

SUPERFUND

Fact Sheet

MOSES LAKE WELLFIELD CONTAMINATION

Skyline Water System Customers



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

September 2000

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) have agreed on a plan for the USACE to design and construct a new drinking water well for the Skyline water system customers. USACE funds are now available for the work.

Should EPA hold another public meeting for Skyline water system users?

If you would like a meeting to discuss the design for the new well when it has been developed, please contact Cindy Colgate at the telephone number listed at the end of this fact sheet. As community members have requested, EPA will also continue to send fact sheets to provide updates about Skyline water system issues.

How Was Community Comment Considered?

In April EPA proposed a new drinking water well as the final remedy for the Skyline water system wells contaminated by trichloroethylene (TCE). During a thirty-day public comment period on the proposal, all public comments supported the new well. EPA responded to the comments in a document called a responsiveness summary. EPA's final plan for the Skyline water system, the

new well, is in a document called an action memorandum. Both of these documents will be available in October at the Moses Lake Public Library and on the web site listed at the end of this fact sheet.

When Will the Well Be Built?

On September 21, USACE awarded a contract for the well design and construction. EPA and USACE anticipate that design of the well will begin in October, with construction to be completed nine to twelve months later. The work includes connecting the new well to the existing distribution system to bring the clean water supply into the Skyline water system users' homes.

Where Will the Well Be Located?

The new well will be built in the Skyline water system area at a location determined during the design process. The Washington State Department of Health (DOH), the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), EPA, and USACE will approve the exact location after coordination with the water system owner.



What Will Prevent Contamination of the New Well?

The TCE-contaminated Skyline well #2 obtains water from an aquifer located about 150 feet below the ground in the a-zone of the Wanapum Basalt Formation. The TCE-contaminated Skyline well #1 obtains water from the a-zone and from the c-zone of the Wanapum Basalt, which is located about 300 to 600 feet below the surface. The new well will pump water only from the c-zone, where no contamination has been found. The aquifers in the a and c zones are separated by denser basalt that prevents contamination from moving downward. The new well will be sealed within the a-zone to ensure that no contamination leaks downward and no contaminated water is distributed to the Skyline water system users.

EPA, Ecology, DOH, and USACE will work together to make sure that all health and environmental concerns are addressed.

Will There Be Enough Water?

The new well is intended to provide enough water to meet the needs of the current Skyline water system customers. DOH requires the well to be designed to meet the "peak demand" of the customers. The new well will replace, but not expand, the previous water supply.

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, Ecology sampling found elevated trichloroethylene (TCE) levels in some Moses Lake municipal wells and two Skyline wells. TCE was commonly used as a degreaser in manufacturing and aircraft maintenance. 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.

Since the contamination was discovered, the City of Moses Lake has 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.

EPA strives to provide you with useful environmental information. Please feel free to call, write or e-mail us to let us know how we can improve our fact sheets to suit your needs.

You can e-mail Cindy Colgate:
colgate.cindy@epamail.epa.gov



For More Information

For more information about the Moses Lake Wellfield Contamination, please contact one of the following persons:

General Information

Cindy Colgate,
EPA Community Involvement Coordinator
206-553-1815
or toll-free at 1-800-424-4372

Skyline Water System

Lynda Priddy,
EPA Project Manager
206-553-1987
or toll-free at 1-800-424-4372

Bottled Water for Skyline Water System Users

Bill Graney, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Project Manager
206-764-3494

Moses Lake Remedial Investigation

Hahn Gold, EPA Project Manager
206-553-0171
or toll-free at 1-800-424-4372

Written information about this site is available at the following locations:

EPA Region 10 Superfund Records Center
1200 Sixth Avenue, ECL-076
Seattle, WA 98101
206-553-4494
or toll-free at 1-800-424-4372

Moses Lake Public Library
418 E. 5th Avenue
Moses Lake, WA 98837

EPA Region 10 web site:

<http://www.epa.gov/r10earth>

Click on "Index," then "M" and then "Moses Lake."

To ensure effective communication with everyone, additional services can be made available to persons with disabilities by contacting one of the EPA representatives listed above.



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Region 10 (ECO-081)
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Moses Lake, Washington