

Progress Continues at Pasco Sanitary Landfill Site

The Washington State Department of Ecology continues to work with several parties, known as Potentially Liable Persons (PLPs), to clean up soil and groundwater contamination at the Pasco Sanitary Landfill site. The landfill property covers nearly 250 acres and is located about 1.5 miles northeast of the city of Pasco, Franklin County, Washington. The landfill is on Dietrich Road by the intersection of Kahlotus Road with U.S. Highway 12 (see Figures 1 and 2).

Several chemicals associated with the wastes disposed at the landfill have been detected in soil and groundwater. Contamination in groundwater under the landfill forms what is called a plume. The plume extends nearly 1.5 miles beyond the landfill's southern boundary. The size of the plume decreased between 1996 and 2006 as a result of on-site cleanup efforts (see Figures 1 and 2). The current size of the plume is similar to the 2006 Figure 2.

Site contamination includes volatile and semivolatile organic compounds, metals, herbicides, pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls, and other materials. For additional site background, please see page 3.

Protecting the Public

Since 1996 several actions have been taken to protect the public from site-related contamination. Work included:

- Providing bottled water and Pasco municipal water to residents whose drinking water wells may have been impacted by the site.
- Sampling residential wells near the site to see if the water showed evidence of contamination.
- Creating a groundwater protection area that includes the plume boundaries, limiting well water use, and annually surveying the affected public.

Is My Drinking Water Safe?

The City of Pasco municipal water supply is not affected by the Pasco Sanitary Landfill. Residents who live near the site are on the City's municipal water supply system. Use of well water within the groundwater protection area is restricted (see Figure 3). If you have a well in this area and have questions or are concerned about where your drinking water comes from, please contact Rick Dawson of the Benton Franklin Health District at 509/460-4313.

Update November 2009

Para asistencia en Español

Richelle Perez 360/407-6971

Если вам нужно помощь по русский, звоните

Tatyana Bistrevsky 509/928-7617

Submit Comments/Technical Questions

Chuck Gruenenfelder

WA Department of Ecology

4601 N. Monroe St.

Spokane WA 99205-1295

Phone: 509/329-3439

e-mail: chgr461@ecy.wa.gov

Public Involvement Questions

Carol Bergin

WA Department of Ecology

4601 N. Monroe St.

Spokane, WA 99205-1295

Phone: 509/329-3546

e-mail: cabe461@ecy.wa.gov

Locations to Review Documents

This fact sheet is an update and does not have formal documents associated with a public comment period.

WA Department of Ecology

Kari Johnson, Public Disclosure

WA Department of Ecology

4601 N. Monroe St.

Spokane, WA 99205-1295

Call for an appointment

509/329-3415

Mid Columbia Library

1320 West Hopkins Street

Pasco, WA 99301-5097

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Website:

[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/
tcp/sites/pasco/pasco_if_home.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/pasco/pasco_if_home.html)

Facility Site ID No. 575

More Steps Taken to Improve Soil and Groundwater

Many studies, extensive monitoring, and cleanup activities occurred at the site between 1983 and 2007. These studies and monitoring efforts provided information about the amount, type, and location of the contamination. In response to these findings, early actions were taken to minimize the release of hazardous substances from the site. Some of these actions included:

- Removing nearly 5,500 cubic yards of herbicide waste buried in drums from the Zone B section of the landfill (see Figure 4).
- Installing treatment systems for soil and groundwater at the landfill.
- Placing protective covers over specific landfill areas.

- No longer accepting waste at any of the landfill areas.
- Routinely monitoring groundwater quality, both on and off-site, throughout the plume.
- Providing ongoing maintenance and improvements to treatment system operations.
- Installing a landfill gas collection system at the Former Municipal Landfill.

