



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, August 08, 2006

Council Session

Item I3

**#2006-228 - Consideration of Statement on EPA Proposed Action
Concerning the Parkview Superfund Site**

Staff Contact: Gary R. Mader

Council Agenda Memo

From: Gary R. Mader, Utilities Director

Meeting: August 8, 2006

Subject: EPA Proposed Action concerning the Parkview Superfund Site

Item #'s: I-3

Presenter(s): Gary R. Mader, Utilities Director

Background

As a part of the Parkview Superfund Program, EPA has conducted detailed analyses of the Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) contamination plume in the southern and southwestern portions of Grand Island. The contamination plume is now well defined. EPA has developed an interim remediation plan that was presented at a public meeting held at City Hall on July 27, 2006. At that meeting EPA presented its information concerning the extent and origin of the contamination and a number of alternatives concerning remediation. Along with the comment received at the public meeting, EPA will receive additional written comment on the information presented and on the remediation alternatives presented. The public comment period closes on August 20, 2006.

Discussion

The recommended remediation alternative from EPA involves the installation of extraction wells in the contaminated portion of the aquifer, near the leading edge of the plume. The leading edge is currently in the Parkview Subdivision of the City. The design includes wells for the removal of the contaminated groundwater, piping systems to move the extracted water to a filter treatment facility to remove the VOC's, and return of the cleaned water to area lakes or natural drainage in the area. Restoration of the aquifer is estimated to take decades.

In the Parkview Subdivision, most of the residents utilize private wells which tap the underlying aquifer for water supply. A significant portion of that underlying aquifer is contaminated above standards for drinking water. At the public meeting, there were a number of comments requesting the extension of the City water system into the Parkview

area, in order to provide a safe water supply during the interim time period that the recommended remediation system is operating. The extension of City water lines is not now a part of the EPA's proposed plan. From comments heard at the public meeting and from some Council members, staff felt that the Council might wish to make formal comments concerning the proposed EPA remediation plan. The attached Resolution has been drafted for Council's consideration as comment to EPA during the formal comment period.

Alternatives

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Move to approve
2. Modify the Resolution
3. Postpone the issue to future date
4. Take no action on the issue

Recommendation

City Administration recommends that the Council make its wishes known to EPA concerning this matter, via the proposed Resolution, and that the Mayor be directed to provide comments to EPA expressing the City's position.

Sample Motion

Motion to approve the Resolution stating the position of the Grand Island City Council.



*Working Together for a
Better Tomorrow. Today.*

August 9, 2006

Beckie Himes
U.S. EPA, Region 7
901 N. Fifth St.
Kansas City KS 66101

RE: City of Grand Island, Nebraska
Parkview Superfund Site

Dear Ms. Himes:

The City of Grand Island is impressed with EPA's conscientious and thorough investigation of the serious ground water contamination currently plaguing the southwestern portion of this City. At the public meeting of July 27, 2006, the accuracy and detail of that investigation were evident, and the presentation of the information with the remediation alternatives was very beneficial to the City's understanding.

The City of Grand Island supports EPA's Preferred Alternative for the remediation of the ground water contamination in the southern portions of the City. The City supports this interim remedy as it is designed to halt the progress of the ground water contamination plume, restore the quality of the aquifer, protect municipal wells in the area, and results in a beneficial use of the effluent from the proposed treatment facilities.

However, the City does have concerns about the 30 year time frame that will be required to achieve the remediation. Over 120 residential properties in that area rely on the underlying aquifer for their potable water supply. A number of those private wells have tested above the safe drinking water standards for various contaminants and several others have tested positive, but below the drinking water standards – for now.

The Grand Island City Council has considered this concern at length, and unanimously passed the attached resolution to state its position. The periodic testing of private wells and the use of filter equipment on some wells is helpful. But the presence of this contamination throughout the aquifer from which hundreds of people draw their drinking water causes a climate of concern and fear. People are worried that their well will be the next one to be contaminated. That fear can be eliminated by the extension of the municipal water system to serve the Parkview area. The City of Grand Island requests

Page 2
August 9, 2006
Parkview Superfund

that EPA undertake extension of the municipal water system throughout the area of concern.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project, and we look forward to the day that this contamination is no longer a threat.

Sincerely,

Jay Vavricek, Mayor
City Of Grand Island

JV/pg

pc: Gary Greer, City Administrator
Gary R. Mader, Utilities Director
Robert H. Smith, Asst. Utilities Director

RESOLUTION 2006-228

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island, Nebraska is the site of the Parkview Well Superfund Site; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency has conducted extensive analyses of the ground water contamination by Volatile Organics Compounds, which affects a wide area in the southern and southwestern areas of the City; and

WHEREAS, the high levels of contamination have great potential to cause adverse health affects, have resulted in the loss of numerous private wells and a municipal well, and have caused grave concern among the City's citizenry; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency has proposed an interim remedy under CERCLA (the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act) to remediate the distal groundwater contamination affecting numerous private drinking water wells and potentially affecting additional municipal wells; and

WHEREAS, the proposed interim remedy includes provisions to clean the contaminated ground water to protect public health and municipal wells; and

WHEREAS, the Preferred Alternative estimated time to achieve the Remedial Action Objectives (ROA) is of concern at a 30 year time frame.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, that the City of Grand Island does hereby support the remediation Proposed Alternative as presented by EPA at the Public Meeting held in Grand Island on July 27, 2006 for the long term clean-up of contaminated ground water.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Grand Island is concerned that the 30 year time frame for clean-up is too long and that EPA, at its cost, should extend the municipal water system into the Parkview area to immediately address the contaminated private wells in the area in order to protect the public health in the immediate future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to provide comments to the EPA expressing the City's position.

- - -

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, August 8, 2006.

Jay Vavricek, Mayor

Attest:

Approved as to Form	☐ _____
August 4, 2006	☐ City Attorney

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk