

Tacoma Metals



SHARP Report — Part 1 of 2

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• SHARP first SHARP		v2024.04.29	Ecology Info	
• SHARP rating	Medium		ERTS	SHARP it
• SHARP date	09/30/2025		CSID	3910
• EJFlagged?	✓ – No Override		FSID	1257
• LD confidence level	high		VCP	SHARP it
• Cleanup milestone	remedial investigation		UST ID	SHARP it
• SHARPster	John Pearch		LUST ID	SHARP it

This section is blank if this is the first SHARP

SHARP Media	Scores	Confidence	Additional Factors	
Indoor air	D4	low	multiple chemical types	✓
Groundwater	C1	high	risk to off-site people	✓
Surface water	D4	low	climate change impacts	✓
Sediment	D4	low	plant/animal tissue data	⊘
Soil	A1	high		

Location and land use info

1919 E Portland Ave , Tacoma, Pierce County, 98421

Primary parcel 0320032043

Land use undeveloped

Responsible unit SWRO

Sources reviewed

2025, draft Supplemental RI and FS, General Metals RPA, DOF

2025, draft Supplemental RI for IPRPA, AECOM

2020, TCLP Test Results General Metals, DOF

2018, draft Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study, Aspect

2015, Feasibility Study Addendum, B36 Area, AECOM

2012, Revised Groundwater Investigation Summary, Kennedy/Jenks

2007 Supplemental Data Summary REport RI/FS, Kennedy/Jenks (2003 sampling)

2001, RI/FS, Kennedy/Jenks (2000 sampling)

Primary census tract	Associated census tracts
53053060200	SHARP it

Local demographics comments

The Environmental Health Disparities overall score is 10. The Environment Justice (EJ) Flag criterion is not met. A zero was applied to all EJscreen parameters because the EJscreen website was not available at the time of rating.

Source/source area description

The former Tacoma Metals Site is generally located at 1919 Portland Ave in Tacoma, is bounded to the northeast by the USACE levee and Puyallup River (PR) and side channel (PRSC), to the southeast by the Lincoln Avenue Bridge, to the southwest by Portland Avenue East, and to the northwest by industrial development. The site is currently zoned as industrial and was formerly used as a metal recycling facility operated on the General Metals Remedy Performance Area (GMRPA) from the 1950s to 1999 that contained releases from scrap metal recycling facility and a coke plant that operated from 1943 to 1944. The International Paper Remedy Performance Area (IPRPA) included a lumber mill operating from approximately 1900s to 1930s and a creosoting plant operating from 1912 to 1932, producing treated wood products, including pilings and railroad ties.

Soil comments

There is no pavement (physical barrier) along the levee as the shoreline buffer requires this area to be unpaved. The remaining portion of the site is currently paved within the GMRPA and IPRPA.

Groundwater comments

no comments

Surface water comments

The levee separates surface water (Puyallup River) from the rest of the Site.

Sediment comments

EPA and the City of Tacoma conducted investigation and cleanup work during 2005 within the area that is now the Puyallup River Side Channel, prior to development of the new levee and breaching of the old levee.

Indoor air comments

no comments

Additional factors comments

no comments

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Footprint of site includes two remedial performance areas where current remedial investigations include: 1) the General Metals Remedy Performance Area (GMRPA) and 2) the International Paper Remedy Performance Area (IPRPA). The GMRPA included previous metal recycling facility and coke plant. The GMRPA experienced numerous spills and releases of chemicals from various facility operations. Metal facility operations (1950s to 1999) included release of metals from cuttings, shredding and bundling of aluminum cans, scrap metal, car parts; releases of PCBs from electrical transformers and electric motors; releases of hydraulic oil from a historic metal shear. Releases of coal tar are from the coke plant, which operated from 1943 to 1944. Site soils are contaminated with metals (primarily lead), Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), and total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH)– diesel range organics (DRO) + residual oil range organics (ORO) and total polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (cPAH). Multiple investigations were conducted between 2000 and 2022 within the GMRPA. The 2025 draft RI for the GMRPA included soils sampling from 75 soil test pits at various depths (0 to 10 feet deep) and previous soil sampling investigations with lead, PCBs and TPH-Dx all exceeded Soil Method A Industrial cleanup levels (CULs). Additionally, lead is co-located with other total metal exceedances in the upper 6 feet of soil. Petroleum contamination is near the hydraulic shear oil spill and other various locations throughout the site.

Groundwater was sampled in 34 monitoring wells associated with GMRPA remedial investigations in 2000 through 2003, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2016, which exceeded groundwater cleanup levels for TPH and exceeded at least once for metals at various wells including: total cadmium, total copper, total lead, total mercury and total selenium. Subsequent sampling confirmed all these total metals and dissolved metals to be below cleanup levels.

The International Paper Remedy Performance Area (IPRPA) contains a former coal gas storage vessel, a creosoting plant which housed a 130-foot treatment retort and a 1,500-gallon above ground storage tank (AST), and two separate ASTs (102,000-gallon and 450,000-gallon). The main Creosoting plant was located in the northwestern portion of the Tacoma Metals parcels (referred to as the Creosoting plant area), and the two large ASTs were located on the former Simpson property.

Multiple investigations were conducted between 2000 and 2024 within IPRPA that included: 94 soil borings, 25 monitoring wells, 15 test pits, 3 temporary piezometers and 6 grab groundwater sampling locations.

The IPRPA experienced numerous spills and releases of creosote and petroleum. Site soils are contaminated with TPH as DRO/ORO, cPAHs, and total naphthalene's above site soil CULs at depths between 20 and 32 feet below ground surface (bgs). Groundwater is also intermittently contaminated with cPAHs and naphthalene. The extent of dense non-aqueous phase liquid (DNAPL) was estimated using a screening survey known as Tar-specific Green Optical Screening Tool (TarGOST®) technology. TPH and BTEX are used as indicator analytes for potential creosote impacts in the vicinity of the former creosoting plant. Both TPH and BTEX exceedances in soil are generally co-located with cPAH exceedances. Concentrations of TPH (ORO + DRO) and VOCs in groundwater exceeding respective screening levels were detected in the same general areas as cPAHs. Metals contamination is generally not associated with the historical creosoting activities. Note: A portion of the IPRPA overlaps with the GMRPA. Groundwater gradients for both the IPRPA and GMRPA are generally influenced by tidal fluctuations and various stages in the Puyallup River.

Overflow - Site contamination and cleanup history

Primary Parcel 8950000390 is owned by DNR and is primarily within GMRPA with some IPRPA on NW corner. Parcel 0320032043 and 8950000352 are owned by DNR and within GMRPA. Parcel 8950000402 is owned by International Paper and apart of the IPRPA that is the former Simpson Property Parcel 0320032013 s owned by JJ Port Property LLC and contains part of the IPRPA. IPRPA also within the City of Tacoma 18th St Right-of-way.

SHARP rating — Medium

09/30/2025



Assessment scores by environmental medium

The illustration shows a rural landscape with various environmental media and their corresponding assessment scores:

- Indoor air:** D4, low confidence (inside the house)
- Soil:** A1, high confidence (in the garden)
- Groundwater:** C1, high confidence (under the garden)
- Surface water:** D4, low confidence (in the river)
- Sediment:** D4, low confidence (at the bottom of the river)

The landscape includes a house, a cow, a garden, a river, mountains, and various animals like a bird, a fish, and a crab.