

Revised Community Involvement Plan

Eastern Michaud Flats Superfund Site Pocatello, Idaho

Overview

This revised plan is an update of the 1991 Community Involvement Plan for the Eastern Michaud Flats Superfund site, which includes the FMC site, Simplot, and an off-site area. The plan is for communities to identify concerns and recommend ways to communicate about issues concerning the environmental investigations and cleanup of this site and will include specific information on how the community can be involved as the site moves toward cleanup.

This plan provides a framework for public involvement throughout the remaining activities planned at the site to ensure that the local community, the Tribe and other interested parties are kept informed.

Community concerns, interest levels, and needs may change as the cleanup progresses. It is important that EPA hears and evaluates your concerns and, if warranted, factors them into work going on at the site. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact one of the following EPA representatives:

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This Community Involvement Plan is organized into the following sections:

- I. Site Description and Background
- II. Community Participation
- III. Community Involvement Activities and Tools
- IV. Community Involvement Objectives and Strategies
- V. Supplemental Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Process for the FMC Plant
- VI. Site Activities and Timelines

Appendix A: RCRA and the "One Cleanup Plan Initiative"

Appendix B: Public Contact Information

I. Site Description and Background

The Community Involvement Plan for the EMF Site (1991) covered the Remedial Investigation, Feasibility Study and Record of Decision for the EMF Site. A summary of those activities follows:

- 1991: FMC and Simplot entered into an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) with EPA for Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) of the Eastern Michaud Flats (EMF) Site. Superfund RI/FS began.
- 1992-1994: FMC and Simplot conducted extensive Remedial Investigation sampling and analyses at each plant and the off-plant areas at the EMF Site.
- 1995: EPA issued Human Health Risk Assessment and Ecological Risk Assessment for the EMF Site. FMC and Simplot prepared a Draft Remedial Investigation Report.
- 1996: Final Remedial Investigation Report was completed for the EMF Site. Report details results of investigations of input, byproduct and waste materials; surface and subsurface soils at the plants; groundwater; surface water and sediment; air emissions; off-plant surface soil; and ecological investigations conducted during the Remedial Investigation.
- 1997: Final Feasibility Study Report was completed. The report details areas identified for remediation, evaluation of numerous technical options for performing remediation, and comparative analysis of remedial alternatives.
- 1997: EPA issued Proposed Plan that identified EPA's proposed remedy for the EMF site. Proposed remedies are separately identified for the FMC plant, Simplot plant and the off-plant area. EPA conducted public meetings and a public comment period.
- 1998: EPA issued Record of Decision (ROD) for the EMF Site for EPA-selected remedies for the FMC plant, Simplot plant and the off-plant area. The ROD includes a "responsiveness summary" to comments received during the comment period on the Proposed Plan.

EPA received comments from the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes that were not supportive of the ROD, mainly regarding the FMC Plant. The site was subsequently divided into three separate areas; the FMC Plant, the Simplot Plant, and the off-plant area. Although EPA negotiated separate consent decrees both with Simplot and FMC for RD/RA (remedial design/remedial action) work at their respective areas, the fact that there were only minor comments regarding the Simplot Plant actions identified in the ROD caused EPA to proceed with entry of a Consent Decree for only the Simplot Plant. The FMC Plant will be studied under this Agreement on Consent Statement of Work. Once the work is completed under this Statement of Work, EPA will issue a ROD Amendment that will be specific to the FMC Plant. The ROD Amendment will be presented to the public in a Proposed Plan for public review and comment. The off-plant area will be addressed separately.

FMC Plant

The FMC Plant is located approximately three miles northwest of Pocatello in Power County, Idaho. The FMC Plant covers an area of approximately 1,380 acres.

The FMC Plant began operation in 1949 and operated continuously as an elemental phosphorus production plant until FMC ceased production of elemental phosphorus from phosphate ore at the facility in December 2001. FMC has initiated activities to decommission the facility and is evaluating potential commercial and industrial redevelopment of the site. FMC facility air emissions related to operations ceased in December 2001 with the exception of minor sources (e.g., boilers) related to decommissioning activities. FMC terminated the industrial wastewater (IWW) discharge to the Portneuf River in August 2002 and, at FMC's request, EPA subsequently terminated the associated NPDES permit.

