Emerald Kalama Chemical

Site Hazard Assessment and Ranking Process (SHARP) Report

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY State of Washington

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Location and land use info		Ecology Info	
1296 NW 3rd St, Kalama, Cowlitz County, 98625		CSID	3686
		FSID	1082
Land use	industrial	VCP	none
Responsible unit	Industrial	ERTS	none
Cleanup milestone	cleanup implementation	UST ID	4200
Parcel numbers	SHARP it	LUST ID	none

SHARP Results

Assessed by	Lyddie Austin
SHARP Date	09/08/2026
Environmental justice concerns?	No EJFlag - No Override
EJ confidence level	low



SHARP Rating: Medium

Site Points: 900

SHARP Media	Scores	Confidence	Additional Factors	
Indoor air	B2	low	multiple chemical types	yes
Groundwater	C2	low	risk to off-site people	no
Surface water	D4	low	climate change impacts	yes
Sediment	B1	low	plant/animal tissue data	yes
Soil	B2	low		

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
53015001601	53015001602, 53015980000, 53015001700

Local demographics comments

no comments

Source/source area description

Currently owned by LANXESS, Emerald Kalama Chemical (Emerald) is an organic chemical plant that has operated along the Columbia River in Kalama since 1962. The facility processes toluene into chemical products used as flavorings and preservatives in foods and beverages and as additives in pharmaceuticals, fragrances, surfactants, plasticizers, and other consumer products. The manufacturing plant consists of 40 acres and the remaining 125 acres of the site is wetland.

Soil comments

no comments

Groundwater comments

no comments

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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There have been a number of historical releases at the facility. Site investigations found releases of hazardous substances to the soil and groundwater under the plant.
Releases in the west area next to the Columbia River came from the former tar residue area, transfer sump, and west tank farm.
Releases in the central area were from the facility's sewer system.
Contamination in the groundwater flows north toward the wetland and west toward the river.
In the 1990s, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the facility entered into an Agreed Order under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) requiring the facility to complete a RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI), a corrective measures study, and an interim corrective measures evaluation to address the contamination.

In the RFI, the facility was divided into different areas where interim corrective measures (ICMs) were designed to address releases of contaminants into groundwater. These included two interceptor trenches, a soil vapor extraction system, and a recovery well network to prevent contamination from reaching the wetland and Columbia River.

Under a 2008 Consent Decree with Ecology, Emerald also installed an oxygen diffusion system to enhance biodegradation of contamination in groundwater.

While still operating, Emerald continues to perform cleanup remedies and groundwater monitoring. Because contamination remains at the facility, an environmental covenant prohibits activities that may interfere with the cleanup action or monitoring.

Overflow - Site contamination and cleanup history

No overflow

Emerald Kalama Chemical

3686 Emerald Kalama Chemical 20260908
First SHARP
SHARP rating — Medium

SHARP Report — Part 2 of 2

Conceptual site model
09/08/2026

SHARP

