

# SUPERFUND

## Fact Sheet

### ALEXANDER FARMS REMOVAL

Benton County, Washington



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 10

FEBRUARY 2000

*In December 1999, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finished removing and treating dinoseb contaminated soil. This fact sheet describes the actions that were taken during the removal.*

### The Removal Activities

- Approximately 12,530 tons of contaminated soil were removed. Of that, approximately 9,000 tons were taken to an approved hazardous waste landfill.
- The more highly contaminated soil (approximately 3,530 tons) was treated on site using a high temperature thermal desorber to incinerate the dinoseb contaminant.
- Two abandoned underground gasoline and diesel storage tanks were emptied to prevent the possibility of future leakage.
- A small number of drums and smaller containers containing hazardous wastes such as flammable and corrosive materials were disposed of at an approved disposal facility.

### The Groundwater

EPA's work focused on removing the contaminated soil above the groundwater level (water table), so that contaminants could not continue to seep down into the groundwater. The work did not directly address the contamination that is still in the groundwater.

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) continues to work with the property owner to address issues of dinoseb contaminated groundwater. If you have any questions about the groundwater contamination, or would like to receive future information, please contact Ecology project manager Tom Mackie at the phone number listed at the end of this fact sheet.

### Background

In April 1998, investigators found soil and groundwater contamination at the Alexander Farms property after two private drinking water wells in the vicinity were identified with high levels of dinoseb, a herbicide banned in 1986. Both of the private wells were properly abandoned. The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) ordered the owner of Alexander Farms to take several immediate actions, including the removal of contaminated soil. While some actions were taken, the contaminated soil was not removed. Ecology became concerned that contamination would continue to be released to the drinking water aquifer below the site and requested assistance from EPA. An aquifer is an underground zone of soil that is saturated with water. This water is often called "groundwater."

EPA evaluated the site and determined that a potential threat to human health and the environment existed from prolonged exposure to contaminated water and immediate action was necessary to minimize that threat. EPA used authorities and funding provided by the federal Superfund law to conduct the necessary immediate cleanup activities.

**For More Information:**

You are encouraged to contact any of the people below if you have questions or concerns about this site:

**Krista Rave** (EPA Community Relations) at 206-553-6686

**Anthony Barber** (EPA On-Scene Coordinator) at 206-553-2136

For Questions on Groundwater, please contact:

**Tom Mackie**, Washington Department of Ecology, at (509) 454-7834

All documents related to this Alexander Farms Removal are available for your review at the Grandview Library, 311 Division Street in Grandview, Washington.

To ensure effective communication with everyone, additional services can be made available to persons with disabilities by contacting EPA toll free at 1-800-424-4372.



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