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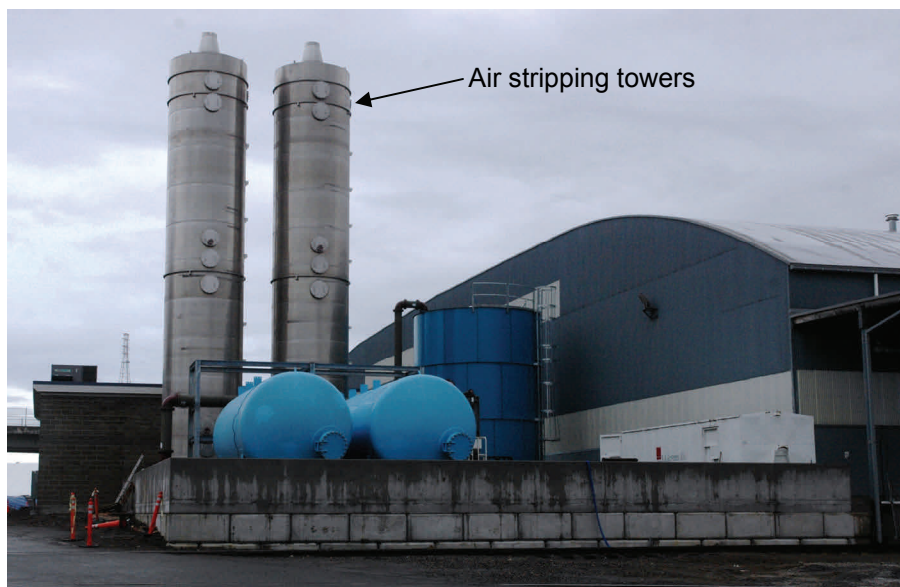
Site Cleanup Update

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the Port of Vancouver (port) are continuing to investigate and clean up contaminated groundwater beneath the port and the Fruit Valley Neighborhood (FVN). This update contains information about:

- The groundwater pump and treat system.
- The most recent air, soil gas and groundwater sampling.
- Shutting down vapor vacuum systems in six homes.
- Decommissioning treatment wells in part of the Fruit Valley Neighborhood.
- What happens next.

Groundwater Pump and Treat Air Stripping System

In June 2009, the port began operating a new groundwater pump and treat system. It removes trichloroethylene (TCE) and other contaminants from groundwater using air stripping. See Ecology's website for a fact sheet about how the system works.



Groundwater pump and treat air stripping system

For More Information

Site Cleanup

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Ecology's Cleanup Website

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=4834>

Facility Site ID # 85381664

Monitoring shows that the groundwater contaminant levels continue to decrease as a result of the system. To date, the system has:

- Reduced contamination in groundwater and significantly reduced the plume size.
- Operated for 25 months (through September 2011), pumping about 2.9 billion gallons of water and removing 622 pounds of contamination.

In June 2011, the port submitted a draft report on how well the system has worked. Ecology is currently reviewing the report.

Decommissioning Treatment Wells

By 2005, Cadet Manufacturing (Cadet) installed eight recirculating groundwater treatment wells in the FVN north of Fourth Plain Blvd. These wells reduced TCE and other solvent levels in groundwater in a limited area. The wells have served their purpose and are no longer needed.

Seven of those wells operated until 2006. The eighth well was turned off in November 2010.

The port decommissioned (removed) four of the wells in August 2010. The port will decommission the other four wells in 2012.

Shutting Down Soil Vapor Vacuum Systems

By 2004, Cadet installed soil vapor vacuum systems in six homes in the FVN north of Fourth Plain Boulevard. The systems prevented TCE and other solvent vapors moving from groundwater into indoor air. With contaminant levels in groundwater decreasing, these systems may no longer be needed.

The port evaluated the systems from 2009 - 2010. This included shutting them down to see if contaminant vapors would return and to what levels. Results indicated that vapors did not return and levels remained at low concentrations.

In March 2011, Ecology determined that the systems in five of the homes could be permanently shut down. The port is continuing to monitor and assess the remaining home, where the system remains but is not operating. In all, three systems have been removed and three remain at the owners' request.

Evaluating Air Sparging/Soil Vapor Vacuum System

By 2003, Cadet began operating an air sparging/soil vapor vacuum system beneath and around the Cadet facility. The system injects air into contaminated groundwater, turning the contaminants into vapor in soil. Vacuum wells pull vapors out of the soil, where they can be treated.

In 2012, the port will submit a report on how well the system has worked and if it still needs to be used.

What Happens Next?

- The port continues to sample groundwater. The next sampling will occur in December 2011.
- After Ecology approves the pump and treat system report, the port will begin a Feasibility Study to evaluate options for final cleanup.
- Once the Feasibility Study is done, Ecology will select the final cleanup actions and draft a Cleanup Action Plan.
- Ecology will hold a public comment period for the draft Cleanup Action Plan and Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study report.
- **Ecology will mail and post periodic updates online to keep you informed!**

We're Making Progress!

As a result of interim action treatments to date, Ecology and the port have been successful in cleaning up the contaminant plume. Treatments are reducing contaminant levels and the size of the groundwater plume, which contains TCE and other solvents.

Sampling Results

In order to evaluate cleanup progress, throughout 2011 the port sampled:

- Groundwater.
- Soil gas.
- Indoor air in homes with and without soil vapor vacuum systems.
- Outdoor air.

The purpose of this testing was to:

- Assess continued progress in site cleanup.

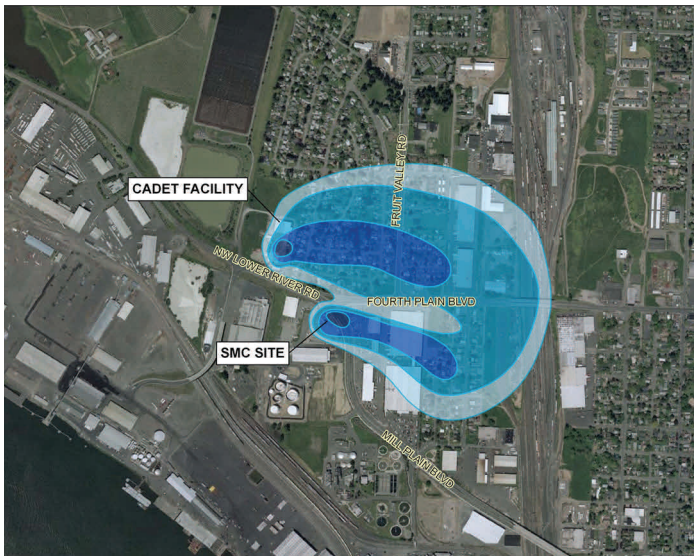
- Evaluate the need for operating the home soil vapor vacuum systems.
- Evaluate the need for continued air sampling.
- Assess the effectiveness of the pump and treat system.

Overall, levels of TCE and associated compounds continue to decline in response to treatments. The pump and treat system is also containing the groundwater plume.

Upcoming Sampling

The port typically samples groundwater every three months. The results of the previous sampling events can inform how often and where to sample in the future.

TCE Concentrations in Shallow Groundwater



January - March 2002



March 2011

Trichloroethylene (TCE) concentrations

	>5 ug/l
	>50 ug/l
	>500 ug/l
	>5000 ug/l



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