

# Ferndale HS Transformer Conduits



SHARP Report — Part 1 of 2

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• SHARP first SHARP		v2024.04.29	Ecology Info	
• SHARP rating	Low		ERTS	722598
• SHARP date	02/05/2025		CSID	17283
• EJFlagged?	⊘ - No Override		FSID	96535162
• LD confidence level	low		VCP	none
• Cleanup milestone	initial investigation		UST ID	none
• SHARPster	Hannah Hennig		LUST ID	none

This section is blank if this is the first SHARP

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

## Location and land use info

5830 Golden Eagle Dr, Ferndale, Whatcom County, 98248

Primary parcel 3902200752000000

Land use commercial

Responsible unit NWRO

## Sources reviewed

Remedial Excavation Report, 5830 Golden Eagle Dr. EHS-International, Inc. April 24, 2023.

Primary census tract	Associated census tracts
53073010502	none

Local demographics comments
EJ Screen tool is down at the time of this report completion.

Source/source area description
A transformer conduit line was damaged during excavation activities on the northwest corner of the property in February 2023.

Soil comments
no comments

Groundwater comments
<p>Transoformer fluid that contacted groundwater was removed the same day as the release. Approximately 1,500 gallons of fluid and accumulated water was removed from the excavation. No sheen or other evidence of groundwater impacts were observed at the conclusion of the excavation.</p> <p>Due to short contact time and immiscibility of the fluid with water, groundwater impact is not suspected.</p>

**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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The subject property consists of one irregularly shaped tax parcel (no. 3902200752000000) on 56.21 acres of land. There are multiple Ferndale High School (FHS) buildings located on the property, including some that were demolished for renovation in 2023.

In February 2023, two separate transformer conduit lines were damaged during excavation activities. The releases occurred in the lower northwest corner of the property behind the former FHS cafeteria (Remedial Excavation Report, Figure 2). After the first release was identified on February 17, an industrial hygienist from EHS International, Inc. (EHSI) collected a sample of transformer fluid and had it analyzed for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) as well as diesel- and oil-range total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH-D & -O, respectively). PCBs were not detected in the fluid sample. Results indicated the presence of both TPH-D and TPH-O in the fluid sample, with a non-standard TPH-O result being noted as likely overlap from TPH-D.

The second transformer fluid release occurred on February 24. On the day of the release, environmental technicians responded and vacuumed up the transformer fluid and groundwater that infiltrated into the excavation.

From February 23–27 spilled transformer fluid, accumulated water, and impacted soil were removed for disposal. Approximately 1,510 gallons of transformer fluid and accumulated water were pumped out and transported off site for disposal. Soil was excavated until visual observation and field screening indicated the extent of contamination had been reached. A total of 168.06 tons of impacted soil was removed and disposed of. The excavation pit had a maximum depth of 7 feet below ground surface (bgs) but was generally down to 4 feet bgs. Groundwater was encountered at 5 feet below ground surface (bgs). EHSI noted in the Remedial Excavation Report that no sheen was observed on groundwater and there were no indications of impacts to groundwater at the conclusion of the excavation.

On February 27, 2023, 11 confirmation soil samples were collected at the boundaries of the excavation pit and analyzed for TPH-D and TPH-O. Neither contaminant was detected in any of the final soil samples, indicating that the impacted soil had been successfully cleaned up. Groundwater samples were not collected. EHSI concluded that groundwater impact was not suspected based on the brief period of time that fluid may have been in contact with groundwater, lack of visual indication of impact, and the total volume of fluid and accumulated water that was removed from the excavation.

**Overflow - Site contamination and cleanup history**

The subject property is also associated with listed cleanup site CSID 11247 (NFA-II 6/22/2012), but the release identified in this ERTS is not related to the historical contamination.

## Ferndale HS Transformer Conduits

17283 Ferndale HS Transformer Conduits 20250205

First SHARP

SHARP rating — Low

## SHARP Report — Part 2 of 2

Conceptual site model

02/05/2025



### Assessment scores by environmental medium

