Superfund:
EPA Region 10 Highlights for 2002

October 2002

Region 10 Superfund Cleanups Get a Boost

EPA Directs $23.8 Million To Northwest Sites In 2002

In September 2002, EPA announced the release of over $60 million in additional funding for Superfund sites across the country, including almost $5 million in Region 10. This year, a total of $23.8 million has been allotted to Superfund cleanups in Idaho, Oregon and Washington. Below are a few of the key sites in Region 10 that received additional funding in 2002, and a summary of work underway at those sites.

Wyckoff/Eagle Harbor — *Bainbridge Island, Washington*

Wyckoff/Eagle Harbor Benefits from Innovative Approach

This 8-acre former wood treating site received $4.6 million in 2002 to continue with cleanup activities, including testing of an innovative pilot project that uses steam injection to recover wood treating contaminants from soil and groundwater. The pilot system began operating in September 2002, and will continue for 12-14 months on a 1-acre area of the site estimated to contain about 60,000 gallons of creosote and other wood treating compounds. The new system is expected to treat groundwater at a much faster rate than the existing traditional pump-and-treat system. If the pilot is successful, EPA will consider expanding it for the rest of the site.

Boiler for steam injection pilot project arrives on-site at Wyckoff/Eagle Harbor.

More stories inside:

Bunker Hill *Kellogg, Idaho*

Bunker Hill Cleanup Stays On Track with Additional $13 Million

Thanks to nearly $5 million in additional Superfund money, the cleanup of residential properties at the Bunker Hill Site will remain on schedule this year. In past years, the potentially responsible parties (PRPs) funded the cleanup of 200 properties per year. This year, the parties did not fulfill their obligations, so EPA stepped in to fill the gap. The PRPs did agree to clean up 100 residential yards, and EPA will fund cleanup of the remaining 100. This is very good news for people in the communities who have been waiting for their properties to be cleaned up so they can be sure their children are not exposed to unhealthy levels of lead in soil.

The Central Treatment Plant at Bunker Hill – the largest source of metals pollution to the Coeur d'Alene River – also received $4.7 million for upgrades to the aging facility. The plant, which treats acid mine drainage from the Bunker Hill Mine, is greatly in need of repair. The upgrades will ensure that the plant operates without dangerous failures and will increase the storage capacity for untreated mine water.

Another $3.5 million this year went to various other projects at Bunker Hill, including planting more than 90,000 trees across 1,000 acres of affected hillsides, and closing a 260-acre former mine waste impoundment. The money was also used to clean up areas along three miles of McKinley Avenue, the main street through the site. With these cleanups complete, the street was officially returned to the City of Kellogg for reopening – something the local community has been anxiously waiting for.

Contaminated soil was removed and replaced with clean soil at 200 residential yards at Bunker Hill in 2002.

McCormick and Baxter
Portland, Oregon

Barrier Wall Will Protect Willamette River

EPA awarded $4 million to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to build a barrier wall that will prevent creosote contamination at the former McCormick and Baxter wood treating site from entering the Willamette River. The new wall will extend underground and encircle 16 acres of the site containing the most significant sources of groundwater contamination. DEQ, the lead agency for managing cleanup at the site, expects to award a construction contract by December 2002 and complete construction by May 2003.

New work at McCormick & Baxter site will keep contamination out of nearby Willamette River.

Commencement Bay
South Tacoma Channel - Well 12A
Tacoma, Washington

Work Allows City of Tacoma to Tap into Well 12A

Superfund continues to fund operation of the groundwater treatment system for Well 12A at this former oil and solvent recycling site. The success of cleanup actions has allowed the City of Tacoma to reopen Well 12A to supply their municipal water system as needed. The system has removed an estimated 15,700 pounds of contaminants from groundwater since its completion in 1988, and has reduced the concentration of groundwater contamination to virtually "non-detect."

Hamilton/Labree
Chehalis, Washington

New Water Line Will Get Homes and Businesses Off Bottled Water

Workers lift a piece of the new water line into place at Hamilton/Labree site.

EPA expects to complete construction on a new water line by November 2002 that will supply 19 homes and businesses with clean, safe drinking water to replace their existing wells. The wells are contaminated with the industrial solvent perchloroethylene at levels as much as a thousand times higher than the drinking water standard. EPA is currently supplying bottled water to the homes and businesses, and investigations are underway to determine whether other nearby wells may be at risk.

Frontier Hard Chrome
Vancouver, Washington

Cleanup Gets Underway at Frontier Hard Chrome

EPA Region 10 has received money to begin cleanup work at the Frontier Hard Chrome Superfund Site, a former chrome plating operation in Vancouver, Washington. Work is slated to begin in late Fall with the demolition of on-site buildings. The building demolition will allow direct access to soil contaminated with high levels of chromium. Construction of soil and groundwater treatment systems for the site is expected to begin in early 2003.

Superfund Continues to Achieve Milestones at Northwest Sites

Three Sites Deleted From National Priorities List

Three Superfund sites in Region 10 were deleted from the National Priorities List (NPL) of contaminated sites in 2002. The NPL currently includes 71 sites in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. For EPA to consider a site for deletion from the NPL, it must determine that no further cleanup is needed at the site to protect human health and the environment. The following Superfund success stories represent multi-year cleanup efforts that could not have been accomplished without the cooperation of federal, tribal, state and local authorities, as well as local citizens.

Tulalip Landfill

Marysville, Washington

Wetlands Protected Near Former Tribal Landfill

A bird's eye view of the new protective cap at Tulalip landfill

Environmental monitoring at the147-acre former Tulalip Landfill has shown the cleanup remedy to be effective in preventing further contamination of nearby wetlands, and the site has been deleted from the NPL. An estimated four million tons of commercial and industrial waste was put in the unlined landfill between 1964 and1979, which was later found to be seeping contamination into the adjacent wetlands.

