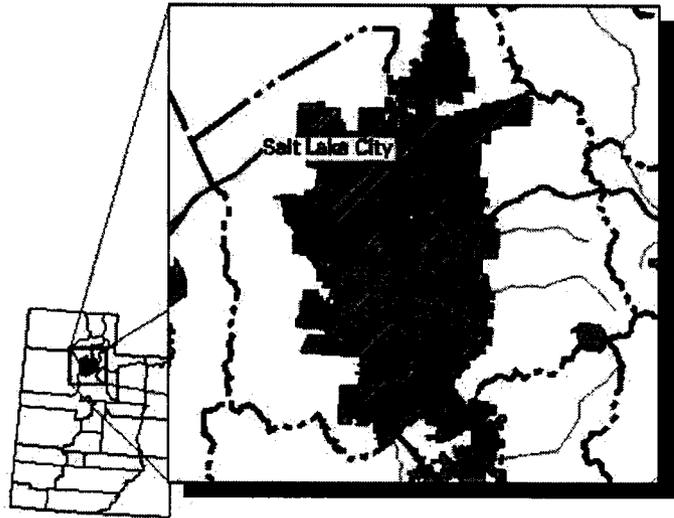


CONSTRUCTION COMPLETE

Wasatch Chemical Company (Lot 6)



Salt Lake City, Utah
Salt Lake County

Congressional District # 2

EPA ID# UTD000716399

U.S. EPA Region 8, Denver, Colorado

April 1999

ABOUT THE WASATCH CHEMICAL COMPANY (LOT 6) SITE . . .

In the process of making pesticides, herbicides and various chemical products, the company contaminated soils and ground water at the 18-acre site, located at 1987 South 700 West in Salt Lake City. The site (Lot 6) is in an area zoned for light and heavy industry. Entrada Industries, Inc. (now Interstate Land), which owns the site, is cleaning up the contamination with oversight by the State of Utah and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Innovative technology has been successful in cleaning up the site. Land farming and biodegradation worked to reduce hydrocarbon levels, and in-situ vitrification (in place, high-temperature soil treatment) destroyed organic contaminants in the soils.

BACKGROUND

Between 1969 and 1978, Wasatch Chemical Company made and/or packaged various chemical products at the property, including pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, industrial chemicals and cleaners. Operations included production of sodium hypochlorite, refilling and distributing chlorine and ammonia cylinders, and packaging and distributing acids, caustics and organic solvents. There are currently no on-site activities at Lot 6.

The site was added to EPA's Superfund National Priorities List in 1991.

CONTAMINANTS AND HEALTH THREATS

The main contaminants of concern are herbicides, pesticides and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) (carbon-based substances that evaporate easily). Also, the on-site ground water is contaminated with hydrocarbons, particularly xylene and toluene.

These contaminants have the potential to cause liver and kidney damage. They cause cancer in mice. Dioxin compounds can have adverse effects on the reproductive and immune systems of humans.

CLEANUP ACTIONS

Investigation identified three areas requiring cleanup. The first involved an area contaminated with hydrocarbons. Microorganisms were introduced into the contaminated soil area to break down the organic materials, removing the contamination (biodegradation). This is an innovative technology called land farming. It was successful in cleaning up about 1100 cubic yards of hydrocarbon-contaminated soils.

The second area of cleanup addressed soils contaminated with other chemicals, including sediments cleaned from yard drains and process drains, and 650 gallons of liquid waste that had been consolidated and staged during an earlier response action.

Workers treated about 5600 cubic yards of contaminated soils with in-situ vitrification (ISV). This process places electrodes in the ground. When electricity is applied to the electrodes and flows through the soil, the soil melts, and the melt zone grows steadily downward and outward through the soil. The resulting vitrified (glass-like) material is then totally free of organic content.

The third cleanup area involves monitoring, extracting and treating the ground water, which is contaminated principally with VOCs and pentachlorophenol. In 1995, an extraction-well field and treatment system began pumping water from the aquifer and treating it. However, the ground water contained too many dissolved solids, and the treatment system could not operate reliably under the field conditions. In 1996, the treatment system was redesigned. It was approved by EPA and the State of Utah and became operational in 1997. All remedial action at the site is complete.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Contractors are monitoring, extracting and treating the contaminated ground water under the Operation and Maintenance Plan. Interstate Land (formerly Entrada Industries, Inc.), on behalf of all the responsible parties, is implementing Institutional Controls, including deed restrictions and use restrictions on ground water.

Ground-water extraction and treatment will continue until the year 2000, when EPA and the State will evaluate ground-water monitoring data and decide about further response actions at the site.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information about the site cleanup, you can review materials available at:

U.S. EPA
Superfund Records Center
999 18th Street, Suite 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466
(303) 312-6473
or 1-800-227-8917 ext. 6473 (in Reg. 8 only)

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