
SUPERFUND FACT SHEET

EPA REGION 4

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

REMEDIAL ACTION

INFORMATION FACT SHEET

AGRICO CHEMICAL SUPERFUND SITE

Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida

December 1997

This Informational Fact Sheet for the Agrico Chemical Superfund Site in Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida, has been prepared by the Region 4 Office of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide the community the latest information on the status of the cleanup of the Agrico site. This Informational Fact Sheet is being sent to everyone on the Agrico mailing list and will be available for public viewing at the Pensacola Public Library located at 200 W. Gregory Street.

SITE BACKGROUND

The Agrico Chemical Site, located at the northwest corner of Fairfield Drive and Interstate 110 includes about 35 acres of land. Former plant buildings and process equipment were removed by late 1979, leaving only the concrete foundations. Storage warehouses, in the southern portion of the site, are the only structures on site.

A company that produced sulfuric acid from pyrite (iron sulfide) began operating at the Site in 1889. Fertilizer was produced at the site from 1920 by several different companies, including Agrico Chemical Company who purchased the facility in 1972 and continued operations until 1975. The Site was sold to MARGOD, a Florida partnership, and F.A. Baird, JR., a private citizen, in 1977.

Industrial wastewater was discharged to low-lying areas throughout the history of site operations. Aerial photographs from 1940 through 1990 indicate that wastewater ponded in four general areas. Process water for plant operations was apparently supplied by at least two on-site wells.

In 1989, EPA listed the Site on the National Priorities List (NPL) of abandoned or unregulated hazardous waste sites eligible for attention under the Superfund long-term cleanup program. Conoco Inc. and Freeport McMoRan, Inc. entered into an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) in 1989 to do a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) under EPA's oversight to determine the nature and extent of site contamination and to evaluate possible cleanup alternatives to address any contamination found. The RI/FS study for the source of contamination (soils) was completed in February 1992. EPA issued a Record of Decision (ROD) in September 1992. The purpose of the response was to prevent current or future exposure to the contaminated soils and sludges on the site. In addition, this response was intended to mitigate or eliminate any further impacts to the ground water. The ROD identified EPA's selected alternative as the excavation and consolidation of the impacted soils above 1,463 mg/kg of fluoride from three areas of the site into one (PFP I, PFP III, and PFP IV into PFP II). Soils and sludge contaminated with lead above 780 mg/kg in the PFP IV area were to be excavated, solidified/stabilized, and consolidated into PFP II. A slurry wall and a multimedia cover system were to be constructed in the area. Ground-water quality monitoring, access, and deed restrictions were also included.

This was the first of two operable units and is the first response action for the site. The remedial action for operable unit two, treatment of contaminated ground water, was selected in a subsequent ROD in August 1994. That remedy is currently being designed.

In 1993, EPA reached an agreement with the potentially responsible parties for them to design and construct the cleanup for operable unit one under EPA oversight. The cleanup was started in March 1995. During the cleanup, air monitoring stations were established to detect levels of fluoride, lead, and arsenic during excavation and solidification/stabilization activities. Additionally, erosion control measures were put into place.

The major work included excavation and embankment of fluoride contaminated soil, solidification and embankment of fluoride sludges and lead/arsenic contaminated soils. Sampling and analyses were performed throughout the Site to verify that cleanup levels have been achieved.

The final steps in the process was the construction of the placement area. This included the ground-water monitoring well system, construction of the southern and northern detention ponds which are designed to receive drainage from the site; construction of a 700-foot, 20-foot deep slurry wall which was designed to prevent lateral migration of groundwater to the placement area; and construction of a 12-acre, seven layer RCRA Cover. The final stages, which began in early 1997, involved the revegetation of the site, putting institutional controls including security fencing into place; implementing access and deed restrictions and the finalization and implementation of an Operation and Maintenance Plan. EPA conducted stringent oversight throughout the design and construction process.

EPA is dedicated to keeping the community informed of the status of the cleanup. Informational Fact Sheets such as this have been issued throughout the process to ensure the community remained informed of the status of cleanup activities at the Agrico Chemical site.

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