In addition to initiating decommissioning of the facility, FMC also announced its intentions to dismantle and clear the site. Although FMC has no intentions of restarting or developing any new business at the site, FMC has been supportive of redevelopment of the site in the future.

Calciner Ponds

FMC agreed to a consent order with the State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) on July 8, 2002 to implement remedial action for the calciner ponds, located on State-jurisdiction land in the eastern portion of the FMC facility. A Remedial Action Plan for the calciner ponds was submitted to IDEQ in December 2002 in accordance with the IDEQ consent order and the plan was approved by IDEQ in December 2003. IDEQ has and will perform any required public participation elements related to the calciner ponds remedial action. Those activities are not covered in the scope of this Community Involvement Plan update.

II. Community Participation

EPA recognizes the importance of citizen participation in its environmental investigations and the need for community involvement throughout the entire cleanup process. Community involvement encourages two-way communication between the communities and the organizations responsible for investigation and cleanup of sites. Cleanup status and progress is given to citizens and public officials and they can provide EPA input about solutions. EPA also provides a mechanism for acquiring and addressing community concerns.

Public involvement is encouraged when communities may be affected by a release or threatened release of hazardous substances. EPA emphasizes an effective community involvement or public participation plan as a critical part of any environmental investigation and cleanup program.

In an effort to foster redevelopment opportunities at the FMC site, the Idaho Optimum Initiative (IOI) was created in December 2002, by the Governor of Idaho, Dirk Kempthorne, to develop new employment opportunities for residents of Bannock and Power counties and members of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes as well as new markets for Idaho commodities. The goal of the IOI is

to realize this mission through a forum in which these communities can collectively define a strategic plan for site reuse within a broader context of regional economic development and environmental integrity.

This updated plan is intended to coordinate EPA's public involvement activities related to Superfund actions at the site and FMC's public communications related to decommissioning the plant and preparing the FMC property for redevelopment.

EPA and FMC remain committed to the community involvement process, and that commitment doesn't end with the preparation of this updated plan. Implementation of the activities put forth in this plan is vital, as well as on-going receptivity to community concerns and issues about the EPA Superfund Program. As the supplemental remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) activities proceed, relevant public interests or concerns could change. EPA and FMC will remain sensitive to changes in public concerns and will revise this community involvement plan as needed, to reflect these changes.

III. Community Involvement Activities and Tools

EPA uses different ways to keep the community informed and involved as cleanup activities at the Eastern Michaud Flats Superfund site progress. The level of community interest is monitored and activities will be conducted as appropriate. EPA welcomes additional suggestions from community members.

Public Meetings and Public Notices

EPA holds meetings to provide new or updated information about the Eastern Michaud Flats Superfund site cleanup and gathers your feedback throughout the process. Notices of meetings will continue to be placed in the Idaho State Journal and Sho-Ban News with adequate prior notice preceding each meeting. Because the newspaper cannot guarantee the exact placement of each notice, the location varies, although the public notices are generally published in the "Main" section of the paper.

Contacts List

The EMF Site contacts list consists of citizens, elected officials, businesses, schools, churches, media resources, community and environmental organizations, regulatory agencies, and other interested parties. The contacts list was originally developed early in the EMF Site RI/FS process and has been updated periodically. The contacts list will continue to be updated as interested parties are identified and will continue to form the basis for mailing newsletters and notices related to the EMF Site.

Information Repositories

Information repositories provide a convenient community location for public review of information related to the site cleanup. Information repositories contain current EMF Site information, newsletters, project-related documents, and reference materials. Repositories are

updated as new site information and documents become available. For example, documents subject to public notice and comment are made available through the repositories, and later superseded by the final reports placed in the repository. Information repositories for this project are located at:

- Idaho State University Library
Government Documents Department
9th and Terry
Pocatello, Idaho 83209
(208) 236-2940
- Shoshone Bannock Library
Pima and Bannock (P.O. Box 306)
Fort Hall, Idaho 83203

Documents contained in the information repositories are a subset of a larger number of documents included in an Administrative Record file. Federal law requires that an Administrative Record be set up for sites undergoing environmental cleanup to document the selection of cleanup actions. This file is used for legal purposes but is also available to the public. A full index of documents in the Administrative Record file is available for public use at each of the information repositories. The index is updated regularly. The Administrative Record file for the EMF Site is housed at:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue (WCM-121)
Seattle, WA 98101

Fact Sheets

Fact sheets summarizing key information may be developed when needed and will be distributed and posted to the web page, as significant events occur during the supplemental Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS), or as public interest warrants.

