

During 2015, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be completing the first Five-Year Review at the Eastern Michaud Flats (EMF) Superfund Site. The review will assess whether the soil and groundwater activities identified in the Record of Decision (ROD) and Interim Record of Decision Amendments (IRODAs) will, when fully implemented, be protective of human health and the environment. The EPA welcomes your participation during our review. If you have information that may help us, please contact one of the EPA staff identified in this fact sheet.

The EMF Superfund Site covers approximately 2,530 acres northwest of Pocatello, Idaho. It includes two adjacent phosphate ore-processing facilities that began operations in the 1940s. The FMC Corporation closed their plant in December 2001. The J.R. Simplot Company Don Plant is still an active facility. The EPA issued a ROD for the site in 1998. The IRODAs were issued by the EPA

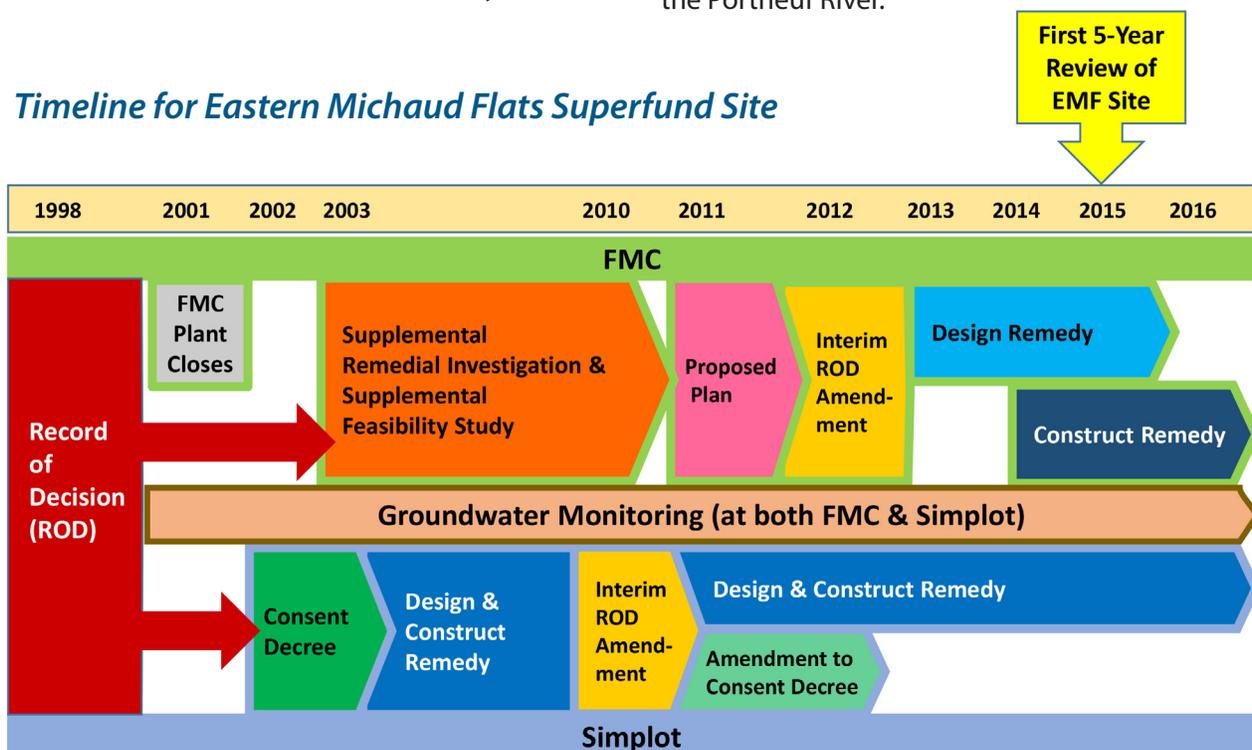
for the Simplot portion of the site in 2010 and the FMC portion of the site in 2012. Remedial actions are currently being implemented at both sites.

### Current and Future Work at the Site

#### The FMC Area

The cleanup plan for the former FMC plant area focuses on elemental phosphorus, metals, and radiation in soils, fill, and groundwater. The plan calls for placing clean soil covers, called "caps," over contaminated soils to protect people and the environment. The soil caps will be designed to minimize the amount of rain and melting snow from filtering through contaminated areas and further polluting the groundwater below. The plan also requires contaminated groundwater to be treated to protect local springs and the Portneuf River.

