Frontier Fertilizer Superfund Site
Cleanup Action Update Bulletin, Number 1

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Region 9 • San Francisco, CA • February 2008

EPA Requests Public Comments on Target Agreement

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently implementing the final cleanup actions for the Frontier Fertilizer Superfund Site (Site) in Davis, CA. The purpose of this update is to announce the opening of a comment period for an agreement between EPA and Target Corporation (Target) and to introduce a new bulletin format to update the public on the cleanup.

Target Agreement

EPA published a notice in the Federal Register on February 15, 2008 which opened a 30-day public comment period for its Agreement on Consent (Agreement) with Target. The Agreement does not become final until EPA considers all public comments received (see box at right on how to comment). This Agreement will enable redevelopment of land adjacent to the Site while not impeding cleanup efforts.

Under the Agreement, Target, with EPA oversight, will fund and perform the movement of eight groundwater monitoring wells at privately-owned parcels lying to the north and west of the Frontier Fertilizer Superfund site. This Agreement directs Target to perform certain activities related to relocation and abandonment of groundwater monitoring wells on the Target property at Second Street near Faraday Avenue.

How to Comment on Target Agreement

The public is asked to review the Federal Register notice and send written comments by March 17, 2008 to: Judith Winchell, U.S. EPA R9 (SFD-7-5), 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105, Fax: (415) 947-3520, or email to: **winchell.judith@epa.gov**. For further information, please call (415) 972-3124.

To obtain a copy of the Federal Register notice go online at **http://www.epa.gov/region09/frontierfertilizer/** or call (415) 972-3124.

New Bulletin Format Updates

EPA conducted community interviews in order to revise the Community Involvement Plan. The CIP is a planning document that describes the cleanup progress, community concerns and community involvement activities that will help foster meaningful public involvement while the site is being cleaned up. After the CIP is finalized, this document will be available to the public at the site repositories and on the Site's web page. One action item that came out of the CIP process was that community members wanted information presented in a more concise manner, thus the birth of the "Cleanup Action Update Bulletin." For individuals that want more detailed information, EPA will provide web links to the complete document. Whenever there is a milestone event, EPA will send out a more detailed fact sheet on the subject.

Cleanup Progress

EPA signed the Record of Decision (ROD) for the final soil and groundwater cleanup on September 26, 2006. The ROD is a decision document that memorializes the selected cleanup actions for the site. The selected remedy for the site is to continue operation of the groundwater pump and treat system and conduct in-place heating to treat soil and groundwater. EPA recently sent out an extensive bid package to find a vendor to design and build the

electrical heating system. The ROD and others site-related documents can be found at http://www.epa.gov/region09/FrontierFertilizer

Below you will find the site activities that are planned for the next year. Each subsequent bulletin will give you an update on these activities or others and announce any community meetings.

In-Place Electrical Heating

Electrical heat will be used to heat the soil and groundwater 45-90 feet below ground surface. The temperature will be determined further into the design process prior to construction. Vapor controls will be put in place and will include a vapor barrier, such as asphalt or thick plastic over the source area, soil vapor collection and treatment and air monitoring. Any soil vapor or condensate generated will be collected, treated and monitored. This activity will be the main focus for the next two years.

- EPA expects to select a specialized heating contractor in February 2008.
- Phase 1, installation of monitoring components, is expected to begin in June 2008.
- The technical advisor for the Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) is expected to review and comment on the design documents (See box on this page for more information on the TAG).
- Heating of the soil is expected to start November 2008 and continue for one year.

Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)

EPA believes it is important for community members to provide input on the clean up of Superfund sites. One of EPA's tools is to give an eligible group a grant to hire an independent technical advisor to help them interpret and comment on EPA site decision documents. The Frontier Fertilizer Superfund Oversight Group has been the recipient of the TAG for this Site since 1995. The group and its technical advisor work closely with EPA and State regulators to make sure that community concerns are incorporated into the cleanup decision making process. The primary point of contact for the TAG is Pamela Nieberg who can be reached at (530) 756-6856. If you would like to receive updates from the TAG recipient, send an email to: **pnieberg@dcn.org**.

Groundwater Pump and Treat System

Since EPA installed the groundwater extraction and treatment system in 1995, commonly referred to as a "pump-and-treat" system, it has been operated and maintained

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Jackie Lane (SFD-3)
Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. EPA Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
Direct: (415) 972-3235
Toll Free: (800) 231-3075

Bonnie Arthur (SFD-8-1)
Remedial Project Manager
U.S. EPA Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
Direct: (415) 972-3030
Toll Free: (800) 231-3075

Pamela Nieberg
Executive Director
Frontier Fertilizer Superfund Oversight Group
Technical Assistance Group
(530) 756-6856
pnieberg@dcn.org

with the goal of controlling the migration of contaminated groundwater. The system typically uses 16 groundwater extraction wells to remove contaminated groundwater. Granular activated carbon (GAC) is contained in three above-ground vessels and is used to remove chemicals of concern (COCs) including ethylene dibromide, trichloropropane and dichloropropane from the extracted water. EPA samples and discharges the treated water to the City of Davis sanitary sewer system under a discharge permit.

- EPA continues to operate the groundwater treatment system.
- To date, the system has removed approximately 650 kilograms of the contaminants of concern
- Groundwater treatment will continue while soil heating takes place.

Site Monitoring

EPA measures groundwater elevations and COC concentrations in wells at and around the site to evaluate the effectiveness of the "pump and treat" system effectiveness and the extent of groundwater contamination. Groundwater monitoring and treatment system performance results are documented in quarterly reports available to the public at the Information Repositories listed below.

- The pump and treat system has been effective at containing the contaminated groundwater plume in most areas.

Biological Treatment of Nitrates

During discussions with the City of Davis, EPA has learned that the treatment plant will have nitrate discharge limits set within the next few years. This may require treatment either in-place or as part of the groundwater treatment at the on-site plant.

- EPA is evaluating various nitrate treatments, and a more detailed analysis is planned once the heating is completed.

Future Site Activity Schedule

- Community meeting will be held in spring/summer 2008
- Phase 1, installation of heating monitoring components, starts in summer 2008
- Heating is expected to start November 2008

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

The Site repositories below house a copy of the ROD and all Site documents that helped EPA make cleanup decisions at the site.

Yolo County Library, Davis Branch
Attn: Marilyn Corocan
315 East 14th Street
Davis, California 95616
(530) 757-5593

Hours:
Monday: 1-9 pm
Tuesday-Thursday: 10 am – 9 pm
Friday, Saturday: 10 am - 5:30 pm
Sunday: 1-5 pm

Shields Library
Government Documents Department
Attn: Linda Kennedy
University of California
Davis, California 95616
(530) 752-6561

Hours:
Monday-Thursday: 7:30 am-12 midnight
Friday: 7:30 am – 6 pm
Saturday: 12 pm – 6 pm
Sunday: 12 pm – 12 midnight

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United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-3)
San Francisco, CA 94105
Attn: Jackie Lane (Frontier 2/08)

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