

IDAHO POLE COMPANY SUPERFUND SITE

MAY 2022 SITE UPDATE

BOZEMAN, MT | REGION 8



Redevelopment



EPA and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) have negotiated a Prospective Purchaser Agreement with a developer planning to purchase property at the Site south of I90 from Idaho Pole Company. **Any future development of the Site needs to be done in a way that protects human health and the environment.**

There is a 30-day public comment period on the proposed Prospective Purchaser Agreement. The agreement will enhance the protectiveness of the soil remedy.

Soil Remedy

From 1995 to 2002 the Idaho Pole Company (IPC), a potentially responsible party for the Site, excavated and treated approx. 24,000 cubic yards of contaminated soils. IPC used treated soils as backfill on 4.5 acres on the Site (referred to as the Treated Soils Area or TSA), then covered the TSA with 12-inches of clean soil to prevent direct contact with underlying contamination. In 2020, the soil remedy was deemed protective and the soil section of the site (except the Treated Soils Area) was removed from the Superfund National Priorities List.

In 2021, the prospective purchaser collected surface soil samples for dioxin, pentachlorophenol (PCP) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) to support proposed property development south of I90. Sampling results were below cleanup levels established in EPA's 1992 Record of Decision. Additional subsurface soil sampling is ongoing. To ensure no treated soils remain in the newly delineated floodplain, the prospective purchaser has agreed to remove treated soils north of Cedar Street (barkfill area) and consolidate them with other treated soils south of Cedar Street (called the Consolidated TSA).

The prospective purchaser will place an impervious cover (e.g. asphalt, concrete) on top of the Consolidated TSA to enhance protectiveness. The cover will restrict surface water infiltration into the treated soils and reduce the potential for contaminants to leach to groundwater.

The prospective purchaser will also construct a stormwater system to collect runoff from the impervious cover and direct any stormwater away from the Consolidated TSA.

Groundwater Remedy

Initially, from 1997 to 2016, IPC managed groundwater contamination using a pump and treat system before re-injecting treated water back into the aquifer. Based on continued water quality improvement observed at downgradient wells in 2017, IPC permanently decommissioned the system in 2018 with EPA approval.

EPA and DEQ are working with IPC to inject amendments into the barkfill area and three down gradient barriers this summer; this is known as in-situ treatment since it is occurring in place (in-situ). The on-Site treatment south of I90 will address the residual wood treating fluids to prevent groundwater contamination. Just north of I90, along Bohart Lane and downgradient, three injection sites will treat passing contaminants that have already left the source area; thus, enhance cleanup of the downgradient portions of the plume. This work is ongoing and separate from the planned soil work the prospective purchaser will perform under the Prospective Purchaser Agreement.

For More Information, Contact

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www.epa.gov/superfund/idaho-pole

Long Term Effectiveness

EPA completed the Fifth Five-Year Review in September 2020 and determined the remedy currently protects human health and the environment due to institutional controls limiting activities that could negatively impact cleanup actions at the Site. Current institutional controls include:

- A Controlled Groundwater Area prohibiting installation of new wells.
- Permanent enforceable land use controls minimize potential for human exposure to contaminated soil and to protect the integrity of the soil and groundwater remedies. Land use restrictions apply to the entire IPC property, although the restrictions vary depending on the location.

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10 W. 15th St., Suite 3200
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Upcoming Activities

Public Comment Period

- EPA is proposing a prospective purchaser settlement agreement with Scout DAC LLC (the purchaser) and requests comment on the proposed agreement. The comment period is open from **May 13 through June 13**.
- Learn more at www.epa.gov/superfund/idaho-pole

Groundwater

- Ongoing groundwater monitoring, including residential wells, will continue twice a year.
- EPA and IPC are negotiating an Administrative Order on Consent for injection of a substantial amount of in situ amendments into the subsurface soils and groundwater followed by seven years of monitoring.
- IPC plans to inject amendments in the subsurface in Summer 2022 using a drill rig.

Background

Between 1945 and 1997, IPC operated a wood treating facility near the northern limits of Bozeman, resulting in soil and groundwater contamination. In 1986, EPA listed the area on the National Priorities List as the “Idaho Pole Company Superfund Site.” In 1992, EPA and DEQ developed an initial cleanup plan establishing cleanup levels for the contaminants of concern: PCP, PAHs, and dioxins. This 1992 Record of Decision also selected remedies to address soil and groundwater contamination at the Site.