



# **EPA Prepares for a 5 Year Review at the Agrico Chemical Superfund Site Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 announces the initiation of a Five-Year Review for the Agrico Site in Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida. In April 2000, EPA approved the first Five-Year Review. Five-Year Reviews are intended to evaluate the protectiveness of cleanup actions taken at Superfund sites. The focus of the Five-Year Review will be to determine if the completed soil cleanup activities and ongoing groundwater cleanup action continue to provide protection against exposure for people and the environment.

## **Site Background**

The Agrico Chemical Site, located at the northwest corner of Fairfield Drive and Interstate 110 in Pensacola, Florida, includes approximately 35 acres of flat land. Former plant buildings and process equipment were removed by late 1979, leaving the concrete foundations. An abandoned baseball field, owned by CSX railroad, was located in the northern part of the Site. Storage warehouses in the southern portion of the site are the only remaining on-site structures.

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

subsequently re-purchased by Conoco, Inc. to facilitate remediation.

Industrial wastewater was discharged to low-lying areas during 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 conduct the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS), with EPA oversight, to determine the nature and extent of site contamination and to evaluate possible cleanup alternatives to address any contamination found. The study of the soil contamination was complete in 1992.

## **Selected Remedy**

EPA presented its preferred cleanup plan for soil to the public in August 1992 and held a public comment period. EPA issued a Record of Decision (ROD) for Operable Unit One (OU1) in September 1992 describing the remedy to address soil contamination. That remedy includes:

- excavation and solidification/stabilization of contaminated soils and sludges;

- construction of multimedia RCRA cap and slurry wall for containment of solidified materials; and
- implementation of institutional controls and site deed restrictions.

The private parties who investigated the soil contamination entered into a Consent Decree (CD) in June 1993 to conduct the soils cleanup. In addition, EPA approved the Remedial Design Report for treatment of the site's contaminated soils in September 1994. The remedial action for OU1 was completed in April of 1997.

The study of the ground-water contamination related to the site was completed in November 1993. The EPA issued an Operable Unit Two (OU2) ROD to address the ground-water contamination in August 1994. The OU2 remedial action is ongoing with monitored natural attenuation (breakdown).

### **Five-Year Review Findings**

EPA will complete a report documenting observations and findings, of the five year review, made during the site review and recommendations for further action. A copy of the report will be available for review or copying at the:

**Pensacola Public Library  
200 W. Gregory Street  
Pensacola, Florida**

For further information, please contact Caroline Robinson, EPA Remedial Project Manager or Angela Leach-Miller, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator at **1-800-435-9234**.