



Meanwhile, Back at the Ranch

Newsletter of the Frontier Fertilizer Superfund Oversight Group

January 2011

EPA Will Soon Begin Heating Groundwater and Soil at the Hazardous Waste Site in Your Backyard – Learn More at the Upcoming Public Meeting

A public meeting to discuss final clean-up actions at the Frontier Fertilizer Superfund Site in Mace Ranch will be held on Tuesday, January 18, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. in the Veterans Memorial Center at 203 East 14th Street in Davis.

Please plan to attend this important meeting.

Thermal Treatment Plan. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is finalizing the installation of a thermal treatment clean-up system for the Frontier Fertilizer Superfund Site in Mace Ranch. The clean-up action will remove the large mass of contaminants in the area of highest contamination, the source area. The system will utilize electrical energy applied to underground electrodes to heat the soil and groundwater to approximately 100 degrees Centigrade (212 degrees Fahrenheit) to 90 feet below ground surface. The high temperature will destroy some chemicals below ground and volatilize others for capture and treatment above ground. The thermal treatment is scheduled to begin in late January or early February 2011 and will continue for about a year. EPA will then evaluate the effectiveness of the heat treatment and the need for further efforts. The pump and treat system will continue to collect and clean the contaminated ground water until drinking water standards are met.

Public Health and Safety. EPA has developed an Air monitoring Plan and a Community Notification Plan that are designed to ensure the safety of the community, especially near-by Mace Ranch neighbors and workers at the site. **The FFSOG provided input to help EPA to minimize risk from any vapor release during heating and to protect the neighborhood in case of a problem such as system failure or loss of power.** The public meeting is an opportunity to make sure that your concerns are heard and addressed.

Key Issues and Questions for the Public Meeting:

- 1. Are there adequate redundancies and safeguards in the thermal treatment plan to minimize the probability of a toxic gas emission? What are these safeguards?**
- 2. Is monitoring adequate to detect leaks and ensure safety of the community?**
- 3. If a leak or system failure occurs, what are the safeguards to protect the community? Are the safeguards sufficient? What are procedures to notify the public in case of emergency?**
- 4. What are the security measures to prevent break-in, theft or vandalism? Are they sufficient?**
- 5. What are the security measures to ensure worker safety during heat treatment?**
- 6. What are security measures to prevent damage via rabbits or rodents that enter the site?**

Background. From 1972 to 1983, workers at Frontier Fertilizer, a pesticide distributor for local growers, routinely dumped residual pesticides from drums and tanker trucks on the ground and into unlined pits at the site. These chemicals sank into the ground resulting in a mass of highly contaminated soil and groundwater beneath what is now a Federal Superfund site. This mass serves as a continual source of contamination to a plume of contaminated groundwater that stretches from

Frontier Fertilizer Superfund Oversight Group
3010 Loyola Drive
Davis, CA 95618

This newsletter contains important information about upcoming activities at the Frontier Fertilizer Superfund Site in Mace Ranch. Please read.

the pit area to underneath homes in Mace Ranch north of the Site. Contaminants in the soil and groundwater include several pesticides and carbon tetrachloride. A pump and treat system currently removes and treats the groundwater contamination, but unless the mass of contaminants in the soil is removed, the pump and treat system will have to operate for many decades. The proposed heat treatment is intended to remove most of the contaminant mass feeding the plume.

Please help us in our efforts. Make your tax-deductible contribution payable to FFSOG.

☐ Add me to your mailing list.

☐ I would like to make a donation in the amount of: ☐ \$10 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other.

☐ I cannot make a donation at this time, but would like future information.

Name Address

Phone email

Please contact the FFSOG at 3010 Loyola Drive, Davis, CA 95618, (530) 756-6856 or pnieberg@dcn.davis.ca.us. Please include your name and contact information.

Check out our website at www.dcn.davis.ca.us/go/ffsogT.

Thank you for supporting FFSOG.

The FFSOG is a non-profit, public benefit corporation formed in the State of California. The FFSOG is formed as a community oversight group dedicated to keeping the larger community informed of progress in EPA's clean-up activities at the Frontier Fertilizer Superfund Site and to facilitating meaningful public input into the process.

FFSOG Board of Directors
Wendy Cohen, Chris Hawkes, Pam Nieberg, Helene Wagner

FFSOG Technical Advisor: Steve Deverel, PhD, PG

