## Boomsnub Airco Superfund Site

SHARP Report — Part 1 of 2

Go to site contamination history

| • SHARP first SHARP | v2024.04.29 | Ecology Info | |
|---|---|---|---|
| • SHARP rating | Low | ERTS | None |
| • SHARP date | 01/29/2025 | CSID | 586 |
| • EJFlagged? | ⃠ - No Override | FSID | 198 |
| • LD confidence level | high | VCP | None |
| • Cleanup milestone | post-cleanup controls & monitoring | UST ID | None |
| • SHARPster | Thomas Praisewater | LUST ID | None |

### This section is blank if this is the first SHARP

| SHARP Media | Scores | Confidence | Additional Factors | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Indoor air | D4 | medium | multiple chemical types | ⃠ |
| Groundwater | C2 | medium | risk to off-site people | ⃠ |
| Surface water | D4 | medium | climate change impacts | ⃠ |
| Sediment | D4 | high | plant/animal tissue data | ⃠ |
| Soil | C1 | medium | | |

### Location and land use info

7608 NE 47TH AVE, 4715 NE 78TH ST, Vancouver, Clark County, 98661

| | |
|---|---|
| Primary parcel | 99631000, 99600000 |
| Land use | industrial |
| Responsible unit | EPA |

### Sources reviewed

2023 Semi-Annual Groundwater Monitoring Report

2022 Annual Report

## Boomsnub Airco Superfund Site

| Primary census tract | Associated census tracts |
|---|---|
| 53011041105 | SHARP it |

### Local demographics comments

no comments

### Source/source area description

The Boomsnub Site (Site) contains two adjacent properties, the former Boomsnub Corporation (Boomsnub) chrome plating facility located at 7608 NE 47th Avenue, and the Messer industrial gas production facility located at 4715 NE 78th Street. Boomsnub and its predecessor company, Pioneer Plating, conducted chrome plating operations at this location from 1967 until 1994. Boomsnub is no longer in business; the Boomsnub property is not owned by Messer. The Messer plant manufactures compressed and liquefied gas products including nitrogen, oxygen, and argon. The plant also stores and distributes other specialty gases such as hydrogen and helium. The facility was built by Air Liquide America Corporation in 1963 and has been in operation since 1964.

### Soil comments

Soil with contamination above clean up levels was left in place underneath and adjacent to buildings and other site structures. EPA and Messer prepared a scope of work to conduct additional chromium investigations of OU-1 soil (the Boomsnub source area) during 2023. Soil borings were advanced in the area to determine the extent of future remedial activities. The GWTS will need to be removed prior to final soil excavation.

### Groundwater comments

no comments

## Surface water comments

no comments

## Sediment comments

no comments

## Indoor air comments

no comments

## Additional factors comments

no comments

## Site history

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In 1987, the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) determined that a plume of chromium-contaminated groundwater was emanating from the Boomsnub facility. While cleanup activities were being conducted at the Boomsnub facility, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were detected in groundwater samples and were suspected to be coming from the Messer property. Messer began investigating the nature and extent of VOCs in 1991. In June 1994, EPA took over the role of lead regulatory agency from Ecology and in April 1995 the Site was placed on the National Priorities List. The primary constituents of concern at the Site are hexavalent chromium and selected VOCs. The primary VOC of concern is trichloroethene (TCE), which serves as an indicator of VOC presence at the Site. The chromium and TCE groundwater contaminant plumes overlapped and were commingled downgradient of the source areas. In the 1990s, the plumes were found to extend approximately 4,400 feet (ft) in a west-northwest direction from the sources.

The Site is divided into three operable units (OUs) to manage cleanup activities: OU-1 (Boomsnub source); OU-2 (BOC [Messer] TCE source); and OU-3 (Site-wide Groundwater). EPA conducted soil removal actions at OU-1 in 1994 and 2001 to remove hexavalent chromium-contaminated soils serving as a source for groundwater contamination. Soil with contamination above clean up levels was left in place underneath and adjacent to buildings and other site structures. Messer has conducted numerous site investigations, a removal action, and operated a VOC source removal system for soil and groundwater on their property.

A Groundwater Treatment System (GWTS) was used to capture and treat Site groundwater. The GWTS began operating in 1990 and was originally constructed along the axis of the chromium plume. The GWTS removed chromium from extracted groundwater using an ion-exchange system and removed VOCs from the extracted groundwater using air stripping with granular activated carbon treatment of the offgases. The GWTS was modified, upgraded, and expanded several times to increase pumping and treatment capacity and capabilities and removal efficiency. The treatment facility is located on the Boomsnub property, while treated groundwater was discharged to an infiltration gallery located on the Messer property. The infiltration gallery was constructed during September and October 2005 and began receiving treated groundwater in February 2006; the treated groundwater was previously discharged to the City sanitary sewer system prior to the construction of the infiltration gallery. The monitoring and extraction well network for the Site is presented on Figure 1-3. With approval from the EPA, the infiltration gallery stopped receiving effluent, and the GWTS system was turned off, drained, and winterized on January 3, 2021. The GWTS will remain in this “mothballed” state unless the EPA or Messer elects to reactivate the system later.

In-situ treatment programs were implemented in 2006, 2018, 2019, and 2020.

In 2008, an investigation identified another plume of VOC contamination in groundwater north of the Boomsnub/Airco Plume (OU-3 plume), in the area around well AMW-18 (EA 2008). This offsite plume is referred to as the Northern Plume. In May 2011, EPA and Messer performed a joint investigation of the Northern Plume area to get a better understanding of the source, extent, and concentrations of VOCs in the plume (EA 2011). A new monitoring well (AMW-64) was installed in February 2012, at the request of the EPA, to monitor the Northern Plume northwest of well AMW-18 (EA 2012). The Northern Plume continues to be monitored, along with the OU-3 plume, to evaluate potential impacts to the Site, and in accordance with an agreement between

## Overflow - Site contamination and cleanup history

No overflow

**Boomsnub Airco Superfund Site**

**SHARP Report — Part 2 of 2**

**586 Boomsnub Airco Superfund Site 20250129**

**First SHARP**

**SHARP rating — Low**

Conceptual site model
01/29/2025

SHARP