Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Bureau of Environmental Remediation, Remedial Section

State Water Plan Contamination Remediation Program

Hutchinson Air Base Industrial Tract

Background:

The Hutchinson Air Base Industrial Tract (HABIT) is a former Naval Air Station that was subsequently redeveloped as an industrial park. The site was referred to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's (KDHE's) State Water Plan Contamination Remediation Program in 1994, following an investigation conducted by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that identified carbon tetrachloride and trichloroethylene in groundwater but did not identify the responsible party(ies) for the contamination. The State Water Plan installed ten monitoring wells in 1996 as part of a network designed to protect water supply wells. During monitoring, impacted wells were discovered at homes not connected to a public water supply. In addition, the contamination plume appeared to threaten the sole supply well of Reno County Rural Water District #101.

Ductile iron pipe connection into existing valve vault.

Solution:

As an interim measure, carbon filter units were installed in homes where contamination was above federal Safe Drinking Water Act maximum contaminant levels. Possible long-term solutions for area residences and the potential threat to Reno County RWD #101 were then evaluated. The initial recommendation was to connect impacted and threatened residences to Reno County RWD #101; another regional RWD, Reno County #3, had various conditions that made connection to their system less favorable than connection to RWD #101. However, upon re-evaluation KDHE determined it was in everyone's best interests to connect area homes to RWD #3 and upgrade the RWD #3 system to provide a backup water supply for RWD #101. The revised plans provided a contingency plan for an interconnection between the two adjacent RWDs if Reno County RWD #101 should become impacted by contaminants at levels exceeding the federal Safe Drinking Water Act maximum contaminant level. RWD #3 and RWD #101 signed an agreement for a sale of water and temporary transfer of water rights as part of the contingency plan. KDHE tested Reno County RWD #3 and rehabilitated its two supply wells. Equipment to pressurize and automate the system was installed, and 7,756 feet of water lines were laid to serve the affected homes.

The contingency interconnection between RWD #3 and RWD #101 was completed, and the final walk through and start up were conducted in April 1999. Residents were then connected to the RWD system. Area domestic and monitoring wells continue to be sampled every six months for changes in site conditions.

Benefits:

- **Eleven households now have access to clean water.**
- **Future households will have access to rural water due to extension of service lines.**
- **RWD #3 has renovated wells for its supply system.**
- **RWD #101 has a backup clean water supply in case its sole well becomes impacted in the future.**
- **Monitoring well network provides early warning system of contaminant migration.**

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