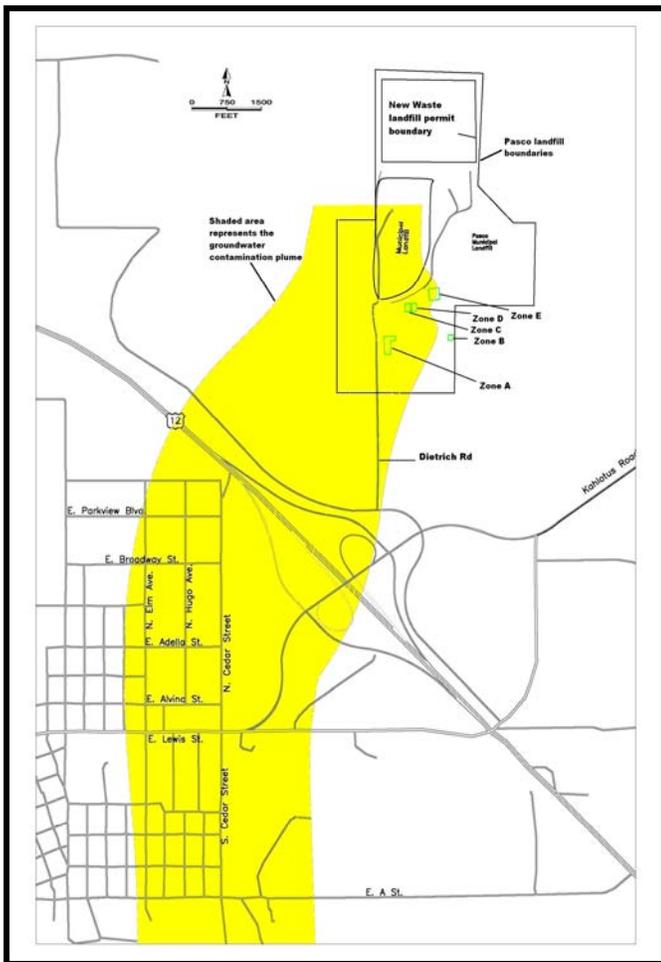


Figure 1
Groundwater Contamination Plume
4th Quarter 1996

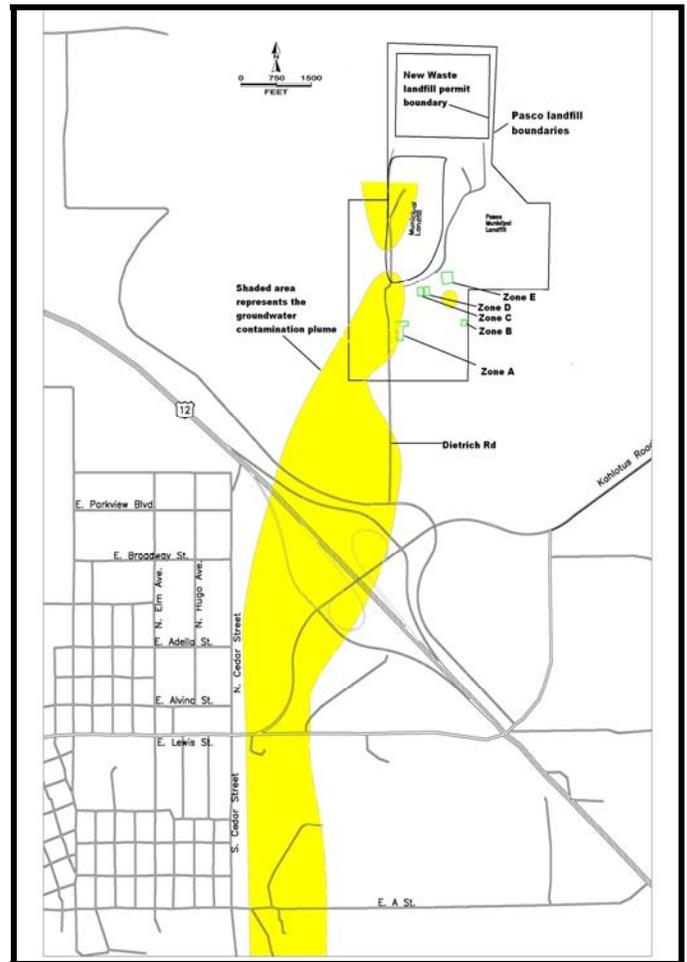


Figure 2
Groundwater Contamination Plume
4th Quarter 2006

Results of Phase I Indicated More Information Needed

The PLPs presented a report at the beginning of 2007. The report evaluated the performance of interim actions taken at the site. Ecology determined more information was necessary before a Draft Cleanup Action Plan (DCAP) could be developed. The DCAP document will describe the preferred alternative for cleanup and how the cleanup actions and associated monitoring will be performed. The public will be invited to review and comment on the DCAP during a 30-day public comment period. After consideration of comments, the DCAP will become final.

In 2008, Ecology approved a Work Plan prepared by the PLPs that outlined additional interim action work. Field studies, cleanup system improvements and monitoring were conducted during the summer and fall of 2008. Results from this additional work are presented in the “2008 Annual Report of Groundwater Monitoring and Phase I of Additional Interim Actions” (AIAs).

The findings in the 2008 Phase I report indicate improvements would make the Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) system used in Zone A more efficient. The SVE system is designed to reduce volatile organic compounds in soil so they do not reach the groundwater. The current SVE system has been in use since 1997.

A treatment system also was installed in 1997 to remove volatile organic compounds in the groundwater near Zone A. This system did not perform as expected and operation was discontinued in September 2008.

As a result of the Phase I findings, Ecology and the PLPs agree that a Phase II of interim actions is necessary. The Phase II Additional Interim Actions (AIAs) will expand the current SVE system. The Phase II actions also will provide more information about the interaction between the current system, soil, and groundwater. Information from the Remedial Investigation, Feasibility Study, and Phase I and II Interim Actions will be used to develop the DCAP.

