



**FACT SHEET
FORMER FARMLAND INDUSTRIES NITROGEN PLANT
LAWRENCE, KANSAS
PUBLIC NOTICE OF REMEDIATION WORK PLAN
September 2014**

This fact sheet, in accordance with the requirements of Kansas Administrative Regulations (K.A.R.) 28-31-124d, has been prepared for a remediation work plan involving the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit that the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) jointly issued to Farmland Industries, Inc., in 1993 and subsequently transferred to the City of Lawrence in 2011. This proposed work plan affects post-closure care, groundwater monitoring, and corrective action of the closed surface impoundment.

I. Facility Permit Overview

The facility is located in Douglas County, Kansas on approximately 425 acres along highway K-10 east of Lawrence. The physical address is 1608 North 1400 Road and the mailing address is P.O. Box 708, Lawrence, Kansas 66044. Farmland Industries, Inc. began producing nitrogen fertilizers at this facility in 1953. A chrome reduction system (CRS) was used to reduce hexavalent chromium to the trivalent form. Hexavalent chromium was used in the cooling tower system for corrosion control. Additionally, the CRS chemically adjusted the pH and held the wastewater in an earthen surface impoundment to allow the reaction to complete. The CRS was closed in 1987 in accordance with an approved RCRA closure plan. Processes from the CRS resulted in chromium contamination and low pH levels of groundwater, both of which exceed the limits set forth in the initial permit

The facility submitted a RCRA Part A Application in 1980 to obtain interim status as a hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facility, and was assigned EPA ID No.KSD007128507. The RCRA regulated unit present at the facility as a result of the waste generation consisted of the CRS unit. The closed system consisted of the chromium destruct pond, the supporting SO₂ building, and the upstream trench running from the ammonia and acid plants to the pond. The CRS unit was not clean-closed. As a result, KDHE required Farmland Industries, Inc. to submit a Post-Closure Permit Application for the long-term care and monitoring of the closed regulated unit.

On February 18, 1992, Farmland Industries, Inc. obtained a Post-Closure Permit for the closed regulated unit. Previous groundwater sampling indicated that the chromium and pH levels exceeded the groundwater protection standards, and therefore the Permit called for corrective action monitoring under 40 CFR 264.100. The 1993 permit is currently in effect and was transferred to the City of Lawrence in 2011.

II. Proposed Remediation Work at the CRS Unit

The City of Lawrence presented KDHE with a CRS unit Remediation Work Plan. This work plan outlines soil remediation work that will be completed to address the excavation, remediation, and replacement of low pH soils and materials underlying the location of the CRS unit. The work plan includes neutralizing the low pH soils in an effort to raise the pH of the groundwater. The plan also includes the installation of replacement wells to monitor the groundwater after the site work is complete. This plan does not address the previously mentioned Chromium contamination. The Chromium contamination, which was initially found at the CRS Unit, has attenuated and is no longer a threat to human health or the environment.

The CRS Unit Remediation Work Plan is available for public review at the Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont St., Lawrence and at the KDHE Bureau of Waste Management Office, 1000 S.W. Jackson, Suite 320, Topeka and on our website at: http://www.kdheks.gov/waste/p_pubnot_hw.html. Written public comments on the revised plans must be postmarked during the 45-day public comment period that will begin on September 29, 2014 and end November 12, 2014. Any request for a public hearing must be received by November 12. The public may submit comments, requests for additional information or requests for a public hearing to Mostafa Kamal, KDHE, Bureau of Waste Management, 1000 S.W. Jackson, Suite 320, Topeka, 66612 [phone: (785)296-1609; email: mkamal@kdheks.gov].