

# SUPERFUND

## Fact Sheet

REYNOLDS METALS COMPANY  
Troutdale, OR



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

July 2003

## Reynolds Begins Lake and Landfills Cleanup

*This July, Reynolds Metals Company began cleaning up Company Lake and the north and south landfills at their Troutdale, Oregon facility. Reynolds worked cooperatively with EPA to clean up contamination at several sources and has agreed to clean up these areas under a Unilateral Order issued by EPA.*

### Dry Conditions Aid Cleanup of Company Lake

Reynolds will take advantage of low groundwater to draw down the 14-acre Company Lake and remove contaminated sediments, using backhoes and excavators. A successful trial of the cleanup procedure was done in October 2001. The west thumb of the lake was de-watered, then about 3,300 cubic yards of contaminated process residue were dug up and removed to an off-site disposal facility.

When the Reynolds plant was in operation, storm water and treated wastewater entered the southern end of Company Lake from a discharge pipe. Over many years, plant discharges caused a build up of contaminated process residue, up to four feet deep at the bottom of the lake. Contaminants include fluoride, polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), TPH, cyanide and low levels of PCBs.

Because the lake is outside of the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers dike and in the 10-year flood plain, contamination could spread during a flood. Elevated levels of fluoride are found in shallow and intermediate groundwater beneath and next to Company Lake.

### North Landfill Will Be Cleaned Up

The 2.4-acre north landfill next to Company Lake will also be cleaned up this summer. The north landfill contains carbon waste, refractory brick, demolition waste, solid waste and miscellaneous debris. The landfill is contaminated with fluoride, cyanide, metals, PAHs, TPH, Volatile organic hydrocarbons (VOCs), and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

The landfill is divided by an access road, and eastern portion contains much higher levels of contamination than the western portion. Groundwater under the landfill is also contaminated. Waste and debris will be dug up from the eastern portion of the landfill and taken off site to an approved disposal facility. A rip-rap cover of large rocks will be placed over the western portion of the landfill. The same contractor will cleanup both north landfill and Company Lake.

### South Landfill Work Planned

Contaminated material from the 5.8-acre south landfill will be dug up and taken off site for disposal. The south landfill was used for the plant's general waste disposal before the late 1960s. Contaminants, including fluoride, cyanide, metals, PAH's, PCB's and TPH, migrated to shallow groundwater. The south landfill area may be used to dispose of non-contaminated debris during future demolition of the plant.

### NEXT STEPS

EPA and Reynolds will begin negotiations soon on a Consent Decree to complete the remaining cleanup work required by EPA's 2002 site Record of Decision. The agreement will cover groundwater cleanup and institutional controls for shallow groundwater.

Additional investigation of the plant area is needed to evaluate site conditions after the plant is demolished. A final Record of Decision will document necessary final cleanup actions for the demolished plant area.

**Background:** The Reynolds Metals Company site is located twenty miles east of Portland, Oregon, just north of the town of Troutdale. It was built to produce aluminum for the United States government in 1941. Reynolds acquired the facility in the 1940s and operated it until the plant shut down in 2000.

EPA added the site to its National Priorities List in 1994 because waste-disposal areas, soil and ground-water were contaminated as a result of past waste-handling practices. An Interim Action Record of Decision was issued for the site in September 2002. It required clean up of contamination. Early action taken to clean up the Reynolds Metals Company Superfund site included removal of contamination at the cryolite ponds, east potliner area, PCB and diesel spill areas, bakehouse sumps, and scrap-yard areas.

Reynolds Metals became a wholly owned subsidiary of Alcoa, Inc. in 2000. Alcoa shut down the facility and will begin demolishing the plant buildings and other structures this summer.

**For More Information** about the Reynolds Metals Superfund site, please contact:

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