



Tar Creek Superfund Site – Update Implementation of the Remedial Design for Operable Unit 4 (OU4) is Underway



Ottawa County, Oklahoma

April 2009

BACKGROUND

Following public, Tribal and State participation and comments, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency signed the Record of Decision for Operable Unit 4 (OU4) on February 20, 2008. The selected remedy will address source material (i.e. chat piles, mine and mill waste, smelter waste), rural residential yard contamination, and contamination in water drawn from rural residential wells. Relocation is also a component of the remedy and is being implemented by the State of Oklahoma.

STATUS

EPA is currently implementing the Remedial Design for Rural Residential Yards and Drinking Water, Smelter and Distal Areas, Chat in Streams, and Fine Tailings Cover/Repository. The design is being developed in a phased approach and is projected to be completed within this year, if not sooner.

UPCOMING PLANS

In order for EPA to begin the cleanup of the Site, it must acquire access agreements from the land owners. This is a crucial step in the overall process. It is important that the owners of source material and/or land clearly understand the terms of the access agreements. To facilitate a better understanding of the access agreements, EPA will conduct a series of Availability Sessions on April 22, and 23, 2009, at Picher City Hall, located on 213 Third Street, in Picher, OK 74360 from 3:00 – 6:00 PM. This meeting is being held at a fully accessible facility that is in full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

These sessions will provide property owners in rural areas that have source material on their land the opportunity to meet with EPA on a one-on-one basis, to discuss the intent of the access agreements and to have questions answered. Access agreements will be available at the sessions, so that attendees can pick up the forms and review them in the comfort of their

home. Thereafter, EPA will work towards securing access agreements and conducting Availability Sessions as needed throughout the duration of this process. Access agreements are also available on EPA's web page at:

http://www.epa.gov/region6/6sf/oklahoma/tar_creek/index.htm.

In addition to the above plans, EPA is also working with the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, and the County Records Department on this effort for both restricted and non-restricted lands.

As part of this process, if you have a suggestion or idea that you believe can enhance the process for locating property owners and providing them with information regarding access agreements, please contact EPA at the numbers listed below.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT....

For more information, please contact:

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