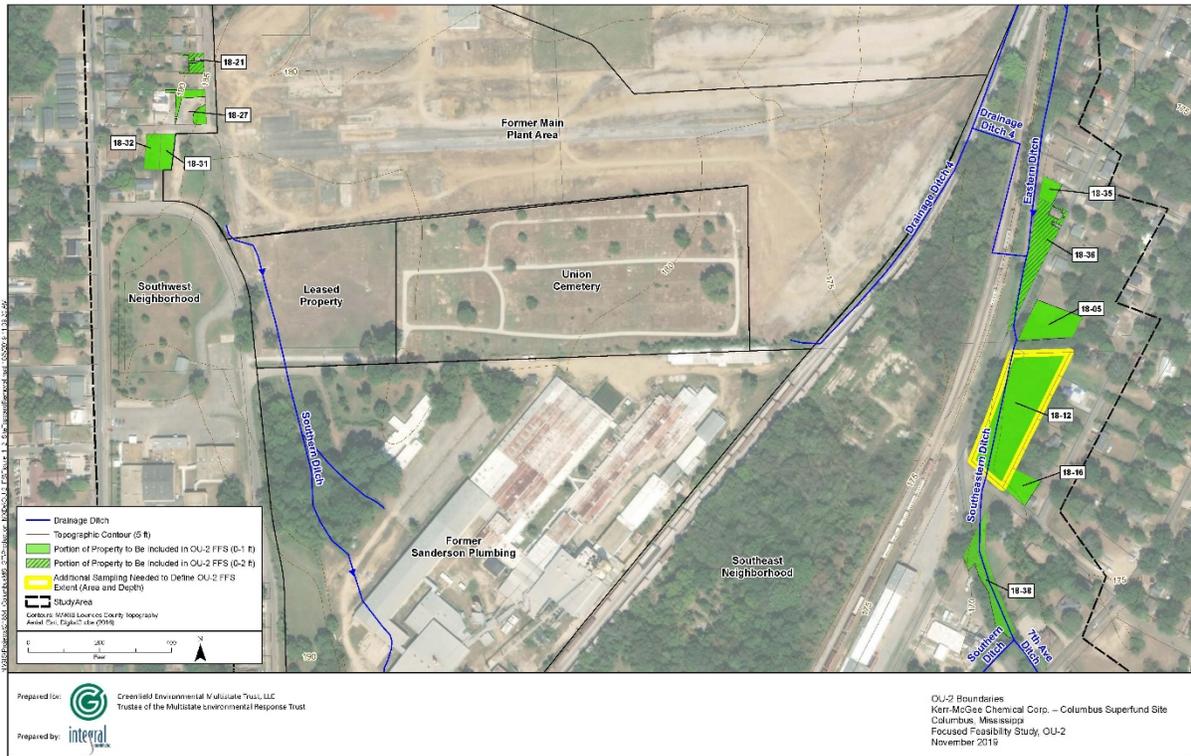


Figure 1: OU-2 focus areas of Site highlighted in Green

EPA evaluated various alternatives to address soil contamination in OU-2, including: no action; removal and disposal; soil cover; and in-situ stabilization (a type of treatment with the soil left in place). A table comparing the various alternatives follows. EPA’s preferred alternative is expected to cost \$2,700,000, to be paid by the Multistate Trust, and will take 3-5 months to construct, consisting of:

- Digging up and replacing the soil with clean fill, topping the areas with sod and restoring areas as they were.
- Suppressing dust and air monitoring to ensure residents and workers are safe.
- Disposing of contaminated soil at an approved, off-site facility.

**LEGEND**

- Excellent
- ◐ Good
- ◑ Fair
- ◒ Poor
- Very Poor

Threshold		EVALUATION CRITERIA				
		Balancing				
Protectiveness	Compliance with ARARs	Long-Term Effectiveness	Short-Term Effectiveness	Reduction of Toxicity, Mobility or Volume	Implementability	Estimated Cost (millions)

<b>Alternative 1</b>	No Action	○	○	○	○	●	0.07
<b>Alternative 2</b>	Removal and Disposal	●	●	●	●	○	2.09-2.70
<b>Alternative 3</b>	Soil Cover	●	●	◐	●	○	1.49
<b>Alternative 4</b>	In Situ Stabilization	●	●	◐	●	◑	1.71

Table 1: Evaluation of the remedial alternatives with the Preferred Alternative highlighted

# Public Comment

EPA relies on public input to ensure the concerns of the community are considered in selecting an effective remedy for each Superfund Site. **The 30-day public comment period runs from August 4 – September 5, 2020.** During the comment period, the public is encouraged to review and offer comments on the proposed plan.

