SCHWERIN CONCAVES, INC. SITE

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Draft Remedial Investigation (RI) Report Available for Comment

The Washington Department of Ecology has completed a draft Remedial Investigation at the Schwerin Concaves, Inc. Site (Site), approximately four miles north of Highway 12 on Sapolil Road in Walla Walla County, Washington (Fig. 1). The purpose of the investigation was to determine the type, location, and quantity of contamination in soil and groundwater. Contamination is a result of chromium electroplating operations at the Site.

During the remedial investigation, chromium contamination was confirmed in soil in the plating shop and self-propelled shed areas (Fig. 2). These two locations were suspected of being the source of groundwater contamination found in monitoring wells on-site. The contamination in both groundwater and soil exceeded state cleanup levels. Therefore, Ecology began an interim action at the Site. Nearly 3,750 tons of contaminated soil was removed from the plating shop and self-propelled shed areas. This action was necessary to reduce the potential for groundwater contamination and accelerate the protection of human health and the environment.

As part of the remedial investigation, soil and groundwater were evaluated for arsenic, cadmium, chromium, hexavalent chromium, lead and zinc. Initially, groundwater was also evaluated for volatile organic compounds (VOCs). VOCs were not detected in groundwater.

Sampling results indicated chromium is still present in groundwater. Groundwater sampling and monitoring efforts are continuing at the Site. Detailed results of the investigation are presented in the draft RI Report.

Public Comments Invited

Please provide Ecology with your comments on the draft Remedial Investigation Report. **Comments will be accepted from December 27, 2005 through January 26, 2006.** The box at the right indicates where the report may be reviewed and comments sent.

Site Background

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program identified the Site as an orphan site in 2000. A site may be defined as an orphan site when the potentially liable persons (PLPs) are either financially unable or unavailable to

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Para asistencia en Espanol

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Comments Accepted

December 27, 2005 through
January 26, 2006

Document Review

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Walla Walla Public Library
238 East Alder Street
Walla Walla, WA 99362
Hours: Mon & Tues 12-8
Wed 10-8; Thurs, Fri & Sat 10-5

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Website
http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/sites_information.html vaya a la página Web del condado de Walla Walla y haga clik en Schwerin

Comments/Technical Questions

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Public Meetings, Hearings, and Mailing Requests

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If you require this publication in an alternate format, please call Carol Bergin at 509-329-3546.
For persons with a speech or hearing impairment call 711 for relay service or 1-800-833-6388 for TTY

conduct cleanup in an adequate or timely manner. Due to this orphan status, Ecology is using money from the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) Chapter 70.105D RCW to complete the cleanup.

The Site was used as a hard chromium electroplating business. Prior to the electroplating business the Site was used as part of a wheat farming operation. Combine equipment used in farming contained parts called concaves. Concaves were used to separate the wheat from the chaff. These parts were brought to the electroplating facility and plated with chrome to preserve the equipment from wear and tear.

Wastewater from the electroplating process was stored and treated in a tank just north of the plating shop (Fig. 2). Releases from the tank resulted in high levels of hexavalent chromium in soil and groundwater. Chromium has been documented in soil as deep as 24 feet in this area.

Chromium has also been documented in soil in the area previously used to store "self-propelled" equipment. Wastewater and/or wastewater treatment sludge containing chromium was placed in the self-propelled shed area and allowed to evaporate. Soil contamination at this location has been documented as deep as nine feet (Fig. 2).

Additionally, chromium contamination exceeds state cleanup levels at some monitoring wells on-site. However, domestic wells sampled within a one-mile radius of the Site meet drinking water standards.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Ecology will review and respond to all written comments in a Responsiveness Summary. The document will be modified if necessary. The summary will be provided directly to those who comment and will also be available in the document review locations listed in the box on page one.

A feasibility study and related field engineering testing will be conducted to evaluate alternatives for groundwater cleanup.

