

# Technical Review of the Mound Site

## Summary

by **EHS TECHNOLOGY GROUP, LLC**

**Reference Document:** PRS 414 Addendum 1 Data Package, Public Review Draft, December 2004

**Purpose:** The purpose of this document is to notify the public of the status (incorporated as part of the OU-1 remedy) of the Potential Release Site (PRS) 414.

**Assessment of Review:** EHS has had the opportunity to review and comment on this PRS Data Package. We concur that based on the data provided the contamination remaining in the groundwater beneath the PRS 414 area is a result of the OU-1 groundwater plume. We agree with the Core Team decision that PRS 414 not be treated as a separate, independent Potential Release Site but instead be incorporated with the continued monitoring and remediation occurring as part of the remedy for the OU-1 site.

**Technical Analysis:** PRS 414 was described in the original PRS data package, prepared in 1998, as an area of elevated volatile organic compound (VOC) groundwater contamination. The PRS is located immediately south of the OU-1 (Operable Unit 1) site. The east, south and west boundaries were defined by drawing a line through the monitoring wells where the VOCs have been detected. Original data showed nine monitoring wells and piezometers within the PRS 414 boundary as having VOC concentrations exceeding the MCLs (Maximum Contaminant Levels).

There are no activities which were known to have occurred directly above the aquifer at this location that would have caused VOC contamination of the groundwater. However, PRS 414 is hydraulically downgradient from the OU-1 area. OU-1 includes past disposal of VOCs and is currently being remediated for VOC contamination in the groundwater.

The Core Team binned PRS 414 as further assessment in May, 1998. Groundwater sampling activities have occurred from 1998 through 2004. Sampling has occurred during the active groundwater remediation of OU-1 (the pump and treat system operated from January 1997 through May 2003) and during the OU-1 rebound test (initiated in May 2003 involving shut down of the pump and treat system). The four sets of groundwater monitoring data found in this report represent distinct periods in the remediation of the OU-1 plume. Originally, VOC contamination was found migrating southward from the OU-1 area. The pump and treat system was installed, which also pulled clean groundwater from the aquifer to the west. The effect of the pump and treat system, along with potential dilution from the clean groundwater, is shown by the reduction of VOC contaminants. Sampling results during the OU-1 rebound test did show some of the levels of VOC contamination in certain wells to rise and the treatment system was restarted. No detectible levels of VOCs have been found in the bedrock wells located to the east of the PRS 414 boundary. Although previously narrow bands of elevated levels of VOCs were discovered in the groundwater on the southern side of the site, there is no evidence of any such contamination based on the current well locations and sampling data. Any such pockets of contamination would be minor and likely diluted to below MCLs prior to reaching the PRS 414 area.

**Substantive Comments:** EHS concurs with the incorporating of the study of the groundwater contamination of the PRS 414 area with the monitoring and remediation activities occurring in the OU-1 area to the north. It is likely that the source of the contamination originates in the OU-1 area and it is most effective to monitor this groundwater contamination as one distinct plume.

If EHS's understandings are correct, no specific response to the above comment is necessary, and we understand that these comments will be included in the OSC report.