

SUPERFUND

Fact Sheet

BOOMSNUB/BOC GASES Vancouver, Washington



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

DECEMBER 2000

Design work is underway for cleanup actions at two of three contaminated areas at the Boomsnub/Airco site. Cleanup work is scheduled to begin this spring.

This fact sheet summarizes the final cleanup remedy for two of three areas of contaminated soil and groundwater at the "Boomsnub/BOC Gases" Superfund site, and offers the latest information on future activities, including:

- **The final cleanup remedy planned for ground water.**
- **The soil excavation on the Boomsnub property, scheduled for spring 2001.**
- **A new sewer line will be installed, along the railroad right-of-way and Saint Johns Road, to dispose of treated groundwater.**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a Record of Decision (ROD) on February 3, 2000 explaining cleanup actions selected for contaminated soil and ground water at the Boomsnub/BOC Gases Superfund site. EPA made this decision after considering various cleanup alternatives and soliciting public comment on its proposed plan. EPA received two comments supporting the chosen plan and questions related to the technology, cost and effectiveness. EPA responded to all questions and made clarifications in the ROD to address all concerns.

EPA's chosen cleanup method will lower concentrations of the primary pollutants (chromium and volatile organic compounds) and decrease short and long term exposure at the site. The final remedy, when compared to other alternatives under consideration, offers the best balance of protecting human health and the environment,

lowering long and short-term risks, and cost effectiveness.

The site is divided into three operable units: 1) Boomsnub Soil, 2) BOC Gases and 3) Site-Wide Ground Water. The cleanup of one operable unit, the BOC Gases property, is not part of the current ROD and a separate process is underway to address this part of the cleanup. Additional information on the BOC Gases cleanup is provided on page 2.

Summary of the Selected Remedy

The Boomsnub/BOC Gases Superfund Site has both soil and groundwater contamination. The soil and groundwater will be cleaned up using different methods.

Site Groundwater Extraction/Treatment System to be Upgraded.

Currently, groundwater at the site is pumped out of the ground, treated and disposed in the City of Vancouver sanitary sewer, at a rate of about 135 gallons per minute. This system will be expanded and upgraded to treat 200 gallons per minute for the next 30 years. Improving, operating and maintaining the facility for the next 30 years will cost approximately \$18 million. EPA will be entering into negotiations with BOC Gases to complete the design for this work and conduct the long term cleanup.

