

SLIPPERFUND

Fact Sheet

CLEANCARE
Tacoma, Washington



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

July 2000

Site Cleanup Nears Completion

Since December 1999, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has removed more than 1.1 million gallons of waste from the CleanCare site in Tacoma. When EPA began the cleanup, the site contained approximately 969,000 gallons of bulk liquid hazardous waste which were stored in 33 above ground storage tank farms. This waste included solvents, oil, oily water, and antifreeze. An additional 380,000 gallons of wastewater was stored in 19 temporary storage tanks, called "Baker" tanks. Approximately 3,700 drums of waste were also inventoried on site, which amounts to 185,000 gallons.

Removal of Drummed Waste

In February and March, a total of 64 generators of more than 250 gallons of waste were notified of the cleanup and arrangements were made for them to pick up their waste drums for disposal elsewhere. This action removed approximately 580 drums, about 32,000 gallons of waste. The remaining drums were sorted into waste categories such as flammable liquids, corrosive liquids, or poisonous liquids and disposed of off site in groups of drums. Where there were large volumes of like materials, the waste was bulked together and emptied into a temporary storage tank prior to off site disposal. Handling large quantities at one time helps to reduce disposal costs. Approximately 300 drums of waste still remain on the site. Currently, workers are in the process of characterizing and arranging for disposal of the remaining drums.

Disposal of Liquids in Tanks Continues

In March and April, the 33 above ground storage tanks were assessed and the contents sampled to determine the amount and type of waste located in each tank. After the laboratory test results were received, disposal companies bid for the job to transport and dispose of the waste. In May and June, transportation and disposal began. Tank Farm #1, the largest tank

farm, had four steel above ground storage tanks which contained about 450,000 gallons of waste oils and water. Approximately 90 vacuum tank trucks, each holding about 5,000 gallons, were used to remove the waste from the tanks. The remaining tanks on site were handled in the same manner. At this time, about 773,000 gallons of bulk liquid waste have been removed from the CleanCare site. Approximately 196,000 gallons of liquid waste still remain, primarily in Tank Farms #3, #4, and some small storage tanks in the process area. Workers are currently arranging for the disposal of the remaining waste material.



Removing Waste Liquids from Storage Tanks

Sludge From Tanks Solidified On Site

During May and June, workers began removing the sludge from each tank that has been pumped free of liquid waste. Sludge is the solid material that settles to the bottom of a tank. Some tanks contained only inches of sludge while others contained several feet and needed a super sucker vacuum truck to move the sludge from the tank to an area where it can be stabilized. Each batch of sludge was stabilized with expanded Perlite using a power shovel. Perlite is a volcanic rock which absorbs the liquid and holds the sludge together. After stabilization, the sludge is placed in a large covered container called a "roll-off box" prior to transportation and disposal off site.



Stabilizing Sludge Before off Site Disposal

Waste Water Treatment Continues

Surface water on site is being treated in a wastewater treatment system before it is discharged into the City of Tacoma sewer treatment system. EPA has treated approximately 400,000 gallons of contaminated surface water on site as well as waste water that CleanCare stored in temporary storage tanks. The system will operate until all surface and wastewater on the site has been treated.

Tank Farm #1 Demolition Scheduled



Preparing Tank Farm 1 Area for Demolition Activities

Tank farm #1, the largest and oldest tank farm on site, is scheduled to be demolished in July. When the tank was in use, it leaked waste to the soil and potentially to groundwater. Workers will use a "shear" to cut apart the four steel tanks. The pieces of steel will be decontaminated and placed in a roll-off box prior to transport off site. EPA plans to recycle about 140 tons of scrap metal from the demolition. Once the tanks are removed, EPA will sample the area to determine the extent of contamination. Further removal actions may include installing a temporary asphalt cap to reduce the spread of surface water contamination.

Background

The CleanCare site is located at 1510 Taylor Way in Pierce County, Tacoma, Washington. It is about 4.2 acres and is located in the "Tacoma Tidelands" area three miles northeast of downtown Tacoma. The site was used for temporary treatment, storage, disposal, and recycling of hazardous and non-hazardous waste from other locations -- one of a handful of commercial facilities of this type operating in the state of Washington. The CleanCare facility has four separate tank farms, two hazardous/dangerous waste container storage pads, and a processing area where solvents, oil, and antifreeze were distilled.

**For More Information:**

Please contact **Michael Szerlog**, EPA On-Scene Coordinator at 206-553-0279 or **Jeanne O'Dell**, Community Involvement Coordinator, at 206-553-6919 or toll free at 1-800-424-4372.

The Administrative Record for this removal action is at the following locations:

Tacoma Main Public Library
1102 Tacoma Avenue South
Northwest Room
Tacoma, WA

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Sixth Avenue
7th Floor Records Center
Seattle, WA

A file on this project can also be found at:

Citizens for a Healthy Bay
917 Pacific Avenue, Suite 406
Tacoma, WA

Information on this project will be posted on the EPA Region 10's website at <http://epainotes1.rtpnc.epa.gov:7777/R10/cleanup.nsf/sites/CleanCareOR>
<http://www.epa.gov/r10earth>, then click on the word "index" at the bottom of the page, then

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



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