

SUPERFUND

Fact Sheet

HAMILTON/LABREE SITE *Chehalis, Washington*



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

February 2002

New Water Line To Be Installed

EPA will hold a public informational meeting to discuss your concerns about the new water line project planned for the Hamilton/Labree Superfund Site:

Wednesday, March 13

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Lewis County Public Utility District Meeting Room

321 N.W. Pacific Avenue

Chehalis

The water line will serve homes and businesses whose wells are affected by perchloroethylene (PCE). EPA will present the proposed design and schedule for the new water line project. Staff from the Washington Department of Health will discuss their role at the site, and talk about their current health assessment, which will be available at the meeting. After the presentation, staff from both agencies will be available to address your questions and concerns.

About the New Water Line

This summer, EPA will begin to install a new water line to homes and businesses affected by perchloroethylene (PCE)-contaminated groundwater from the site. EPA is planning to finish installing the line in fall 2002. It will provide clean, safe water for domestic use. EPA is working with the city of Chehalis and Lewis County to install the line, which will extend from a city water line on the east side of Interstate 5 to the affected homes and businesses.

EPA proposes to end the water line at 2296 Rice Road. The contaminated groundwater plume is expected to travel to this point in the next five years. Homeowners who will

be hooked up to the new line have been notified by EPA.

In case the contaminated groundwater plume spreads further in the future, the water line will be designed to allow for some additional businesses and residences to be hooked up, if necessary. The proposed water line is designed to accept 40 connections. Currently, the proposed alignment would allow for 19 connections with an additional capacity of 21 connections. As the site enters the long-term cleanup phase, EPA will continue testing private wells for PCE contamination.

We will immediately notify property owners if their wells are contaminated and supply bottled water

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until the proposed water line is hooked up or the groundwater problem is resolved. EPA will continue to provide bottled water to those residences and businesses that have already been receiving it until hookup is completed.

Before beginning construction, EPA will require work easements from all property owners along the proposed water line alignment. We will be careful to protect your personal property

while building the new line. However, it may be necessary to remove some items, such as trees and plants, in order to align the line properly. Any items that are damaged or removed during construction will be restored to their original condition, or replaced in kind. EPA will protect many of the larger trees by building the line so as not to disturb their root systems. We will be working closely with each property owner as construction gets underway.

Additional Details for Properties that Need the New Water Line

- EPA will cover all costs for installing the water line to affected wells, including the cost of the water meter and the city's "hook up" fee. The residents will be responsible for paying future water bills to the city of Chehalis. The average bill for a residence outside the city limits is about \$35 per month.
- If any owners of affected wells choose not to hook up to the new water line at this time, they will be responsible for paying for hookup costs if they decide to receive water from the new line in the future.
- EPA will disconnect all contaminated wells from affected houses and businesses as they are being hooked up to the new water line in order to prevent cross-contamination of the new line. At this time, owners of affected wells may still use them for watering their lawns and gardens. In addition, EPA needs to keep access to the wells to continue gathering samples for the long-term cleanup.
- As we learn more about the contamination and develop final cleanup plans for the site, it is possible that private wells will need to be permanently closed to protect residents' health or to stop movement of the contaminants in the groundwater plume. If it is necessary to permanently close any wells, EPA would work closely with each property owner regarding well closure.
- EPA will stop supplying bottled water when the new water line is completed, since the new water line will provide a permanent, safe water source.
- The city of Chehalis will take over operating and maintaining the water line after EPA builds it and the city approves it.

Tests Results Available

In October 2001, EPA tested several more wells in the area for PCE. Homeowners received their sampling results in late December. In general, the test results show most of the wells tested in October either had no PCE or very low levels of PCE. The wells with higher levels of contamination were those whose owners are already aware of the problem. These well owners have been receiving bottled water.

The results of this field investigation are discussed in the Phase IV Removal Assessment Report. The report is available at the Chehalis Timberland Library and the text portion of the report can be downloaded from the EPA Region 10 web site at <http://www.epa.gov/r10earth>.

First Steps for Long-term Cleanup Study

In October 2001, EPA and the S. C. Breen Construction Company, a potentially responsible party for the site, signed an administrative order on consent. In accordance with this order, Breen will do a comprehensive investigation and evaluation of cleanup alternatives under EPA oversight. This study is called a "Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study" (RI/FS).

This winter, Breen will begin installing some additional monitoring wells at the site and will collect groundwater samples from both new and existing wells, including drinking water wells. Some community members may be asked to grant access to Breen and its contractor, Farallon Consulting, for sampling. This sampling will better define how far the contamination extends, and help develop options for cleanup. EPA will keep the community informed of sampling results. After the initial investigation is completed, EPA will evaluate cleanup alternatives and propose a cleanup approach. At this time, no other potentially responsible parties have been identified. However, EPA may identify others as new information becomes available.

About Perchloroethylene (PCE)

PCE is a chemical commonly used in metal degreasing and cleaning operations, dry cleaning, and other industrial activities. It belongs to a family of chemicals known as "volatile organic compounds" which move easily through the environment and may be harmful to people who are exposed to them. Potential health problems from exposure depend on a variety of things, including how the chemical entered the body, how long and how often a person has been exposed, and how sensitive a person is to its effect. PCE can cause cancer in humans.

Information on potential health effects of PCE can be found on the Agency for Toxic Substances and Diseases Registry (ATSDR) web page: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts18.html>

Site Background

The Hamilton-Labree site is the property near the intersection of Hamilton and Labree Roads. It is about three miles south of Chehalis, Washington, along Interstate 5. An aquifer system, which includes a shallow and a deep aquifer, is underneath the site. The shallow aquifer supplies drinking water to local residents and businesses, and is separated from the deep aquifer by approximately 100 feet of clay. PCE contamination has been found in ten wells to date. Owners of these wells are receiving bottled water, which was first provided by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology). EPA has since taken over supplying bottled water. Ecology and EPA continue to monitor the area.

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The site was listed on EPA's Superfund National Priorities List of hazardous waste sites targeted for cleanup in July 2000. In the summer of 2000, EPA collected soil and groundwater samples to locate the source and extent of the contamination associated with the area south of Hamilton Road, which is contributing to the

pre-existing groundwater contaminant plume. The sampling confirmed high levels of PCE west of Interstate 5, across Hamilton Road from the United Rentals property. EPA plans to address or clean up this source and any other significant sources of PCE contamination that are discovered during the RI/FS.

Contact Information

*For questions about the **new water line project**, please call:*

Bill Longston, Removal Project Manager

at **(206) 553-1679**

E-mail: longston.william@epa.gov

To get more information on the site or find out how to become involved, please call:

Debra Sherbina, Community Involvement Coordinator

at **(206) 553-0247**

E-mail: sherbina.debra@epa.gov

For questions about long-term cleanup of the site, please contact:

Bob Kievit, Remedial Project Manager

at **(360) 753-9014**

E-mail: kievit.bob@epa.gov

You may also reach us through our toll free number: **1-800-424-4372**

EPA's Contractor:

Ecology and Environment, Inc.

Breen's Contractor:

Farallon Consulting

The Washington Department of Health has prepared health consultations on previous Hamilton/Labree area exposures, as well as the lengthier health assessment that will be available at the public meeting. For more information please call **Paul Marchant** at **(360)236-3375**.

EPA's Internet homepage: <http://www.epa.gov/r10earth>

A website has been developed for the Hamilton/Labree site. Go to the EPA Region 10 web page, click on "Index," then "H."

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

**Hamilton/Labree Site
New Water Line Project**

