



Former OakGrigsby, Inc. Plant #2 Site
200 East Crystal Lake Avenue
Illinois EPA Site # 1110155161
McHenry County
Crystal Lake, Illinois

**ATTENTION: PLEASE READ THIS IMPORTANT NOTICE AND FACT SHEET
REGARDING SAMPLING OF YOUR PRIVATE WELL AND
POSSIBLE CESSATION OF YOUR BOTTLED WATER DELIVERY**

Fact Sheet # 1

December, 2009

Background

The Illinois EPA has been overseeing the environmental investigation and remediation of the former OakGrigsby, Inc. Plant #2. The OakGrigsby property, approximately 5 acres in size, is located at 200 East Crystal Lake Avenue in Crystal Lake, Illinois. Historically, the property housed a facility that was used for the manufacture and assembly of radio and television components, primarily electrical switches and rotary channel selectors.

The property was entered into the Illinois EPA's Site Remediation Program in July 2001, after plant decommissioning activities were completed. In 2000 all tanks and buildings were removed from the site, and several truckloads of contaminated soil were hauled away for proper disposal elsewhere. The site was restored in the Spring of 2001 by the placement of clean fill, topsoil and grading to provide drainage.

Chemical Release Information

Following the site restoration the company carried out an environmental investigation on-site. In 2006 the company submitted to Illinois EPA an investigation report that showed soil contamination remaining on-site and groundwater contamination both on-site and off-site to the east and northeast. The contamination was the result of operations over the last 80 years, which included plating processes, metal parts cleaning, facility maintenance, research and development, testing and fabrication. Soil samples collected on-site in the areas of concern indicated significant levels of volatile organics (VOCs), semi-volatile organics (SVOCs) and metals.

As of early 2006, off-site monitoring wells indicated VOCs exceeding the Illinois' Class I groundwater standards approximately 2,000 feet northeast of the site.

Previous Steps to Protect the Public

Out of concern for the possibility that off-site groundwater contamination could be threatening nearby private wells, Illinois EPA staff sampled six of the closest wells in May of 2006. Of the six wells sampled, one showed the presence of a chlorinated VOC known to be a human health hazard. Illinois EPA staff immediately informed all of the sampled households of the results of the sampling and recommended that those in the home where VOCs were

detected stop drinking their water.

After the sampling, Illinois EPA identified an area of concern, where private wells might be threatened. This area was between Main Street on the west and Terra Cotta Road on the east, and between East Crystal Lake Avenue on the south and Terra Cotta Avenue on the north, including both sides of all those streets. In August 2006, the company agreed to provide bottled drinking water to the homes and businesses using well water in the area of concern identified by the Illinois EPA.

Also in August 2006, Illinois EPA contacted more than 30 residents and business owners who had private drinking water wells in the identified area of concern to arrange for sampling of their wells. By mid-August, all but one of the wells that were in use had been sampled by both the Illinois EPA and the company's environmental contractor (one owner refused sampling). In late August, when the results were received, Illinois EPA staff informed each well-user of the results by phone. In mid-September the Illinois Department of Public Health sent letters to each well-user explaining the health implications of their well-results. In addition to the well already showing contamination, a second private well located close to the plant site also had contamination with a chlorinated VOC above the drinking water standard.

To get a measure of whether contamination levels might be changing over time, this well-sampling was repeated in April of 2007. The same pattern of contaminated and clean wells was found in this sampling.

Owners of the two wells that have shown contamination were contacted by Illinois EPA and the company to offer the installation of treatment units. In late 2006 one of the homes received such a treatment unit, but the other owner has declined to have one installed. Subsequently, the company has offered to connect the two homes to the public water supply, to permanently remove the risk.

Initial Legal Action

Based on the May 2006 sampling results, Illinois EPA and the Office of the Attorney General of Illinois initiated an enforcement action against the company that resulted in an Agreed Order for Immediate and Preliminary Injunction, filed with the Circuit Court in McHenry County on September 20, 2006.

Additional Offsite Groundwater Investigations: "Sentinel Wells"

As part of the September 20, 2006 Agreed Order, the company committed to carry out extensive offsite groundwater investigations. All parties agreed that a more complete picture of the nature and extent of the groundwater contamination was needed to assure that all the wells that had been free of contamination in the first rounds of sampling would remain safe in the future.

By 2008 a series of offsite groundwater monitoring wells (sentinel wells) had been installed in the area between known groundwater contamination and areas that have not been affected to date. The diagram in Figure 1 shows the location of these important sentinel wells. These wells will be sampled twice a year. Illinois EPA is confident that regularly sampling these sentinel wells will assure that the state will have an "early warning" if contaminated groundwater

begins to approach private wells that have previously been unaffected.

On-Site Remediation Expected to Reduce Future Groundwater contamination

In addition to semi-annual sampling of the sentinel wells, OakGrigsby will construct and operate a remediation system on the former plant site, designed to reduce the concentration of contaminants in the soil and groundwater on site to levels that meet state standards. As time goes on, that remediation is expected to reduce groundwater contamination moving away from the site to the east and northeast. Similar to the sentinel wells, groundwater monitoring wells at the site will be sampled twice a year to track the changes in groundwater quality.

Further Legal Action

In 2009, a final Consent Order was negotiated. That court-enforced Order will require the company to sample the sentinel wells twice a year, to continue twice-yearly sampling of the private wells that are near private wells that have shown contamination in the past and to continue providing bottled water to the residents using those nearby wells.

