

# SUPERFUND

## Fact Sheet

MALARKEY ASPHALT COMPANY  
Seattle, Washington



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 10

March 2000

### Cleanup Completed!

*The Port of Seattle recently completed removal activities at the former Malarkey Asphalt site. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) oversaw the work, which included removing approximately 2,000 tons of soil contaminated with PCBs and disposing of it at an approved landfill. Miscellaneous piping and tanks were also removed and disposed off site. The site was backfilled using clean rock and capped with asphalt.*

### Background

The Malarkey Asphalt site is located along the Duwamish River near the intersection of 17th Avenue South and Dallas Avenue South in the South Park area of Seattle. The asphalt roof manufacturing plant operated from approximately 1937 until 1993. In the 1950s, dredged materials believed to contain heavy metals and other contaminants was deposited along the river banks on the site, among other places. In the early 1970s, Malarkey used approximately 1,000 gallons per month of waste oil from Seattle City Light as fuel. The waste oil contained polychlorinated biphenols (PCBs). Sampling results from past site inspections indicated high levels of PCBs in soil, groundwater and sediments. Some abandoned storage tanks and associated piping contained asbestos insulation in a decaying state.

PCBs were widely used as coolants and lubricants in transformers, capacitors and other electrical equipment. PCBs were banned in 1977 because of evidence that PCBs accumulate in the environment and may cause health problems ranging from skin rashes to cancer.

Some cleanup work was conducted between May 1996 and December 1997. The Malarkey Asphalt Company removed all asbestos containing materials and disposed of them off site. Two of the 23 aboveground tanks were cleaned and removed for use elsewhere. The remaining tanks were demolished. Malarkey also removed all scrap metal for recycling or disposal at a landfill.

The Port of Seattle originally owned 50 feet of Duwamish shoreline frontage adjacent to the facility. Last year, the Port of Seattle bought the Malarkey property and negotiated with EPA to conduct the cleanup activities mentioned above.

#### For More Information:

All records about the Malarkey Asphalt Company site are available for your review at the EPA Region 10 Office, Seventh Floor Records Center, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle.

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