The Proposed Plan and other Site documents are posted online and also available for review in the Information Repository at the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library, 314 N. Seventh Street, Columbus, MS 39701. You may also refer to EPA’s online presentation about the Proposed Plan for more details and answers to frequently asked questions.

Written comments may be e-mailed to [King.CharlesL@epa.gov](mailto:King.CharlesL@epa.gov) or mailed (postmarked no later than August 28, 2020) to: Charles L. King, U.S. EPA Region 4, Superfund Division – 11<sup>th</sup> Floor, 61 Forsyth Street SW, Atlanta, GA 30303. A pre-addressed form for hand-written comments is enclosed for your convenience (note that postage must be affixed).

After considering comments and questions during the public comment period, the EPA will summarize the comments and provide responses in a Responsiveness Summary which will be part of the Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD will document the final remedial action chosen and provide the rationale for the EPA’s selection.

# Background

The 90-acre Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation Superfund Site is located at 2300 North 14th Avenue in Columbus, Miss. The Site includes the area where Kerr-McGee, and its predecessors and successors, conducted wood treating operations that released creosote and other hazardous materials into the soil, sediment and groundwater.

EPA added the Site to the Superfund National Priorities List in 2011 and has already completed a number of cleanup actions at the Site.

Pursuant to a 2011 settlement, the Greenfield Environmental Multistate Trust LLC (the Trust) is responsible for implementing all environmental actions at the Site with oversight from EPA and MDEQ.



# COVID-19 Statement

Due to public health concerns related to spread of the COVID-19 virus, the EPA is not planning to hold an in-person public meeting about the Proposed Plan. The EPA and its Superfund Site teams are cancelling or postponing in-person public meeting events, door-to-door visits, and other site-related face-to-face interactions to reflect current COVID-19 guidance from federal, state, tribal and local officials. Protecting the health and safety of our staff, contractors, and the communities we serve is our top priority.

Instead, in order to provide members of the community with the information necessary to decide whether and how to comment on the Proposed Plan, the EPA has posted a pre-recorded video presentation on our website in which the Remedial Project Manager for the Site presents the Proposed Plan. You may view the presentation, complete with closed captioning, at [www.epa.gov/superfund/kerr-mcgee-chemical-columbus](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/kerr-mcgee-chemical-columbus).

In order to access the video presentation, you will need a device with web access and sound capability (smart phone, tablet, computer). If you cannot access the EPA website, please contact Kyle Bryant, Community Involvement Coordinator, at **404-562-9073** or [Bryant.Kyle@epa.gov](mailto:Bryant.Kyle@epa.gov) to arrange to receive the information in some other format.

Members of the Site team are available to answer questions via email or over the phone, and members of the public are encouraged to call or write. If you have questions about the Proposed Plan, please contact Charles L. King, Remedial Project Manager, at **404-562-8931** or [King.CharlesL@epa.gov](mailto:King.CharlesL@epa.gov).

Through these alternative means, the EPA seeks to provide a full opportunity for public participation and comment without risking public health. However, the EPA will provide the opportunity for a live virtual meeting if the community requests one.



## EPA Remedial Project Manager

Charles L. King (404) 562-8931 [King.CharlesL@epa.gov](mailto:King.CharlesL@epa.gov)

## EPA Community Involvement Coordinator

Kyle Bryant (404) 562-9073 [Bryant.Kyle@epa.gov](mailto:Bryant.Kyle@epa.gov)

**Website:** [www.epa.gov/superfund/kerr-mcgee-chemical-columbus](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/kerr-mcgee-chemical-columbus)

## Information Repository:

Columbus-Lowndes Public Library

314 N. Seventh Street

Columbus, MS 39701





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