

6 to obtain a copy of the Responsiveness Summary, when available.

Deletion of a site from the NPL occurs when the Regional Administrator of an EPA region publishes a final notice of deletion in the **Federal Register**.

Generally, the NPL will reflect deletions in the final update following the Notice.

IV. Basis for Intended Site Deletion

The following summary provides EPA's rationale for the proposal to delete the Gurley Pit Superfund Site from the NPL.

Site History and Background

The Gurley Pit Site is located 1.2 miles north of the community of Edmondson, Arkansas, which has a population of 286 residents. It is surrounded on one side by a small residential community and on three sides by farmland. The Site is in Crittenden County, northwest of the intersection of County Road 14, County Road 175, and State Highway 131. The facility is situated in the flood plain of Fifteen Mile Bayou, which is approximately 400 feet south of the Site, and has five residences within a half-mile circular radius.

There are three major ground water aquifers within Crittenden County, which are found at depths of 40 to 200 feet, 300 to 1125 feet, and 1400 to 1700 feet. The deepest aquifer is used for all municipal wells. The middle aquifer is comparatively undeveloped, and the shallow aquifer is used for domestic wells. Due to the water quality, most of the domestic wells found in the shallow aquifer are used for agricultural irrigation purposes. The residences surrounding the Gurley Pit Site obtain their drinking water from the Midway Water Association well located in the deep (1,585 feet) aquifer, which is 2.2 miles southeast of the Site.

The Site originally consisted of one large pit which was excavated for the clay material found in this area. Gurley Refining Co., Inc., subsequently leased the property in 1970 from Robert Caldwell for use as a disposal area. The Site pit was divided into three cells for disposal of sludges from the refining of used oil, with major contaminants including lead, barium, zinc, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Waste disposal operations were permitted under specified conditions by the ADPC&E, now known as ADEQ, from 1970 until 1975, when Gurley Refining Co., Inc., notified the State that disposal at the Site had stopped.

There were two releases from the pit in 1978 and 1979 requiring response actions by EPA. It is estimated that as much as 500,000 gallons of oil were

released during the second event. The Site was proposed for inclusion on the NPL in December 1982 and was listed in August 1983. Several attempts were made by EPA to get the potentially responsible parties (PRPs) to conduct the Remedial Investigation, Feasibility Study, Remedial Design, and Remedial Action. However, the PRPs failed to take any action, and Superfund monies were used to perform the needed actions. In 1992, the United States was awarded a judgment against Mr. William Gurley and Mr. Larry Gurley for past response costs associated with the Site and a declaratory judgment for all future costs. The United States is continuing efforts to recover all Site response costs.

Response Actions

After reviewing the results of the Remedial Investigations and Feasibility Studies, EPA issued two decision documents for the Site. The project was divided into source control and ground water operable units. The Enforcement Decision Document, which was signed October 6, 1986, addressed source control and included the following major components:

- Solidification of contaminated sludge, sediments, and soil, and placement of the solidified material in a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) compliant vault located in the north cell, and
- Placement of appropriate monitoring wells, and long-term operation and maintenance (O&M) of the RCRA vault and the monitoring wells.

The ground water operable unit investigation culminated in a Record of Decision (ROD) dated September 26, 1988, and concluded that no further action was necessary provided the source control measures in the Enforcement Decision Document were implemented.

During the Remedial Design of the source control operable unit, it was determined that an insignificant change to the Enforcement Decision Document was desirable from a cost and construction standpoint. The location of the RCRA vault was moved from the north cell toward the south; this was more cost effective because the north cell had approximately 85 percent of the contaminated materials. Using the north cell as a temporary holding cell for all the contaminated material during construction reduced the volume of contaminated material which had to be handled prior to construction of the RCRA vault. This saved EPA and ADEQ the costs of unnecessary handling and reduced the potential for spillage during handling operations. In addition, this

approach allowed EPA to address concerns of ADEQ about the overall height of the RCRA vault by allowing the vault to be spread out over a larger surface area.

In 1992, the EPA began implementation of the Remedial Action pursuant to a Superfund State Contract with ADEQ. EPA Region 6 determined during the Remedial Design phase that this Site represented a potential opportunity for implementation of an affirmative action approach wherein a woman-owned or minority business could conduct the work. Through the direction of EPA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) entered into negotiations with the Small Business Administration, and a contract was awarded to a minority business, Mobley Contractors, Inc., on July 31, 1992. The Notice to Proceed was issued on September 9, 1992. Mobilization was on October 26, 1992, and full-scale construction commenced on November 13, 1992.

Remedial construction activities were conducted as planned, and no additional areas of contamination were identified. EPA, ADEQ, and USACE conducted a pre-final inspection of the construction at the Site on August 12, 1994, and conducted a final inspection on August 31, 1994. A September 12, 1994, letter from EPA to USACE certified that the Remedial Action construction activities were performed according to the Remedial Design, with only minor modifications.

The Enforcement Decision Document and the ROD also called for monitoring of the ground water; leachate sampling and analysis and removal; and maintenance of the sumps and the perimeter fencing. Six new monitoring wells (MW-A through MW-F) were installed and developed on-site during the Remedial Action, and two existing off-site monitoring wells (MW-30 & MW-31) also were monitored in each of the sampling events. The source control Remedial Action has protected the ground water and human health through containment of the source. Ground water monitoring data for the Site indicates that contaminants from the pit have not migrated through the subsurface into the ground water, supporting EPA's decision not to conduct any separate remediation of the ground water.

After the construction of the RCRA vault, the Site entered the operational and functional phase of the Remedial Action. In September 1995, there was a significant volume of liquid in the detection and collection systems. The ADEQ was concerned that this water indicated the liner was damaged during