Internet Information

If there is interest in finding information about the environmental cleanup on the Internet, EPA will consider the feasibility of making documents related to the supplemental RI/FS for the FMC Plant, or, for larger documents, document summaries – accessible through the EPA website at

FMC currently provides monthly updates on the status of decommissioning and closure work at the FMC Plant. Information regarding the FMC Plant, including a site history and site assets, is accessible through the Idaho FMC website at

The Idaho Optimum Initiative (IOI) has also developed a website that provides periodic updates on the status and activities of identifying and obtaining input on redevelopment opportunities. That information is accessible through the IOI website at

IV. Community Involvement Objectives and Strategies

The following are project-specific community involvement objectives and proposed strategies for achieving them. Because the community involvement program is based on community input, activities may change as the supplemental RI/FS proceeds and as public interest or need evolves.

Objectives

- Inform the community about the supplemental RI/FS activities.
- Provide clear and consistent technical information in a form useful and understandable to the community.
- Assure that public concerns are identified and adequately addressed.
- Coordinate FMC communications related to the decommissioning and closure of the FMC plant and communications by the Idaho Optimum Initiative (IOI) regarding potential redevelopment opportunities at the site.

Strategies

- Hold public comment periods at Superfund milestones.
- Continue to publish and distribute newsletters. Prepare newsletters at appropriate intervals to address relevant topics of interest. Continue to post the newsletter on the EPA website.
- Continue to publish meeting notices in the Idaho State Journal and the Sho-Ban News.
- Continue to maintain and update the EMF Site contacts list used for distributing information.
- Continue to maintain the information repositories that contain copies of EMF Site documents for public access and continue to provide copies of the Administrative Record index to each repository location.
- Post meeting information on the EPA website.
- Post updates on decommissioning/closure on the Idaho FMC website and redevelopment on the IOI website.

V. Supplemental Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Process for the FMC Plant

The end of phosphate ore processing at the FMC facility and the potential future industrial or commercial redevelopment of the site has led EPA to initiate the supplemental RI/FS at the FMC Plant. This additional work will allow EPA to ensure that the appropriate cleanup requirements are established in the amended Record of Decision to protect human health and the environment compatible with potential future commercial/industrial use.

- EPA and FMC will scope and plan the tasks necessary to efficiently complete the supplemental RI/FS.
- FMC will review previous reports and data to identify data gaps including the Remedial Investigation Report, the Baseline Human Health Risk Assessment, Ecological Risk Assessment and the Feasibility Study Report.
- FMC will submit a *Remedial Investigation Update Memorandum* documenting these efforts for EPA review and approval.
- FMC will submit a *Work Plan for a Supplemental Remedial Investigation* to EPA for review and approval.
- Following EPA approval of the Work Plan, FMC will implement the supplemental remedial investigation and submit a *Supplemental Remedial Investigation Report* for EPA review and approval.
- FMC will submit a *Work Plan for a Supplemental Feasibility Study* to EPA for review and approval.
- FMC will perform a supplemental feasibility study of remedial action alternatives. The purpose of the study is to supplement the existing Feasibility Study based on any new information and apply the detailed analysis of remedial alternatives for the sites grouped with similar contaminants and risk.
- The evaluation of the implementability of each alternative will include consideration of potential commercial/industrial redevelopment plans for the site. Where appropriate, the supplemental Feasibility Study will identify time-critical removal actions and other early actions that might be completed to support potential industrial redevelopment or to address other site conditions.
- FMC will submit a *Supplemental Feasibility Study Report* for EPA review and approval. A preferred alternative for the FMC Plant that incorporates any additional remedial actions identified in the supplemental Feasibility Study Report will also be proposed for EPA review.

