

*file Sparton*

Fact Sheet

November 2, 1995

**SPARTON TECHNOLOGY, INC.**  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  
NMD083212332

**BACKGROUND**

- Sparton manufactured electronic components from 1961-1994 at a facility in northwest Albuquerque. Past waste management practices produced a contaminant plume in the ground water containing waste solvents, such as trichloroethylene, trichloroethane, and chromium. The leading edge of the contaminant plume is approximately 0.5 mile northwest of the facility.
- A public water supply well operated by New Mexico Utilities is approximately 2 miles down-gradient from the leading edge of the ground water contaminant plume.
- Under a RCRA § 3008(h) Administrative Order on Consent signed with EPA in 1988, Sparton was required to: 1) install and operate a ground water pump and treat system on-site at the facility; 2) investigate the ground water contamination; and 3) evaluate various cleanup alternatives for the ground water contamination.
- Ground water sampling events in September 1992, July 1993, and November 1993 confirm that the leading edge of the contaminant plume has continued to move downgradient and previously "clean" wells now contain trichloroethylene.

**PROPOSED REMEDY**

- EPA is proposing a remedy which would require Sparton to: 1) install additional ground water monitoring wells to determine the leading edge of the contaminant plume and monitor performance of the proposed remedy; 2) install off-site ground water extraction wells to prevent further movement of the contaminant plume; 3) install a soil vapor extraction system to extract contaminant vapors in the soil beneath the Sparton facility; and 4) install additional ground water extraction wells to restore the ground water to drinking water standards. Under the proposal, the contaminated ground water would be piped back to the Sparton facility for treatment. The treated ground water will then be reinjected back into the aquifer or utilized for irrigation on the surface. The proposed remedy would be implemented in phases to utilize the additional information in designing and implementing the proposed remedy.
- Sparton is currently recommending continued operation of the on-site pump and treat system, quarterly ground water monitoring, and natural degradation for the off-site ground water plume. Sparton is not recommending any active measures for remediation of the off-site contaminant plume.
- A summary of the facility history, previous sampling activities, various cleanup alternatives, and the rationale for EPA's cleanup preference are presented in the RCRA Statement of Basis.

**STATE AGENCY COORDINATION**

- EPA met with NMED and the Office of Natural Resources Trustee on September 15, 1994, to discuss a preliminary remedy at the Sparton site, participation of City of Albuquerque in the remedy selection process, and future public involvement activities.

- EPA conducted an Open House for the local community on September 27, 1994 to provide information on the extent of contamination and future activities at the site. Representatives were present from NMED, Office of Natural Resources Trustee, and Sparton Technology.
- EPA met with NMED, Office of Natural Resources Trustee, and the Attorney General's office on May 31, 1995, to discuss the proposed remedy selection and receive preliminary comments on the draft Statement of Basis.
- EPA met with NMED, Office of Natural Resources Trustee, and the City of Albuquerque on July 21, 1995, to discuss the proposed remedy selection and ensure that all of the State and local concerns have been addressed in the final Statement of Basis.

#### **CURRENT STATUS:**

- EPA initiated a 45-day public comment period for the Statement of Basis on August 10, 1995.
- On August 22, 1995, Sparton requested that EPA suspend the public comment period in order to provide additional information on the various cleanup options at the site. EPA suspended the public comment period on September 7, 1995, to ensure that the community and interested parties have all of the available information during a review of the proposed cleanup options at the facility.
- EPA met with Sparton on September 13, 1995, to advise them of the general remedy selection process. Additionally, EPA transmitted technical comments on the report describing the cleanup alternatives to Sparton on October 3, 1995. Sparton has 30 days to modify the report and resubmit.

#### **FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

- The revised report describing the cleanup alternatives is due to EPA on November 6, 1995. EPA will consult with NMED, the Office of the Natural Resources Trustee and the City of Albuquerque (Environmental Health Department and Public Works Department) in reviewing the additional information provided by Sparton.
- The new 45-day public comment period for the Statement of Basis will be reannounced in the Albuquerque Journal newspaper. Target date for the public comment period is in early January 1996.
- EPA will address all comments received during the public comment period. Following the review and evaluation of any additional information, EPA, in consultation with NMED, the Office of the Natural Resources Trustee, and the City of Albuquerque (Environment Department and Public Works Department) will select a final remedy for the Sparton Technology facility.
- After Sparton is notified of the final remedy selection, EPA will begin a 60-day negotiation period with Sparton for a RCRA § 3008(h) Administrative Order on Consent implementing the selected remedy.