

Issues and Recommendations

This section discusses the issues identified during the 5-year review process in detail and provides recommendations for improvement. Several issues were identified for the Atlas Mine Area OU, JMM OU, and the City OU. Table 8-1 summarizes these issues and recommendations and presents the party responsible, oversight agency, milestone date for completion, and the effect that these recommendations have on the protectiveness of the environment and human health currently and in the future.

8.1 Atlas Mine Area OU

Issue

Some indications of erosion were observed at the naturally-unstable highwall above Pond B along the road to Pond A, which could reduce the width of the road to the point where vehicular access to Pond A could be affected. An active landslide along the road to Rover Pit/Channel A will likely eventually prevent vehicular access to Channel A.

Recommendation

Alternate access roads to Rover Pit and Pond A should be identified in the event that erosion and/or sliding prevent access to Rover Pit/Channel A and Pond A.

8.2 Johns-Manville Mill OU

Issue

The deed restriction recorded for the JMM OU is not legally enforceable and does not run with the land.

Recommendation

The deed restriction should be re-recorded consistent with the 2003 DTSC LUCs regulations.

8.3 City OU

Issue

USEPA has recently revised asbestos risk assessment guidance to conclude that “the 1 area-percent threshold for asbestos in soil/debris as an action level may not be protective of human health in all instances of site cleanups” (USEPA 2004). This new information is a change from the exposure assumption made at the City OU, which was the basis for the 1 percent soil cleanup level. Therefore, the remedy for the unrestricted portion of the City OU may not protect human health and the environment. This is not an issue for the WMU within the City OU, as human exposure pathways at the WMU are eliminated by a soil cap, fencing, and access restrictions.

Recommendation

An evaluation of the protectiveness of the asbestos cleanup level specified by the ROD should be performed for the unrestricted portion of the City OU. This evaluation will occur in three phases. The first phase will involve a review of information pertaining to the cleanup. This will determine the extent to which soils with residual (< 1 percent) asbestos were left onsite and whether residual asbestos in soils could, potentially, compromise protectiveness. The second phase will only occur if it is determined under the first phase that protectiveness may be compromised. The second phase consists of developing a workplan to address potential risks. A third phase consists of evaluating the results of work conducted under the workplan and specify what, if any, further actions may be needed to ensure protectiveness.

Issue

A deed restriction was recorded for the City OU, but it is not legally enforceable and does not run with the land. In addition, the surveyed coordinates identified in the deed restriction amendment are incorrect and do not include the portion of the restricted area that is within the Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way.

Recommendation

The deed restriction should be re-recorded to: (1) be consistent with current DTSC regulations for LUCs, and (2) reflect the accurate boundaries of the restricted area (WMU). Parties responsible for O&M of the deed restriction should also be identified.

Issue

The DTSC phone number shown on signs along the fence surrounding the WMU is no longer valid.

Recommendation

The signs should be updated with a current phone number for DTSC.

TABLE 8-1
 Summary Table - Issues, Recommendations and Follow-up Actions
Atlas and Coalinga Superfund Site, Coalinga, California

Issue	Recommendations and Follow-up Actions	Party Responsible	Oversight Agency	Milestone Date	Affects Protectiveness (Y/N)	
					Current	Future
Atlas Mine Area OU						
Erosion at roads to Rover Pit/Channel A and Pond A; Landslide along road to Rover Pit/Channel A	Identify alternate access roads to Rover Pit/Channel A area and Pond A	Northrop Grumman/BLM	USEPA	3/2008	N	N
JMM OU						
Recorded deed restriction does not run with land	Re-record deed restriction to be consistent with current DTSC regulations	PCLC	DTSC	6/2008	N	N
City OU						
New exposure assumptions indicate 1 percent asbestos soil cleanup level specified in the ROD may not be protective of human health and the environment for the unrestricted area of the City OU	Evaluate the protectiveness of the asbestos cleanup level (<1 percent) in three phases Phase 1: Review information and determine the extent of soil with residual asbestos left onsite Phase 2: Develop workplan Phase 3: Evaluate results from workplan and identify potential further actions	USEPA	USEPA		D*	D*
				10/2008 (Phase 1)		
				10/2009 (Phase 2)		
				10/2010 (Phase 3)		
Recorded deed restriction does not run with land and contains incorrect legal description of the restricted area	Re-record deed restriction to be consistent with current DTSC regulations and contain an accurate legal description of the restricted area	City of Coalinga (per Quiet Title Judgment)	DTSC	6/2008	N	N
DTSC phone number on signs is no longer valid	Signs should be updated with a current phone number for DTSC	Union Pacific	DTSC	3/2007	N	N

