

**RESPONSIVENESS SUMMARY
FOR THE
MOSES LAKE/SKYLINE
REMOVAL ACTION**

MAY 19, 2000

MOSES LAKE/SKYLINE RESPONSIVENESS SUMMARY

I. Overview

The purpose of this Responsiveness Summary is to summarize and respond to public comments submitted on the Site Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) for the cleanup of the Skyline Water District portion of the Moses Lake Wellfield Contamination Superfund Site. This summary responds to comments received during the Skyline Public Meeting held on May 10, 2000 and written comments received during the public comment period held from April 13, 2000 through May 12, 2000.

The final EE/CA, dated April 5 2000 and prepared by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), describes the technical alternatives considered for the provision of clean drinking water to the Skyline Water District. The document also estimates the total cost associated with each option. The EE/CA and the administrative record are available for review at the Moses Lake Community Library, located at 418 E. 5th Ave, Moses Lake, Washington.

The EPA held a public meeting the evening of May 10, 2000, at the Larson Heights Elementary School Gym in Moses Lake to present the results of the EE/CA and to outline EPA's preferred alternative from the technical options considered in the EE/CA. The meeting was attended by over 25 people including representatives EPA, USACE and the Washington State Department of Health. The entire proceeding of the public meeting is recorded in the meeting transcript which is available in the Administrative Record for the site at the Moses Lake Community Library. Questions that were asked and received an adequate response during the meeting are included in the meeting transcript but are not elaborated upon in this Responsiveness Summary.

Thirty five comment letters were received from citizens during the public comment period. Commentors also presented oral comments at the May 10,2000 public meeting. In general, comment letters reiterated points that were made during the public meeting. All written and oral comments favored the new well as the final NTCR action for Skyline.

II. Background on Community Involvement

The Skyline Water District system is part of the Moses Lake Wellfield Contamination Superfund site, located approximately 1/4 mile south of the former Larson Air Force Base (LAFB). The Skyline water system consists of two production wells and a distribution system of approximately 87 connections.

Groundwater contamination in the Moses Lake area was initially identified in early 1988 by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) as part of routine sampling of municipal drinking water wells. Two of these wells contained trichloroethylene (TCE), a volatile organic compound which is known to cause adverse health effects in humans. Additional sampling conducted later in 1988 indicated that some wells had contamination levels significantly above the EPA drinking water standards.

The amount of TCE detected in Skyline wells since sampling began in 1988 has generally remained slightly above the Maximum Concentration Level (MCL) for TCE in groundwater. The MCL is the federal standard established for drinking water to ensure that no one is exposed to any chemical or mineral which could potentially affect their health. The MCL for TCE is 5 parts per billion (ppb). Sample results for Skyline wells indicate a range of TCE levels from non-detect to 32 parts per billion.

Based on results from groundwater sampling, including samples taken at Skyline, EPA proposed the Moses Lake Well Field for the National Priorities List (NPL) in July 1991. The NPL is the list of hazardous waste sites throughout the United States that require investigation and cleanup to protect human health and the environment. Based on preliminary sampling the size and extent of the contaminated groundwater, called a groundwater plume, is about 1 mile wide, 3 miles long, and 100-300 feet deep extending south from the former LAFB.

Under Superfund authority, EPA can take action to remove a release or potential release of contamination that poses a threat to public health or the environment. The current drinking water supply provided by the Skyline Water District may pose a long-term public health hazard from human exposure to TCE through inhalation, dermal contact (skin contact), and/or ingestion. Because of this threat, the Port of Moses Lake, as a Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) for the site, began to make bottled water available for Skyline residents in March, 1994. The provision of bottled water will continue as an interim response to the problem until a long term solution is implemented.

III. Response to Oral and Written Comments Received from the Public During the Public Comment Period and the May 10, 2000 Public Meeting

This section summarizes and responds to oral and written comments received from the public during the public comment period on the EE/CA, and the May 10, 2000 public meeting.

A. Written Comments

EPA received 35 written comments favoring the new well as the final NTCR action for Skyline. A number of comments letters indicated that they thought that a permanent clean source of drinking water should have been provided to Skyline a long time ago. A couple of letters mentioned that they did not want to be hooked up to city water, that bottled water was

an inconvenience and that Skyline users had a hard time getting real estate financing. None of the written comments asked a questions or raised an issue, therefore, a written response to the written comments is not required.

B. Public Meeting Comments

During the public meeting of May 10, 2000, no comments opposing the EPA proposal for a new well or proposing a different alternative as the final NTCR action for Skyline were made. All community participants voted for a new well.

There were several questions asked at the meeting and EPA provided responses at the meeting. Questions ranged from the amount of time it take to bring the new well on line, if the Broadview Tracts Water Association could review and comment on the well design and was there anything someone could do to legally stop the well. EPA asked the community if they would prefer to be kept up to date by fact sheet or meetings or both. The community responded that facts sheets would be better.

A transcript of the meeting will be placed in the information repository as soon as it is available. The information repository is available at the following locations:

Moses Lake Community Library
418 East Fifth Avenue
Moses Lake Washington 98837

and at the

EPA Records Center
7th Floor
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101