

# ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



## **Hamilton/LaBree Superfund Site, Chehalis, Washington**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

June 2007

*This summer, contractors for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be taking samples from drinking water wells and other areas at the Hamilton/LaBree Superfund site. Groundwater at this site is contaminated with tetrachloroethene (PCE), a chemical used for metal degreasing, dry cleaning and other industrial processes. This summer's well testing is part of the contamination study that will lead to the final cleanup of the site.*

### **Sampling Neighborhood Wells**

The groundwater at the site is contaminated with PCE, and this contaminated area is known as the plume. About 24 private water-supply wells are located downgradient (“downgradient” is the direction that groundwater flows, similar to “downstream” for surface water) of the PCE plume. All but seven of the properties using these wells were connected to the City of Chehalis municipal water supply in 2002. The seven remaining wells were not contaminated, and the PCE plume was not expected to reach those wells. (See site map of plume location, page 2.)

This summer EPA will be testing the private wells of the seven properties that were not connected to the city water supply in 2002. Based on past testing, EPA does not expect any of these wells to be contaminated with PCE. However, since testing was last done over three years ago, we need to collect more samples to make sure that residents are not drinking contaminated water.

If we find that anyone's well water is contaminated with PCE, we will work with those residents to provide a long-term source of safe water. EPA will also be testing other groundwater wells across the site and taking surface water samples at Dillenbaugh Creek. This summer's testing will help us decide on the appropriate cleanup for the site.

### **Draft Cleanup Study Available**

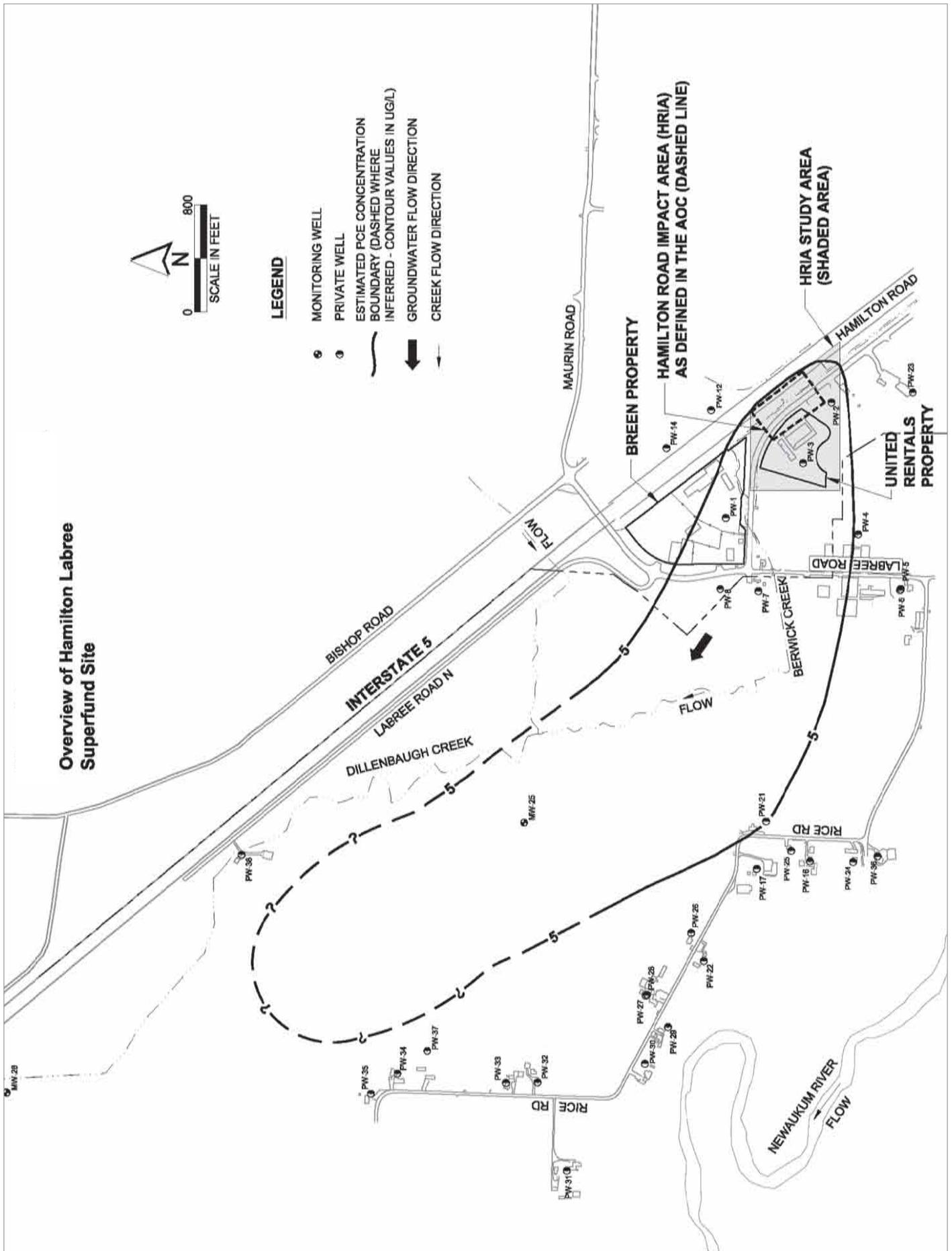
In June 2006, EPA completed a draft Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) to help determine the kind and amount of PCE contamination and possible cleanup options. The draft RI/FS report is available to the public at the information locations listed on page 3 of this fact sheet. The final RI/FS report will be made available for public review and comment after this summer's testing is completed.

