

Cleanup Plan Proposed for FMC Operable Unit - Eastern Michaud Flats Superfund Site

Public Comment September 26 to October 26, 2011

Power County, Idaho

September 2011

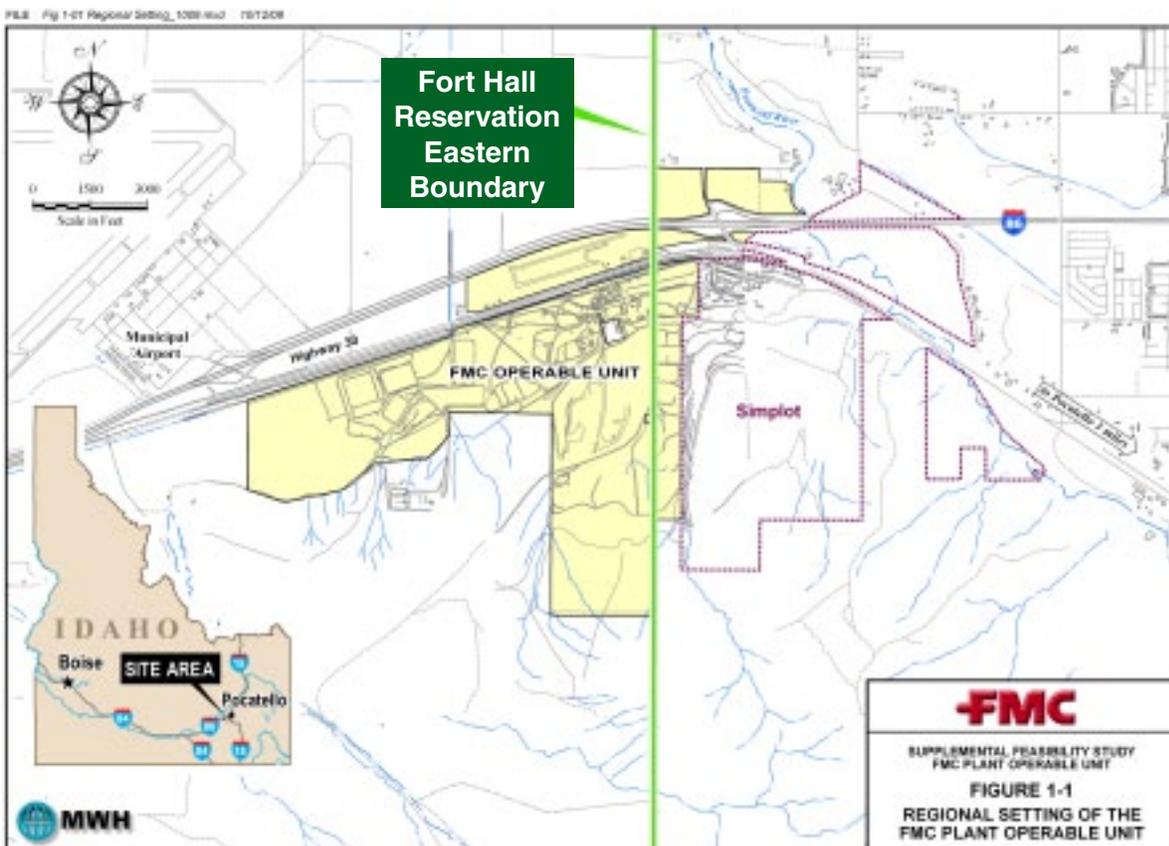
EPA seeks your comments on proposed changes to the former remedy decision for the FMC Operable Unit of the **Eastern Michaud Flats Superfund Site**. A **remedy** is a selected cleanup of a Superfund site. The proposed changes will better protect onsite workers and other people from potential exposure

to contaminated soil. The proposed changes will also better protect the environment, in particular the Portneuf River. These proposed changes are interim and described in EPA's *Proposed Plan for an Interim Amendment to the Record of Decision* on the web at: <http://go.usa.gov/iTC>

Why is EPA proposing to change the remedy?

The FMC Operable Unit includes a former phosphate ore processing plant, which began operating in 1949, and some surrounding properties owned by FMC Corporation. The Eastern Michaud Flats Superfund Site, located 3 miles northwest of Pocatello, Idaho, contains the FMC Operable Unit. Most of the unit is also located within the borders of the Fort Hall Reservation. EPA issued the original decision for the overall Eastern Michaud Flats Site, including the FMC Operable Unit, in 1998.

