Public Comment Period: General Electric Aviation

Street view of General Electric Aviation building

Comments accepted:

Nov. 7–Dec. 16, 2019

Submit comments:

Online at:
bit.ly/gecommentsperiodicreview

Or by mail to:
Dean Yasuda, Site Manager
Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office
3190 160th Ave. SE
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452

Site info: bit.ly/gecleanup

Facility Site ID: 2522
Site Cleanup ID: 2446

Document review locations:

Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office
3190 160th Ave. SE
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452
Call for appt. 425-649-7190

New Holly Library
7058 32nd Ave. S
Seattle, WA 98118
206-386-1905

We want to hear from you!

We are overseeing cleanup of contamination on the former General Electric Aviation (GE) property at 220 S. Dawson St., Seattle, WA 98108.

The following documents are available for review and comment:

- **Five-year periodic review**: We review monitoring data to make sure the cleanup methods are working. This review is for cleanup actions for the groundwater under the property.

Recent cleanup actions

GE has tried three different methods to cleanup Trichloroethylene (TCE) and other contamination in the groundwater under the property. Most recently in 2019, GE injected zero valent iron particles (ISCR) mixed with organic plant material into the contaminated groundwater. This treatment has been slow to work in some areas and is not yet working in other areas.

We will continue to review the monitoring results and are considering other cleanup methods. If a new method is needed, we will hold a public comment period. GE still plans to use ICSR to clean up contaminated groundwater that has moved off the property.

Ecology is requiring environmental covenants on seven properties to restrict activities and protect people from being exposed to contamination. In some areas, it is safer to keep contamination in place rather than disturbing it. And sometimes, contamination is located in an area that cannot be reached by cleanup methods. We require covenants

to prevent contact with groundwater that has contaminants above acceptable levels. GE is working with property owners to finalize the covenants. Covenants will keep owners from:

- Withdrawing groundwater.
- Activities that could mix deeper contaminated groundwater with water closer to the surface.
- Activities in areas where the soil and groundwater are contaminated.
- Activities that could vaporize groundwater contaminates and impact indoor air quality.

Human health and the environment are protected

We reviewed monitoring data from the last five years. Cleanup actions completed under the Ecology 2014 Cleanup Action Plan are protecting human health and the environment. When the final cleanup method is installed, we will monitor results to ensure that it continues to be protective.

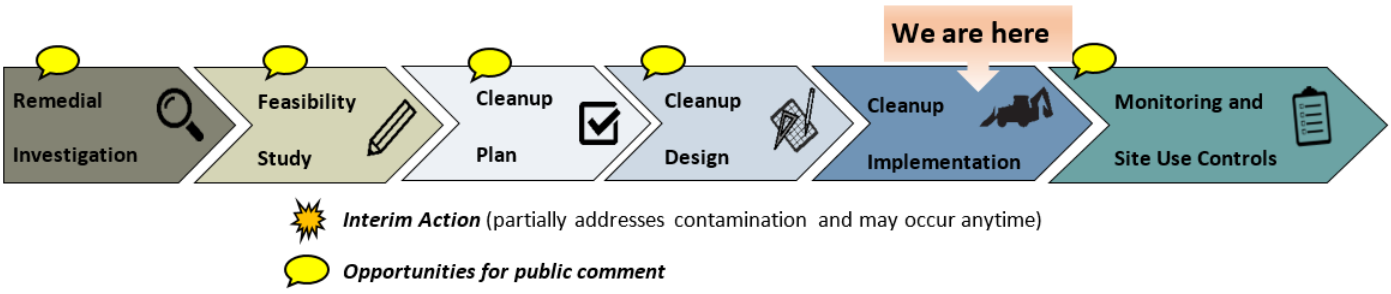
Site background

GE made and serviced aircraft parts between 1949 and 1996 in the building on South Dawson Street. Solvent spills and leaks contaminated the soil and groundwater nearby. Other tenants used the building for various warehousing operations. McKinstry now has an office in the building.

The cleanup process

There are six phases in the cleanup process: remedial investigation, feasibility study, cleanup plan, cleanup design, cleanup implementation, and monitoring and site use controls. Interim actions or partial cleanups can occur at any time. There are opportunities for public comment during the cleanup process. We are currently overseeing cleanup implementation.

