



Former Northwestern Barrel Superfund Site Residential Soil Sampling to Begin

South Milwaukee, Wisconsin

March 4, 1998

This fact sheet provides a brief update on upcoming surface and subsurface soil sampling to be completed in the vicinity of the residential properties surrounding the Former Northwestern Barrel (Marina Cliffs) site located in South Milwaukee.

Purpose for Residential Soil Sampling

To address concerns voiced by residents and to determine if drum wastes from the site have impacted soils in the vicinity of the residential properties, the potentially responsible parties under the oversight of EPA and WDNR will be collecting approximately 12 subsurface soil borings (down to 10 feet deep) and 13 surface soil samples (down to 1 foot deep). Samples from various intervals within each of the borings will be analyzed.

Schedule

Sampling is *tentatively* scheduled to begin **March 9** and will last about 1 week. **Completion of sampling activities is contingent upon the potentially responsible parties obtaining necessary access agreements with the property owners** to allow access to the residential properties surrounding the site. Work crews are scheduled to work from approximately 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, pending favorable weather conditions. (Weather conditions or saturated soil may result in a delay in work).

Preliminary laboratory results will be available approximately four weeks after completion of the sampling. At that time, laboratory results will be assessed and validated in accordance with applicable quality assurance/quality control procedures. Final results will be available approximately six weeks after sampling. EPA will notify the public of the final results when they become available and will put the results in the site repository at the South Milwaukee library. (It is EPA's standard procedure not to release preliminary results; however, if preliminary results indicate levels of contamination that potentially pose an unacceptable level of immediate risk to the health and safety of residents, EPA will notify residents immediately.)

Sampling Locations

Sampling locations for subsurface and surface soils ("borehole locations" and "soil sample locations" respectively) are noted on the map below. Sampling locations were chosen based on a detailed examination of the recently completed EPA aerial photographic analysis of the site and an examination of existing features in the vicinity of the residential properties surrounding the site. (For those that attended the December 18, 1997 public meeting, you will note few changes from the locations presented at that meeting, with the exception noted below.)

Access to the Lake Ridge property is not expected to be granted; therefore samples will not be collected there. As noted on the map, one borehole (B-12) and one surface soil

sample (SS-12) will be collected along the city right-of-way just to the north of the Lake Ridge Property boundary.

Chemicals to be Sampled

At least one sample from each location will be analyzed for approximately 150 chemicals, including lead and PCBs. These chemicals are common industrial chemicals and/or are characteristic of the type of the chemicals disposed of at the former barrel company.

Sampling Procedures

Subsurface soil samples will be collected using a truck-mounted rotary drilling rig. The boreholes will be approximately 8 inches in diameter. Surface soil samples will be collected using a stainless steel hand auger. Surface and subsurface soil samples will be examined by field personnel to identify the type of soil and a hand-held monitor will measure the presence of any potential volatile organic compounds in the sample. Soils will then be placed in containers, sealed, placed on ice and stored for later shipment to the laboratory.

Following completion, each borehole will be backfilled with bentonite grout to below the ground surface and topped off with soil. The ground surface will be restored to its original condition. Reseeding and/or repair of grass disturbed by the drilling rig will be completed, if necessary, when weather conditions are favorable.

Personnel Conducting Sampling

Personnel from STS Consultants Ltd. and Conestoga-Rovers & Associates (contractors for the potentially responsible parties) will be conducting the drilling and sampling activities. Personnel from the EPA and/or WDNR will be on-site overseeing the work.

Possible Inconveniences

Because the drill rigs are mounted on trucks, residents may hear noise from the trucks or smell diesel fumes typical of large trucks. Also, in order to complete borehole B-2, the garages at Bay Heights will be blocked for approximately 3 hours. Affected residents will be contacted ahead of time about this.

Who to Call with Questions or Concerns

Residents with questions or concerns during the drilling operation can speak with any of the EPA or WDNR personnel on the site. Residents may also phone site personnel at the **EPA cell phone at (312) 802-0672**. If the phone is not answered or the call does not go through, residents may contact **Bri Bill, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, at 1-800-621-8431 or (312) 353-6646**. Bri will be checking messages frequently while on-site and will return your call.

Precautions to Ensure Safety

All soil sampling activities will be completed according to a site-specific health and safety plan that has been designed to ensure that public safety and the environment are not adversely impacted by the investigative activities. Access to the active drilling areas will be restricted to qualified and properly trained personnel only and residents are advised to remain clear of drilling equipment. Air monitoring for potential volatile organic compound or particulate emissions will be conducted during all drilling activities in accordance with the site-specific health and safety plan.

Additional Sampling in Fenced-In Area

In addition to the completion of soil sampling in the vicinity of the residential properties surrounding the site, additional subsurface and surface sampling will also be completed inside the fenced-in area. The purpose of these samples is to determine the volume of material that may eventually need to be removed in future cleanup actions.

To ensure that the drilling rig does not carry potentially contaminated soils out of the fenced area, the rig will be cleaned prior to leaving the fenced-in area.



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