This cleanup decision did not anticipate that FMC would close the plant in 2001. After decommissioning and demolishing the former facility, FMC, under EPA oversight, investigated areas that had been previously covered by buildings and other structures. More importantly, these examinations re-evaluated the earlier investigation. As a result of these re-evaluations, EPA is proposing changes to the original remedy decision, including adding contaminated groundwater treatment.



What changes are being proposed?

The Interim Proposed Plan adds a groundwater pump and treat system to the evapotranspiration caps to keep soil contaminants from reaching the groundwater. Some underground piping that is a relatively small source of contamination to the groundwater will also be cleaned out as needed.

Under EPA oversight, FMC was required to perform the tests and studies that led to the 1998 remedy decision and the proposed changes.

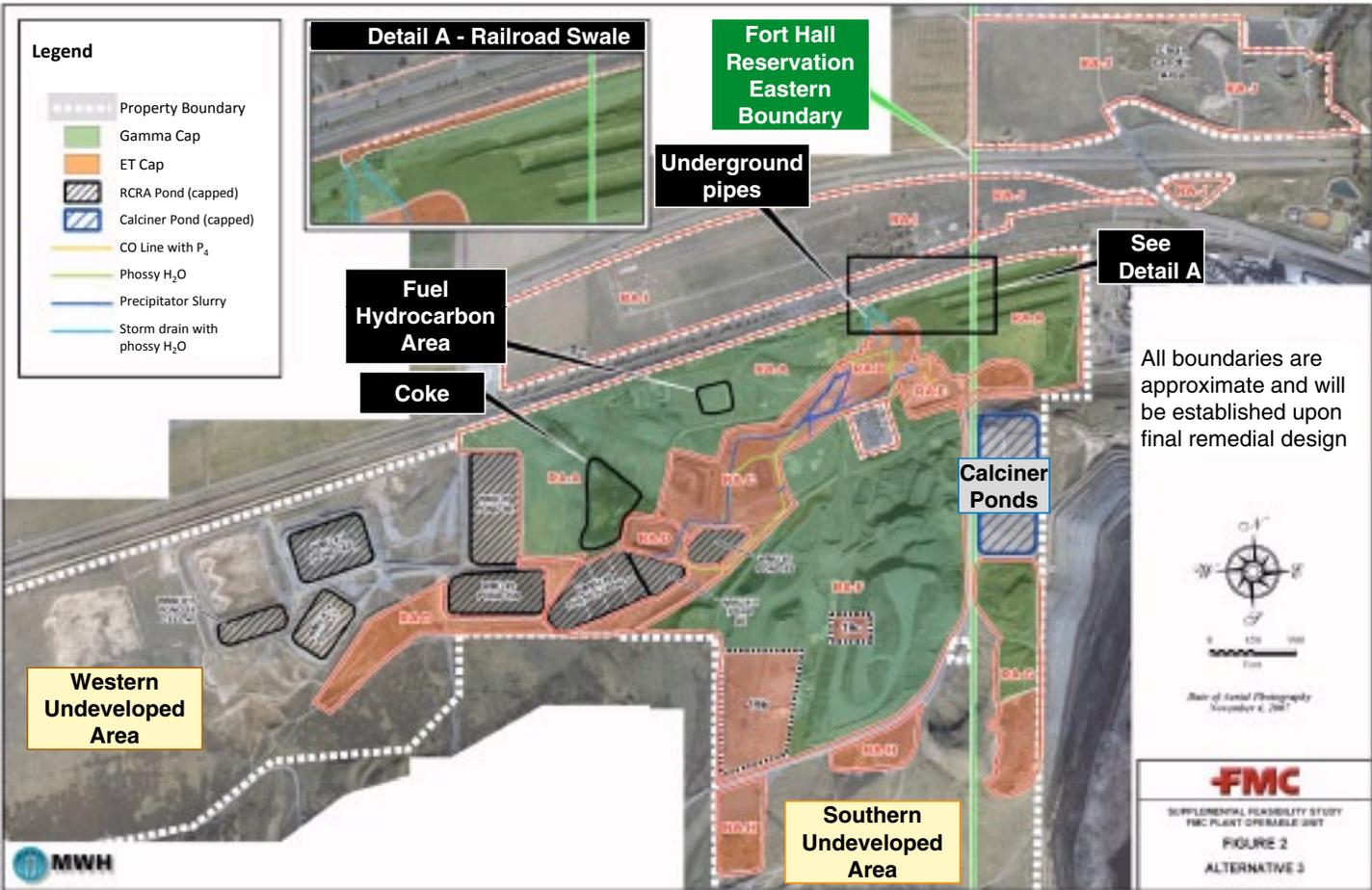
Additional information explaining the cleanup options is available at <http://go.usa.gov/iTC>

