STROTHER FIELD INDUSTRIAL PARK SUPERFUND SITE
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN UPDATE
SEPTEMBER 2025

The goal of this Community Involvement Plan Update (CIPU) is to encourage and facilitate community engagement throughout the Strother Field Industrial Park Site cleanup. This CIPU includes a site overview, Site Profile page link, and updates since the last Community Involvement Plan (CIP) was published. EPA defines the "community" as those people and entities who have an interest in or are affected by the site. EPA also recognizes that other stakeholders, including local, state and federal agencies, may have an interest in the site. EPA's community involvement activities are designed to inform the public of all cleanup activities and include the community in the decision-making process. The CIPU is a "living document," meaning that updates may occur over the course of site cleanup to reflect long-term changes in the community.

Community Involvement at the Site

Active and participatory community involvement is an important part of the cleanup process. It is also regulated under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known as Superfund. This CIPU follows community involvement requirements in the Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) section 117 and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) section 300.415.

Site Overview

The Strother Field Industrial Park Site is between Winfield and Arkansas City in Cowley County, Kansas, and covers approximately 2 square miles. Until 1946, the site was a military base. The site now consists of about 20 industrial and commercial businesses, as well as two, inactive solid waste landfills. The landfills were used for the disposal of various industrial wastes. Groundwater at the site is contaminated with solvents.

Until 1983, the Strother Field Commission operated a drinking water supply system that is still used for industrial processes. Two wells were installed upgradient of the contaminant plume in 1983, providing safe supply of drinking water. Approximately 2,300 people live within a 3-mile radius of the site. Approximately 2,000 people work at the site. There are private and public wells located in the vicinity of the site, and some private wells are in the industrial park.

The site was farmland prior to 1940 when the cities of Arkansas City and Winfield purchased it to build a municipal airport. In 1942, additional land was purchased and leased to the federal government for use as a military air base. The U.S. Army constructed an airbase that it operated as a basic flight training school and fighter pilot facility from 1942 to 1945. Land use during this period was typical of a military air base, including aircraft maintenance and support activities, as well as barracks and related personnel facilities.

The Army returned the land, with improvements, to Arkansas City and Winfield in 1946; the site was then developed into an industrial park. Contamination at the site was associated with engine testing, drum storage, solvent tanks, solvent supply and discharge lines, paint treatment, and degreasing operations. These activities resulted in contamination of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the soil and groundwater at several locations within the site.

The site originally obtained water from a series of wells located along its eastern boundary. Following the discovery of

VOCs in these wells in 1983, new wells were drilled on the western and northeastern boundaries of the site. Two of the contaminated water-supply wells were subsequently converted to recovery/remediation wells, as part of an overall groundwater containment and treatment system. These wells are currently extracting groundwater for cleanup.

The site was placed on the National Priorities List (NPL) in May 1986. A Remedial Investigation (RI) was conducted between March 1990 and July 1993.

The 1990 RI identified 12 potential source areas contributing to site contamination. The RI also identified the primary route of exposure for future use as domestic use of water from existing or new water wells, either at or downgradient of the site. Elevated concentrations of VOCs in soils were also identified as a principal threat to groundwater contamination.

The Record of Decision (ROD) selecting the remedy for the remediation of the site's groundwater and soils was issued by EPA on March 1994. EPA issued a Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) in September 1994 to complete the Remedial Design (RD) and Remedial Action (RA). The RD was approved in January 1998. As a result of studies completed during the RD, it was determined that there needed to be changes to the RA. An Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) document was signed in December 1998. The first UAO was withdrawn because of the changes deemed necessary in the ESD, and a Consent Decree for the revised RA was filed in April 2004.

The ESD called for pumping and treatment at a lower rate with fewer wells, expanded groundwater monitoring, natural attenuation of the groundwater, and a concrete cap at two areas where contaminants had been released.

The RA implementation for the groundwater (improvements to the system were started in January 2002 and completed in April 2004) continues to be monitored and maintained. The Responsible Parties performing the work under the Consent Decree are Grief Brothers and General Electric.

