

# ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



**Reynolds Metals Superfund Site**

**Troutdale, Oregon**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

May 2006

## Plant Demolition Allows Further Site Cleanup

The Reynolds Metals Company Troutdale facility was closed in 2000 after the company was acquired by Alcoa, Inc. The demolition of the plant began in 2003 and was completed in 2005. The facility demolition also provided the opportunity to complete additional investigation of the area next to and beneath the plant and conduct additional cleanup. The results of the investigation will be used to see if additional steps need to be taken to clean up this newly accessible area.

The demolition provided Reynolds the opportunity to work cooperatively with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to recycle or reuse some materials and remove and dispose of contaminated materials. During demolition of the Reynolds plant, soil and debris contaminated with asbestos, PCB's, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and spent potliner were cleaned up and taken to permitted off-site disposal facilities. In addition, suitable materials such as wood, brick, asphalt, concrete and steel from the demolition were reused or recycled.

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## Groundwater Extraction System Is Operating

Contaminated groundwater under the Reynolds Metals site is being contained and cleaned up by a series of wells that make up a groundwater extraction system. Two new wells were recently installed in the east potliner and scrap yard areas to remove groundwater with high levels of fluoride. Existing production wells are also being operated to limit the further spread of contaminated groundwater. These existing wells were protected and maintained during the closure and dismantling of the facility in 2002.

Now that the entire system is operational, the groundwater is being carefully monitored to make sure that it is effective in containing the contamination. Water pumped from the groundwater extraction system is being discharged to the Columbia River in accordance with the existing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit.

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## Controlling Contamination Sources Is Key to Site Clean Up

Cleanup actions identified in EPA's 2002 Interim Record of Decision for Company Lake, North Landfill, South Landfill and the Scrap Yard are now complete. Contaminated soil and material was excavated from each of these sites and taken to off-site disposal facilities. Cleaning up contaminated soil, debris and other materials at the Reynolds site will help prevent the recontamination of groundwater as well as reducing the risk of direct exposure for people and wildlife.

**Company Lake** was drained in 2003 to provide access to contaminated sludge and waste material on the lake bed. Over the following two years, approximately 4.5 million pounds of fluoride and 122,000 pounds of PAHs were removed. The cleanup of Company Lake was completed in the fall of 2005 with the installation of a soil cap adjacent to the Corps of Engineers dike.

**North Landfill** has been regraded and is now covered with vegetation. Waste material containing over 100,000 pounds of fluoride and more than 12,000 pounds of PAHs was removed from the eastern portion of this former waste disposal area. The western portion of the landfill, which had low levels of contamination, has been covered with a rock and gravel cap.

**South Landfill** has been backfilled with crushed concrete aggregate and regraded. Contaminated soil containing almost 2 million pounds of fluoride and 75,000 pounds of PAHs was removed during 2003 and 2004.

**Scrap Yard** – Waste material containing approximately 938,000 pounds of fluoride and 12,000 pounds of PAHs was removed, completing the removal of contamination in this area that began in 2002.



*Demolition contractors finish up removal and recycling work at the site of the former Reynolds Metals plant.*

## Next Steps

With the start-up operation of the treatment system to control fluoride-contaminated groundwater, EPA and Reynolds are evaluating the groundwater extraction system to make sure it is effective for cleaning up contaminated groundwater.

The post-demolition evaluation, including the remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) and the risk assessment (RA) for the Reynolds site will be complete later this spring. These two reports will provide information on whether any additional cleanup is needed.

Based on the information contained in the RI/FS and risk assessment, EPA will prepare a proposed plan for the site and distribute it for public review and comment. After EPA has considered community input, a final cleanup determination will be issued for the site in a Record of Decision.

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## Background:

The Reynolds site is located twenty miles east of Portland, Oregon, just north of the town of Troutdale. It was built in 1941 to produce aluminum for the United States government. Reynolds bought the facility and assumed operations in the 1940s. The facility operated until 2000 when Reynolds was acquired by Alcoa, Inc. Demolition of the building and other structures at the site took place from 2003 to 2005.

EPA added the Reynolds Metals Company Troutdale site to its National Priorities List in 1994 because waste-disposal areas, soil and groundwater were contaminated as a result of

past waste-handling practices. Early action taken to clean up the property included removal of contamination at the cryolite ponds, east potliner area, PCB and diesel spill areas, bakehouse sumps, and scrap-yard areas.

Between 1994 and 2002, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) investigated contamination at the Reynolds site and analyzed what should be done to clean it up. In a September 2002 Record of Decision, EPA identified an interim remedy for the site and established a cleanup plan for contaminated groundwater.

## For more information

If you would like to learn more about the Reynolds Metals Superfund site, or have your name added to the project mailing list, please contact:

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EPA's website:  
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Gresham Branch, Multnomah County Library,  
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