### Timeline for Eastern Michaud Flats Superfund Site





*FMC Area slag pile during grading phase work in October 2014, looking northwest.*

The FMC Corporation has begun work to implement the 2012 IRODA under a 2013 Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) issued by the EPA. The Order requires FMC to design, implement, and pay for the remedial actions specified in the 2012 IRODA under oversight by the EPA and with technical support from the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality.

In September 2014, under an EPA-approved engineering design, FMC began grading/excavating slag and soil to create more gentle slopes in areas that are to receive soil caps. That work continued into December 2014 and then ceased for the winter. Construction work is scheduled to resume

March 16, 2015. The grading phase is scheduled to be completed in June 2015, at which time soil cap installation will begin. Installation of soil caps on the graded surface is scheduled to be completed in December 2015.

Engineering design work to address contaminated groundwater is also under way. FMC tested some extraction wells during the summer of 2014. Information gathered from that work and from previous groundwater investigations was used to develop a preliminary engineering design for extracting and treating contaminated groundwater. The groundwater remedial design work is scheduled to continue through 2015, and the system will be installed in 2016.



*Grading phase work within the FMC Area slag pile in October 2014.*



## **Simplot Don Plant Area**

The cleanup plan focuses on phosphorus, arsenic, and other metals in the groundwater, local springs, and the Portneuf River. The plan addresses ongoing and past releases of contaminants near Simplot's phosphoric acid plant. To do this, a synthetic liner is being placed on the receiving surface of the gypsum stack to reduce the infiltration of contaminated water through the stack

*Simplot has replaced many of the tanks and sumps in the plant area to prevent further ground water contamination.*



*View of Simplot Don Plant with the gypsum stack in the background.*

to groundwater. A series of wells has also been installed so that contaminated groundwater can be extracted before it flows into the Portneuf River.

The Simplot Company has been implementing actions under a 2001 and 2010 Consent Decree with the EPA. The Consent Decree requires Simplot to design, implement, maintain, and pay for the actions specified in the 1998 ROD and 2010 IRODA under oversight by the EPA. Simplot currently operates a series of 12 extraction wells that pump more than 800 gallons per minute of phosphorus-rich water from groundwater beneath the site. Water pumped from the wells is reused in the plant.

In 2010 Simplot began construction of the synthetic liner on top of the gypsum stack (gypstack). Approximately 75% of the receiving area of the stack has been lined. Currently, water drained from the gypsum placed on top of the lined areas is being collected and returned to the plant for reuse. The final section of the gypstack is scheduled to be completed in 2017.



*Over 130 wells have been drilled at the Simplot OU. The wells are sampled regularly and the data used to track changes in ground water quality.*

Simplot has also implemented numerous projects to replace and upgrade tanks and sumps in the production area that were identified as having leaked in the past or found to be susceptible to future leaks. New areas were constructed to include features that would allow for any future leaks to be more easily detected and contained before entering the soil and groundwater.

Each quarter, water quality samples are taken from more than 130 wells, 2 springs, and the Portneuf River to help track progress towards

reaching the plan objectives and to evaluate changes that might indicate a release from the plant. Additional samples are collected from wells located in the areas with the highest concentrations of phosphorus.

As a result of the work being done at the Don Plant, the amount of phosphorous entering the Portneuf River from groundwater has decreased by more than 50%. However, further reductions are necessary to provide for the protection of fish and other organisms living in the river.

### Five-Year Review Process



### For Further Information:

Please contact one of the Project Managers or Community Involvement Coordinator.

•• Simplot Area and Off-Plant Areas  
**Jannine Jennings**  
 jennings.jannine@epa.gov  
 206-553-2724 or  
 800-424-4372 ext 2724

•• FMC Area  
**Jonathan Williams**  
 williams.jonathan@epa.gov  
 206-553-1369, or  
 800-424-4372 ext 1369

•• Community Involvement Coordinator  
**Julie Congdon**  
 congdon.julie@epa.gov  
 206-553-2752, or  
 800-424-4372 ext 2752