A workplan and schedule for the soil cap remedial work was submitted in May 2007. EPA approved the plan in June 2007. Final design was completed, and construction was started in December 2007. The soil cap work was completed with an inspection in April 2008.

The site is currently within the Post-Construction Completion phase of the Superfund Process and the Fifth Five-Year Review will begin in August 2025 (to be completed by Sept. 27, 2026).

The most recent CIP was published May 20, 1991. For detailed information about the site's history/address, updates, previous versions of the CIP, cleanup activities, ways to stay involved, and redevelopment plans, and to access all publicly available documents, please visit EPA's Site Profile page.

What Has Been Done to Clean Up the Site?

In August 1982, during a chemical survey, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) detected organic solvents in water supply wells at the site. In 1983, KDHE attempted to verify these findings and learn more about the extent and potential sources of the various solvents used. The solvents included paint thinners and strippers, degreasers, and cleaning compounds.

KDHE oversaw many investigations and monitoring programs that identified the types of contaminants remaining in the groundwater and other areas, and recommended a remedy for final site cleanup.

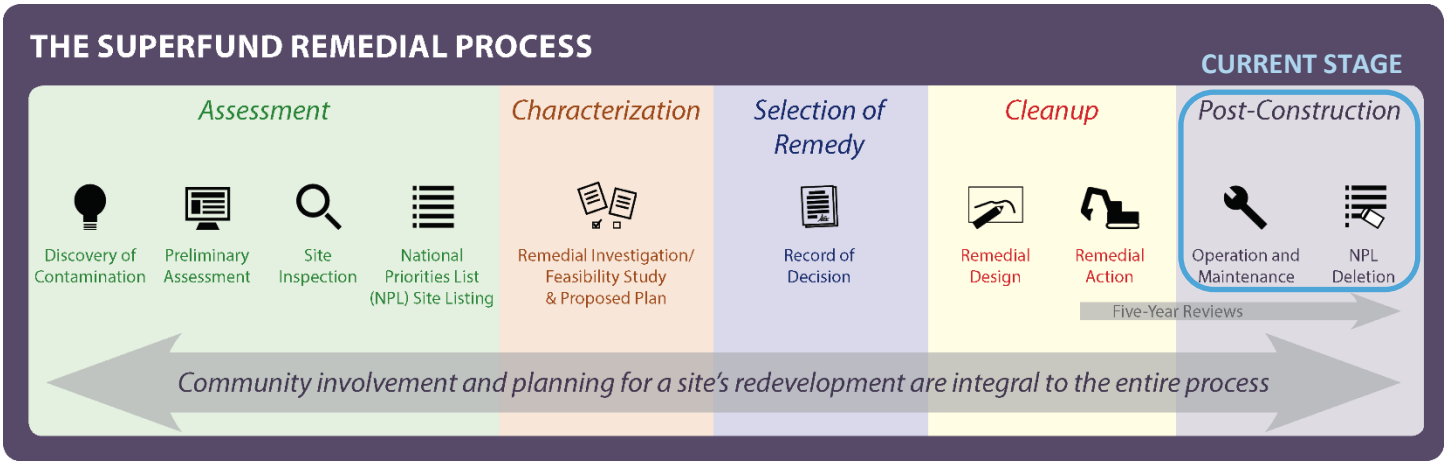
The RA implementation for the groundwater (improvements to the system were started in January 2002 and completed in April 2004) continues to be monitored and maintained.

A Fourth Five-Year Review was completed in September 2021, and protectiveness was deferred until potential vapor intrusion pathways into surrounding buildings could be evaluated. The Responsible Parties have submitted a plan to conduct updated vapor intrusion work to evaluate remedy protectiveness.

The Fifth Five Year Review was scheduled to begin Aug. 27, 2025, and will be completed by Sept. 27, 2026.

