

SUPERFUND

Fact Sheet

MOSES LAKE WELLFIELD CONTAMINATION SKYLINE WATER SYSTEM



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 10

April 2002

EPA Presents Revised Proposal for Skyline Water System

The water from the replacement well constructed for the Skyline customers in 2001 is contaminated with trichloroethylene (TCE). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites you to a meeting to discuss a revised proposal for providing clean drinking water to the Skyline water system customers. We also invite you to comment on the revised proposal.

Public Meeting
Tuesday, April 30, 2002
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Big Bend Community College Auditorium
7662 Chanute Street, Building 1400
Moses Lake, Washington

Tendremos traducción al español disponible.

What is the Revised Skyline Proposal?

Under a three-part proposal, EPA would first explore deepening the replacement well. If TCE were found in the water pumped from the deeper well or if not enough water were produced, then EPA would proceed with treating the Skyline water by air stripping. If neither of these options proves feasible, the Skyline system would be hooked up to the city of Moses Lake system. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will continue to provide bottled water to the Skyline customers until a clean drinking water source is available.

How Can the Community Comment on the Proposal?

EPA invites you to comment at the public meeting or in writing. For written comments, please use the form at the end of this fact sheet or write to Wallace Reid, U.S. EPA, 1200 Sixth Ave., ECL-115, Seattle, WA, 98101. **Comments will be accepted through May 24, 2002.**

More complete information is available in the proposed revision to the action memorandum that documented the decision to construct the replacement well. Copies of the proposed revision are available for review at Big Bend Community College Library in Moses

Lake and on the EPA web page listed at the end of this fact sheet. You may also request a copy from EPA Community Involvement Coordinator Cindy Colgate at 1-800-424-4372, extension 1815.

After the close of the comment period, EPA will review and consider all comments and respond to them in a responsiveness summary. Then EPA will announce the decision in a revision to the action memorandum. The responsiveness summary and the revised action memorandum will be available at the Big Bend Community College Library and on the EPA web site.

What Are the Costs and Timing for the Proposal?

The three proposed options are all similar in cost, technical complexity, and time for construction. Each option would cost approximately \$300,000 to \$450,000 to construct. The schedule for starting the project depends on when funding becomes available. EPA and the USACE, which would construct the project, expect funding to be available this summer.

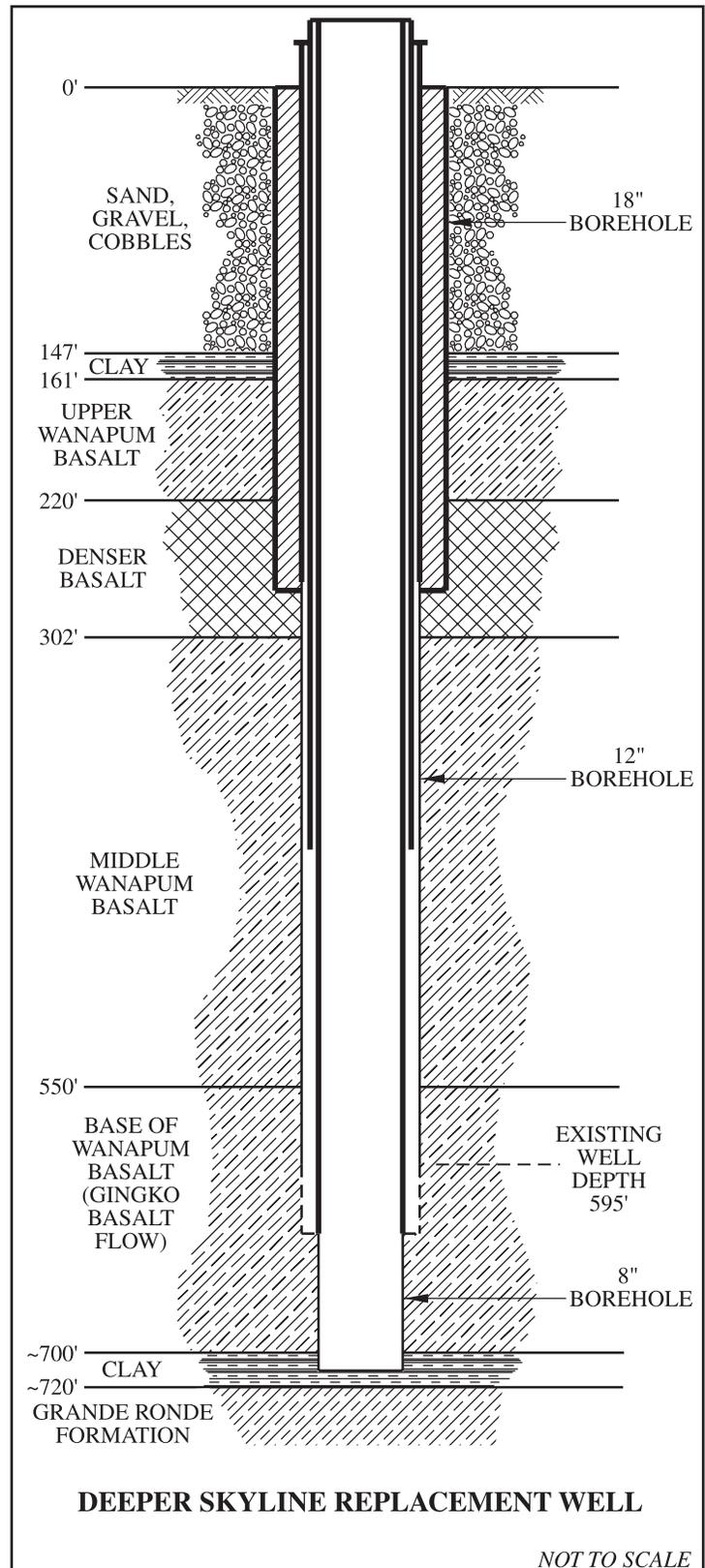
Drilling a Deeper Well

The recently constructed replacement well draws water from the middle of the Wanapum Basalt Formation, which is located about 300 to 600 feet below the surface. A deeper well would draw water from the base of that formation, which is called the Gingko basalt flow. The well would not go as deep as the Grande Ronde Formation. (See drawing at right.)