How will health risks from soil contaminants be reduced?

The original 1998 remedy decision included a combination of evapotranspiration caps and topsoil covers to help protect people from elemental phosphorus, metals and radionuclides in the soil. Evapotranspiration caps shield buried elemental phosphorus wastes from contact with people or other life at the surface. The caps also prevent rainwater from seeping through the cap into the ground by using plants and natural evaporation to remove water. The topsoil cap protects people from radiation emitted by radionuclides in the underlying soil. Both types of caps shield contaminated

soils from the wind and prevent redistribution of contaminants into the air. The proposed remedy will also include monitoring, maintenance and institutional controls to enhance the ongoing protectiveness of the caps. Institutional controls are legally enforceable land use restrictions that help ensure land is used safely in the future. Every five years after the remedy is completed, EPA will review conditions at the FMC Operable Unit to determine whether the remedy still protects people and the environment. EPA will publish the five-year-reviews for public review.

Soil: Proposed Alternative



Why is capping recommended instead of removing the contaminated soil?

Capping (or covering over the contamination with clean material) is often used when the soil contamination is very extensive or too dangerous to remove. Capping prevents contact with underlying contaminated material, and slows or stops movement of the contaminants. Without capping, the contaminants could move from the site when water flows across the site or seeps into the soil, or when groundwater comes into contact with contaminated soil, or if wind blows over the area.

Soils in the FMC Operable Unit contain elemental phosphorus and other contaminants, including toxic metals and radionuclides. Elemental phosphorus is not only toxic, but can spontaneously combust when exposed to air.

The FMC Operable Unit studies found that removing buried elemental phosphorus using currently available technology would be very dangerous and costly.

How will groundwater extraction and treatment help?

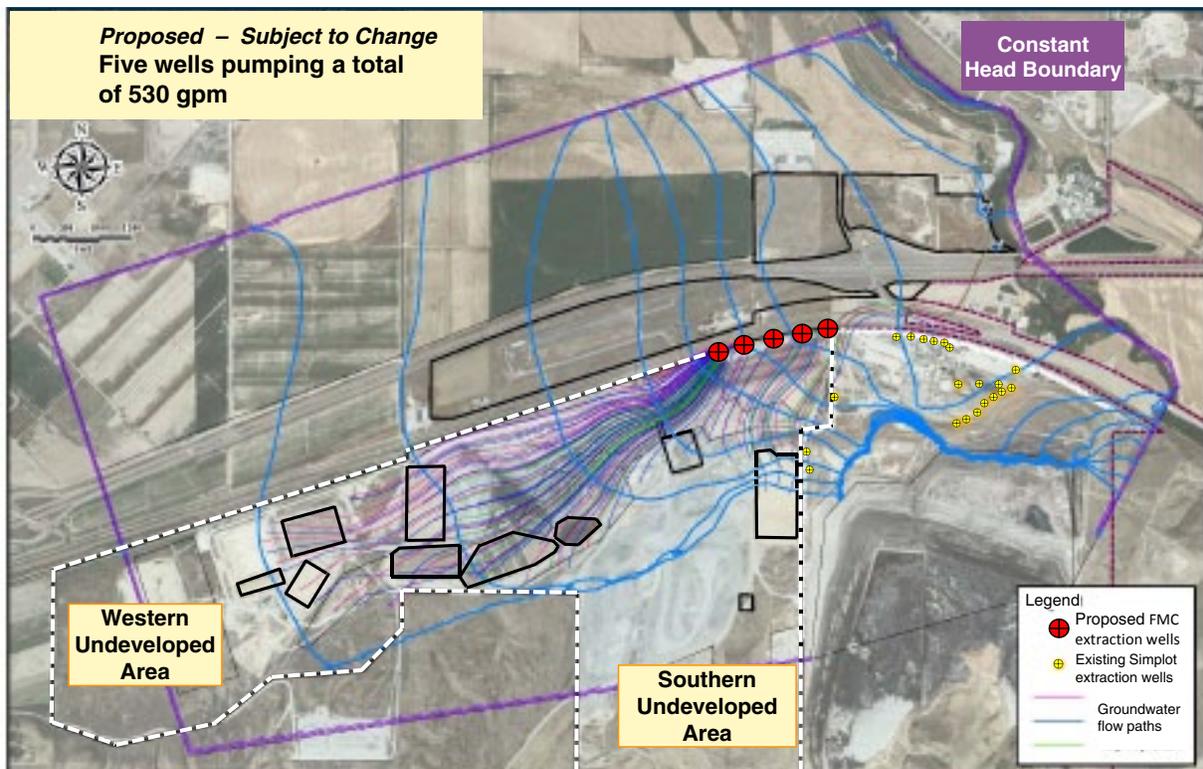
Up to this point, there have been no Superfund actions taken at the FMC Operable Unit to prevent rainwater from seeping through contaminated soils and moving soil contaminants into the groundwater. Also, no Superfund actions specific to the FMC Operable Unit have been done yet to prevent contaminated groundwater from discharging into the Portneuf River.