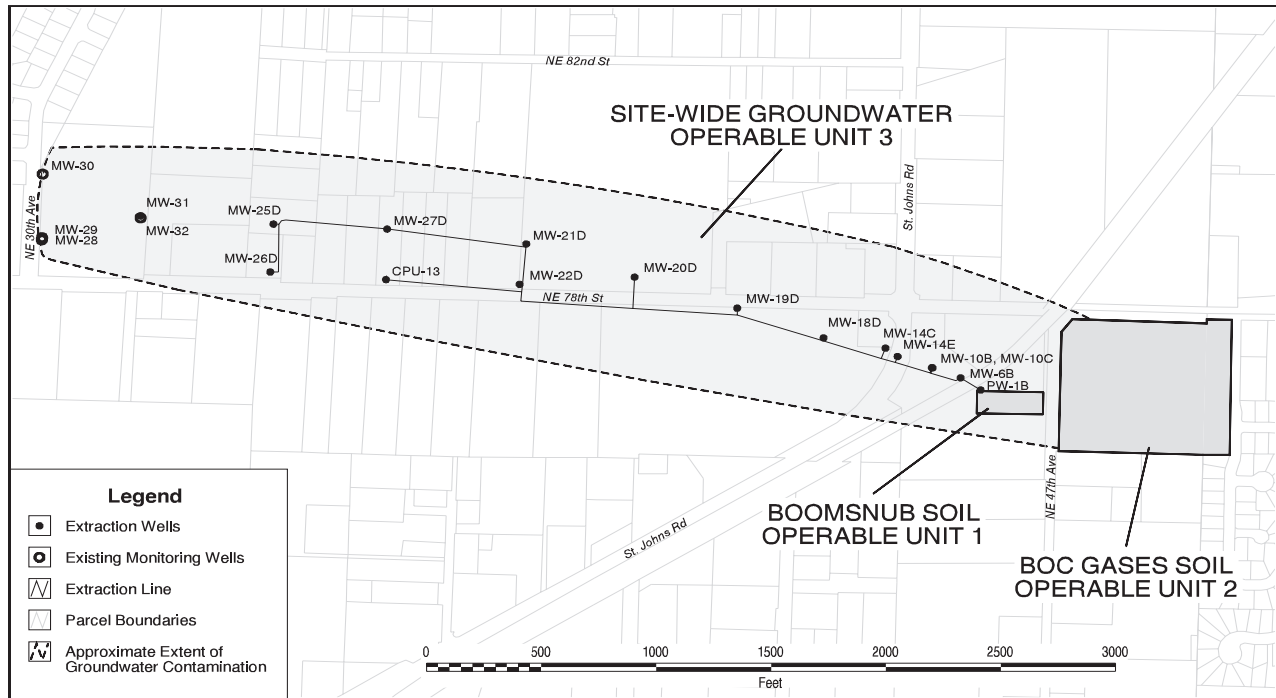


Figure 1. Map of the Boomsnub/BOC Gases site showing the three operable units.

Boomsnub Contaminated Soil to be Removed

Approximately 900 cubic yards (90 truckloads) of chromium-contaminated soil, will be removed from Boomsnub and three adjacent properties. The soil will be taken to an approved facility for treatment and/or disposal. EPA will be working closely with the community to minimize the intrusion of the work on adjacent properties (Boomsnub, GL&V Celleco, Speeds Towing, and the Clark County Railroad). This work may begin as early as later winter or early spring 2001 and is estimated to cost about \$400,000.

A detailed schedule for the soil removal will be available soon after EPA completes the design documents. EPA will continue to send fact sheets to keep you informed about the Boomsnub engineering design and work schedule. All these documents will be available for public review at the Fort Vancouver Regional Library, 1007 East Mill Plain Boulevard and EPA Regional Office, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle this spring.

Other Activities

A new sewer line will be installed to replace the existing line next summer. At this time, the site is discharging treated water to the City of Vancouver's sanitary sewer system. The line, however, is using capacity reserved for future growth of the city. Under the Site permit with the City, EPA will stop using the existing line and a new line will be constructed. BOC Gases will finalize the design, build, own and operate the new line, which will run along Saint Johns Road and the railroad right-of-way.

Cleanup at the BOC Gases Property

BOC (formerly Airco) is an 11-acre industrial gas production facility located at 4715 NE 78th Street. BOC Gases has completed a separate study of the VOC contamination on its property and has identified and evaluated a short list of cleanup alternatives. EPA expects to publish a fact sheet in the next month identifying a preferred cleanup alternative to complement the other cleanup



activities at the Site. At that time, documents supporting the cleanup alternative will be available for your review, and EPA will open 30-day public comment period. After review and consideration of public comments, EPA will select a cleanup remedy for the BOC Gases property.

The ROD and other documents related to decisions and actions at this site can be found at:

Fort Vancouver Regional Library
1007 East Mill Plain Boulevard
Vancouver, WA

EPA Region 10 Records Center
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA

If you have questions or would like more information about the "Boomsnub/BOC Gases" Superfund site, please contact

Deb Yamamoto
EPA Project Manager
(206) 553-7216
Yamamoto.Deb@epa.gov

or

Lilibeth Serrano
EPA, Community Involvement Coordinator
(206) 553-1388
Serrano-Velez.Lilibeth@epa.gov

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

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

Background

The Washington State Department of Ecology began investigation of the Boomsnub property, a metal plating facility, in the early 1990s. At that time, high chromium levels were detected in soils and groundwater. To contain the water contamination, Ecology installed a groundwater treatment system to remove the chromium that was moving off-site. Upon further investigation, Ecology also identified VOCs in the groundwater. These were traced to historical 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 National Priorities List (NPL).

Chromium has been found in at least 115 of 1,3000 NPL sites identified by the Environmental Protection Agency. Chromium and VOCs do pose health risks from frequent and/or prolonged exposure. Fortunately, no one is currently exposed to contaminated water in this community. EPA's activities have been focused on cleaning up soil and groundwater to keep contaminants from moving into the regional water supply.



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Region 10 (ECO-081)
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle WA 98101

PRE-SORTED STD
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
U.S. EPA
Permit No. G-35

SUPERFUND FACT SHEET

BOOMSNUB/BOC GASES
Vancouver, Washington