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Site Cleanup Update

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the Port of Vancouver (Port) are working together to continue the investigation and cleanup of contaminated groundwater beneath the Port and the Fruit Valley Neighborhood (FVN). This update contains information about:

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

Groundwater Pump and Treat Air Stripping System

In May 2009, the Port began operating a new groundwater treatment system (image below). This system was designed to remove trichloroethylene (TCE) and other contamination from groundwater using air stripping technology.



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[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/
programs/tcp/sites/cadet/
cadet_hp.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/cadet/cadet_hp.htm)

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

- Reduced contamination in groundwater and is keeping the plume from spreading.
- Operated continuously for 17 months (through October 2010) - pumping approximately 1.7 billion gallons of water and removing 439 pounds of contamination.

Decommissioning treatment wells

By 2005, Cadet Manufacturing (Cadet) installed eight recirculating groundwater treatment wells in the FVN north of Fourth Plain Blvd. These treatment wells effectively reduced TCE and other solvent levels in groundwater in a limited area. Seven of those wells had not been in operation since 2006. The Port is evaluating the eighth well, which is still operating. It will most likely be turned off in late 2010.

In June 2010, Ecology approved the Port's request to decommission (remove) four wells. The Port completed the work in August 2010 and will decommission the remaining four treatment wells in 2012.

Shutting down soil vapor vacuum systems

By 2004, Cadet installed soil vapor vacuum systems in six homes in the FVN to prevent TCE and other solvent vapors in groundwater from moving into indoor air. The Port and Ecology determined that, because groundwater concentrations continue to decrease, these systems may no longer be needed.

The Port began an evaluation of the systems in 2009. The systems were shut down to determine if contaminant vapors would return and to what levels. Preliminary results show that contaminant vapors are not returning and levels remain at low concentrations.

In December, Ecology will make a final determination about the systems. Most likely, the systems will be permanently shut down and can be removed. The Port may continue to do indoor air sampling in a few homes at a reduced rate (less than twice a year).

What Happens Next?

- The Port continues to sample groundwater. The next sampling is scheduled for December 2010.
- At the start of 2011, the Port will submit an performance evaluation report for the pump and treat system. Following approval of that report, the Port will begin a Feasibility Study to evaluate cleanup options.
- Once the Feasibility Study is done, Ecology will select the final cleanup actions and will draft a Cleanup Action Plan.
- The next opportunity for public involvement will be a public comment period for the draft Cleanup Action Plan and Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study reports.
- The Port will continue to run the air sparging/soil vapor vacuum system at the Cadet facility to reduce contamination levels in soil. For more information about this treatment system, visit Ecology's website and click the link for "Treatments used to reduce contamination."
- **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 reducing contaminant levels and size of the shallow TCE (and other solvents) groundwater plume, part of which is underneath the Fruit Valley Neighborhood. The groundwater treatment system will continue to provide area-wide groundwater containment and cleanup of the groundwater plume.

Sampling Results

In order to evaluate cleanup progress throughout 2010, the Port sampled:

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

The homes with vapor vacuum systems are located in Fruit Valley Neighborhood, north of Fourth Plain Boulevard.

The purpose of this testing was to:

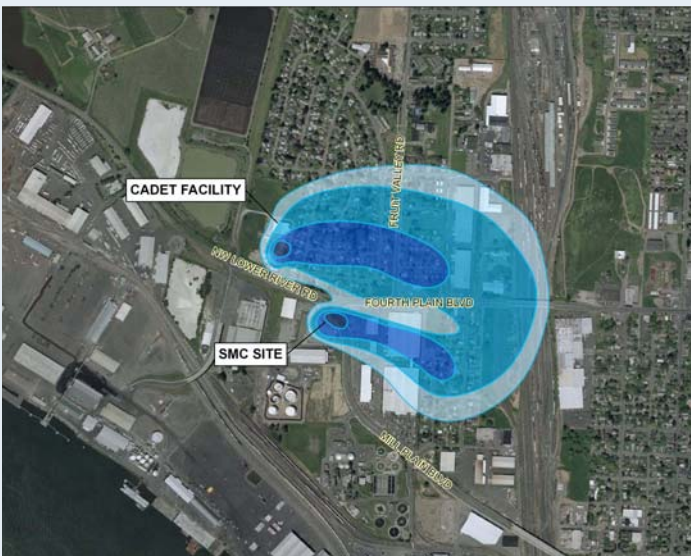
- Assess continued progress in site cleanup.
- Evaluate the need for operation of the home vapor removal systems.
- Evaluate the need for continued air sampling.
- Gather data to measure the effectiveness of the groundwater treatment system.

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

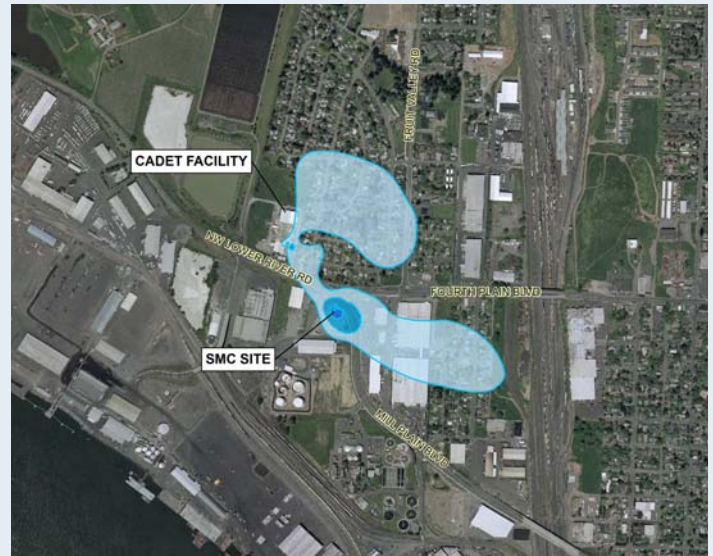
Upcoming Sampling

Typically, the Port samples groundwater quarterly. 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 2010

Trichloroethylene
(TCE) concentrations