Additional Private Well Sampling and Possible Cessation of Bottled Water Delivery

Illinois EPA and the Office of the Attorney General are requiring one additional round of private well sampling for all wells in the area of concern to make sure that conditions remain unchanged from earlier sampling events. That sampling round is scheduled for January 2010. If none of the wells in the previously unaffected areas show any contamination, the Illinois EPA and the Illinois Attorney General's Office are confident that contamination has not spread to the areas that have shown no detection of any contaminants to date. As noted above, through ongoing monitoring of the sentinel wells, the state will have an "early warning" if the groundwater conditions change.

Following the January 2010 sampling event, businesses and/or residences whose wells have not shown any detection of VOC contamination at any time will no longer receive bottled water.

In the coming weeks, Illinois EPA staff will be contacting owners of private wells in the area of concern to arrange for the sampling of those wells, which will be carried out by the company's environmental contractor, Conestoga Rovers Associates.

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Contact

Stan Black
Illinois EPA, Community Relations
1021 North Grand Avenue E. #5
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, IL 62794-9276
Phone: 217-785-1427
E-mail: stan.black@illinois.gov

Additional Information

Site related documents and additional information may be available through the Illinois EPA's Freedom of Information Act office. To obtain more information about this site, please file a request for site specific information to

the address listed below or submit a request through the Illinois EPA's website
<http://www.epa.state.il.us/foia/contacts.html>.

Jan Ogden
IEPA, Bureau of Land, #24
1021 N. Grand Avenue East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, IL 62794-9276
Phone: 217-782-9878
Fax: 217-782-9290

In your request please reference the site name:
Former OakGrigsby, Inc. Plant #2 Site and the Illinois EPA Site # 1110155161.

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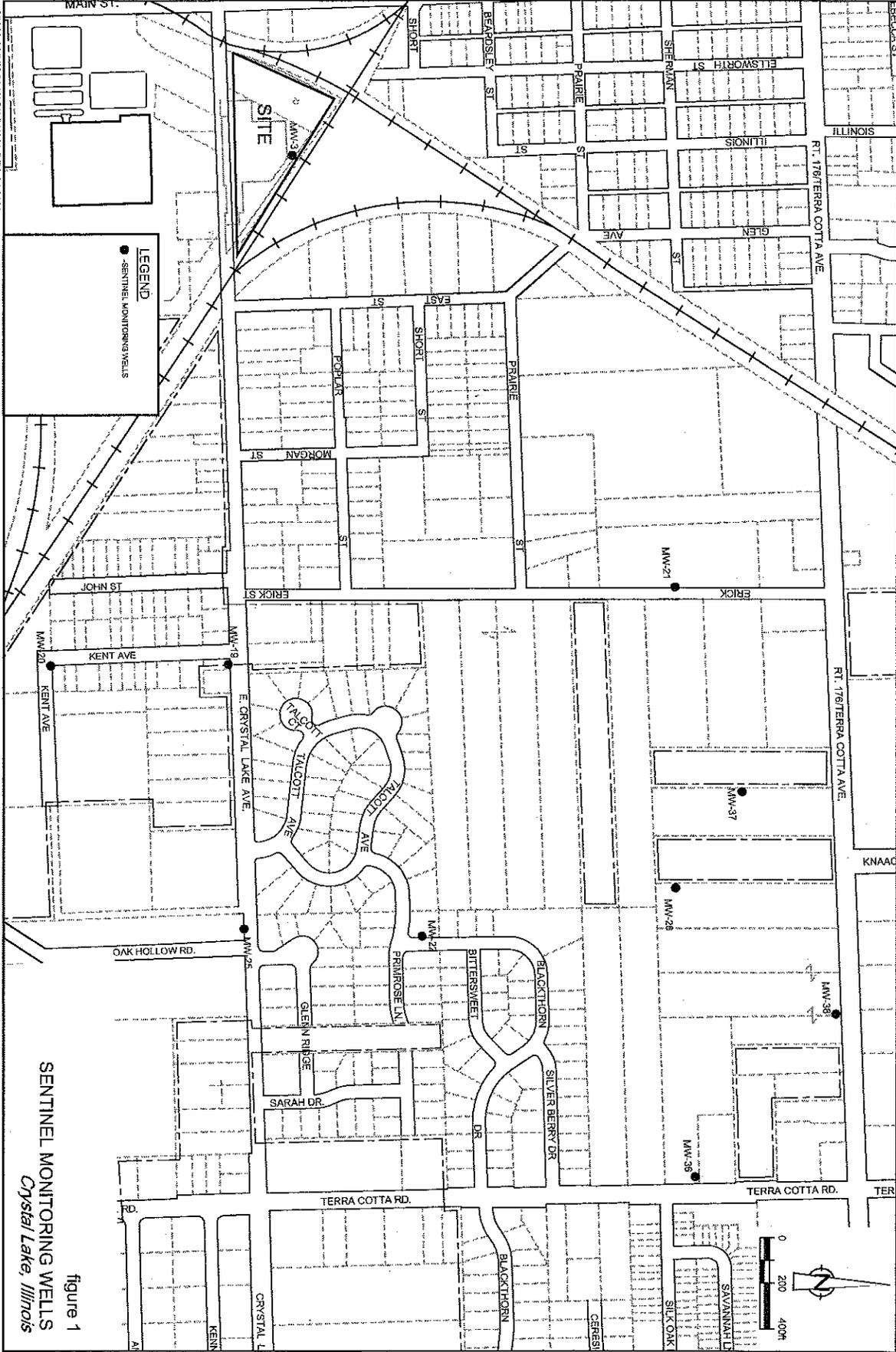


figure 1
 SENTINEL MONITORING WELLS
 Crystal Lake, Illinois