

Interim Action Report and Annual Update

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has continuously operated a soil vapor extraction (SVE) system since July 2012. The SVE system removes the vapors from the soil before they enter the Buckle My Shoe Early Learning Center. The SVE system also works to reduce the overall amount of contamination. Review of the SVE system's performance from September 2012 to September 2013 show that indoor air concentrations of tetrachloroethylene (PCE) have been reduced over ten times the initial measurements at the Buckle My Shoe Early Learning Center, and are now fifteen times lower than the State's indoor air cleanup levels. In addition, approximately 48 pounds of PCE were removed from the ground. This annual assessment shows the SVE system has been effective.

Construction of a groundwater treatment system began in autumn 2013. The construction is expected to be complete in spring 2014. The purpose of the groundwater treatment system is to clean up the PCE contamination that has entered the groundwater and affects many of the properties surrounding the Buckle My Shoe Early Learning Center Property.

Site Background

The contamination at Buckle My Shoe Early Learning Center and the surrounding vicinity comes from Frank Wear Cleaners, an old dry cleaning business that used to operate next door. Frank Wear Cleaners operated from the early 1940s to about 2000. They began using PCE as a solvent in the 1970s, and PCE releases were discovered back in 1989 from soil sampling.

In 1994, Frank Wear Cleaners and Ecology signed an Agreed Order for a remedial investigation. Over 300 tons of contaminated soil were removed. Some treatment of groundwater contamination also occurred at that time.

Releases of PCE occurred both inside and outside the Frank Wear building. PCE infiltrated the soil and migrated into the shallow groundwater.

Submit Comments and Technical Questions to:

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Hours:

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WA Department of Ecology

Central Regional Office

15 W Yakima Avenue, Ste 200
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By appointment only:

Contact Roger Johnson,
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(509) 454-7658

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Website

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=4194>

Facility/Site ID #: 444

Cleanup Site ID #: 4194

Toxics Cleanup Program

The Frank Wear Cleaners' building was demolished in 2001, and an additional 432 tons of contaminated soil were removed.

Groundwater has been monitored on a quarterly basis for several years. In mid July 2011, Ecology learned that a day care center operated on the Site. Review of existing groundwater data indicated PCE vapors might enter the building.

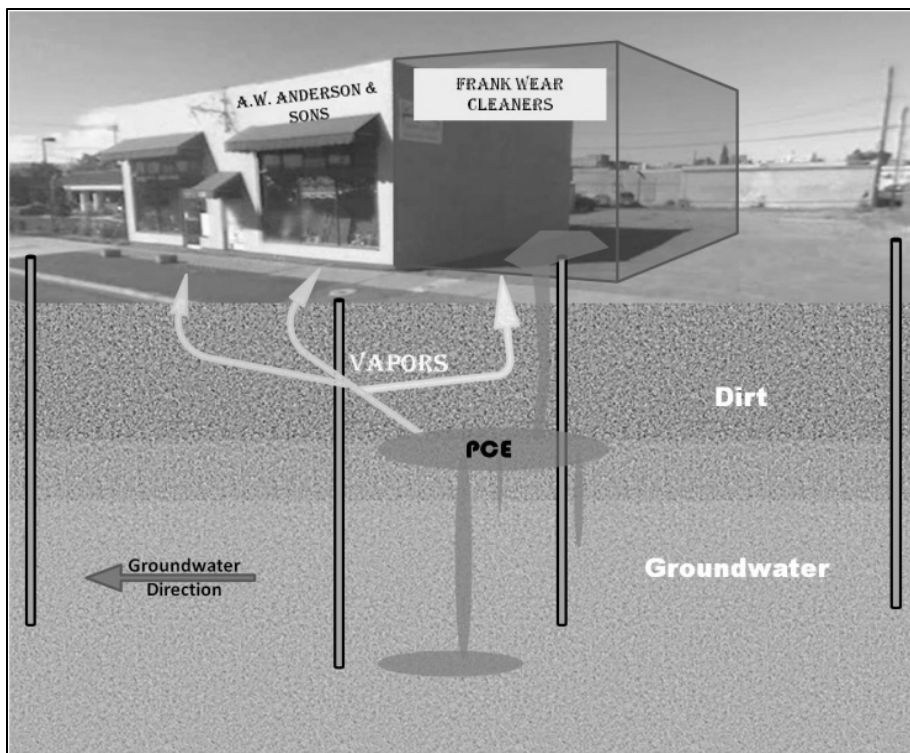
The Washington State Department of Ecology performed two rounds of indoor air sampling at the Buckle My Shoe Early Learning Center. Ecology was concerned about the threat to children from the PCE vapors in the air. Testing results indicated PCE vapors were present and impacted the indoor air quality. Therefore, Ecology installed a soil vapor extraction (SVE) system.

What Happens Next

Ecology will continue to operate the SVE system and monitor indoor air quality and system performance to ensure indoor air is safe. The groundwater treatment system will start operation this spring and is expected to continuously operate for 2 to 5 years. Ecology will continue to gather more information about the extent of contamination and take appropriate action to reduce the threat to human health.

Why This Cleanup Matters

Contamination from Frank Wear Cleaners has the potential to adversely impact human health, primarily by contaminating indoor air quality. Cleaning up the contaminated soil and groundwater will remove the threat to human health.



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