What Happens Next?

Ecology will provide another fact sheet in the future outlining the proposed work to be completed during the Phase II AIAs and further assessment of contaminants at the site. The primary focus of the Phase II Interim Actions is on the Zone A portion of the landfill. Planning documents associated with the Phase II AIAs will be completed toward the end of 2009.

Additional Background and History

The landfill operated as an open burn facility from 1958 through 1971 and was permitted to receive various household, commercial and industrial wastes. The landfill is divided into three main sections that received the various types of wastes (see Figure 4). The New Waste Landfill received general garbage until closure in 2001. The Former Municipal Landfill received household and commercial garbage until 1993. Between 1972 and 1974, the Industrial Waste Disposal Area accepted over 35,000 drums and several tons of bulk liquids, septic tank waste, sewage sludges and animal fat emulsions.

The Industrial Waste Disposal Area is divided into five zones.

- Zone A contains nearly 35,000 55-gallon drums. Drums contain solvent and paint sludges, cleaners, and other industrial waste.
- Zone B stored nearly 5,000 drums of herbicide-manufacturing waste. Zone B drums were removed in 2002.
- Zones C and D contain nearly 3,000,000 gallons of plywood resin waste, wood treatment and preservative waste, lime sludge, cutting oils, paint, paint solvent waste, and other bulk liquid waste.
- Zone E contains about 11,000 tons of chlor-alkali waste from the production of chlorine gas and caustic.



