

SUPERFUND

Fact Sheet

WYCKOFF/EAGLE HARBOR SITE
Bainbridge Island, Washington



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

October 2000

EPA Responds to Community's Questions On Wyckoff Cleanup

On September 21, EPA hosted a Community Information Meeting on Bainbridge Island. Nearly fifty community members came to learn about upcoming construction and cleanup activities at Wyckoff and in Eagle Harbor, and to discuss how the community may be affected. EPA Project Managers gave previews of upcoming site work, listened to community concerns, and answered questions. (A written preview of site activities can be found in EPA's Sept. 2000 Fact Sheet.)

Some questions did not have immediate answers, and some new concerns were raised which EPA had not yet considered. We promised more information on these topics. Each topic is listed below, followed by the additional information.

Sheet Pile Wall Installation: Seismic Monitoring

As described in our previous fact sheet, and during the September 21 meeting, EPA has selected thermal technology for cleanup of contaminated soils and groundwater at the Wyckoff site. The first step in the cleanup process is the installation of a sheet pile wall. The wall will be installed along the shoreline to prevent contamination from moving into the harbor and Puget Sound during thermal treatment. At the same time, a shorter section of sheet pile will be installed upland for testing of the pilot thermal system. The sheet pile wall also will provide long-term containment if any contamination remains on the site after thermal treatment is completed.

The sheet pile has already arrived on site. Installation will begin the first week of November and extend through February 15. Installation will be limited to Monday through Friday, from 8 AM to 5 PM. No installation will occur on weekends, holidays, lunch breaks, or at night. Additional measures, such as sound insulation for the pile driver engine compartment, will also be used

To everyone who attended the Community Information Meeting: Thank You. Project Managers appreciated hearing from you first-hand. The Project Team is committed to keeping community concerns and ideas in the forefront throughout this cleanup.

to minimize noise impacts to the community.

One of the points raised by the community during the meeting was the potential vulnerability of bluff areas near the Wyckoff site during sheet pile wall installation. As indicated during the meeting, EPA will be using a vibratory pile driver as opposed to an impact hammer in order to minimize noise and the time required to install the wall. The vibratory pile driver, however, does vibrate the ground in its vicinity. Based upon pile driving tests conducted last year on the site with the vibratory pile driver, EPA believes that installation of the sheet pile wall will have no impact on surrounding bluffs and slopes. As an extra measure of safety, however, EPA will conduct seismic monitoring both before and during the initial phase of the project to ensure that vibrations extending from the sheet pile installation do not impact surrounding bluffs and slopes.

Deep Aquifer Monitoring

During operations of the steam injection pilot study, EPA will monitor the drinking water wells at Bill Point and at South Eagle Harbor (on Taylor Avenue) to ensure that our cleanup activities will not affect the deep aquifers. We do not expect that there will be any impact to those deep drinking water aquifers. However, we will collect the necessary data to provide that assurance. EPA will also monitor the aquifer immediately below the contaminated aquifer to ensure that contaminants do not migrate below due to our operations.

Coordination with the Fire Department

EPA is very concerned about ensuring the safety of both on-site workers and nearby residents should a fire occur. EPA will develop a health and safety plan, as required by law, for every activity that occurs on-site. Because fuel will be stored on-site for steam injection, EPA will conduct a thorough review of fire safety and will develop a fire prevention plan. This plan will also include provisions for responding to potential fires. EPA will consult with local authorities, including the fire department.

Traffic Concerns at the Property Entrance

EPA is determining the number of trucks that will be entering and leaving the site during the course of the next four months and during construction and operation of the pilot thermal plant. EPA will use this information to coordinate with the city on ways to address the "blind spot" at the corner turn into the site. Some options EPA is considering include posting "truck crossing/slow down" or "construction" signs and/or installing yellow blinking lights to caution drivers.

Barging Contaminants Off-site

During the pilot study, EPA will take the extracted contaminants off-site by truck; however, we will consider taking the contaminants off-site by barge during full-scale operations.

Lights

Lights will be needed during the construction activities during the next four months as well as during construction and operation of the pilot system next year. The lights will have guards to minimize the glare for nearby residents. EPA will also shroud the current lighting system at the treatment plant during construction of the pilot system.

Pilot System Noise Abatement

EPA recognizes and sympathizes with the local community's concerns about noise. We are evaluating ways to minimize noise generated from our pilot study, which is scheduled to begin during the fall 2001. Some noise reduction measures already incorporated into the design include keeping the boiler inside an insulated building, installing mufflers and silencers on equipment units where possible, and keeping equipment well maintained. EPA will also continue to monitor noise levels throughout the pilot study operation and will implement additional noise reduction methods, if necessary.

Water Source for Boiler

EPA has made a final decision to use sewage treatment plant effluent for boiler water. The water will be piped along the harbor floor to the Wyckoff site for use in the cleanup process. EPA recently made this commitment to use the City's clean sewage water as the water source instead of drilling a deep well on-site, to respond to community and City concerns.

Future Public Meeting

In response to community requests, EPA will host another Community Information Meeting next spring, before construction of the pilot treatment system begins. This meeting will be an opportunity for a status report and a chance to "check in" with the community. Stay tuned for more information.



Site Background

EPA listed Wyckoff/Eagle Harbor as a Superfund site in 1987. The former Wyckoff wood treating facility, located at the mouth of Eagle Harbor on Bainbridge Island, operated from the very early 1900's to 1988. Soils and groundwater at the site are severely contaminated with creosote and other wood treatment compounds. An estimated 1 million gallons of creosote product remains in the site's soil and groundwater. These contaminants pose a risk to public health and the environment.

A groundwater extraction and treatment system has been operated on site since 1990. However, contaminants are still moving into the marine environment and only relatively small amounts of contaminants are being removed. In February 2000, EPA selected thermal treatment technologies to clean up remaining soil and groundwater contamination at the site.

In Eagle Harbor, bottom sediments were severely contaminated with chemicals from wood-treating and shipyard operations. The sediments are toxic to marine organisms. A public health advisory is in effect, recommending against eating fish and shellfish harvested from the harbor. Contaminated sediments were capped with clean material in 1994 and again in another location in 1997. The existing cap will be extended this fall.

For More Information

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EPA Web Site:

www.epa.gov/r10earth/
click on "index" at the bottom
click on "W" for Wyckoff

Documents: The Administrative Record is a file that contains all information used by EPA to make decisions on the cleanup actions from the beginning of the site's history. The Administrative Record can be reviewed at the EPA Records Center, 7th Floor, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle. Call 206/553-4494 to make an appointment. Select documents can be viewed at the Information Repository located at the Bainbridge Island Public Library, 1270 Madison Avenue North. If the library does not have the document you need, feel free to call Andrea Lindsay, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, at (206) 553-1896.

Additional services can be made available to persons with disabilities by calling EPA toll-free at 1-800-424-4372.



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