

SUPERFUND

Fact Sheet

KERR-McGEE SUPERFUND SITE

Caribou County, Idaho



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

June 2000

Revised Proposed Plan

Public Comment Period Extended through June 23

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has extended the public comment period on its proposal to revise a portion of the original groundwater cleanup plan for the Kerr-McGee Superfund Site. EPA's proposal would require Kerr-McGee to cap the calcine tailings and roaster reject wastes onsite rather than recycle them through plant processes. These wastes are minor sources of groundwater contamination at the site. Other cleanup actions addressing the bulk of contamination sources have already been completed in accordance with the original plan. The proposal is available for review on EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/r10earth> (once there, click on "Idaho"), and at the Soda Springs Public Library located at 149 Main Street.

EPA will accept written comments by postal or electronic mail on the proposed plan through June 23, 2000. Comments should be addressed to:

***Cami Grandinetti, EPA Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Sixth Avenue, (ECL-113)
Seattle, WA 98101
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Public Meeting Held on June 1, 2000

EPA held a public meeting on June 1, 2000 at The Trail Restaurant to discuss proposed changes to the cleanup plan and to solicit comments on EPA's preferred alternative. Thirty-seven people attended the meeting from Soda Springs and surrounding communities. Comments provided to EPA during the formal hearing, as well as written comments received during the comment period, will be responded to in writing in a *Responsiveness Summary* at the time EPA makes its final cleanup decision.

Copies of the transcript from the meeting will be available for review at the Soda Springs Public Library, or by contacting Charles Bert at the number listed on the back of this form.

What did the original cleanup plan require?

The 1995 Record of Decision contains a number of cleanup actions that Kerr-McGee is required to implement that address groundwater contamination resulting from their historic operations. Most cleanup actions have already been completed in accordance with the original plan. The subject of the proposed revision is the action referred to as the *Reuse/Recovery* alternative, which required Kerr-McGee to recycle calcine tailings and roaster reject materials through plant processes. This alternative was expected to meet cleanup goals within an 8 to 10 year timeframe, based on expected rates of production.

What is being proposed under the revised cleanup plan and why?

Kerr-McGee experienced a number of operational problems associated with the *Reuse/Recovery* action, and it has become clear that the 8-10 year cleanup timeframe required in the original plan cannot be achieved. EPA is now looking back to the original cleanup plan and considering two previously identified cleanup alternatives for the calcine tailings and roaster reject wastes: *Capping in Place* and onsite *Removal and Capping*. EPA is recommending *Capping in Place* as the favored alternative, which will achieve equivalent groundwater protection as would have been provided under the original *Reuse/Recovery* action. *Capping in Place* was not selected in the original cleanup plan because EPA considered the *Reuse/Recovery* alternative to have a slight advantage by offering an opportunity to recycle the wastes.

Why not removal of the waste?

Removal of the waste would be extremely expensive and would not provide any more groundwater protection than capping the waste in place. EPA considers capping in place to be an effective, long-term solution that is consistent with many other Superfund sites around the country.

What about the contamination already in the groundwater?

Kerr-McGee is required to maintain a groundwater monitoring program to ensure levels of contamination are decreasing over time. EPA oversees this activity and reviews all monitoring data. Requirements under Superfund law ensure the site will be monitored for health and safety regardless of who owns the property in the future.

Additional questions or want copies of written materials? Please contact Charles Bert, EPA Community Relations, by e-mail (bert.charles@epa.gov) or by calling toll free at (800) 424-4372, extension 0225.



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

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***Kerr-McGee Superfund Site
Caribou County, Idaho***

***Revised Groundwater Cleanup Plan
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