At the completion of the supplemental RI/FS, EPA will select the remedy and document this selection in an amended Record of Decision. The remedial action alternative selected by EPA will meet the cleanup standards and will be protective of human health and the environment.

VI. Site Activities and Timelines

FMC

February 2004 – Approved FMC Scoping and Planning Memorandum, with input from IDEQ and the Tribes. The Scoping and Planning Memorandum outlines the general management approach for the site.

June 2004 – EPA received the Remedial Investigation update memorandum for the FMC plant. The memorandum identified data gaps for the areas which were not investigated during the 1991

remedial investigation. The update includes new land use scenarios, revised and updated toxicity information, and addresses additional constituents. EPA, with input from IDEQ and the Tribes, provided comments on the update.

December 2004 – FMC provided responses to EPA comments.

March 2005 – EPA is meeting with FMC to resolve outstanding issues. Once the document is approved, FMC has 60 days to submit the work plan for the Supplemental Remedial Investigation. The supplemental investigation (Task 2 of the Administrative Order on Consent) outlines the sampling necessary to address data gaps identified in the update memorandum.

Field Season 2005 – Sampling data will be collected. Once the work plan is approved and data is collected, FMC has 90 to 120 days to submit a report summarizing the results in a supplemental remedial investigation report.

Simplot

Late 2003 – Simplot installed seven extraction wells at the base of the gypsum stack.

February 2004 – EPA approved start up of test extraction wells.

Field Season 2004 – Simplot collected additional groundwater characterization data. In addition, Simplot collected several rounds of groundwater quality data to assess ground water conditions at the facility.

November 2004 – The results of the test extraction system and additional characterization work were compiled and submitted in the Pre-final Remedial Design Groundwater Extraction Report (Design), dated November 4, 2004.

Late November 2004 -- EPA, IDEQ and the Tribes met with Simplot and discussed deficiencies with the report. Simplot has provided a number of addendums to the Design. EPA is reviewing the report.

March 2005 –EPA plans to meet with Simplot to discuss deficiencies with the Design.

Off-Plant Area

June 2003 – EPA requested that sampling be conducted to assess the concentrations of radium 226 in the soil.

June 2004 – EPA approved the proposal for sample collection. Due to complexities, the work will be conducted in three phases.

Phase I – Assess the concentration in a sample of known concentrations. This will show the accuracy of the analytical method.

Phase II – Soil samples are taken at depth, and a known concentration of contaminants is added to the soil to determine how much the analytical method can detect.

Phase III – Evaluate the radium concentration in the shallow soils to assess radium that may have been deposited by the wind.

Late Field Season 2004 – EPA collected split samples and sent them to the EPA laboratory for evaluation.

March 2005 – Evaluation results are expected back from the lab. If this data is consistent with the assumption made in the 198 Record of Decision, EPA will proceed with the Consent Decree for the off-plant area.

Appendix A

RCRA and the "One Cleanup Plan Initiative"

The FMC Pocatello facility includes ponds and other units where materials that constitute hazardous waste under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) have been disposed of or stored for more than 90 days. Hazardous waste treatment, storage or disposal (TSD) facilities must apply for a RCRA permit authorizing such activities. FMC accordingly has submitted a RCRA permit application to EPA Region 10 for hazardous waste storage and disposal. The facility currently operates under RCRA interim status authorization. FMC's application for a RCRA operating and post-closure permit currently is pending at EPA Region 10.

The FMC facility contains hazardous waste management units regulated under RCRA that are closing, and in many cases require post-closure care. As of November 2002, FMC has completed closure at two of the RCRA-regulated ponds (Pond 8S and Pond 9E) and initiated closure at all the remaining RCRA-regulated ponds.

Treatment, storage or disposal facilities that have applied for a RCRA permit are subject to corrective action requirements. EPA regulations state that RCRA permit applicants must institute corrective action as necessary to protect human health and the environment for all releases of hazardous waste or constituents from any solid waste management units at the facility. This parallels the requirement that remedial action at Superfund sites must protect human health and the environment with respect to actual or threatened releases of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants.

SOUTHEAST IDAHO UPDATE

This newsletter contains information about the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's activities in Southeast Idaho and how you can get involved.

What's in this issue?

