

Fact Sheet

October 2001

Hermiston Lab Site Umatilla County, Oregon

Hazardous Materials Cleaned Up At Lab Near Hermiston

Cleanup crews have successfully cleaned up hazardous materials at an unoccupied laboratory three miles north of Hermiston, Oregon (81156 N Highway 395). The cleanup was necessary to reduce the risk to the public and the environment from large quantities of improperly stored chemicals at the site. Work was conducted under the oversight of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

During initial inspections in June 2001, EPA found a wide variety of chemicals, in large amounts, stored in a haphazard manner. Chemicals included nitric acid, sulfuric acid, arsenic, potassium cyanide, mercury, and many others. In August cleanup crews came on site to identify and inventory hazardous materials in and around the building.



Cleanup crews sorted hazardous wastes, then prepared them for disposal.

From August 27 through September 7, materials were sorted, packaged, and prepared for proper disposal. 1849 containers were found, and 382 contained hazardous substances. Several disposal facilities will receive these wastes. In addition, several thousands of pounds of non-hazardous scrap metal and cardboard were recycled; several thousands of pounds of non-hazardous office trash, wood, and debris were taken to a landfill.

Next Steps: Sampling to Verify Cleanup

Work is underway to make sure that the contamination at the site has been fully addressed. Crews will sample the ground water at the site to determine if it has been affected. Soil sampling will occur to gauge the impact of the wastes on site soils and surrounding areas. Surfaces in the laboratory building will be "wipe sampled" to see if more cleanup is needed before the building can be used again. When sample results are available, they will be posted on EPA's Hermiston Lab web site: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/hermiston>.

See reverse for contact information.

For More Information

Web Site: EPA's Hermiston Lab Web Site offers detailed information about cleanup operations, including pollution reports and photographs.

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/hermiston>

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Documents: Documents related to the cleanup can be found in the Information Repository and Administrative Record at the Hermiston Library, 235 E Gladys Avenue. The Administrative Record is also located at: EPA Region 10, Seventh Floor Records Center, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98101, (206) 553-4494.

To request additional services for persons with disabilities, call 1-800-424-4372.



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