

Columbia Gorge Aluminum

Site Hazard Assessment and Ranking Process (SHARP) Report

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Location and land use info	Ecology Info
85 John Day Dam Rd, Goldendale, Klickitat County, 98620	CSID 11797
Land use industrial	FSID 95415874
Responsible unit Industrial	VCP none
Cleanup milestone remedial investigation	ERTS none
Parcel numbers SHARP it	UST ID 2954
	LUST ID none

SHARP Results	
Assessed by Dave Johnson	 SHARP Rating: High Site Points: 522
SHARP Date 08/25/2026	
Environmental justice concerns? EJFlag - Default overridden	
EJ confidence level low	

SHARP Media	Scores	Confidence	Additional Factors	
Indoor air	D4	high	multiple chemical types	no
Groundwater	C1	high	risk to off-site people	no
Surface water	A3	high	climate change impacts	yes
Sediment	D4	high	plant/animal tissue data	yes
Soil	A1	high		

Media score = exposure and severity. Exposure score: A to D, A=current exposure. Severity score, 1 is the most severe. See <https://ecology.wa.gov/SHARP> for more information.

This section is blank if this is the first SHARP

Sources reviewed

Primary census tract	Associated census tracts
53039950103	53039950102, 53039950101

Local demographics comments

Override no-default EJ Flag: site is in a Tribal Census Tract.

Source/source area description

Located at 85 John Day Dam road in Goldendale, next to the Columbia River, the Columbia Gorge Aluminum aluminum smelter operated under various owners until it closed in 2003. Starting in 1980, owners managed hazardous and solid waste at several locations on the site. The facility was added to the Hazardous Sites list in 1990.

Soil comments

Columbia River sediment was not brought forward into the feasibility study based on remedial investigation data.

Groundwater comments

no comments

Surface water comments

Columbia river ecological receptors are not impacted based on site data.

Sediment comments

On site wetlands and associated sediment do not fit 6 week inundation criteria.

Indoor air comments

no comments

Additional factors comments

no comments

Site history

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The Columbia Gorge Aluminum smelter was constructed in or around 1969-70 on a site north of the Columbia River. Aluminum and aluminum products were produced at the smelter for nearly 30 years. The smelter is located 17 miles southeast of Goldendale, Washington, one mile north of the John Day Dam on the Columbia River in Klickitat County, Washington. This 350 acre area is zoned industrial and the land use will likely remain industrial in the future. The contiguous smelter facility consists of 7,000 acres of which approximately 350 acres were in active use. The smelter is also within a treaty usual and accustomed area of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and adjacent to the North Shore Treaty Fishing Access Site (TFAS). Enrolled Yakama tribal members exercise treaty reserved fishing rights for ceremonial, subsistence, and commercial purposes from numerous traditional platforms on the Washington shore of the Columbia River within a mile of the smelter site, and also on the Oregon shore within two miles of the site. The TFAS, a boat launch area owned by the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), is situated approximately one half mile from the smelter on the Washington shore upstream from John Day Dam. This TFAS was established by the Corps as an Indian reservation following the 1988 signing of Public Law 100-581, Title IV—Columbia River Treaty Access Sites. Pursuant to 25 CFR Part 247, the TFAS is operated and maintained under the exclusive regulatory jurisdiction of the Yakama Nation and the United States. Fisheries in this area of the main stem Columbia River (designated “Zone 6”) are currently co-managed by the Yakama Nation and the states of Washington and Oregon under the 2008 U.S. v. Oregon Management Agreement.

Overflow - Site contamination and cleanup history

No overflow

SHARP rating — High

08/25/2026



Assessment scores by environmental medium

D4 indoor air
high confidence

A1 soil
high confidence

C1 groundwater
high confidence

A3 surface water
high confidence

D4 sediment
high confidence