

# SUPERFUND

## Fact Sheet

### GOULD SUPERFUND SITE Portland, Oregon



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

August 2002

## EPA SEEKING PUBLIC COMMENT ON DELETING GOULD SITE FROM SUPERFUND LIST

*Cleanup of contamination has been successfully completed at the Gould Superfund Site. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites your comments on its proposal to delete the site from the National Priorities List.*

### Why is the site being deleted?

The Gould Superfund Site is eligible for deletion from the National Priorities List because the cleanup work specified in the Gould Record of Decision (ROD) and ROD amendments have been completed. On-site monitoring has confirmed that the work protects human health and the environment. EPA will ensure that operation and maintenance at the site continues to be protective.

### How to provide your comments to EPA

We encourage you to submit written comments on the proposal. A 30-day public comment period runs from August 22 to September 23, 2002. After considering public comments, EPA will make a final decision. Please send comments to:

Beverly Gaines, U.S. EPA  
1200 Sixth Avenue, ECL-110  
Seattle, WA 98101

### How is human health and the environment protected?

When the Gould Site was evaluated in the 1980's, objectives were established to prevent exposure to contaminants. Here is a brief summary of actions taken to protect human health or environmental concerns:

Lead-waste material specified in the record of decision was removed from the site or confined on-site in a lined and capped disposal area to prevent human exposure from direct contact with battery casings, waste material and contaminated soils. Future use of the Gould site is restricted to industrial uses that will be compatible with the site cleanup.

Containment and removal of contaminated waste and soil was effective in preventing exposure from inhaling lead particles in the air. Monitoring during and at the completion of cleanup work showed that airborne lead concentrations at the

site were within the Federal and State of Oregon Standard of 1.5 micrograms per cubic meter.

EPA wanted to ensure that contamination did not move through the soil into the groundwater. EPA did not find that cleanup of groundwater was needed, because over the past four years, groundwater test results have been under the Safe Drinking Water Act action level for lead in drinking water of .015 milligrams per liter.

EPA also required the responsible parties to develop a plan to provide funding and acquire an off-site property to replace wetland and open-water habitat lost because of work at East Doane Lake as part of the Gould cleanup. EPA is coordinating identification of suitable property with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service prior to approving final purchase of the property.

## How much material was cleaned up at the Gould site?

Here are some statistics that show the magnitude of cleanup accomplished at the Gould Superfund site. A standard dump truck holds about 10 cubic yards.

- 8700 cubic yards of contaminated sediment was removed from East Doane Lake
- 3590 cubic yards of battery casings and waste material were excavated
- A 4.5-acre lined containment facility was constructed on the property.
- 77,700 cubic yards of contaminated material was placed in the containment facility.
- East Doane Lake was backfilled with clean soil.



*Contamination being excavated and hauled from the Gould site.*



*The Gould site (the large open space in the foreground) near completion of work last year.*

## How will protection be assured in the future?

In order to protect the cleaned up site from problems in the future, use of the Gould property is limited to industrial or other compatible uses by restrictive covenants and easements. EPA refers to these restrictions as "institutional controls."

Groundwater will be monitored to make sure lead contamination is not moving from the soil into the groundwater on the site. Operation and maintenance, including periodic inspections, of the containment facility is underway. A thorough review of site conditions and operation and maintenance of the containment facility will be conducted at least every five years to ensure it continues to adequately protect human health and the environment.

The Gould Site is located within 1000 feet of the Willamette River within the Portland Harbor Superfund site, which was added to EPA's National Priorities List in December of 2000. Past releases from the Gould site that may have contaminated river sediments will be examined in the Portland Harbor investigation.

## Background

The Gould Superfund Site is located in the north-west industrial area of Portland, Oregon. NL Industries operated a facility for lead-acid battery recycling, lead smelting and refining and lead oxide production on the site from 1949 to 1979. Gould purchased the site in 1979 and closed the facility in 1981. When the facility was operating, discarded battery casing materials and other lead smelter wastes were used as fill on the site and an adjacent property. Acid from batteries was drained to Doane Lake during several years of operation.

In 1981 and 1982, EPA and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality investigated contamination at the site. Gould was added to EPA's National Priorities List in 1983 and a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study was completed and a cleanup decision was issued in

1988. Construction and engineering for portions of the final cleanup took place from 1988 to 1993. An estimated 88 tons of lead and 244 tons of plastic were processed and recycled as part of the cleanup efforts.

In 1997, EPA amended the cleanup decision to add or modify cleanup actions to more effectively remove, treat and contain contamination from lead and battery casings from the surface and sub-surface soil on the Gould property. The amended decision included construction of a lined and capped on-site containment facility and consolidation of specific waste material in the containment facility.

Nine potentially responsible parties (PRP's) for the Gould site signed a Consent Decree with EPA in March 1998, and began cleanup work in the summer of 1998.

## For more information:

To learn more about the cleanup or proposed deletion of the Gould Superfund Site, contact:

Judy Smith, Community Involvement Coordinator  
206-553-6246, [smith.judy@epa.gov](mailto:smith.judy@epa.gov)

Chip Humphrey, Remedial Project Manager  
503-326-2678, [humphrey.chip@epa.gov](mailto:humphrey.chip@epa.gov)

The notice of intent to delete the landfill from the National Priorities List, as well as other written information about the site, is available for review at the following locations:

EPA Region 10 – Superfund Records Center  
1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA  
206-553-4494 or 1-800-424-4372

Multnomah Public Library – Government Records  
801 SW 10th, Portland, Oregon  
503.988.5234

*For people with disabilities: Please contact Judy Smith at 206-553-6246 (toll free (1-800-424-4372) if you have any special requests for reasonable accommodations. For TTY users: Please call the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 and give the operator Judy Smith's phone number.*