



Proposed Plan for Cleanup Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation (Soda Springs Plant) Superfund Site Soda Springs, Idaho, March 2023

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, and the Multistate Environmental Response Trust prepared this Fact Sheet to explain the Proposed Plan for cleanup of the Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation (Soda Springs Plant) Superfund Site in Soda Springs, ID.

You're Invited: Open House and Public Hearing

On March 9, 2023, EPA issued the Proposed Plan for cleanup of the site for public review and comment. EPA is holding a public hearing to review the Proposed Plan with community stakeholders, the general public, and other interested parties on Wednesday March 29, 2023, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Soda Springs City Hall. Send written comments on the Proposed Plan to EPA, postmarked by Friday, April 7, 2023. Please see instructions on page 2 for submitting written comments on the Proposed Plan to EPA.

EPA, IDEQ, and the Multistate Trust will be hosting an Open House on March 29, from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Soda Springs City Hall. The Open House will feature exhibits and information about the site. Come learn about the proposed cleanup and meet project staff in person.

When: Wednesday, March 29, 2023

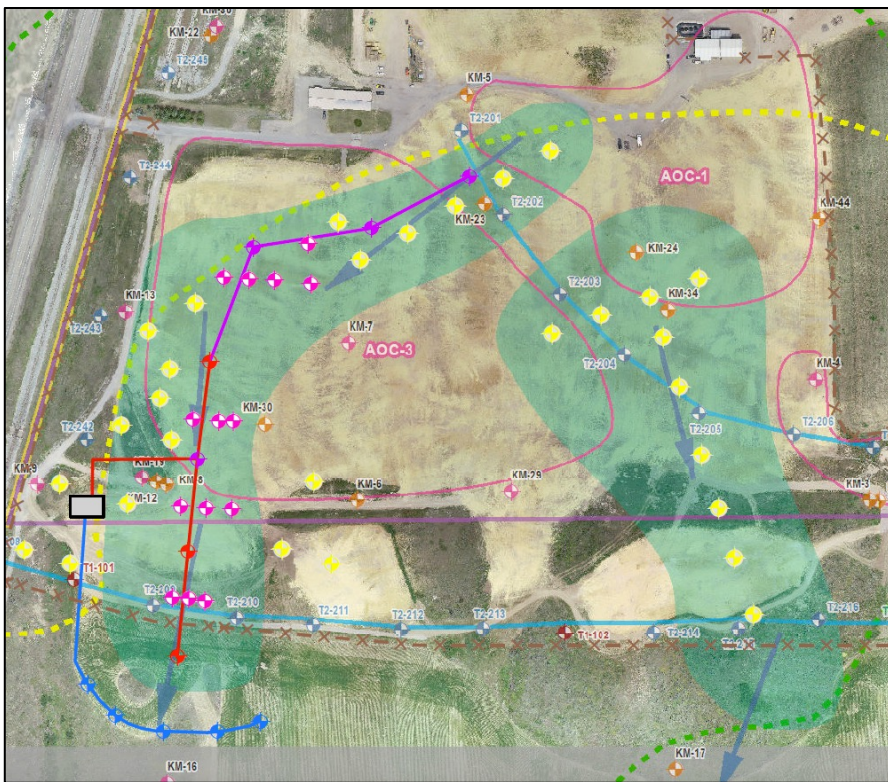
What: Open House, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., and Public Hearing, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.










Where: Soda Springs City Hall, 9 West 2nd South, Soda Springs, ID 83276

Light refreshments will be provided.

We hope you will join us.

Proposed Cleanup Plan for the Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation (Soda Springs Plant) Superfund Site



-  In-Situ Amendment Injection Well (Initial)
-  In-Situ Amendment Injection Well (Future)
-  Extraction Well (Initial)
-  Extraction Well (Future)
-  Extraction Piping
-  Ex-Situ Treatment Plant Building
-  Injection Piping
-  Injection Well (Treated GW)
-  Primary Groundwater Contamination

To the left is a conceptual layout of the initial and future injection and extraction wells for in-situ and ex-situ groundwater treatment. The Proposed Plan provides flexibility to scale the system as needed over time based on the performance and progress of the cleanup.

