

Facilities North/Metro Lake Union Site (former Chevron Bulk Fuel Terminal)



Environmental cleanup update

The tanks are gone!

Since July 1999 and our last newsletter update, King County Metro Transit Division (Metro), Chevron Products Company (Chevron) and the Department of Ecology (Ecology) have completed the Phase 1 cleanup of the Facilities North/Metro Lake Union Site (formerly known as the Chevron Bulk Plant #100-1327). This site is located along the north shore of Lake Union at 1602 N. Northlake Place in Seattle. Phase 2 of the cleanup has begun.

Phase 1 cleanup included:

- Demolition of the seven above ground petroleum storage tanks, associated piping and structures, and removal with recycling.
- Removal of the shallow soils surrounding the tanks that had become contaminated with metals from sand blasting and painting operations.

Phase 1 cleanup began in July and was completed in September 1999. The sampling results to document completion of the Phase 1 were presented to Ecology in a December 1999 report. This report shows that all tasks for Phase 1 are complete. The shallow soils achieved cleanup action levels for metals, and the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) requirements are satisfied. If you experienced any noise, dust or inconvenience during cleanup, we thank you for your patience.

Phase 2 cleanup begins

Phase 2 portion of the cleanup began in September with an eight week pilot test. The test showed positive results and a decrease of the petroleum hydrocarbons in groundwater. Phase 2 includes three tasks:

- Installation of four new ground water monitoring wells and closure of selected wells;
- Treating soils and groundwater contaminated with total petroleum hydrocarbons using hydrogen peroxide injection often referred to as bioremediation; and
- Monitoring of groundwater for petroleum hydrocarbons and completeness of remediation.

The Phase 2 method of cleanup uses injection of hydrogen peroxide into the groundwater to increase available oxygen within the groundwater and surrounding soil. The increased oxygen then assists in increasing the microbe --little organisms in the soil--activity and the breakdown of the petroleum hydrocarbons in the soil and groundwater. This method of cleanup is called

bioremediation. The pilot test results showed a decrease in total petroleum hydrocarbons and benzene, two substances of concern at this site. The pilot test was also used to finalize the design for the full scale cleanup.

The proposed schedule

The cleanup for Phase 2 will be conducted through fall 2000. There will be no noticeable noise, odors, or traffic. In fact, as a neighboring business or resident, you may not observe much activity since Phase 2 will occur underground and involves access to the monitoring wells and periodic measurements.

Biweekly injection and monitoring will be continued until cleanup levels are achieved. A compliance monitoring report will be prepared to document completion of Phase 2. This will complete the upland cleanup for the site. Any possible sediment contamination along Lake Union related to the site will be addressed at a later date under a separate agreement.

Site background

Standard Oil of California began operating the bulk fueling terminal in 1925 and later became Chevron Products Company. Metro, now King County Metro Transit Division, purchased the site in 1982. Metro continued operation of the tanks until 1989. All tanks were drained and piping flushed and capped by April 1992. Currently, the facilities are used as a maintenance base. This cleanup is part of the Consent Decree recorded in Washington State Superior Court on April 7, 1999, the legal agreement among the three parties for cleanup of the site.