



Idaho Pole Company Superfund Site Bozeman, Montana -- Site Update November 2020

Background

The Idaho Pole Company (IPC) operated a wood treating facility near the northern limits of Bozeman between 1945 to 1997 which resulted in soil and groundwater contamination. Idaho Pole Company was listed on the National Priority List as a Superfund site in June 1986.

The initial cleanup plan, or Record of Decision (ROD), was released by EPA in consultation with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in 1992. The ROD established cleanup levels for the contaminants of concern (pentachlorophenol (PCP), polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and dioxins) and selected a remedy to address soil and groundwater contamination. The remedy has been updated twice, in May 1996 and November 1998, to incorporate new technical knowledge.

Remediation and monitoring activities are ongoing at the Idaho Pole Company Site (Site), including focused source treatment in 2015 and 2016, periodic site inspections and semi-annual groundwater monitoring.

Soil Remedy and Partial Deletion

- ✓ From 1995 to 2002, approximately 19,000 cubic yards of wood-treating-fluid contaminated soils were excavated and treated onsite. Treated soils were used as backfill on the site, then covered with a minimum of 12-inches of clean soil, preventing direct contact risk to human and ecological receptors.
- ✓ Surface soil samples were collected in 2018 and 2019 for dioxin, PCP and PAHs to support partial deletion of the Site soils from the National Priorities List. Analytical results were below cleanup levels established in the 1992 ROD.
- ✓ EPA proposed a partial deletion of 82 acres of surface and unsaturated subsurface soils from the National Priorities List in July 2019. These soils were deleted from the National Priorities List in early 2020 and will continue to be monitored during five-year reviews.
- ✓ Given current land use as undeveloped, the 0-6" sampling depth of recent soil sampling is considered appropriate until deeper disturbances are anticipated.
- ✓ While local planning authorities would be responsible for the review and approval of redevelopment plans, any proposed activities requiring the disturbance of soils would be required to meet institutional controls and develop a soils management plan for EPA and DEQ review and approval.

Five-Year Review Results

- ✓ The fifth five-year review of the site was completed in September 2020.
- ✓ The five-year review determined the remedy currently protects human health and the environment due to institutional controls limiting activity in certain areas, such as the deed restriction on IPC property and the controlled groundwater area restricting potable use of groundwater.

Groundwater Remedy

- ✓ The initial approach to manage groundwater contamination was a pump and treat system which ran from 1997 to 2016. The treatment system was temporarily shut down in December 2016. Based on continued water quality improvement observed at downgradient wells in 2017, the system was permanently decommissioned in 2018.
- ✓ Approximately 60 pounds of PAHs and 290 pounds of PCP were removed from the groundwater using this pump and treat system.
- ✓ To address current groundwater contamination, EPA and DEQ are evaluating various groundwater remedial alternatives, and are anticipated to issue an amendment to the 1992 Record of Decision in the near future, which will select a final groundwater remedy.
- ✓ The 2020 five-year review identified the need to install and sample additional wells in the downgradient portion of the plume. Three new monitoring wells were installed near the north end of IPC property in early October 2020 to further track PCP concentrations at the property boundary.

Institutional Controls

Institutional Controls prohibit activities that could negatively impact cleanup actions at the Site.

- ✓ A 2001 Controlled Groundwater Area (CGA) prohibits groundwater use, including installation of new wells.
- ✓ Permanent enforceable land use restrictions have been placed on Idaho Pole Company property to minimize potential for human exposure to contaminated soil, and to protect the integrity of the soil and groundwater remedies. Land use restrictions apply to the entire Idaho Pole Company property, although the restrictions vary depending on the location.

Upcoming Activities



Public Meeting: Site Update

Thursday, December 3, 2020

6:30 – 8:00PM

- Attend via Microsoft Teams (visit www.epa.gov/superfund/idaho-pole for the link)
- Attend via phone: 406-247-0520, conference ID: 610 878 447#
 - Topics: current project status and future decisions about the Site



Site Activities

Groundwater:

- Ongoing monitoring of groundwater, including at residential wells, will continue.
- A Focused Feasibility Study to support a final groundwater remedy decision is under review.

Redevelopment:

- The City of Bozeman is considering a 175-acre urban renewal district that includes the Idaho Pole Company Site. Creating the district could increase investment in the area. Any future development of the Site needs to be done in a way that is protective of human health and the environment.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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Return Service Requested

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The Superfund program requires EPA review of the remedy for the Idaho Pole Site every five years, since contaminants remain on the Site, to ensure that the remedy is functioning as intended; evaluate whether conditions have changed; and determine if the selected remedy remains protective of public health and the environment.

For more information on the Site, and to read the fifth five-year Review, visit the EPA webpage: www.epa.gov/superfund/idaho-pole

Information Repositories

- **EPA Superfund Records Center**; 10 West 15th St; Suite 3200; Helena, MT
Hours: M - F 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
1-866-457-2690 (toll free)
- **Bozeman Public Library**; 626 E. Main St., Bozeman, MT
406-582-2400