

# SLIPPERFUND

## Fact Sheet

BOOMSNUB/AIRCO  
Vancouver, Washington



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

March 2001

### **Boomsnub/Airco Update**

**In March 2001, soil removal will start at Boomsnub and adjacent properties.**

**On February 15, 2001, the comment period closed on a proposed removal action at the BOC Gases property.**

*This fact sheet provides the latest information on both site activities.*

### **Boomsnub Soil Removal to Begin.**

Beginning in late March, about 90 to 100 truckloads of contaminated soil will be removed from the Boomsnub property and three adjacent properties. The work will take three to four weeks to complete. While excavation work is underway on the Boomsnub property, EPA will also conduct sampling on two of the three neighboring properties to better determine the extent of excavation needed on those properties. (Data is complete for only one property, at this time). The work will be conducted by EPA's contractor, with oversight from Mike Szerlog, EPA's On-Scene Coordinator. Copies of the pre-final plans, including a detailed schedule, are available for review at the Vancouver Public Library. (See end of this fact sheet for more information)

### **Why are we removing this soil?**

Although over 6,000 tons of chromium-contaminated soil was removed from the Boomsnub property in 1994, EPA has determined that additional soil must be removed to protect groundwater and allow for future industrial uses of the Boomsnub property and three adjacent properties. Soil with chromium levels above 400

parts per million (ppm) and lead above 1000 ppm will be excavated from these properties and shipped off-site for disposal at an EPA-approved facility. Removal areas will be backfilled with clean soil, and revegetated, or paved, to restore them as close as possible to their condition before the excavation.

### **Will the soil removal affect local residents?**

This cleanup should not affect the daily routine of local residents. There will be a few trucks each day moving on and off the property located on N.E. 47th Avenue near 78th Street, moving the contaminated soil to the appropriate disposal facility. You may also see workers' cars parked on the street near the site, and you will see equipment moving around on the affected properties. Equipment may include vacuum trucks, excavators, and dump trucks. Work will take place during daylight hours, from approximately 7:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Erosion and dust control measures will be used to limit uncontrolled movement of contaminated soil from the site.

### **How will the removal affect neighboring businesses?**

EPA will need to move some vehicles on one of the adjacent properties to conduct the soil removal. EPA is working with the property owner and tenant to provide alternate, secure parking for these vehicles and minimize the impact on business activities. Some excavation near a power pole may also be necessary. Depending on the depth of the excavation, it may be necessary to remove the pole, which would involve turning off the power to the Boomsnub and the GL&V Celleco properties. If pole removal is necessary, this activity will occur on a Sunday, so that business at GL&V is not interrupted. Tempo-



rary power would be provided until excavation near the pole is finished and permanent power can be restored.

### **Will the soil removal affect the on-going groundwater extraction /treatment?**

EPA plans to keep the groundwater extraction/treatment system operating during the soil removal. There may be some minimal loss of operating time if power has to be interrupted or if any underground utilities must be removed. Since the extraction/treatment system generally operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, some minimal down time will not affect the control or cleanup of the groundwater contamination.

### **Comment Period Closed on the Proposed BOC Gases Removal Action**

The comment period closed February 15, 2001, on a proposed removal action at the BOC Gases property. EPA's proposed action is to install "in situ" (underground) air stripping with soil vapor extraction to clean up contaminated groundwater and soil beneath the BOC Gases property. EPA received one written comment on the proposed removal action from the Clark County Hazardous Waste Citizen Task Force supporting the proposed cleanup action. EPA met with the Task Force to provide an update on Boomsnub/Airco Site activities, during the comment period.

### **What's next?**

EPA is now reviewing and considering all comments received, including comments received at the Task Force meeting, and will respond to them in a document called a Responsiveness Summary. EPA is also preparing an Action Memorandum which will officially select a final cleanup action. EPA will announce the selection of the removal action in another fact sheet. The Responsiveness Summary and the Action Memorandum will be available for review at the Vancouver Public Library.

After the Action Memorandum is published, EPA will enter into negotiations with BOC Gases to

design and construct the selected removal action. Construction is planned for late summer 2001.

### **For More Information**

If you have any questions or would like more information about the cleanup activities discussed in the fact sheet, please contact the following people:

#### **Information on the Boomsnub soil removal action:**

**Mike Szerlog,**  
On-Scene Coordinator  
206-553-0279 / szerlog.michael@epa.gov

#### **Information on the BOC Gases removal or other site activities:**

**Deb Yamamoto**  
EPA Site Manager  
206-553-7216 / yamamoto.deb@epa.gov

#### **Information on Public Involvement opportunities:**

**Lilibeth Serrano,**  
EPA Community Involvement Coordinator  
serrano-velez.lilibeth@epa.gov  
206-553-1388

or call EPA's toll-free number:  
1-800-424-4372

To review documents relating to activities at the site, you may visit one of the following information repositories:

In Vancouver:

Fort Vancouver Regional Library  
1007 East Mill Plain Boulevard  
(360) 695-1566

In Seattle:

EPA Region 10 Records Center  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Records Center-7th Floor  
(206) 553-4494

*To ensure effective communication with everyone, additional services can be made available to persons with disabilities by contacting one of the numbers listed on page 2.*

## **Background**

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) began investigating the Boomsnub property, the site of a former metal plating facility, in the early 1990's. At that time, high chromium levels were detected in soils and groundwater. To contain the water contamination, Ecology installed a groundwater treatment system to keep the chromium from moving off-site. Upon further investigation, Ecology also identified Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) in the groundwater. These were traced to historical industrial activities on the BOC gases property.

In 1994, EPA demolished the Boomsnub building and removed debris and contaminated soil. As part of this action, EPA installed an upgraded groundwater pump and treat system to more efficiently remove large amounts of chromium and VOCs. This successfully slowed the movement of groundwater contamination. On April 25, 1995, EPA added the entire site to the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL). Chromium has been found in at least 115 of 1,300 NPL sites identified by EPA. Although chromium and VOCs can pose health risks from frequent and/or prolonged exposure, no one is currently exposed to contaminated water from this site. EPA's work is focused on cleaning up soil and groundwater to keep contaminants from moving into the regional water supply.



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