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Kuhlman Cleanup News

Newsletter on Kuhlman Environmental Cleanup in Crystal Springs, MS

SOIL VAPOR EXTRACTION SYSTEM IS NOW IN FULL OPERATION!

The Soil Vapor Extraction system, approved by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, is now operating full time to cleanup soils at the Kuhlman Electric plant. The engineering contractor for Kuhlman continues to operate the equipment and ensure that all safety standards are adhered to.

KEC chose the Soil Vapor Extraction system because of the many advantages that it offers in removing chemical vapors from the soil, including a proven track record of performance. The system is designed to remove chemicals from the soil and groundwater under the plant in their vapor state by applying a vacuum under the plant floor. This process will continue until levels of chemicals in the soil and vapor are below clean-up standards approved by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

Please submit all questions or comments to Kuhlman at crystalspringsinfo@us.abb.com or Brenda Bell Caffee of Caffee, Caffee and Associates at 601-336-7212.

CRYSTAL SPRINGS 2014 ANNUAL TOMATO FESTIVAL!

KEC participated in the 2014 Annual Tomato Festival with booths placed at varying locations. During the festival, KEC representatives talked with over 300 area residents providing updates on the SVE system, remedial plans and work underway at the plant. Visitors had an opportunity to sign-up to receive the newsletters during each quarter's distribution. Through these endeavors, KEC is able to keep the residents of Crystal Springs abreast of the remedial activities.

SEMI-ANNUAL MONITOR WELL SAMPLING AND CITY WELL SAMPLING COMPLETED FOR THIS QUARTER

We continue to sample the monitor wells and city wells. Monitoring reports are submitted to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and are available on their website. All city well data for the current quarter indicates City water continues to meet drinking water standards.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Groundwater Monitoring Event and Reporting.
- Continued operation of the full scale Soil Vapor Extraction system.

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS REPOSITORY

Public documents referenced in the Newsletter are available at:

- Crystal Springs Library; and
- www.mdeq.state.ms.us.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Each quarter we will include one or more questions that were presented over the past year.

Question: I am concerned that this method (of vapor extraction) does not actually remove all the chemicals from the soil.

Answer: The goal of the vapor extraction remedy is to reduce the chemicals now trapped underground to the point that any remaining concentrations are below cleanup levels established by the state. Not all the chemicals will be completely removed, but the remaining concentrations will continue to degrade naturally.

Question: Will the activated carbon being used to filter the vaporized air before being released into the atmosphere be able to remove all chemicals and gases before being released?

Answer: The carbon binds with the chemicals upon contact. As a conservative measure, the system is designed with two carbon filters, so that if any chemicals pass through the first filter they can be captured by the second filter. We will continue to monitor vapors going in and out of the carbon units to ensure that the system is working as designed.

Question: Does the Soil Vapor Extraction method consider the many other chemicals trapped in the soil and the effect of their combining when a vacuum is started?

Answer: The chemical compounds in the soil are, or have been, in contact with each other for many years already. The chemical compatibility is already established.

Question: Does the Soil Vapor Extraction method consider the different water levels?

Answer: The Soil Vapor Extraction system has been designed to operate in the soils above the water table.

Questions: Does the Soil Vapor Extraction method consider varying temperatures and how temperature will affect the chemicals combining or being released?

Answer: Temperature does affect removal of certain chemicals. However, the outside temperatures here and the relatively stable underground temperatures make this method appropriate for this site.