

SUPERFUND

Fact Sheet

COMMENCEMENT BAY SOUTH TACOMA CHANNEL
Tacoma, Washington



U S ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 10

February 2000

Construction is Complete!

The South Tacoma Field Superfund site is a 260-acre parcel located in the southwestern part of the City of Tacoma. Soil at this site was contaminated with lead and other hazardous waste. The contamination posed risks to human health and the environment and needed to be cleaned up.

Contaminated soil from throughout the site has been excavated, solidified and placed in two locations. These areas have been capped with at least one foot of soil and planted with grass. The construction of the soil cleanup remedy is now complete.

Groundwater Contamination is Rapidly Decreasing!

The groundwater beneath the site was contaminated with benzene, toluene and other contaminants. Samples were taken over a two-year period to provide design information for an air sparging and soil vapor extraction system to treat the contaminated groundwater. Results showed that the groundwater contamination has dramatically decreased. Samples for benzene taken at the beginning of this project in 1991 showed contaminant levels at 300 and 480 micrograms per liter. In December 1997 the level was at 9.8 and in March 1998 it was 6.2 micrograms per liter. In 1998, EPA requested that the parties conducting the cleanup set up a monitoring plan. The purpose of the plan was to see if the groundwater is being cleaned up by natural processes. After reviewing the monitoring data for the past year, EPA determined that the groundwater contamination levels continue to decrease. Sampling also showed that the contamination is only found in one location at Pioneer Builder's Supply and it was not moving.

Groundwater Cleanup Remedy has Changed!

Since groundwater contamination has decreased so rapidly, and groundwater cleanup levels should be reached within four years, EPA has decided not to install the air sparging and soil vapor extraction system. A document called an "Explanation of Significant Differences" describing the technical reasons for changing the groundwater remedy can be found at the Information Repositories listed at the end of this fact sheet. Results for all sampling can be found in the Ground Water Monitoring Report for Pioneer Builder's Supply, July 1998. Groundwater will continue to be monitored to track the contamination. In 2003, EPA will review the groundwater data and decide whether any additional treatment is needed.

Background

The South Tacoma Field site had been used for a variety of industrial and commercial purposes for more than 100 years, including a railroad maintenance yard, an airport and a foundry. The site also includes a former swamp and lake bed which has been filled in and covered with grass. A small wetland is also located in this area. Along the western boundary of the site is a channel for storm water entering the site from two City of Tacoma storm water outfalls.

After studying the full extent of contamination and a variety of cleanup options, EPA selected soil excavation, stabilization and capping to address the soil contamination and evaluation of the groundwater to see if further treatment was needed. If necessary, the groundwater treatment would include air sparging and soil vapor extraction. This cleanup decision, which included consideration of public comment, is documented in a Record of Decision (ROD) and is available for public information.

Would you like to meet with EPA staff?

If you are interested in having an informational meeting about the current status of the South Tacoma Field site, or if you have any questions, call **Cami Grandinetti**, EPA Project Manager at 206-553-8696 or **Jeanne O'Dell**, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator at 206-553-6919 or toll free at 1-800-424-4372.

For More Information

Copies of the Explanation of Significant Differences and other documents on this project can be found at:

Tacoma Public Library
1102 Tacoma Avenue South
Northwest Room
Tacoma, Washington 98402

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Sixth Avenue
7th Floor Records Center
Seattle, Washington 98101

You can also find the document at the following web address:

<http://epainotes1.rtpnc.epa.gov:7777/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/Commencement+Bay+South+Tacoma+Channel>

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



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Tacoma, Washington*