If, over time, the deeper replacement well became contaminated with TCE, the Skyline system would be hooked up to the city water.

Deeper Well Details to Consider:

- Must provide a clean water supply.
- Would require a backup well.
- Might not provide enough water to upgrade fire protection capabilities.
- Water system owner would be responsible for operation and maintenance.





Treatment by Air Stripping

Air stripping would treat the TCE-contaminated water by transferring the contamination from the water to the air. In the outdoor air, the TCE would not be a health risk. Water would be pumped out of the ground from two existing wells. Then the water would be treated in the air stripper and discharged to the Skyline distribution system.

Air Stripping Details to Consider:

- Would provide a clean water supply.
- Would require using Skyline replacement well and Skyline well #2. Might require obtaining water rights to use the second well.
- Might require adding chlorine to the water supply.
- Would not provide enough water to upgrade fire protection capabilities.
- Federal government would be responsible for operation and maintenance for ten years. Water system owner would be responsible after that.

Hookup to City of Moses Lake Water System

The Skyline water system would be connected to the city of Moses Lake water system. The city's main supply line is about 1,200 feet away from the hookup point to the Skyline water system. A pipeline would be routed under Highway 17 to connect the two systems. The new pipeline would include check valves to prevent back flow and a single 4-inch water meter.

Hookup Details to Consider:

- Would provide a clean water supply.
- USACE would purchase permanent water rights and transfer them to the city of Moses Lake.
- Would provide enough water to upgrade fire protection capabilities if existing Skyline water distribution system were also upgraded.
- Owner of Skyline water system would buy water from the city of Moses Lake and distribute it to Skyline customers.
- City would be responsible for operation and maintenance for the distribution system up to the point that it hooks up to the Skyline water system.



Background

The Moses Lake Wellfield Contamination Superfund Site, located about three miles northwest of the City of Moses Lake, Washington, includes the former Larson Air Force Base. The U.S. Air Force used the base from 1942 to the mid 1960s. The Port of Moses Lake now owns most of the base, operating a large portion as the Grant County Municipal Airport and leasing space to a variety of commercial enterprises.

In 1988 and 1989, drinking water samples revealed elevated TCE levels in some Moses Lake municipal wells at the former base and two Skyline wells. TCE was commonly used as a degreaser in manufacturing and aircraft maintenance. The contaminated wells drew water from the upper portion of the Wanapum Basalt Formation. In 1992, EPA added the Moses Lake Wellfield Contamination Site to the National Priorities List of hazardous waste sites across the country that need further investigation and cleanup.

The city of Moses Lake protected users of the municipal water system by closing contaminated municipal wells or changing them to draw only from deeper uncontaminated aquifers. The Port of Moses Lake provided bottled water to Skyline water system users for five years until USACE took over the distribution in July 1999.

In 2001 USACE completed a replacement well for the Skyline water system users. The well pumps water from the middle of the Wanapum Basalt Formation, which was believed to be uncontaminated. In November 2001, testing before startup showed that water from the replacement well was contaminated with TCE.

For More Information

More information about the Moses Lake Wellfield Contamination Superfund site is available from the persons and at the locations listed below.

General Information

Cindy Colgate, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator
206-553-1815 or toll-free at 1-800-424-4372
colgate.cindy@epa.gov

Technical Information

Wallace Reid, EPA Project Manager
206-553-1728 or toll-free at 1-800-424-4372
reid.wallace@epa.gov

Marcia Knadle, EPA Hydrogeologist
206-553-1641 or toll-free at 1-800-424-4372
knadle.marcia@epa.gov

Bill Graney, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Project Manager, 206-764-3494
william.p.graney@usace.army.mil

Written Information

The revised Skyline proposal and other written information about this site is available at the following locations:

Big Bend Community College Library Building 1700 7662 Chanute Street Moses Lake, WA 509-762-6246	EPA Region 10 Superfund Records Center 1200 Sixth Avenue Seattle, WA 98101 206-553-4494 or toll-free at 1-800-424-4372
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You can also view the proposal and related information on the EPA Region 10 web site:
<http://www.epa.gov/r10earth>
Click on "Index," then "M," and then "Moses Lake."

Please contact one of the EPA representatives listed above for large-print documents, sign language interpretation, and other services.

**Submit Your Comments
for the
Moses Lake Wellfield Contamination Superfund Site/
Skyline Water System**

On the reverse side of this page, please write your comments.
Then fold the page in half so that EPA's address is showing.
Tape or staple closed.
Put on a 34 cent stamp.
Drop in the mail!

PLACE
STAMP
HERE



Wallace Reid, Project Manager
ECL-115
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101-1128