### **Past Cleanup**

In 1993 and early 1994, the Washington State Department of Health found six private water supply wells contaminated with PCE. Residents were advised to obtain other sources of drinking water. In 1996, the Washington State Department of Ecology provided bottled water to five of these residences where PCE levels had increased slightly since 1994. In 1999, under a legal agreement between Ecology and the S.C. Breen Construction Company, 72 drums and containers of solvent and 600 tons of PCE and petroleum-contaminated soil were removed from under a building on the Breen property.

In 2000, EPA added this site to its National Priorities List of contaminated sites targeted for investigation and long-term cleanup. From 2000 to 2002, EPA and the City of Chehalis worked

*(continued on page 3)*



**Past Cleanup** *(continued)*

together to install a new public water supply line to residences where private water supply wells were or could be contaminated with PCE. The city owns, maintains and operates the water line. Since then EPA has been studying the site to determine the best cleanup options. This summer's sampling will provide more current information to support our cleanup decisions.

**Background**

The site is located near the corner of Hamilton and LaBree Roads, three miles south of Chehalis, along Interstate 5. Local homes, businesses and the city all draw drinking water from the groundwater in this area. In the past, PCE was released at the site and seeped into surface water, soils, sediment and groundwater. If the PCE contamination is not cleaned up, it will continue to slowly dissolve into Berwick Creek and move through the groundwater.

**About Tetrachloroethene (PCE)**

Other names for tetrachloroethene (PCE) include tetrachloroethylene and perchloroethylene or PERC. Exposure to high PCE levels could cause cancer or illness such as dizziness and difficulty speaking and walking. To learn more about PCE, go to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Diseases Registry webpage at: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts18.html>

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*Alternative formats are available. For reasonable accommodation, please call Suzanne Skadowski at 800-424-4372, x6689. TTY users, please call 800-877-8339.*

The June 2006 draft RI/FS report and other project documents can be viewed at the following locations:

Hamilton/LaBree website:

<http://www.epa.gov/r10earth>

Click on *Index A-Z*, then *H*, then *Hamilton/LaBree*

**Chehalis Timberland Library**

76 N.E. Park St., Chehalis, WA  
360-748-3301

<http://www.trlib.org/chehalis.htm>

*Please call for hours.*

**EPA Region 10**

Superfund Records Center  
1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA  
206-553-4494 or toll free: 800-424-4372

*Please call for an appointment.*



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