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Groundwater, soil, surface treated

There are three elements to the system the Hassayampa Steering Committee is installing at the Hassayampa federal Superfund site.

Already in place are a groundwater pumping extraction, treatment and reinjection system and a soil vapor system designed to remove the volatile organic compounds polluting the site. Volatile organic compounds are mostly cleaning solvents used in industry.

The groundwater system involves pumping polluted groundwater to the surface, treating it to remove the pollutants, and reinjecting the cleaned water into the groundwater table.

The soil vapor extraction system involves wells drilled into the soil above the groundwater table. A vacuum is applied to the wells to suck the vapors of the pollutants out of the soil where they've become trapped.

The final element of the cleanup, still under negotiation with EPA, is a cap that will keep rainwater from seeping into the ground on the site and carrying more of the pollutants suspended in the soil into the groundwater.

The cap involves

grading the site so rainwater will not collect over the site, and installing a membrane "baggy" to keep rainwater out of the ground.

Jim Derouin, an environmental lawyer who is the "designated representative" of the steering committee, says the

soil vapor system will remove about 95 percent of the pollutants from the soil within three or four years.

The groundwater cleaning system eventually will reduce the pollution level to below drinking water standards, Mr. Derouin said.

But that is expected to take 20 to 30 years. "We hope it will take less," he said.

The cap will cost about \$1 million. The groundwater cleaning system will cost about \$1 million and the soil vapor extraction system about \$2 million, he said.

Operations and management costs bring the total to about \$10 million, including about \$2 million for possible unforeseen costs if the project runs 30 years, he said.

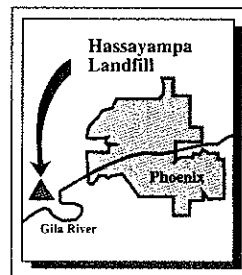
- John DeWitt

Cleanup group hailed as model



JEFF TOPPING, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

IN THEIR DIGS: Phoenix environmental lawyer Jim Derouin (top photo) visits the 10-acre Hassayampa landfill Superfund site. Hydrologist Bill Victor (right, bottom photo) and Mr. Derouin confer.



ARIZONA BUSINESS GAZETTE MARTHA DURHAM

Cooperation proves wise for polluters

JOHN DeWITT

Staff Reporter

It's enough to make a business executive cringe.

The Environmental Protection Agency summons representatives of a passel of businesses and government agencies to a meeting and announces that all the organizations present have contributed in one way or another to a major pollution problem at a federal Superfund site. The time has come to clean it up.

Then EPA, in effect, says: "I'm leaving the room, and you guys figure out how you're going to do it. If you don't agree among yourselves, we'll clean it up and then we'll come after you."

In 1986, the EPA did exactly that to a group of Arizona businesses and government entities, including Bull HN

Cleanup group continued on reverse side

Cleanup group

Information Systems, Maricopa County, the U.S. Air Force and more than 100 others.

The problem was about 10 acres of the 77-acre Hassayampa Landfill, a Maricopa County-owned facility about 50 miles west and a little south of Phoenix.

Since then, Jim Derouin, an environmental lawyer and partner at the firm of Meyer, Hendricks, Victor, Osborn and Maledon, has lived with Hassayampa day in and day out.

He is the "designated representative" of the Hassayampa Steering Committee, the group of businesses and government agencies that has agreed with the EPA to design and pay for a cleanup of the Hassayampa Superfund site.

There are 11 federal Superfund sites in Arizona in various stages of investigation and cleanup. Some, like the 52nd Street Motorola site in Phoenix, are believed to have only a few responsible parties. Others have dozens or hundreds of identified responsible parties, like Hassayampa, which has 110.

In addition, the state has identified more than three dozen sites as hazardous.

The Hassayampa committee is only several weeks away from concluding its final consent agreement with the EPA that will lay down all the actions that must be taken in the site cleanup, which may take as long as 30 years, Mr. Derouin said. The agreement will be the last of four covering different phases of the cleanup.

The process led by Mr. Derouin is regarded within EPA and by the industries involved as a model of how environmental remediation programs under the federal Superfund law are supposed to be conducted.

"Voluntarily is the way to go instead of getting into an adversarial relationship, because then you not only pay for the cleanup, you pay for the lawyers for all the litigation," said Bob Hacker, a consultant to Honeywell, which is managing the Bull HN Information Systems part of the cleanup.

Mr. Hacker said if the Hassayampa

group members had not agreed to manage the cleanup among themselves, EPA probably would have simply forced one or two of the major parties to do the cleanup and left them to try to collect from the rest.

"EPA never sues to recover costs. You'd have to do that yourself," he said.

It's not that everything has been completely smooth. The steering committee is in the midst of a suit against the state of Arizona, and is suing 18 other organizations that have so far refused to participate in the cleanup.

Nonetheless, Dick Fraser, remediation project manager for the Air Force regional office in San Francisco, said the Hassayampa project has been "outstanding."

"I have one other site where we have real close cooperation among the parties like this, but most of the others fight among themselves over assuming responsibility, and there's also more friction with regulators," he said.

Mr. Fraser said the cooperative nature of the Hassayampa project probably has saved the parties two years of wrangling and the money that would have cost.

Harrison Karr, assistant regional counsel for EPA's Region IX office in San Francisco, said the agency's relations with the steering committee have been "very good."

"They've always fought for their best interest," Mr. Karr said. "But they have agreed to do what is required of them."

Mr. Karr said the litigation undertaken against the state and the 18 other parties "is not the ideal way to solve the problem, but at the same time, enforcement of Superfund obligations is very important, and if parties decline to pay their fair share, litigation may be the only way."

Since 1987, when the Hassayampa steering committee was formed, Mr. Derouin has conducted negotiations among the various committee members, between the committee and the EPA, and has sued those who didn't want to participate in the cleanup.

By the time the last consent agree-

ment is signed early next year, he will have overseen a cleanup that will cost committee members about \$10 million.

And all of this is to remedy a problem that was caused by the dumping of chemicals into about 10 acres of the Hassayampa site over a period of about 18 months in 1979 and 1980. The problem is those compounds have leached through the ground into the groundwater, rendering it unfit for consumption or irrigation.

The remediation program basically involves stopping further spread of the pollution and cleaning the polluted soil and water to levels considered safe for human use.

Mr. Derouin expects the cost to be shared on a percentage basis among those responsible. Bull HN will pay about 40 percent of the total cost. Next in the liability line is Maricopa County, which will pay for about 28 percent of the cost.

Many played roles in foul site

The companies participating in the Hassayampa Steering Committee include:

Bull HN Information Systems
Digital Equipment Corp.
Honeywell/Sperry
General Instrument Corp.
Alcatel
AT&T
Shell

Additionally, Arizona Public Service, Intel Corp. and American National Can have been participating in the cleanup and paying their shares. They may join the committee after the final consent decree with EPA is completed. They may also elect to pay a premium to be relieved of further responsibility in the case.

Maricopa County, which owns the landfill site, is the 11th party.

About 50 other parties are participating in the cleanup. They generated wastes, transported the waste, stored the waste or in some other way participated in the processes that led to the pollution.

Eighteen parties have refused to participate and are being sued by the Steering Committee. The committee has settled with six parties.

The rest of the identified parties up to the total of 110 are no longer in existence and are classified as "orphans," from whom no recovery is possible.

Altogether, the known participants dumped more than 2 million gallons of hazardous wastes on the 10-acre site.