



Site Assessment For Perchlorate at the North Morrow/Northwestern Umatilla Counties Area

December 2007 Update from USEPA-Region10

Discussions with Local Stakeholders: Two broad-based stakeholder meetings plus smaller meetings with elected officials, health interests, agricultural interests, and military interests were held between June and October of 2007. As a result, EPA revised their next steps to the following four elements:

(1) wait until after the release of the FDA's Total Diet Study in late 2007 to determine if additional produce and/or irrigation water samples from the project area need to be collected and assessed for perchlorate, but meanwhile work with FDA and others to determine the preferred sampling design for collecting milk samples in the area;

(2) assess reverse osmosis units to determine efficacy in removing perchlorate and nitrate;

(3) work with ATSDR, CDC, and other health agencies to design a plan for collecting urine samples to assess total exposure to perchlorate; and

(4) conduct sampling at similar types of areas in Washington and/or Idaho to determine if other agricultural areas within the Region also have these levels of perchlorate in ground water.

Additional details on these four elements can be obtained from Sylvia Kawabata.

Ground Water Sampling for Isotopic Signature Analysis and Soil Core Sampling: Researchers from Texas Tech University and the Dept of Defense contractor, Shaw Environmental, collected samples to help us determine types of sources of the perchlorate

Acronyms:

ATSDR, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
CDC, Centers for Disease Control
EPA, Environmental Protection Agency
FDA, Food and Drug Administration
NWSTF, Naval Weapon Systems Training Facility

and how deep within the soil profile natural deposition of perchlorate could be expected. Samples were collected in mid-June, but results will not be available until early 2008.

Biomonitoring: ATSDR and CDC are working with the inter-agency team to draft a proposal for collecting urine samples from individuals in the project area who fall within the sensitive populations of concern for perchlorate exposure. This part of the overall project will likely not occur until 2009, as numerous clearances are needed before obtaining samples from humans.

Site Visit to the Navy Range: The Navy hosted a site visit of the Boardman Bombing Range (NWSTF-Boardman) for EPA and ODEQ in mid-September. Discussions are continuing about how to obtain more sampling at the Range.

Presentations in the Latter Half of 2007: Sylvia Kawabata gave a presentation at the Hermiston Farm Fair on November 29, 2007.

Other News: The State of California recently adopted a State Drinking Water Standard of 6 ppb (ug/l) for perchlorate. Massachusetts previously set a State Standard of 2 ppb. No other States have set perchlorate standards, nor is there a federal drinking water standard for perchlorate at this time.

ODA, Oregon Department of Agriculture
ODEQ, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
ODHS, Oregon Department of Human Services
OSU-HAREC, Oregon State University – Hermiston Agriculture Research and Education Center

Inter-Agency Team Working on This Project: EPA, ATSDR, ODEQ, ODHS, ODA, OSU-HAREC

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