* D = Deferred. Protectiveness determination deferred until further information is obtained regarding potential human health risks of residual asbestos in soil located in the unrestricted portion of the City OU.

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Next 5-year Review

The next 5-year review should be performed in 2011. A report to document the results of that review shall be completed by September 30, 2011.

Protectiveness Statement

9.1 Atlas Mine Area OU

The remedial action at the Atlas Mine Area OU is protective of human health and the environment due to the removal of contaminated material, stabilization of erosion prone areas, structural improvements and additions, the installation of access controls and warning signs, and regular maintenance of the Atlas Mine Area OU.

9.2 Johns-Manville Mill OU

The remedial action at the JMM OU is protective of human health and the environment due to the removal of contaminated material, diversion of water around erosion prone surfaces/materials, stabilization of erosion prone areas, structural improvements and additions, the installation of access controls and warning signs, and regular maintenance of the JMM OU.

9.3 City OU

The protectiveness of the remedial action for the City OU is deferred until further information is obtained regarding potential human health risks of residual (< 1 percent) asbestos in soils that may be present in the unrestricted portion of the OU.

9.4 Site-wide Protectiveness Statements

Because the determination of protectiveness is deferred for the City OU, and because the City OU is shared by the Atlas Asbestos Mine Site and the Coalinga Asbestos Mine Site, the sitewide protectiveness determination for both Superfund Sites is deferred until further information is obtained.

Remedial Action Implementation - Atlas Asbestos Mine Superfund Site

The purpose of this appendix is to provide information on the remedial actions implemented at the Atlas Asbestos Mine Superfund Site (Atlas Mine Area) including any deviations from the selected remedy. The remedial actions were conducted to mitigate potential endangerment of human health and/or the environment.

Remedial Action Implementation

Atlas Corporation and Vinnell Mining and Minerals Corporation, the responsible parties for the Atlas Mine Area, entered into the consent decree with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) on August 13, 1992 and agreed to implement the remedy selected in the Record of Decision (ROD). Bureau of Land Management (BLM) subsequently entered into a separate agreement with the Atlas Corporation and Vinnell Corporation to perform the operation, maintenance, and revegetation at the site. The Remedial Action Design Plan (RADP) was approved on June 22, 1994 (HLA 1993).

Construction activities began on October 20, 1994, and continued until May 5, 1995, when rain and surface-water accumulation forced suspension of construction activities. Construction resumed on September 11, 1995, and was completed on November 14, 1996. USEPA issued a preliminary closeout report for the Atlas Area OU on September 2, 1999, confirming that the construction phase of the remedy was completed and operating properly (USEPA 1999). The remedial features at the Atlas Asbestos Mine site are described in the following sections.

Surface Impoundments

Ponds A, B, D, E, and G were constructed as designed in the RADP to retain sediment from stormwater runoff. Pond F was deleted from the remedial action as part of the Remedial Design Modifications (Revised) letter from the potentially responsible parties (PRPs) to the USEPA dated October 19, 1995. Pond C construction was completed without removing all of the silt that had accumulated in the bottom during the heavy rains of spring 1995. The impoundments were constructed to pass the flow from a 100-year storm event through a piped spillway or outlet structure and discharge into the existing channels downstream. The Pond F area was graded to direct surface water into a ditch that intersects Pond E dissipater pad area.

Ponds A, B, C, E, and G were constructed with a piped outlet structure and Pond D was constructed with an open channel spillway structure. Two sediment storage areas were constructed: one near Ponds A and B that has at least a one-year pond capacity and one near Pond E that has at least a six-year site capacity. These storage areas are located adjacent, or as near as possible, to the impoundments so as not to interfere with runoff or contribute to sediment deposition within the impoundments.

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