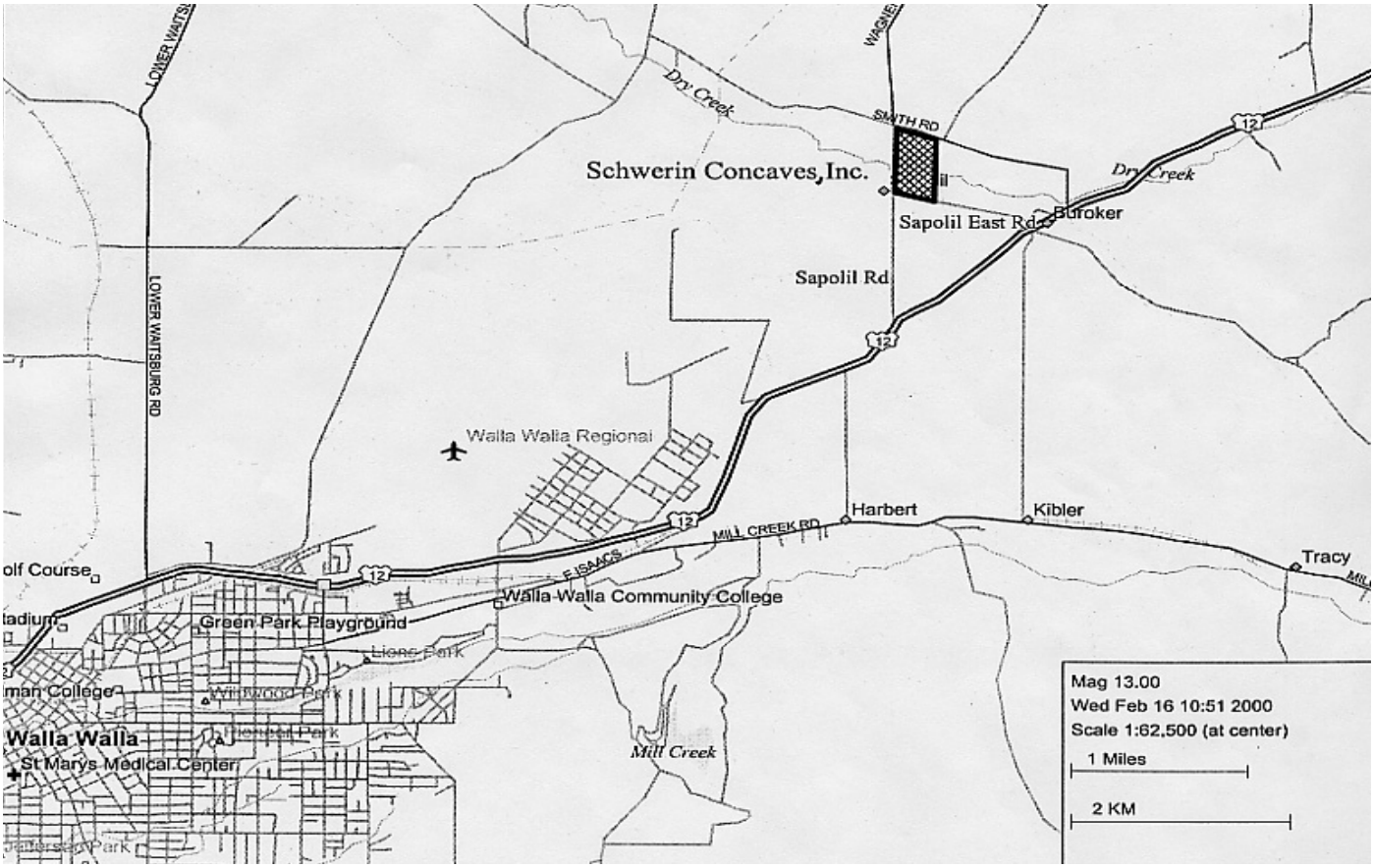
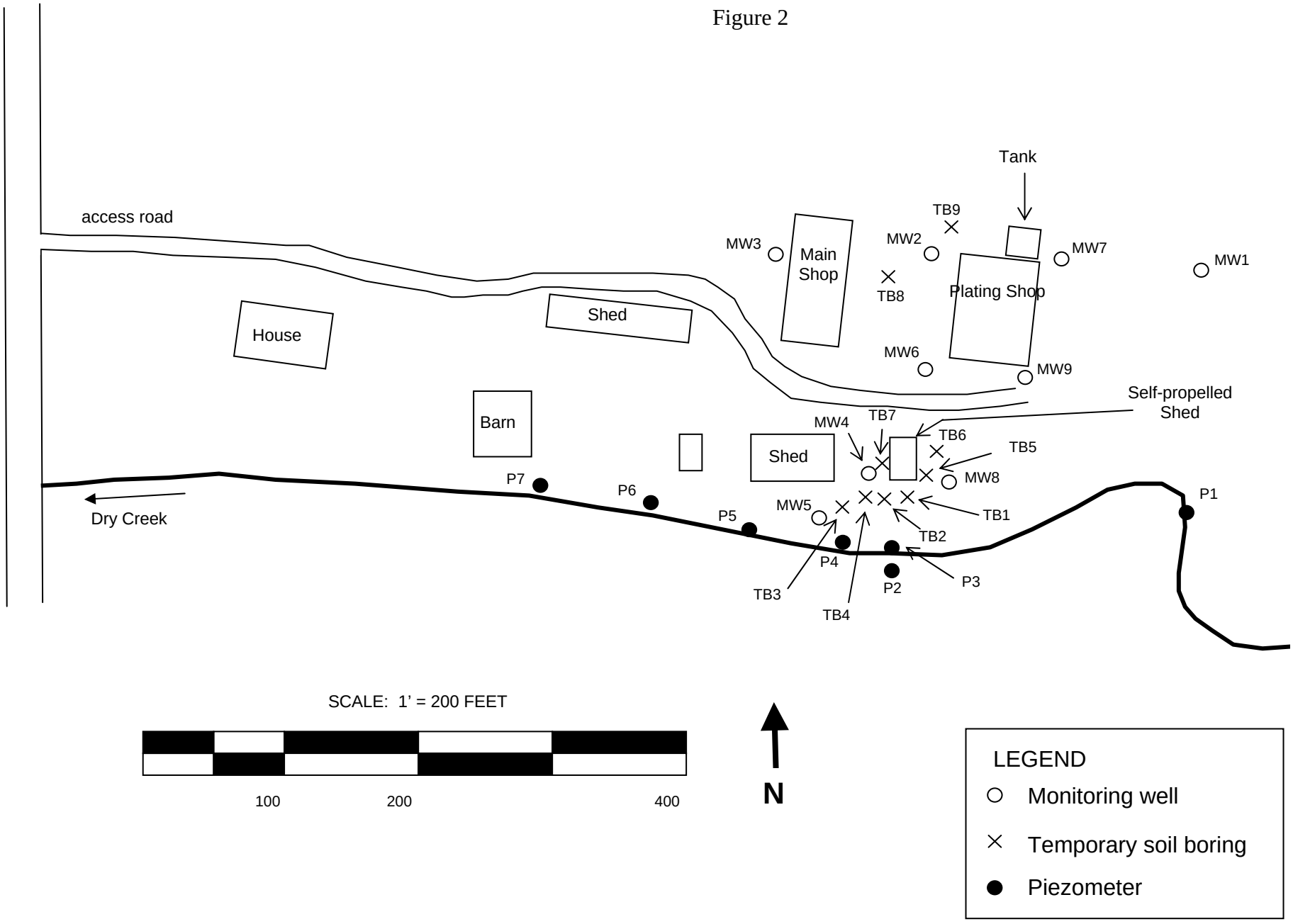


Figure 1

Figure 2


Tank
access road
TB9
MW3
Main Shop
MW2
MW7
MW1
TB8
Plating Shop
House
Shed
MW6
MW9
Self-propelled Shed
Barn
MW4
TB7
TB6
TB5
Shed
MW8
P7
P6
P1
MW5
TB1
Dry Creek
P5
TB2
P4
P3
P2
TB3
TB4
SCALE: 1' = 200 FEET
100
200
400
N
LEGEND
Monitoring well
Temporary soil boring
Piezometer