

# SUPERFUND

## Fact Sheet

### NORTHWEST PIPE AND CASING Clackamas, Oregon



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

JUNE 2003

## Final Phase of Site Cleanup Begins in June

This month, EPA contractors are beginning the final phase of cleanup construction at Northwest Pipe and Casing in Clackamas, Oregon. The three construction tasks planned for this year are installing groundwater circulation wells, constructing a clean soil cap on the site, and restoring a wetland.

**Fifteen groundwater circulation and treatment wells** will be drilled and installed at six locations over the most highly contaminated portions of the groundwater underneath the site. These wells remove contaminants from groundwater and keep it from spreading off the site. Groundwater is pumped to below-ground air strippers that remove volatile organic chemicals, or VOCs, as vapor. The contaminated vapors are collected and treated with activated carbon to remove the VOCs. Cleaned groundwater will be pumped back into the aquifer.

**A layer of clean soil will protect people and wildlife** from contamination remaining at the site. This soil cap will consist of about 120,000 cubic yards of clean fill dirt which will be brought onto the site. The soil will be spread two feet deep over an area larger than twelve football fields. The soil cap will be finished by grading, compacting and planting ground cover.

**As part of site construction, a small wetland area** on the site will be restored to a natural condition to provide a suitable habitat for a variety of birds and animals. Wetlands and endangered species are found along Mt. Scott Creek north of the site.

**EPA expects construction of the wells and soil cap** to be completed by October and the wetland planting to be finished by November. CDM Engi-

neers & Constructors, Inc. is EPA's prime contractor for this phase of the site cleanup. URS Corporation will assist EPA with construction management and oversight. The construction will cost about \$2.5 million.

### WHAT TO EXPECT DURING CONSTRUCTION

People can expect to see increased traffic on SE Lawnfield Road during July and August from dump trucks bringing clean fill to the site. People traveling on this road should be wary of the additional truck traffic.

Noise from site construction activities is expected to be below nuisance levels at neighboring businesses.

### WHY IS THIS WORK NECESSARY?

Although the most highly contaminated soil was hauled to a treatment or disposal location, soil remaining at the site still contains low levels of contamination from coal-tar compounds and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). It is not feasible to remove all of the contamination, so the two-foot cap of clean soil over the site will isolate the remaining contamination from contact with people,

including trespassers, future construction and maintenance workers, or future occupants. EPA expects the site to be redeveloped following cleanup.

The groundwater cleanup will restore and maintain the upper aquifer as a potential source of drinking

water and prevent contaminated groundwater from moving off-site.

As EPA cleans up contaminated sites, the Agency is required to protect, restore or replace wetland habitat.

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## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

EPA will operate the groundwater circulation wells for a minimum of five years. Performance and effectiveness of the groundwater cleanup systems will be reviewed each year, and the operations will be adjusted as needed. Institutional controls, such as deed or zoning restrictions, will prevent the soil cap from being disturbed and prevent future owners or tenants from drinking unsafe groundwater.



*Monitoring wells at the Northwest Pipe and Casing Superfund Site will help EPA determine the effectiveness of the groundwater circulation and treatment system during the next five years.*

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## SITE BACKGROUND / HISTORY

The 53-acre Northwest Pipe and Casing site is located adjacent to an industrial park in Clackamas, Oregon. Pipe manufacturing and coating operations occurred at the site from 1956 to 1985. Soil and groundwater on the site were contaminated as a result of past waste handling practices. Contaminants include spent solvents, primers, coal tar, coating product containers, coal tar residues, and oils.

The site was added to EPA's National Priorities List in 1992. Early cleanup activity started in 1993 when buildings were demolished and a fence was erected to keep people away from contamination.

In December 1998 two underground fuel tanks were decommissioned and removed from the site. In 1999, security patrols of the site were started to keep trespassers off the site. Following a detailed study, EPA issued a final decision about soil clean up in fall 2000, and issued a final decision about groundwater cleanup in early 2001.

Two years ago, more than 15,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil and debris were excavated, loaded onto trucks and removed from the site to either a treatment facility or approved landfill, depending on the level of contamination.

**SITE BACKGROUND / HISTORY** *continued*

Air quality was monitored during this work to make sure the dust control measures taken by the contractor were effective. The excavated areas were backfilled with treated and clean soil.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**You can review documents about the site cleanup during regular business hours at:**

**Clackamas County Library**

11750 SE 82nd Avenue, Suite D.  
Clackamas, Oregon  
503-652-2640

[www.epa.gov/r10earth/](http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/)  
first click on "index" then on "N"  
for Northwest Pipe and Casing

**If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact:**

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*For people with disabilities: please call Judy smith at 503-326-6994 if you have special requests for reasonable accommodation. For TTY users: Please call the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 and give the operator Judy Smith's telephone number.*



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