The project included construction of a multi-layer protective cap to prevent rainfall from passing through the landfill and carrying contaminants into the wetland areas. The site is located on North Ebey Island within the Tulalip Tribes Indian Reservation, and was added to the NPL in 1995. Monitoring will continue indefinitely to ensure the cap remains effective.

Gould

Portland, Oregon

Heavily Contaminated Site in Portland Reaches Cleanup Goals

The Gould Superfund Site has been deleted from the NPL following an intensive cleanup at the former lead-acid battery recycling and lead smelter site in northwestern Portland. The cleanup addressed potential health concerns by protecting people from direct contact with lead-containing materials, reducing inhalation hazards from airborne lead particles, and ensuring that contamination did not reach groundwater beneath the site.

Final cleanup statistics include the removal of 8,700 cubic yards of sediment from East Doane Lake, and 3,590 cubic yards of battery casings and waste material. A 4.5-acre lined containment facility was constructed on-site and filled with 77,000 cubic yards of contaminated material, the equivalent of over 7,700 typical dump truck loads.

Cleanup at the Gould site was completed in 2002.

Standard Steel and Metals Salvage Yard *Anchorage, Alaska*

PCBs, Lead Concerns Addressed at Metal Salvage Site

A recently completed cleanup at the former Standard Steel and Metals Salvage Yard in Anchorage will protect groundwater and a nearby salmon migratory stream from future contamination from PCBs and lead. The 6-acre site was added to the NPL in 1990 following a series of cleanup actions to address immediate threats to human health and the environment from PCB-contaminated oil and lead acid batteries stored at the site. A more extensive cleanup began in 1998, including solidification and on-site containment of PCB and lead-contaminated soil. The site has been deleted from the NPL.

Construction Completed at Four Northwest Sites

Final construction work will be completed at over 40 Superfund sites across the country in 2002, including four sites in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. Once construction has been completed, the sites are evaluated to ensure the cleanup has achieved the goals set for the site. This milestone represents an important step toward deleting a site from the National Priorities List, and returning the property to productive use in the community.

Old Navy Dump *Manchester, Washington*

Beach Near Former Navy Dump Gets New Life

Cleanup work was completed in September 2002 at the the Old Navy Dump Site, located across Puget Sound from Seattle along the shores of Clam Bay. The beach can now be safely used by people and wildlife, and workers at nearby facilities no longer need to be concerned about being exposed to contamination.

Cleanup of the site was technically challenging due to the sensitive nature of the marine environment, and included construction of a below-ground wall surrounding the dump and a protective cap over its surface. From the 1940s to the 1960s, the Navy used the site to dispose of wastes that contained polychlorinated byphenyls (PCBs), heavy metals, dioxins, petroleum products and asbestos. Waves from Clam Bay eventually eroded a portion of the dump, releasing contaminated debris into the intertidal area and spreading contamination to shellfish and sediments in Clam Bay.

Mica Landfill *Mica, Washington*

Groundwater Cleaner, Wells Protected at Mica Landfill Site

Monitoring results from the Mica Landfill site show general reductions in groundwater contamination and demonstrate that contamination has not spread to nearby drinking water wells. The results are good news for EPA and State site cleanup managers and the nearly 4,000 people who rely on clean water from the 115 domestic wells and two municipal wells located within three miles of the site.

During its operation between 1971 and 1991, the former municipal landfill received as much as 65,000 tons of residential, industrial, construction and sewage wastes per year. Some of these wastes leaked through the unlined landfill and contaminated groundwater beneath the site. Cleanup work included the construction of a protective cap over the landfill, and a system to collect landfill-generated gas.

Fort Wainwright *Fairbanks, Alaska*

Fort Wainwright Cleanup Challenges Technical Staff

Construction of environmental cleanup remedies at the 918,000-acre Fort Wainwright Superfund site in Alaska has been completed. A total of 11 different areas within the site were addressed, many contaminated with a variety of unusual wastes which had been disposed of over many years, such as weapon production and aircraft maintenance wastes. The weather conditions provided unique challenges for site managers to develop soil and groundwater treatment systems that would operate in extreme temperatures of up to 70 degrees below zero.

The site was listed on the National Priorities List in 1990, and included an initial investigation of 77 potential sources of contamination to soil and groundwater. Fort Wainwright is a U.S. military base originally established in 1938 which is currently used to train soldiers in the arctic environment, and to test equipment under arctic conditions.

Teledyne Wah Chang *Millersburg, Oregon*

Wastes Removed from Space Age Metals Manufacturing Site

Construction work associated with cleanup at the Wah Chang Plant (formerly Teledyne Wah Chang) has been completed. The site is an active manufacturing complex that makes zirconium and other space age metals. The cleanup addressed stream sediments that were contaminated with PCBs, and gamma radiation-emitting materials that were historically disposed of on site.

During the cleanup, 100,000 pounds of sludges, 2,600 cubic yards of PCB-contaminated sediments, and 1,800 cubic feet of material with high gamma radiation emissions were excavated and removed from the site. Groundwater treatment systems were installed at eight locations around the site to address contamination resulting from manufacturing spills.

Workers remove PCB-contaminated sediments from Truax Creek at Teledyne Wah Chang site.

For more information:

To find out more about EPA Region 10's Superfund Program, visit us on the web at:

www.epa.gov/r10earth

Or call us toll-free at 1-800-424-4372

If you would like further information on EPA's Superfund Program or the sites in this fact sheet, please contact Kathleen Veit, EPA Community Involvement Manager, at (206) 553-1352, or e-mail at veit.kathleen@epa.gov.