The groundwater extraction and treatment system will be the most important part of the proposed remedy. The system will pump contaminated

groundwater to the surface and treat it to reduce arsenic and orthophosphate. The extracted water will then be treated by either of two methods. One method is for FMC to obtain a permit from the City of Pocatello wastewater plant to treat the water and then discharge it to the Portneuf River. The other method is for FMC to build an onsite treatment facility and put the treated water in a discharge basin. The treated water would either eventually seep back into the groundwater and discharge to the Portneuf River, or evaporate into the atmosphere.

Groundwater: Proposed Alternative

Pump and treat at property perimeter



For More Information

You can find the Proposed Plan and helpful information at: <http://go.usa.gov/iTC>

The Proposed Plan and supporting documents explaining the reason for the changes are in the Administrative Record file for the site, located at:

Idaho State University Library

Government Documents
850 South 9th Avenue
Pocatello, ID 83209
Mon – Thu: 7:15 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Fri: 7:15 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sat and Sun: 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Phone: (208) 282-2958

Shoshone-Bannock Library

Tribal Business Center
Pima Drive and Bannock Avenue
Fort Hall, ID 83202
Contact: Virginia Monsisco (208) 478-3908

American Falls Library

308 Roosevelt Street
American Falls, ID 83211
Mon – Thu: 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Fri: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Sat: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Phone: (208) 226-2335

U.S. EPA Region 10

1200 6th Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101
Mon – Fri: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Phone: (206) 553-1200

How to Comment

Written Comments

You can submit written comments on the changes to the proposed remedy decision through October 26, 2011. Send comments to:

Chris Bellovary
Mail Stop: ECL-111, 1200 Sixth Ave, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101

You can also submit by e-mail to bellovary.chris@epa.gov. If you submit comments by e-mail, please write “FMC OU Proposed Plan” in the subject line.

Public Meetings and Testimony

EPA will host two public meetings for people to meet project staff, see informative displays, ask questions, and submit written comments.

You can give spoken testimony and written comments at the public hearings following the public meetings.

The public hearings will include an informational presentation, followed by a short question and answer session, and ending with public testimony recorded by a court reporter.

Public Meetings

October 12, 2011

Fort Hall Tribal Council Chambers and Auditorium
Public Informational Meeting/Open House
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Formal Public Hearing/Recorded Comments
6:15 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

October 13, 2011

Chubbuck City Council Chambers
5160 Yellowstone Avenue
Chubbuck, ID 83202
Public Informational Meeting/Open House
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Formal Public Hearing/Recorded Comments
6:15 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

The Superfund Process and What Happens Next

EPA will consider all public comments in our final decision on the changes to the remedy decision. EPA will respond to comments and include the summarized responses with the *Proposed Plan for an Interim Amendment to the Record of Decision*.

