

# ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



## *Hamilton/Labree Superfund Site, Chehalis, Washington*

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

January 2005

## **An Update on EPA's Plan to Clean up Contamination near Hamilton Road**

EPA and the S.C. Breen Construction Company continue to study groundwater contamination at the Hamilton/Labree Superfund site to determine the best way to permanently clean it up. The overall site boundaries at this location will be described in a Remedial Investigation report.

EPA is concerned, however, about a particular "hot spot" where we found high concentrations of tetrachloroethylene (PCE), a chlorinated solvent. (Please see the back page for details about this chemical.) This is in a specific section of the site, being called the Hamilton Road Impacted Area (HRIA). (Please see the map on page 2 for details.)

### **Moving Ahead with "Hot Spot" Cleanup Plans**

In the February fact sheet, we discussed this "hot spot," where PCE had apparently been dumped directly into Berwick Creek at least 15 years ago. Since PCE is heavier than water, it rapidly sank to the bottom of the creek and eventually settled into the soils beneath the creek. It is slowly dissolving into groundwater and moving with the groundwater as it flows northwest. Recent studies show that the contaminated area is growing. This "hot spot" needs to be treated to prevent more environmental harm.

EPA had hoped to clean up the "hot spot" during the summer of 2004, but funding was not available to complete the work this year. Some funding is now available. The work includes designing and building a pump-and-treat system to temporarily contain the PCE until it can be permanently removed from the creek bed and from the soils and groundwater under the creek.

This system will pump groundwater, clean it to acceptable EPA levels, and discharge the clean water to Berwick Creek. We expect to begin construction on this system in the spring of 2005.

### **We Still Need Your Help**

EPA continues to seek information about how PCE got into Berwick Creek. We have not been able to identify who may have dumped PCE into the creek. If you have any information to share about this, please call or write:

**Bob Kievit**

EPA Project Manager

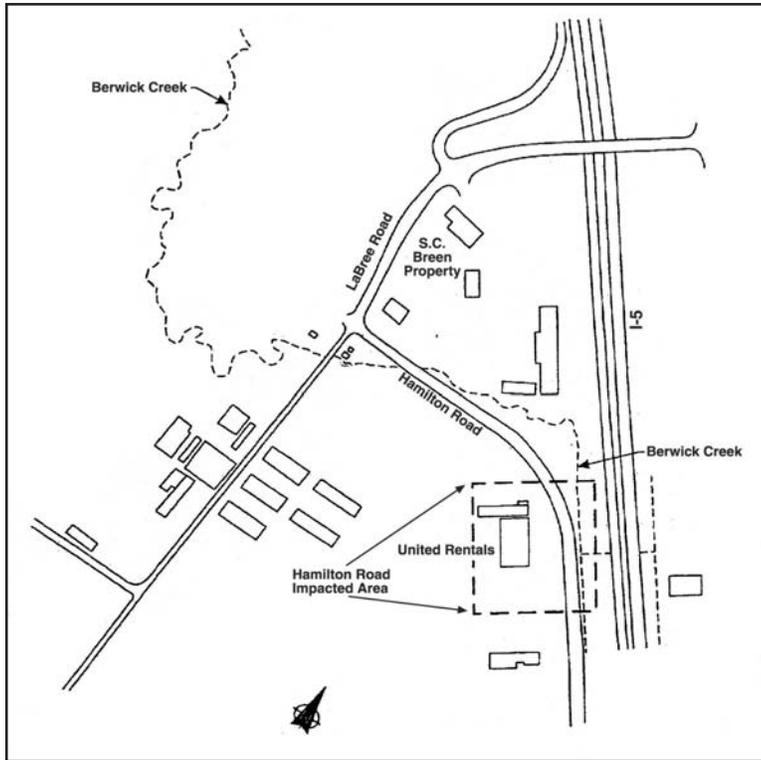
(360) 753-9014

EPA Washington Operations Office

300 Desmond Drive SE, Suite 102

Lacey, WA 98503

If you choose to provide information, you can remain anonymous if you wish.



## What's Happening with the Long-term Cleanup

The S.C. Breen Construction Company this summer asked EPA if Breen could temporarily suspend work on the long-term investigation and analysis of alternatives at the Hamilton-Labree site until Breen could work out some funding issues. EPA agreed to the temporary work stoppage, but plans to meet with Breen soon to discuss resuming and completing the work as soon as possible. EPA expects to issue a draft cleanup plan in the fall of 2005. We will invite your comments at that time. Your thoughts and opinions about the cleanup options are important to us.



## Site History

The Hamilton/Labree site, near the corner of Hamilton and Labree Roads, is about three miles south of Chehalis, WA, along Interstate 5. Two aquifers lie under the site. The shallow one supplies drinking water to 252 local residents and businesses, as well as to three public supply wells that serve about 1,256 people. It is separated from the deep aquifer by about 100 feet of clay.

In 1999, the Washington State Department of Ecology found 64 drums containing PCE and petroleum compounds buried near the present site. The S.C. Breen Construction Company, named a potentially responsible party (PRP) for this part of the site, removed the drums and the contaminated soil around them.

In summer 2000, EPA added the site to its National Priorities List of hazardous waste sites

targeted for cleanup. The site includes the HRIA "hot spot" described on page one, which has contributed most of the contamination.

PCE was found in ten private drinking water wells. In 2002, EPA and the City of Chehalis cooperated to install a new water line for these homes. The city owns, maintains, and operates the water line. EPA continues to test area groundwater to ensure that other drinking water wells are not affected.

The S.C. Breen Construction Company, through its contractor, Farallon Consulting, has been evaluating possible cleanup alternatives for the overall site. EPA is overseeing this work, which is called a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS).

**For More Information**

***About long-term cleanup:***

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EPA toll-free # 1-800-424-4372

***For health-related questions:***

**Marcia Henning** or

**Gary Palcisko**

Washington State Department of Health

Toll free: 1-877-485-7316

***For more information about the site:***

Visit the EPA Region 10 Web page at

<http://www.epa.gov/r10earth>, click on "Index," then "H" for Hamilton Labree.

*[If you have moved recently, please send us your new address.]*



*For people with disabilities, if you have requests for reasonable accommodation, please call Kathleen Veit at 1-800-424-4372. TTY users, please call the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339.*

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CHEHALIS, WASHINGTON  
JANUARY 2005*



## About Tetrachloroethylene (PCE)

PCE is a chemical used for metal degreasing, for dry cleaning, and other industrial processes. It can move easily through air, water, and soils, and may harm people. Exposure to high levels of PCE could cause cancer or such non-cancerous effects as dizziness and difficulty speaking and walking.

PCE shows up in the soils and groundwater at the site. Completion of

the new water line to replace contaminated drinking water wells means that no one is currently being exposed to PCE from the groundwater.

For more information about possible health effects from PCE exposure, go to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Diseases Registry (ATSDR) Web page:

<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts18.html>.