Remedial Process

Superfund is responsible for cleaning up some of the nation's most contaminated land and responding to environmental emergencies. To protect public health and the environment, the Superfund program focuses on ensuring that people can live and work in healthy, vibrant places. A remedial action (RA) is a long-term cleanup of a site placed on the NPL or managed as an NPL-caliber site. It involves the actual construction or implementation phase of Superfund site cleanup. The RA is based on the specifications described in the ROD. Removal actions and enforcement actions can take place through the entire remedial process.



What Is the Current Site Status?

The site is being addressed through federal, state, and Responsible Party actions. Areas of VOC contamination have been capped, and the ongoing remedial action is cleaning up the contaminated groundwater. A Fourth Five-Year Review was completed in September of 2021, and protectiveness was deferred until potential vapor intrusion pathways into surrounding buildings could be evaluated.

The respondents have submitted a work plan to conduct the vapor intrusion analysis. As of early 2025, EPA is in the process of providing comments to the respondents on: 1) the vapor intrusion work plan, and 2) a work plan for stream sampling. Submission, review, and approval of these work plans by EPA will allow the respondents to conduct the additional sampling work to determine whether the selected remedy is protective of human health and the environment. Additional work will be necessary if the current remedy is no longer protective. The sampling will also help inform the Fifth Five-Year Review. EPA anticipates sampling will begin during fall 2025.

The last Five-Year Review found that a protectiveness determination for the site cannot be made at this time until further information is obtained. A vapor intrusion evaluation will be conducted to support a protectiveness determination in the Fifth Five-Year Review. The groundwater extraction system works to prevent contamination from reaching water supply wells. However, additional assessment and investigation remain warranted to verify that contamination is contained and to assess potential human health and ecological risk. A building and two paved, capped

areas prevent exposure to contaminated soils remaining at the site and limit water infiltration into contaminated soils. The institutional controls described in the ROD and Consent Decree have been implemented and are effective. Further information will be obtained by taking the following actions:

- Hydrodynamic control of the three-dimensional contaminant plume should be monitored, mapped, and reported using multiple lines of evidence.
- Conduct planned surface water sampling at Posey Creek and prepare an Ecological Risk Assessment.
- Add 1,4-dioxane as a site Contaminant of Concern.
- Complete a vapor intrusion assessment consistent with the current EPA guidance (EPA, 2015) and conduct sampling as appropriate.
- Determine whether the concentrations of trans-1,2-dichloroethylene (or 1,2-dichloroethene) present in soil outside the capped areas pose unacceptable health risks, considering the new toxicity values.
- Sample additional monitoring wells or direct-push points downgradient of extraction wells SFW-2 and SFW-8 to verify whether contamination extends beyond these wells.

The above actions will be addressed in upcoming fieldwork and the next Five-Year Review.

Information Repository

EPA keeps project information and reference materials for the Strother Field Industrial Park Superfund Site available to the public on EPA's Site Profile page. If you do not have internet access, these documents can be viewed online at the following location:

Winfield Public Library
605 College St.
Winfield, KS 67156
620-221-4470

Key Contacts

EPA Contacts

Shaylee Borcsani
Community Involvement Coordinator
Phone: 913-551-7713
Toll-free: 1-800-223-0425
Email: borcsani.shaylee@epa.gov
U.S. EPA Region 7
11201 Renner Boulevard
Lenexa, KS 66219

Devin Pollock
Remedial Project Manager
Phone: 913-551-7275
Toll-free: 1-800-223-0425
Email: pollock.devin@epa.gov
U.S. EPA Region 7
11201 Renner Boulevard
Lenexa, KS 66219

Up-to-date EPA contacts can be found on the Site Profile page.

Elected Officials

- **U.S. House of Representatives**
- **U.S. Senate**
- **State House/Assembly**
- **State Senate**
- **Local Mayors and Elected Officials**

Learn more about elected officials.

Elected Officials

Roger Marshall
U.S. Senator
202-224-4774

Jerry Moran
U.S. Senator
202-224-6521

Ron Estes
U.S. Representative
202-225-6216

Larry Alley
Kansas Senate District 32
785-296-7370

Web Roth
Kansas Senate District 79
785-296-7691

Ron Hutto
Commissioner, City of Winfield
620-221-5500