Proposed Plan for Cleanup

The site is being addressed under the EPA Superfund Program. The Proposed Plan for the site sets forth EPA's preferred remedial alternatives for cleanup of the site. After considering comments from the public, EPA will select the final remedy for the site, which will be described in a Record of Decision Amendment.

The Proposed Plan is designed to address soil and groundwater contamination at the site. For contaminated soil, the Proposed Plan calls for commercial/industrial land use restrictions at the site. Contaminants in groundwater will be cleaned up through in-situ and ex-situ treatment.

- **In-situ treatment** includes injection of treatment chemicals to decrease contamination in the groundwater.
- **Ex-situ treatment** includes treating groundwater through a groundwater treatment plant.
- **Active groundwater treatment** (in-situ and ex-situ) focuses on the areas on-site with higher concentrations of contamination.
- **Monitored natural attenuation** relies on natural processes to decrease or "attenuate" concentrations of contaminants in soil and groundwater and will be implemented off-site, away from active treatment areas.

The Proposed Plan is the fastest of all cleanup plans considered and is expected to clean up groundwater contamination in approximately 50 years. The cost of the Proposed Plan is estimated to be \$45,200,000.

The Proposed Plan is scalable and builds upon testing previously completed at the site. Initially, treatment will be focused in areas of high contaminant concentrations, with the treatment area expanded over time, as appropriate, based both on the performance and progress of the cleanup.

To Submit Written Comments to EPA:

By US Mail:

Zoë Lipowski, EPA Remedial Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
1200 6th Avenue, Suite 155, M/S 12-D12-1
Seattle, WA 98101-3188

By Email:

Zoë Lipowski: Lipowski.Zoe@epa.gov

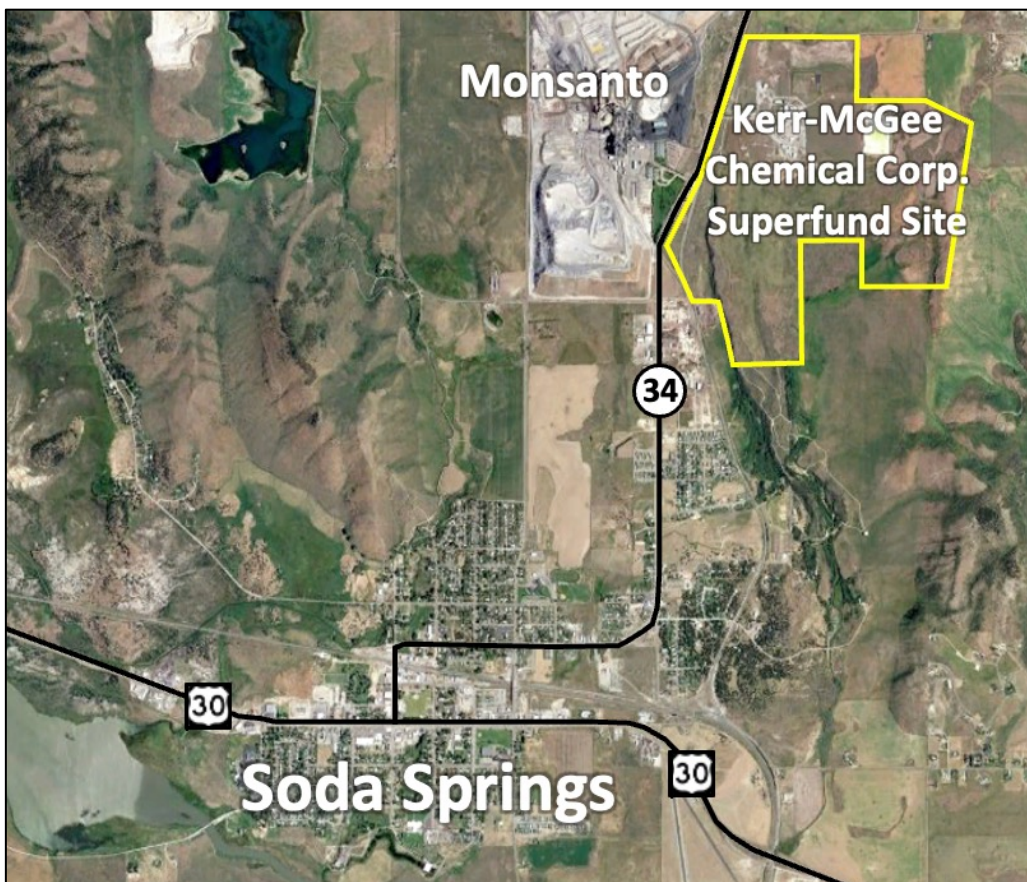
Written comments must be postmarked by Friday, April 7, 2023.