- Highlights of what is scheduled this year
- History of the Eastern Michaud Flats Superfund site
- Information on the Draft Community Involvement Plan

Highlights of What is Scheduled This Year

- The supplemental risk investigation is due to EPA in July 2005
- Field sampling will begin in the fall 2005
- Final closure of ponds 17 and 18 will be complete
- All remaining decontamination processes will be complete
- Many of the buildings and equipment will be removed by the end of 2005
- Any remaining process areas and buildings are scheduled to be removed by May 2006

History of the Eastern Michaud Flats Superfund Site

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency listed the Eastern Michaud Flats (EMF) site on the National Priorities List as a Superfund site in 1990. Superfund sites are sites across the nation where hazardous wastes and contaminants are found at levels that pose a risk to human health and the environment. The EMF site is divided into three separate units: the FMC Plant, Simplot, and some areas extending outside of the facilities, known as the off-site area. During the 1990's, EPA investigated the site and a cleanup plan, called a Record of Decision was signed in 1998.

Simplot

As an operating facility, Simplot is permitted for air emissions and hazardous wastes by the State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. They are currently under a Consent Order and enforcement action under the State, as well as a Consent Decree under Superfund, which was negotiated by EPA in 2002.

Simplot has installed a series of ground water wells to capture the ground water plume. The final design for the capture system is currently proceeding according to a revised schedule. The final design is expected to be submitted to EPA in early fall 2005.

FMC Plant

With the closure of FMC in December of 2001, areas not covered by the Record of Decision need to be evaluated. The Superfund Administrative Order on Consent requires investigation of the areas not covered in the original risk investigation or the Hazardous Waste Consent Decree. EPA has approved the work plan for these investigations, and

FMC will submit a detailed sampling plan in late July 2005. Once this plan is approved, FMC will begin sampling. EPA anticipates that the sampling will begin in early fall 2005.

The cleanup activities to date, including the closing and capping of the hazardous waste ponds are addressed in the 1998 Hazardous Waste Consent Decree between EPA and FMC, and in a Consent Order between the State of Idaho and FMC for the hazardous waste areas outside of the Fort Hall Reservation boundary.

Off-Site Areas

A separate joint Consent Decree will be negotiated between EPA, FMC and Simplot for the off-site areas, and EPA is in the process of addressing these issues. The off-site areas were sampled last summer and the data is being analyzed to determine a future course of action in these areas.

Supplemental Risk Investigation

The new supplemental risk investigation is described in an Administrative Order on Consent and outlines the scope and schedule for the remainder of the site cleanup. This Order was signed in October, 2003, and addresses all areas of the site not under the original risk investigation. A community involvement plan is also required at this time.

Draft Community Involvement Plan and How You Can Be Involved

The draft Community Involvement Plan is an update of the 1991 plan for the Eastern Michaud Flats Superfund site, which includes the FMC site, Simplot, and the off-site area. The plan is for communities to identify concerns and recommend ways to communicate about issues concerning the environmental investigations and cleanup of this site and will include specific information on how the community can be involved.

The plan provides a framework for public involvement throughout the remaining activities planned at the site to ensure that the local community, the Tribe and other interested parties are kept informed.

Community concerns, interest levels, and needs may change as the cleanup progresses. It is important that EPA hears and evaluates your concerns and, if warranted, factors them into work going on at the site.

Community Interviews

To complete the Community Involvement Plan, we would like your input. Would you be interested in an interview with EPA to help shape the plan and be part of addressing concerns as the site moves forward with the cleanup? If so, please call Mark Masarik at 208-378-5761 or Sue Skinner at 208-478-1680. Interview times can be set up to fit most schedules. We would like to complete the Community Involvement Plan this summer.

Redevelopment

With the closure of the FMC Plant, the Governor of Idaho initiated a task force to look at redevelopment and reuse of the facility. The Idaho Optimum Initiative (IOI) was established and they received two grants totaling \$78,000 to develop a website, a public involvement and outreach process, and an outline for a master land use plan. The website can be found at ioi-online.org. A public survey was completed in the spring of 2005 to develop the outline for a master land use plan. This plan will be submitted to the Governor by the end of July.

Questions? For information regarding any of the information contained in this update, contact:

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