Georgia Pacific West Bellingham

SHARP Report — Part 1 of 2

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SHARP incomplete. SHARP it.	v2024.04.29	Ecology Info	
• SHARP rating	Medium	ERTS	none
• SHARP date	12/26/2023	CSID	2279
• EJFlagged?	✔ – No Override	FSID	14
• LD confidence level	low	VCP	none
• Cleanup milestone	cleanup action plan	UST ID	none
• SHARPster	Jeff Wirtz, copied to new version by Meredith Bee	LUST ID	none

This section is blank if this is the first SHARP

SHARP Media	Scores	Confidence	Additional Factors	
Indoor air	B1	medium	multiple chemical types	✔
Groundwater	C2	high	risk to off-site people	⊘
Surface water	**A2**	medium	climate change impacts	✔
Sediment	D4	high	plant/animal tissue data	⊘
Soil	B1	high		

Location and land use info

300 W Laurel Street, Bellingham, Whatcom County, 98225

Primary parcel	3803300690810000
Land use	industrial
Responsible unit	NWRO

Sources reviewed

2021, Cleanup Action Plan, Ecology
2021, Fact Sheet, Ecology
2018, Feasibility Study, Aspect Consulting
2013, Remedial Investigation, Aspect Consulting

Primary census tract	Associated census tracts
53073000600	none

Local demographics comments

The hazardous substances from this site remained on the census tract where the release occurred.

Source/source area description

The 74-acre Georgia-Pacific West site is located on Bellingham's waterfront. A pulp and tissue mill operated on the Site from 1926 through 2007. In 2005, the Port acquired property within the Site from the Georgia Pacific Corporation.

In 2013, an environmental investigation (Remedial Investigation) of the Site showed contamination in two separate and distinct areas—the Pulp and Tissue Mill Area and Chlor-Alkali Area. Cleanup of the Pulp and Tissue Mill Area was completed in 2016.

Soil comments

Mercury is the primary contaminant of concern. The RI and FS classify soil mercury in three basic forms:

- Visible elemental mercury
- Mercury contained in wastewater settling basin sludge that was treated by the Chemfix process
- All other mercury in soil (e.g., divalent mercury, primarily present as mercury sulfide and dissolved organic matter complexes).

Groundwater comments

The RI and FS identify the following contaminants of concern and impacted media within the Chlor-Alkali RAU: Mercury in soil, soil gas, and groundwater; Elevated groundwater pH; Total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) in soil; Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in soil, soil gas (naphthalene), and groundwater; Miscellaneous metals (arsenic, chromium, copper, and nickel) in groundwater.

Surface water comments

no comments

Sediment comments

Contaminants in sediments were addressed as part of the Whatcom Waterway cleanup project in 2016.

Indoor air comments

The planned cleanup actions include requirements for existing and future buildings to address potential mercury and naphthalene vapors.

Additional factors comments

The RI and FS identify the following contaminants of concern within the Chlor-Alkali RAU: Mercury; Elevated groundwater pH; Total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH); Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs); PAH naphthalene in soil gas; and miscellaneous metals (arsenic, chromium, copper, and nickel).
The site is on Bellingham Bay and subject to sea level rise.

Site history

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A chlor-alkali plant operated in this area from 1965-1999. It used mercury to produce chlorine and sodium hydroxide for use at the pulp & tissue mill. Petroleum was also stored there. As a result, the 36-acre Chlor-Alkali Area contains mercury, high pH (caustic), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and petroleum hydrocarbons at potentially harmful levels.

Over the years, the Georgia-Pacific Corporation and the Port addressed contamination in certain portions of the Chlor-Alkali Area:

- Georgia-Pacific Corporation—In 1976/1977, mercury-contaminated soil was solidified and contained in a 2-acre area. From 1993 through 2002, a number of projects included removal and proper disposal of mercury- and petroleum-contaminated soil.
- Port of Bellingham—In 2013/2014, about 2,300 cubic yards of mercury-contaminated soil with debris and a mercury-contaminated building shell and floor were removed. In 2017, an additional 430 cubic yards of mercury-contaminated soil was removed.

Overflow - Site contamination and cleanup history

No overflow

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2279 Georgia Pacific West Bellingham 20231226

first SHARP/reSHARP = SHARP it

SHARP rating — Medium

Conceptual site model

12/26/2023