What Happens After a Comment Period?

EPA will accept comments on the Proposed Plan until April 7, 2023. EPA will make its final decision on the cleanup only after considering public comments. EPA will summarize the comments received from the public, and respond to those comments, in a Responsiveness Summary. EPA may modify the preferred alternative or select another cleanup alternative based on new information or public comments and then issue the cleanup plan called a Record of Decision (ROD) Amendment. You are encouraged to review and comment on all of the alternatives in the Proposed Plan. EPA expects to issue the ROD Amendment in late 2023. Once the ROD Amendment is issued, a detailed design of the cleanup will be developed before construction begins.

Why Does the Site Need to be Cleaned Up?

From 1963 to 1999, site operations resulted in groundwater contaminated with chemicals of concern, including molybdenum and vanadium. Molybdenum and vanadium are metallic elements widely found in nature and present in food such as lentils, black beans, oats, and dietary supplements (molybdenum), and milk, vegetables, grains, and cereals (vanadium). Small amounts of molybdenum are essential to a healthy diet, and small amounts of vanadium are normal in human and animal diets. Long-term, chronic exposure to excessive amounts of molybdenum or vanadium can pose health risks, including joint pain and gout-like effects (molybdenum) or lung irritation and kidney damage (vanadium).



The Kerr-McGee Chemical Corp. Superfund Site (yellow outline) is located at 1864 Highway 34 in Soda Springs, Idaho, ~1.5 miles north of the City of Soda Springs. Source: *Multistate Trust*

Site History and the Multistate Trust

The site covers about 547 acres and is located at 1864 Highway 34, about 1.5 miles north of the City of Soda Springs. From 1963 to 1999, Kerr-McGee operated a plant that annually produced up to 4.5 million pounds of vanadium, an alloy used to make steel. From 1998 to 2000, Kerr-McGee operated a second plant that reprocessed calcine tailings to produce fertilizer. In 2001, Kerr-McGee capped the calcine area. The vanadium and fertilizer plants were demolished in 2002 and 2003.

In 2005, Kerr-McGee transferred the site to Tronox LLC, a corporate shell that later filed for bankruptcy. As part of the 2011 Tronox bankruptcy settlement, the Multistate Trust was created to own, investigate, clean up, and facilitate reuse of the site under EPA and IDEQ oversight. The Trustee of the private, independent Multistate Trust is Greenfield Environmental Multistate Trust LLC.

Questions? More Information?

For more information about the proposed cleanup plan and the site, come to the public hearing or open house or contact:

Zoë Lipowski • EPA Remedial Project Manager • 800-424-4372, ext. 0526 • Lipowski.Zoe@epa.gov

Meshach Padilla • EPA Community Involvement Coordinator • 800-424-4372, ext. 2762 • Padilla.Meshach@epa.gov

Stan Christensen • IDEQ Project Manager • 208-236-6160 • Stan.Christensen@deq.idaho.gov

Doug Tanner • IDEQ Regional Environmental Manager • 208-236-6160 • Douglas.Tanner@deq.idaho.gov

Lars Peterson • Multistate Trust Project Manager • 208-297-6913 • LP@g-etg.com

Theo von Wallmenich • Multistate Trust Program Director • 517-483-3015 • TV@g-etg.com

Multistate Trust's site website:



Project documents are available for public review at the EPA Information Repository at Soda Springs Public Library
149 S. Main Street
Soda Springs, ID 83276

EPA's site website:

