KERR-MCGEE CHEMICAL CORP. (SODA SPRINGS PLANT)

IDAHO

EPA ID# IDD041310707

Last Update: April, 2002

EPA Region 10

Caribou County
Soda Springs

2nd Congressional District
Other Names: Soda Springs Plant

Site Description

The Kerr-McGee Site (Soda Springs Plant) covers 158 acres and is located one mile north of Soda Springs, Idaho. The Site lies in a broad, flat valley near the western base of the Aspen Range. Since 1963, the plant generated a number of liquid wastes and stored them in on-site ponds. The Monsanto Chemical Company, another large industrial complex nearby that also is on the NPL, supplied Kerr-McGee with the by-product, ferrous-phosphate ore, used to extract vanadium for beneficial uses. During operations, the two largest on-site ponds held 5.5 million gallons of industrial waste water and 2,500 tons of tailings. The chemicals of concern found in these ponds included vanadium, arsenic, molybdenum, manganese, tributyl phosphate and total petroleum hydrocarbons. Ground water beneath the Site has been affected by chemicals leaking from the unlined holding ponds. Approximately 23 people live within one mile of the Site, and the city of Soda Springs, with about 3,000 people, is within 3 miles of the Site. Significant agricultural crops in the area include wheat and hay. Investigations have shown that neither Soda Springs public drinking water supplies nor private wells are impacted by releases from the Site.

Site Responsibility: This site is being addressed through federal oversight by EPA. Kerr-McGee is performing cleanup actions under a settlement agreement.

NPL Listing History	Dates
Proposed Date:	**05/05/89**
Final Date:	**10/04/89**
Deleted Date:	

Threats and Contaminants

Media Affected: Groundwater, Surface Water

On-site monitoring wells, ponds, and solid waste contain vanadium, arsenic, molybdenum, manganese, tributyl phosphate and total petroleum hydrocarbons. Potential future health risks exist for anyone that begins drinking the contaminated ground water. The topography in the area prevents the migration of contaminants to major surface water bodies off site, but there are localized impacts to two springs from groundwater seeps.

Cleanup Progress

A Record of Decision (ROD) was signed in September 1995, which required elimination of the three unlined waste ponds and pond sediments that released contamination to ground water above risk-based cleanup levels. Ground-water monitoring and institutional controls are required while contaminants in ground water naturally return to acceptable levels. In 1997, Kerr-McGee completed actions on two of three waste ponds. Kerr-McGee constructed an on-site landfill and disposed of 13,000 cubic yards of pond sediment, in order to close two of the waste ponds. In 1998, Kerr-McGee stopped all liquid wastes going to the calcine impoundments. Construction of a fertilizer plant to reuse 900,000 tons of buried calcine tailings, the third of the waste pond areas impacting groundwater, was completed in June 1998.

From June 1998 through 1999 Kerr-McGee tried unsuccessfully to process calcine tailings at a reuse rate sufficient to achieve the 8 to 10 year time frame specified in the ROD for closing the calcine impoundment. In early

2000 Kerr-McGee determined it was neither technically nor economically feasibly to process the calcine tailings in the fertilizer plant in the required time frame. Instead, a ROD Amendment was submitted by Kerr-McGee to cap the calcine tailings in place. Capping was another alternative considered in the original feasibility study for the Site. Capping was selected by EPA in 2000 for the calcine tailings. The final capping of the calcine tailings was completed in August 2001. Ground-water monitoring and institutional controls are still expected to continue for property south of the Kerr-McGee plant for 5 to 15 years, while ground water is allowed to naturally recover. It it not anticipated that the overall time frame for ground-water cleanup will be affected by the proposed changes.

Regional Contacts

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Information pertaining to this site is housed at the following location(s):

Soda Springs Public Library (Administrative Record)
149 South Main Street
Soda Springs, ID 83267
208-547-2606

EPA Region 10 Superfund Records Center (Administrative Record)
1200 Sixth Avenue, ECL-076
Seattle, WA 98101