Ottati & Goss/ Kingston Steel Drum

U.S. EPA | HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM AT EPA NEW ENGLAND

THE SUPERFUND PROGRAM *protects human health and the environment by investigating and cleaning up often-abandoned hazardous waste sites and engaging communities throughout the process. Many of these sites are complex and need long-term cleanup actions. Those responsible for contamination are held liable for cleanup costs. EPA strives to return previously contaminated land and groundwater to productive use.*

SITE DESCRIPTION:

The 58-acre Ottati and Goss/Kingston Steel Drum site is a former steel drum recycling and reconditioning facility located approximately three miles south of the center of Kingston, NH. The facility operated from the late 1950s to 1980, and included rinsing drums and on-site rinse water disposal. Approximately 450 people live within a one-mile radius of the site, and an estimated 4,500 people live within three miles. A marshy area considered to be environmentally sensitive, lays down-gradient of the site and had been partially contaminated with Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs). Nearby Powwow River and Country Pond are used for swimming and fishing.

CLEANUP ACTIVITIES TO DATE:

EPA added the site to the Superfund Program's National Priorities List in 1983. The groundwater, surface water, and soil are contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The on-site soil also contained polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), VOCs, semi-volatile organic compounds and metals. Initial actions taken at the site included the removal of approximately 12,800 tons of soil, drums and metals; 101,700 tons of flammable sludge; and 6,000 gallons of flammable liquid. Long-term cleanup activities have included building demolition; removal of above-ground and underground storage tanks; the excavation and on-site treatment of approximately 72,000 tons of PCB- and VOC-contaminated soil; and the excavation and off-site disposal of approximately 9,500 tons of wetland sediment. The cleanup of groundwater to drinking water quality is being achieved through in-place chemical oxidation. This process involves injecting chemicals into the ground. These chemicals, called oxidants, destroy pollution in the soil and groundwater. The removal of contaminated soil and sediment and the building demolition has reduced the potential for exposure to contamination. These completed actions and other site cleanup activities continue to reduce site contamination levels, making the site safer while the groundwater cleanup occurs.

Excavation of contaminated soil and on-site treatment using thermal desorption which involves heating the soils to remove contamination.

RECOVERY ACT PROJECT ACTIVITY:

The $2 million in Recovery Act funds allocated to this site were used to support the second round of the ongoing in-place chemical oxidation work. The first round of oxidant injections was performed in the summer of 2008 and the second round concluded in the fall of 2009. A third round of oxidant injections is planned for late summer/fall of 2010.

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