

ATSDR

AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES
AND DISEASE REGISTRY

**Public Health Assessment
Open for Public Comment
until September 24, 2001**

IMPERIAL REFINING COMPANY Ardmore, Oklahoma



The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) has prepared a public health assessment (PHA) to evaluate whether past, current, or future exposure to site contamination could cause harm to persons living near or accessing the site. The Imperial Refining Company site is an inactive facility located in Ardmore, Oklahoma. Comments from the community and other interested parties are encouraged during the public comment period, which is open for 30 days. Comments received during this time become part of the administrative record for the PHA. Instructions for individuals who want to make comments are provided in this document.

Background

The Imperial Refining Company, located in Carter County, Oklahoma, is an inactive and abandoned crude oil refinery, which operated from 1917 to 1934. By 1948, the company had dismantled all tanks and storage equipment. During dismantling, tank bottom material was dumped onto the ground. Because waste from this abandoned site threatens wetlands and sensitive environments, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) added it to the National Priorities List (NPL) in July 2000.

ATSDR is required by Congress to conduct public health assessments on all sites proposed to the NPL. In this public health assessment, ATSDR evaluates the public health significance of the Imperial Refining Company site. ATSDR has reviewed available environmental data, exposure scenarios, and community health concerns to determine whether exposure associated with the site can lead to adverse health effects.

What is ATSDR?

ATSDR is a public health agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. ATSDR's mission is to prevent exposure to hazardous substances from waste sites, unplanned releases, and other sources of pollution present in the environment.

ATSDR is not an enforcement agency. It works closely with EPA and other federal, state, and local agencies to protect public health.

ATSDR's conclusions and recommendations about the site

1. Analyses of the available environmental data and the past and current limited use of the site indicate that any past or current exposures are not likely to lead to adverse health effects. However, changing exposure scenarios, such as residential development of the site or the addition of a playground, could alter this conclusion.

2. The site has not been completely characterized regarding contaminant levels. EPA will be collecting more data on the site through the remedial investigation. If the new data indicate significantly higher levels of contamination than known now, the above conclusion may be changed.

3. Rusted drums and broken glass on the site may pose a physical hazard, especially to children if they play on the site.

4. Off-site contaminant migration has not been determined for the site. Based on the currently available on-site data, it is not expected that off-site contaminant levels would be likely to lead to health effects.

ATSDR recommends that EPA complete its characterization of contamination at the site. This should include measuring contamination in the soil, soil gas, shallow groundwater, surface water, and sediment. Based on the surface water and sediment findings, fish tissue sampling may be warranted.

Until the site is fully characterized, and to prevent injury from the physical hazards at the site, ATSDR recommends restricting access through fencing or posting no trespassing signs. Proposed land uses should be reviewed for public health impact.

If warranted by the results of the remedial investigation, ATSDR recommends that off-site migration of site contamination be characterized.

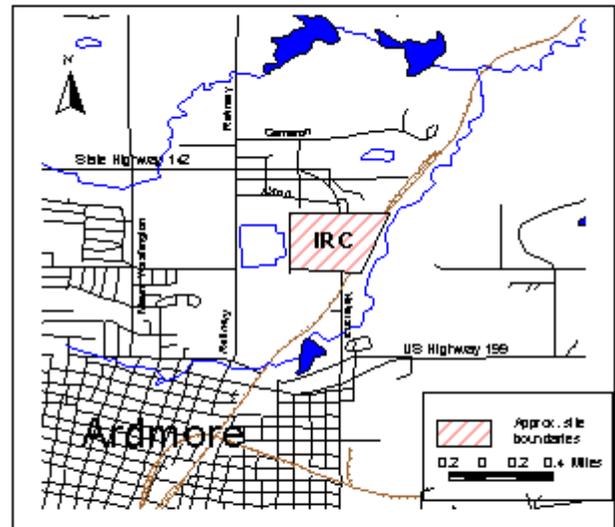
Where can I get more information?

The PHA will be available for public review and comment at the Ardmore Public Library, 320 E Street NW, from August 23, 2001, through September 24, 2001.

To discuss the PHA, call Jill Dyken, ATSDR Health Assessor, or Dawn O'Connor, ATSDR

Community Involvement Specialist, in Atlanta, Georgia, at our toll free number, 1-888-422-8737. Or call Patrick Young, ATSDR Regional Representative in Dallas, Texas, at 214/665-8562. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. After hours, leave a message including your name, area code and number.

Location of Imperial Refining Co. site



in Ardmore, OK

Where do I send my comments?

Please send written comments to:

Chief, Program Evaluation, Records and
Information Services Branch
ATSDR
1600 Clifton Road, NE, Mailstop E-56
Atlanta, Georgia 30333

Comments received during the public comment period will be logged and become part of the administrative record for the health assessment. Comments (without indication of who made them) and responses will be included in an appendix to the final health assessment. Although names of those who have submitted comments will not be included in the final health assessment, they are subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.