Garvey Elevator Superfund Site
Hastings, Nebraska

Site Description

The Garvey Elevator site, a 22-acre grain storage facility, operated from 1959 until 1998. The owner and operator at the time, Garvey Elevator (Garvey), used a liquid fumigant containing carbon tetrachloride (CCl₄), a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act hazardous substance, for pest control from 1959 until 1985. The fumigant was stored onsite in an aboveground storage tank and transferred via piping from the tank to the grain application gallery on top of the silos. After Garvey’s discovery of CCl₄ contamination in 1994, Nebraska enrolled Garvey into its voluntary cleanup program; however, site assessment and cleanup were not completed. EPA listed the site on the National Priorities List in 2005. The site has CCl₄-contaminated soils and groundwater beneath the 22-acre parcel (designated as operable unit 1, or OU1) and an associated contaminated groundwater plume approximately 4.5 miles long and up to one mile wide (OU2).

Site Status and Cleanup Actions to Date

- From 2005 to 2008, Garvey conducted removal actions to continue operating the source area soil-vapor extraction system and groundwater pump-and-treat system. It sampled residential wells and provided alternate water to affected residences. Concurrently, Garvey began remedial investigation activities. In 2008, Garvey declared bankruptcy.

- Between 2005 and 2010, EPA conducted removal actions to operate and maintain the soil-vapor extraction system and groundwater pump-and-treat system. EPA extended municipal water supply lines to connect impacted private well users in OU2.

- In 2010, EPA issued an interim record of decision (ROD) for a portion of the OU1 soil and groundwater. The remedy included continuing operation of the existing soil-vapor extraction and groundwater pump-and-treat systems, possible expansion of the pump-and-treat system, and institutional controls.

- In 2013, EPA issued the ROD that addressed contaminated soil at OU1 and the OU2 contaminated groundwater plume. The selected remedy included:
  - Excavation and treatment of contaminated soil near the above-ground storage tank and buried transfer pipe;
  - Installation of soil-vapor extraction wells and incorporation into the existing soil-vapor extraction network; and
  - Construction and operation of a pump-and-treat system and implementation of institutional controls.

- In 2016, EPA initiated the remedial actions selected in the 2013 ROD to address contaminated soil at OU1. These actions were completed in September 2019.

- In 2017, EPA completed upgrades to the groundwater pump-and-treat system at OU1 and declared it operational and functional. EPA continues to operate this system and the soil vapor extraction system.

- In 2019, EPA completed the OU2 Remedial Design (RD) and restarted removal actions to sample and provide alternate water to residences near the leading edge of the OU2 plume.

Project Pending Funding, as of the end of Fiscal Year 2020

The work includes the construction and operation of the groundwater extraction and treatment system to address the OU2 contaminated groundwater plume.

Funding Through Fiscal Year 2020

EPA has provided approximately $13 million for cleanup activities at the site.