Questions? Contact

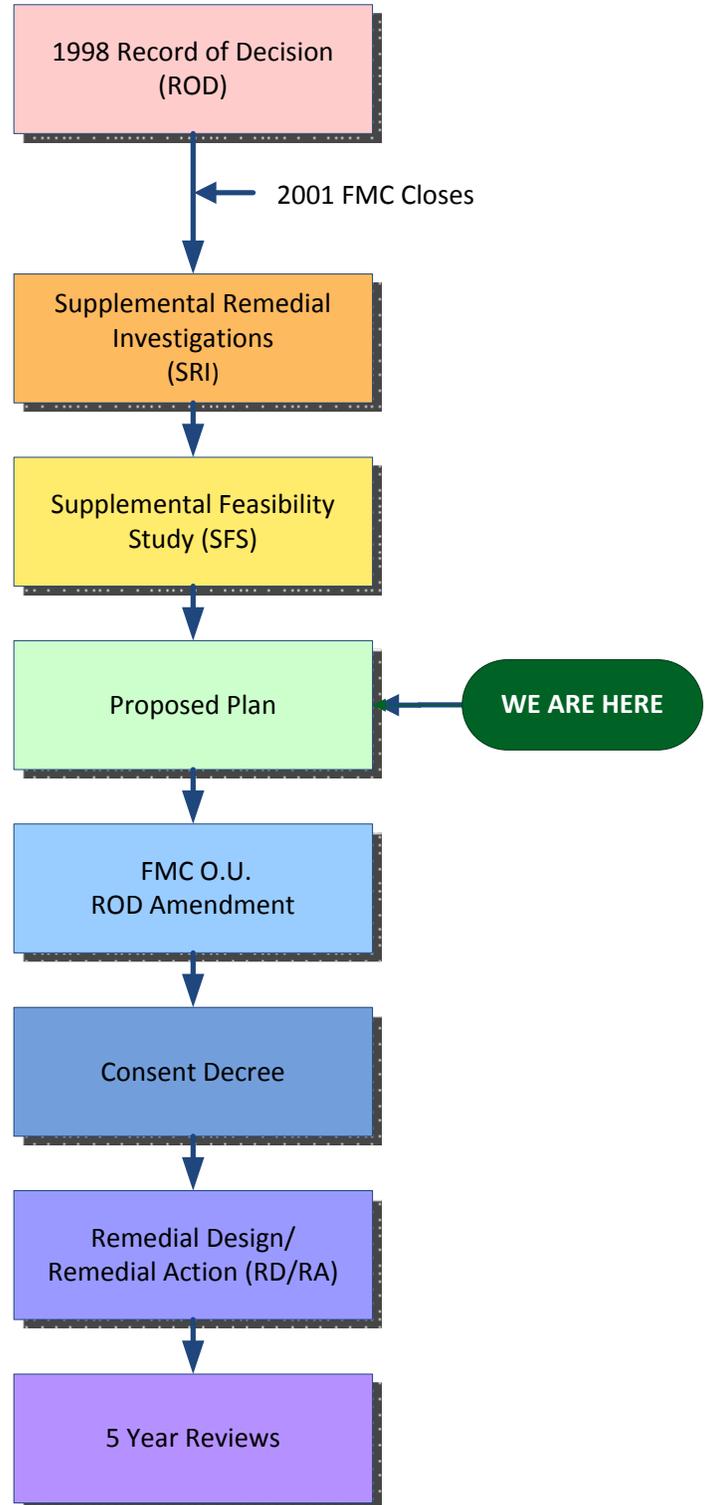
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(206) 553-2723
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Cyndi Grafe
Community Involvement Coordinator
(208) 378-5771
grafe.cyndi@epa.gov

If you need materials in an alternative format, please contact Cyndi Grafe at (208) 378-5771

TTY users please call the Federal Relay Service: 800-877-8339

Superfund Process Flow Chart For the FMC O.U.



***Eastern Michaud Flats:
FMC Pocatello Proposed Plan***

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- ***What changes are being proposed?***
- ***How will health risks from soil pollutants be reduced?***
- ***Why is capping recommended instead of removing the contaminated soil?***
- ***How will groundwater extraction and treatment help?***