

FACT SHEET



**Chemical Commodities, Inc.
Olathe, Kansas**

February 2001

EPA Region 7 is investigating the Chemical Commodities Inc. (CCI), Superfund site in Olathe, Kansas. The Boeing Company (Boeing), and the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), two of twelve potentially responsible parties for the site, have started a detailed site study. This study will tell the extent of the ground water contamination and ways to clean it up. All of the work is being done under EPA's oversight.

What Happened at CCI?

The CCI site is at 320 S. Blake Street in Olathe, Kansas. The site is a former surplus chemical brokerage facility. A variety of chemicals were spilled or leaked into the environment during the handling, repacking, recycling and storage of the chemicals at the site. Due to spills and leaks the soil and ground water on the site were contaminated with trichloroethylene (TCE) and tetrachlorethylene (PCE). These are solvents that easily evaporate into the air.

EPA responded to the site by removing chemicals and heavily contaminated soil, and decontaminating buildings. These actions significantly reduced immediate threats to the community posed by site contaminants. EPA also installed an interceptor trench to capture contaminated water from the ground water

COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING: CCI SITE UPDATE

EPA invites you to attend a community meeting on the CCI site. Staff members involved with the site will give you a site update, talk about the next steps in the process, listen to your concerns and answer your questions. The meeting will be held:

Thursday

February 15, 2001

7 p.m.

**Center of Grace Fellowship Hall
520 S. Harrison
Olathe, Kansas**

For more information, contact
Hattie Thomas, EPA Community
Involvement Coordinator
1-800-223-0425

table. The ground water is treated on-site prior to discharge.

Following EPA's response Boeing conducted a site characterization study. The

study showed ground water contamination beyond the CCI property line.

What's Next?

Boeing and DOD are currently sampling ground water as part of a detailed site study. The study is called a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, or RI/FS. This study will reveal how far the ground water contamination goes, and the possible threats to the community and the environment.

Once the sampling is done, Boeing and DOD will evaluate the gathered information. They will then propose to EPA ways to clean up the site.

How Will the RI/FS Be Done?

As part of the RI/FS Boeing and DOD will sample ground water, surface water and soil. They'll install new monitoring wells and perform pilot tests to determine what cleanup technologies may or may not work.

The RI/FS is being done in three phases:

- Phase 1 was done in November 2000 and involved installing several temporary ground water wells, collecting ground water samples from those wells and taking sediment samples.
- Phase 2 was done in early January 2001 and involved installing additional ground water monitoring points and taking additional ground water samples. The Phase 2 monitoring point locations were based on results from the Phase 1 ground water samples.
- Phase 3 work is scheduled to begin in mid February 2001. The work will include installing up to seven permanent ground

water wells, collecting additional ground water samples and removing the temporary wells installed during Phase 1.

As part of the RI/FS a treatability study is being done on the CCI site. The study will look at certain technologies to determine if they can effectively deal with the contamination at the site. The treatability study will be done at the same time the RI/FS activities are going on.

The information from the RI/FS and the treatability study will be put in reports and will be available for public review.

How Can I Get Involved?

EPA believes in early, direct, and meaningful community involvement. We value your input. We want you to help us understand what's going on in your community. We also want to help you understand what's going on at the site.

The Community Advisory Group and the Technical Assistance Grant are ways that we can interact.

The **Community Advisory Group or CAG**, is made up of community members like you. The CAG membership is voluntary. They will meet regularly and review and comment on technical documents and plans related to the CCI site. The CAG will help us, and your community, exchange site activity information and community concerns.

CAGs also meet with individuals and community groups to get their views and hear their concerns. The CAG is a good way for us to exchange information.

The **Technical Assistance Grant or TAG** is a Superfund-sponsored grant of up to \$50,000. A community group can use the grant to hire an independent expert to help the community understand technical data, and site hazards, and become more knowledgeable about the different technologies that may be used to clean up the CCI site. EPA can only award one TAG at a site.

Do You Want More Information?

An updated Administrative Record File is currently being prepared for the site. When it's completed, the file will be available at the following locations during normal business hours:

Olathe Public Library
201 E. Park
Olathe, Kansas

EPA Region 7 Docket Room
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas

If you have questions about this fact sheet or need additional information, please contact:

Hattie Thomas, EPA
Community Involvement Coordinator
901 N 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
1-913-551-7003
Toll-free 1-800-223-0425
E-mail: thomas.hattie@epa.gov