Beede Waste Oil Site Update

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services continue work to address contamination at the Beede Waste Oil Site located in Plaistow New Hampshire. Below is an update on recent activities.

Non-Time Critical Removal Activities

Non-Time Critical Removal Activities (NTCRA) stop or substantially reduce a release or threatened release of hazardous substances. Although serious, these releases do not pose an immediate threat to public health or the environment.

The NTCRA at Beede consists of the construction and installation of a system to remove subsurface oil floating on groundwater beneath the Site. An EPA contractor completed a Treatability Study at the Site in April of 1998. The study involved installing and operating a 100 foot recovery trench along Kelley Brook (pictured below), and installing and operating several recovery wells in areas where waste oil is floating on the groundwater. The information gathered during the study was used to design a full-scale vacuum enhanced extraction (VEE) oil recovery system for the site. The proposed recovery system was presented to the public in June 1998 and following public comments, the design was initiated. Construction of the final system is expected to begin in November 1999 and will take approximately three months to complete. The major components of the system include:

- Installation of a network of 143 VEE wells;
- Installation of a 24 foot extension to the existing

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Remedial Investigation

The purpose of the Remedial Investigation (RI) is to: gather the data necessary to determine the sources, nature and extent of all contamination at the Site; identify how the contamination is migrating; and to evaluate potential public health and environmental risks. Results of the RI are used to perform engineering evaluations regarding how to address the contamination.

The field work to assess soil and water contamination at the Site for the remedial investigation is essentially complete. Between June 1997 and July 1999, DES and Sanborn, Head & Associates (SHA), the remedial investigation contractor, collected over 330 soil samples and approximately 400 water samples. Water samples were taken from about 110 monitoring wells and surface water sampling points around the Site.

The ecological risk assessment portion of the RI is continuing. DES will be doing more sampling along Kelley Brook in the Fall of 1999 to augment this portion of the RI. This work is being done under a sub-contract by Menzie Cura Associates, a specialist in the ecological risk assessment field.

In the Remedial Investigation, we develop a complete picture of Site conditions and any threats to human health and the ecosystem that these conditions may pose. In the companion piece, the Feasibility Study, we evaluate options on what specific actions are necessary to resolve the various problems posed by the Site. SHA is focusing on the Feasibility Study now. We anticipate that the ecological risk assessment will be completed this winter and that both the Ecological Risk Assessment and the Feasibility Study will be released in the Spring of 2000. ■

You are Invited to a Public Meeting
7:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 20th
at the Vic Geary Center
Greenough Road, Plaistow

NTCRA continued from page 1:

100 foot oil interceptor trench along Kelley Brook to fully capture oil migrating toward the brook;

- Operation of the (VEE) system associated with the extraction wells for approximately 5 to 9 months.

Potential major impacts to the local community include:

- Increased truck traffic along Kelley Road during construction and maintenance activities;
- Increased noise and dust during drilling and installation of the 143 VEE wells;
- Increased noise during operation of the VEE system.

Noise reduction and dust suppression techniques will be used to minimize impacts on the neighborhood. Construction activities will be limited to normal work hours (M - F 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.). The VEE system must operate continuously. ■

For More Information

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Site information is in the Plaistow Library

Potentially Responsible Parties

Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) include current or past owners or operators of a site, generators of waste currently located at a site and persons who transported hazardous substances to a site they selected. PRPs are considered by EPA to be potentially responsible for contamination and the cost of cleaning up that contamination.

EPA continues to work on identifying the potentially responsible parties for the Beede Site. EPA began its PRP search process soon after including the Site on the National Priorities List in December 1996. To date, EPA has mailed over 7,200 information request letters to businesses and other private parties who may have generated or transported wastes to the Site. Receipt of an information request letter does not mean the recipient is a PRP. The determination of who is a PRP will be made at a later date based on information gathered from all available sources.

EPA has staffed an information line for recipients of an information request letter to call for answers to any questions they may have. The telephone number is 617-918-1799. In addition, interested trade groups and other organizations seeking further information or direct communication with the EPA Beede Case Team regarding the Site, on behalf of their members, should feel free to call.

Once all the available information is collected, organized and reviewed, EPA will notify parties who are determined to be PRPs. A PRP list will be developed based on the volume of waste each party transported or generated to the Site. This volumetric ranking assists in determining relative responsibility. An initial list is expected in early 2000.

There are a number of EPA policies and initiatives which will be considered to help divide the costs in a fair and equitable manner. ■

Shown above is one of the filter buckets in the 100 foot oil trench passively collecting oil from the water.