



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

JUNE 2003

Boomsnub/Airco Superfund Site Gets a Checkup: EPA Plans a Five-Year Review to Evaluate Cleanup Progress

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) performs regular checkups, called Five-Year Reviews, on certain Superfund sites. A review of the Boomsnub/Airco Superfund site is underway. It is an opportunity for EPA to make sure the cleanup continues to protect people and the environment, and a chance for you to tell EPA of any concerns about the site.

EPA Considers Three Basic Questions In A Five-year Review:

- Is the cleanup working as well as expected?
- Have any of the technical guidelines used in designing the cleanup changed?
- Is there any other new information that should be considered?

What Happens After the Review?

The review team will prepare a report that includes background about the site and cleanup, describes the review, and explains the results. Citizens on the mailing list will be notified when the review is done, including how to get copies of the report. If needed, EPA will take additional measures to ensure that the site is still safe.

We will continue to do a review every five years until contamination meets EPA cleanup goals. However, if you see any problems or things that concern you, don't wait for the Five-Year Review: let EPA know right away.

YOU CAN GET INVOLVED !

We welcome your participation during our review.

If you would like to give us your comments

or meet with EPA staff, please contact:

Lee Marshall, 206-553-2723 marshall.lee@epa.gov.

How you can help

Since you are near the site, you may know things that can help the review team decide if the site is still safe. Here are some examples of things to tell EPA about:

- **Unusual activities such as dumping, vandalism or trespassing**
- **Building or land around the site being used in new ways**
- **Unusual odors, standing water or leakage near the groundwater pump-and-treat system components**
- **Effects of contaminants on plants or animals**
- **Ways the cleanup has helped the area**

Background

The Boomsnub/Airco Superfund site is located in Hazel Dell, Washington. Groundwater and soil at the site are contaminated with chromium from the former Boomsnub property and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from the BOC gases facility. In April 1995, the site was placed on the National Priorities List, EPA's roster of the most contaminated sites in the nation.

In 1997, to aid site investigation and cleanup, the site was categorized into three Operable Units (OUs): the Boomsnub Soil OU, the BOC gases OU and the site-wide groundwater OU. In February 2000, EPA published a Record of Decision for the Boomsnub Soil OU and the site-wide groundwater OU.

To summarize the cleanup actions for each operable unit:

Boomsnub Soil Operable Unit: Soils contaminated with hazardous substances have been removed from the site as specified in the 1997 Record of Decision. However, a small area of contaminated soil under the treatment building and surrounding paved areas remains in place

because it is unlikely to contribute very much to groundwater contamination or present a risk to site workers.

Site-wide Groundwater Operable Unit: EPA continues to operate the groundwater pump and treatment system that the Washington Department of Ecology installed in 1994. This system removes chromium and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from groundwater. The system was modified to allow more contaminated groundwater to be treated by the City of Vancouver sanitary treatment system.

These changes have helped to reduce the size of the groundwater contamination plume. The treatment system includes a new gravity sewer line from the site to the city sanitary wastewater collection system, and improvements to valving, piping, and tanks at the treatment plant.

BOC Gases: This summer, to supplement the existing groundwater treatment system, BOC Gases will install an on-site groundwater system to remove VOCs from groundwater.

For more information

You can review documents about the site cleanup during regular business hours at:

Fort Vancouver Regional Library

1007 East Mill Plain Blvd
Vancouver, WA

EPA Records Center

1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA
206-553-4494

Visit EPA's website at: www.epa.gov/r10earth/

Go to B in the index and select Boomsnub/Airco.

If you have questions, please contact:

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For people with disabilities: please call Judy Smith at 503-326-6994 if you have special requests for reasonable accommodations. For TTY users: please call the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 and give the operator Judy Smith's phone number.



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SUPERFUND FACT SHEET

Boomsnub/Airco Site
Gets A Five-Year Review
Vancouver, Washington