Figure 1. Where GE is in the cleanup process



Site contamination

Some or all of these contaminants are in the indoor air, soil, and groundwater under the Dawson St. building:

- Trichloroethylene (also known as trichloroethene or TCE)
- Tetrachloroethylene (also known as perchloroethylene or PCE)
- 1,1,1-trichloroethane (1,1,1-TCA)
- Metals, fuels, and oils

Indoor air is safe. TCE in the soil or groundwater under the building has the potential to vaporize and move up through the soil into the air in the building. In 2007, Ecology required GE to install a mitigation system in the 220 S Dawson Street building. This system pulls contaminated vapors from under the building to a roof vent where the vapors quickly dissipate to acceptable levels**.** We reviewed air sampling data in the building and did not find any contaminate concentrations that are a risk to human health. We will continue to monitor indoor air.

Contaminants in the groundwater have moved about two blocks west off the property. GE operates two groundwater extraction wells on 2nd Avenue S. continuously. These wells remove contaminated groundwater to try and prevent contamination from moving any further and reaching the river.

What happens next?

- We will review all public comments, include any significant comments, and approve the report.
- We will evaluate the current cleanup method to determine if it is effective. If a new method is needed, we will hold a comment period.
- GE will finalize environmental covenants with property owners by the end of 2019.
- When Ecology approves an effective cleanup method, GE will start cleaning up groundwater that has moved off the property.

Public meeting

If there are 10 or more requests, we will hold a public meeting to provide information and take comments on the five-year periodic review. To request a meeting, contact site manager Dean Yasuda at 425-649-7264 or dean.yasuda@ecy.wa.gov. If we hold a public meeting we will notify the public by postcard; an ad in the Seattle Times; on Ecology's GE Aviation site webpage;[1] and on Ecology's public involvement calendar.[2]

Why this cleanup matters

This site is part of our Lower Duwamish Waterway source control efforts because it has had the potential to contribute pollution in the Lower Duwamish Waterway (LDW) Superfund Site.

The General Electric-Dawson Plant Site is one of several sites that will be cleaned up under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and as part of Ecology's overall strategy to control sources (Source Control Strategy)[3] of pollution to the river. Contaminants in the soil and groundwater around the river pose a risk to human health and the environment. They can also find their way into the river through storm runoff and other pathways.

The five-mile stretch of the Duwamish River that flows north into Elliot Bay was added to the Superfund National Priorities List by the EPA in 2001. The sediments (mud) in the river contain a wide range of contaminants due to decades of industrial activity and runoff from urban areas. EPA is leading efforts to clean up the river sediments. Ecology's long-term goal is to avoid recontaminating the river sediment and restore water quality in the river.

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[1] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=2446
[2] https://ecology.wa.gov/Events/Search/Listing
[3] https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Cleanup-sites/Toxic-cleanup-sites/Lower-Duwamish-Waterway/Source-control

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Hazardous Waste & Toxics Reduction Program
3190 160th Ave. SE - Northwest Regional Office
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452

General Electric Aviation cleanup – Public Comment Period

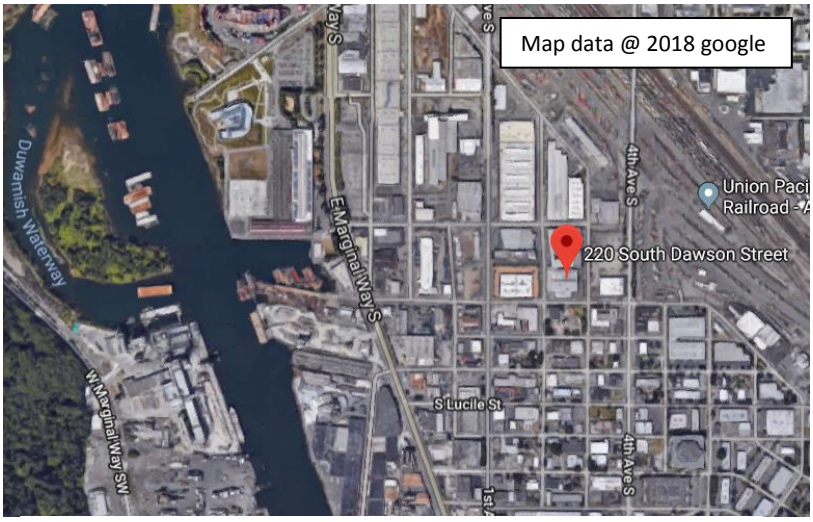

Figure 2 General Electric Aviation facility location map

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Para información acerca de la limpieza de la contaminación en el Boeing Developmental Center, llame al 425-649-7253 y espere en la línea por un intérprete.

Để biết thông tin về công tác làm sạch ô nhiễm tại Trung Tâm Phát Triển Boeing (Boeing Developmental Center), hãy gọi 425-649-7253 và xin chờ thông dịch viê.

Accommodation Requests: To request ADA accommodation for disabilities, or printed materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 425-649-7000 or visit https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility. People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.