

Groundwater Pilot Study Underway

A pilot project is being launched as part of the Stericycle-Georgetown (also known as PSC-Georgetown) site to address contamination in groundwater. The work is part of the Stericycle-Georgetown site cleanup. The contamination is a result of hazardous substances leaking from former underground storage tanks (USTs) at the Stericycle facility at 734 South Lucile Street in South Seattle. The releases occurred prior to removal of the leaking tanks in the late 1980s and prior to the facility closure in 2003.

The cleanup project is using *in situ chemical oxidation*, a technology that will potentially remove 1,4-dioxane (one of the hazardous substances) from the groundwater. The pilot study will help determine how effective this method is in reducing chemicals in groundwater. In situ chemical oxidation poses no immediate threat to human health or the environment.

What will be done?

Beginning in May and June, contractors working for Stericycle Environmental Solutions will:

- Install new monitoring wells.
- Pump an oxidizing solution 50-60 feet below the surface using a direct-push drill rig.
- Monitor the groundwater weekly using a truck-mounted rig.



Image of similar groundwater injection set up. The white truck houses the injection equipment.

Photo credit: Cascade Drilling

The work will take place in a small area of the City of Seattle's right-of-way, at the intersection of South Lucile Street and Maynard Avenue South.

What about public safety?

The City of Seattle supplies tap water to the local area. *It is not affected by the contamination or the injected oxidant.* Stericycle worked with the Department of Ecology and the City of Seattle to create a plan to protect the public and the environment. An exclusion zone will be marked off with cones and tape around the area's perimeter to keep people away from the equipment and the oxidant used in the study.

The oxidant used in this pilot study is called sodium persulfate. It is a corrosive hazardous chemical and can burn skin and eyes. It can also irritate respiratory systems with prolonged inhaled exposure.

The oxidant will not be present aboveground except in tanks, piping, and hoses. The work area will have temporary secondary containment berms near the injection equipment to contain any potential spills. All hoses will be securely fastened to the chemical oxidant storage totes and placed within secondary containment. Hoses will be checked for leaks prior to performing any injections.

Stormwater structures such as catch basins near the injections will be covered and protected. A spill kit will be in the staging area next to the injection locations. If there is a spill of any hazardous materials, Stericycle will immediately notify the Washington State Department of Ecology's Hazardous Waste & Toxics Reduction program, Ecology's Environmental Report Tracking System, and the Ecology site manager for the Stericycle Georgetown facility.

Though high levels of volatile chemicals that evaporate rapidly in the form of vapor are not expected to be found in soil or groundwater during the project, the contractors will use air-monitoring equipment at the site, as a precaution.

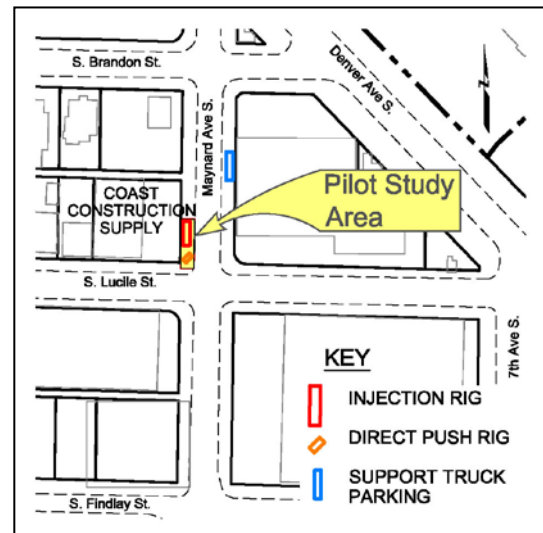
Will this work be disruptive?

Stericycle has designed the work so traffic lanes should remain open, however there will be some noise while the contractors are drilling the wells and pumping the oxidizing solution. Hopefully, the disruption will be minor.

Questions?

Contact Ed Jones, Ecology's PSC-Georgetown site manager with any questions about this notice, or other aspects of the cleanup. Email him at ejon461@ecy.wa.gov, or call 425-649-4449.

If you are interested in learning more about the cleanup, visit Ecology's website at <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=2622>.



To request materials in a format for the visually impaired, call the Hazardous Waste & Toxics Reduction Program at 360-407-6700, Relay Service 711, or TTY 877-833-6341.