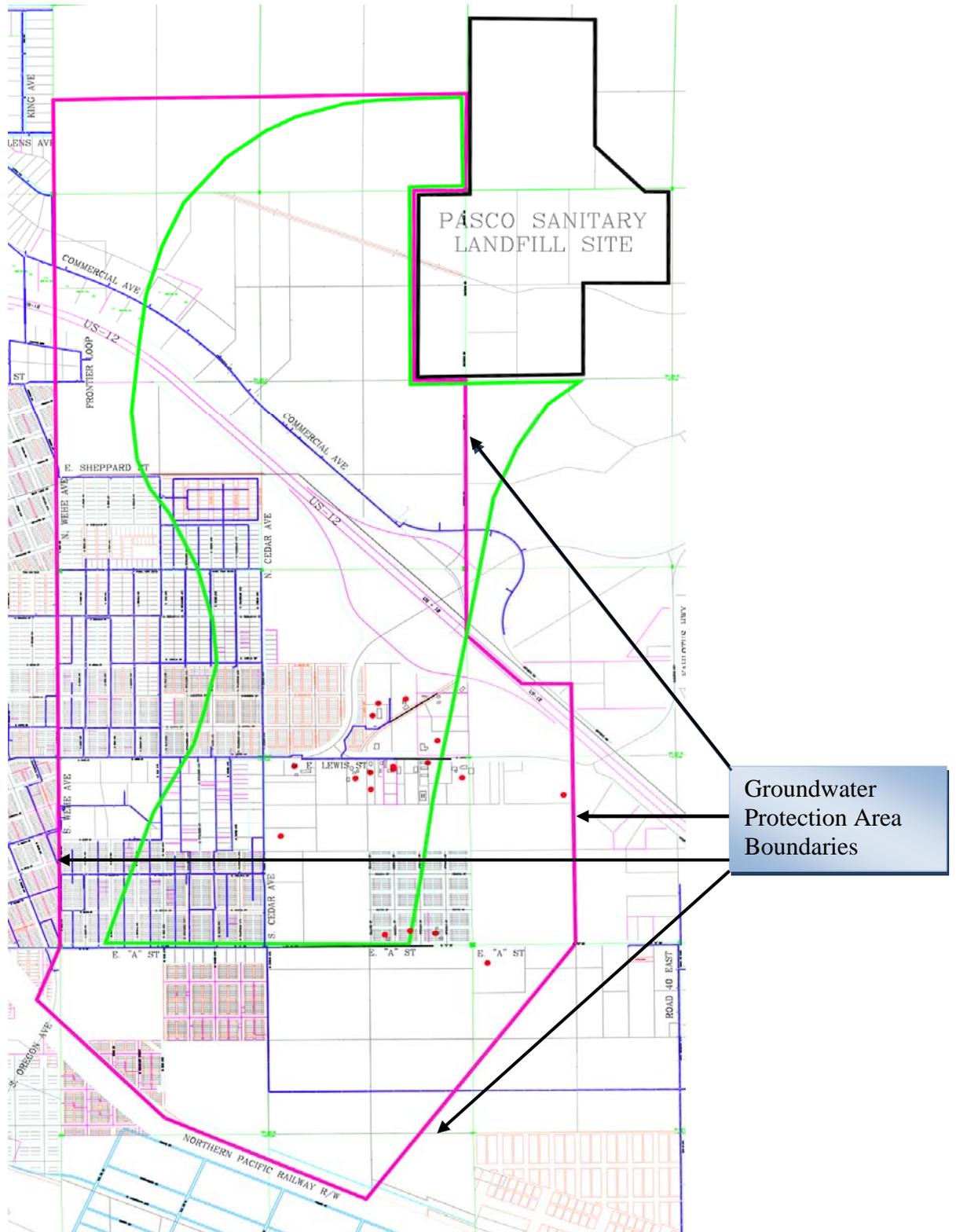


Figure 3
Groundwater Protection Area

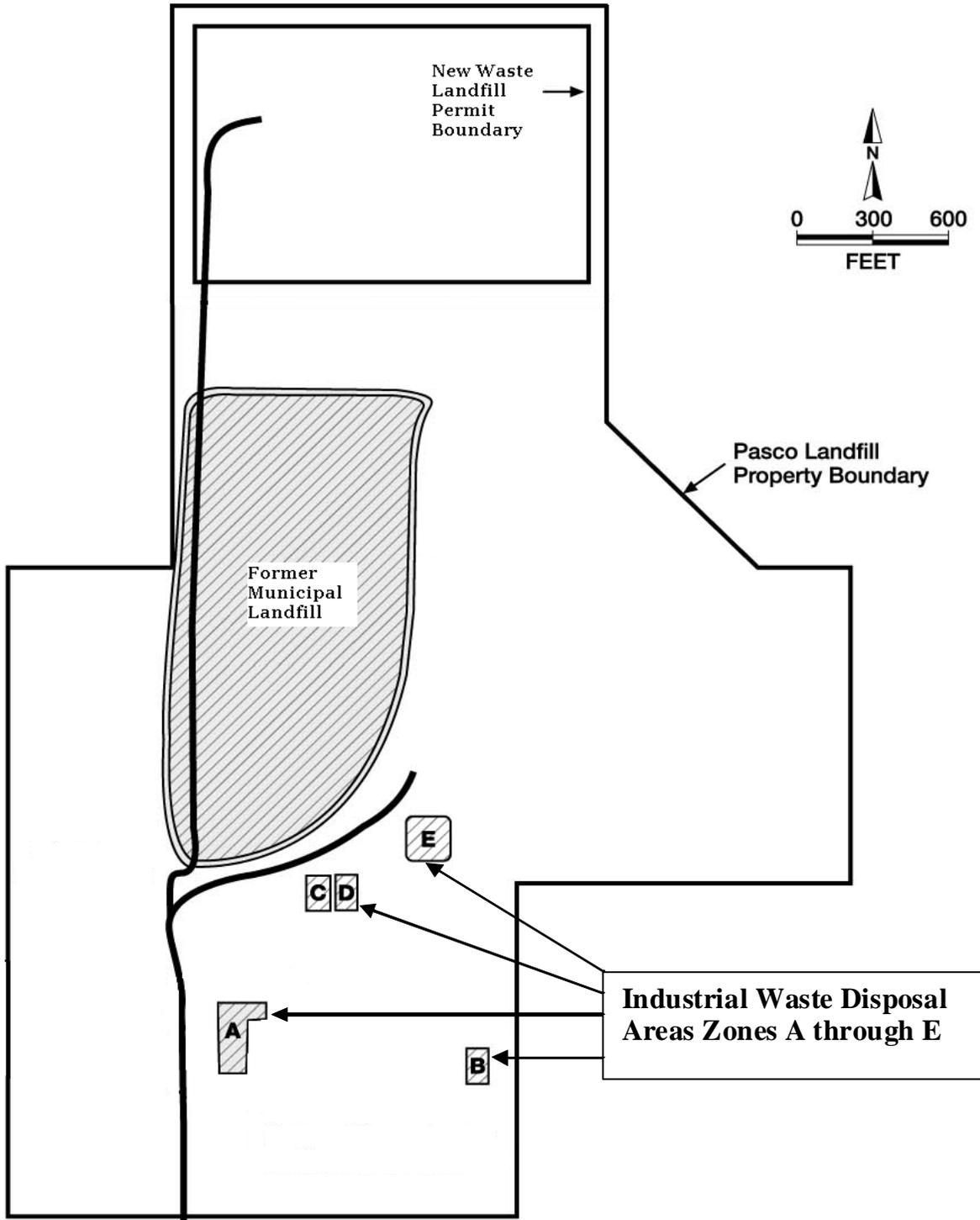


Figure 4
Landfill Waste Sections and Zones

If you need this publication in an alternative format, call Carol Bergin at 509/329-3546. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with speech disability call 877/833-6341