

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

**STATEMENT OF BASIS/FINAL DECISION AND  
RESPONSE TO COMMENTS SUMMARY**

Region VII  
ID# 6873

**WICKES FARMMASTER SITE**

Shenandoah, Iowa  
September 15, 1991

**Facility/Unit Type:** Metal tube milling and painting facility  
**Contaminants:** Lead, chromium  
**Media:** Soil  
**Remedy:** Excavation and off-site disposal

**FACILITY DESCRIPTION**

On January 23, 1990, the Wickes Farmmaster Facility (Wickes) and EPA entered into a Consent Order pursuant to RCRA Section 3008(h). The provisions of the Order require Wickes to characterize on-site soil, monitor ground water quarterly for two years, and develop a closure plan for a drum storage area.

The facility was a metal tube milling and painting plant that began producing farm gates and related products in the early 1950s. Process wastewater, sanitary waste, and general trash, such as wood, metal, and waste paint, were disposed into three unlined on-site ponds.

Depth to the ground water varies from 2 to 6 feet below the ground surface. Ground water flows north to northwest toward the East Nishnabotna River. The river is a ground water discharge area; the site is in a recharge area.

Surrounding land use is predominantly agricultural with residential areas approximately 1 mile south of the facility.

In previous corrective action activity, a Section 3008(a) Complaint, Compliance Order, and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing was issued to the facility in March of 1988 for its storage of hazardous waste. Between 1984 and 1990, Wickes conducted voluntary preliminary investigations of soil, sediments, and ground water. Between January 1990 and 1991, Wickes conducted a RFI and a CMS in accordance with an enforcement order. Investigations confirmed that shallow ground water, and sediments and water from the on-site ponds have not been significantly impacted by hazardous waste.

**EXPOSURE PATHWAYS**

Contaminated soils present a potential risk to human health and the environment through ingestion and the potential for ground water contamination through soil leaching.

## CONTAMINATION DETECTED AND CLEANUP GOALS

Media	Estimated Volume	Contaminant	Maximum Concentration	Action Level	Cleanup Goal**	Point of Compliance
soil	3,800 cu. yds.	Lead Chromium	7 to 38,000 ppm 11 to 7,800 ppm		225 ppm 100 ppm	Edge of Corrective Action Management Unit

\*\* The "RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) Guidance" dated May 1989 was used to identify and evaluate the cleanup levels. The evaluation is based on an assumption that the facility is located in a residential area.

The estimated cost to implement the proposed remedy is \$113,000. The remedy will require no anticipated O&M costs.

### SELECTED REMEDY

The proposed remedy involves excavation of soils which exceed the approved cleanup levels in the RFI guidance and disposal of the contaminated soils at an off-site landfill. Contaminated soils will be transported to an off-site landfill by a vehicle and the excavated areas will be backfilled with clean fill material.

The proposed remedy will achieve substantial risk reduction by removing contaminated soil. The remedy will protect human health and the environment, control the source of release, reduce or eliminate potential exposure pathways to the maximum extent practicable, and attain RFI guidance media cleanup standards.

The proposed remedy will be a final action.

Soil excavation and off-site disposal comply with the requirements for the management of solid and hazardous wastes.

### INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES CONSIDERED

None.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No public comments were received. A public meeting was not held.

### NEXT STEPS

Additional ground water monitoring is being performed in order to determine if downgradient analytical results are statistically different from upgradient background values. If they are statistically different, then ground water remediation will be imposed.

#### KEY WORDS

soil, soil ingestion; lead, chromium; excavation, off-site disposal

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