

## Black Lake Grocery Groundwater Monitoring Results, June 2017: Data Summary Report

#### **Abstract**

Black Lake Grocery is an active gas station and convenience store located on the northwest shore of Black Lake in Thurston County, Washington. In 1989, soil and groundwater beneath the site were found to be contaminated with gasoline-range petroleum hydrocarbons that leaked from the grocery's underground storage tanks. In June 1995, these tanks were removed, along with a large amount of contaminated soil. In 2004, a treatment wall was installed along Black Lake's shoreline to passively remediate contaminated groundwater flowing toward the lake.

Groundwater from on-site monitoring wells was sampled and analyzed for petroleum constituents from November 1993 to June 2009 (Summit, 2004). The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) resumed sampling in 2011 to characterize the groundwater contaminant concentrations. This report describes the water quality results for groundwater samples collected in June 2017 from 5 monitoring wells that were analyzed for benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene (BTEX) and total petroleum hydrocarbons as gasoline (TPH-G).

Water quality results for 2017 continue to confirm that the near-surface aquifer at Black Lake Grocery is contaminated across the site. Concentrations have decreased since 1995 but continue to exceed (not meet) established cleanup levels in 5 of the site wells. BTEX and TPH-G concentrations decreased significantly after passing through the treatment wall, but the continued presence of high contaminant concentrations in wells on the downgradient side of the wall and near the shoreline suggests that petroleum constituents from the site may be migrating to Black Lake.

Groundwater monitoring downgradient of the treatment wall should continue, so Ecology can determine if the reactive materials in the wall remain effective in remediating the contaminated groundwater.

#### **Publication Information**

This report is available on the Department of Ecology's website at https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/1703024.html

Data and associated annual monitoring reports for this project are available at Ecology's Environmental Information Management (EIM) website <a href="www.ecy.wa.gov/eim/index.htm">www.ecy.wa.gov/eim/index.htm</a>. Search Study ID: PMART007.

Ecology's Activity Tracker Code for this study is 12-001.

Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) and 8-digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) numbers for the study area:

• WRIA: 23

HUC number: 17100103

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## **Background**

Black Lake Grocery is an active gas station and convenience store located on the northwest shore of Black Lake (Figure 1). The store is situated on a 5.2-acre parcel of land approximately 100 feet from the lakeshore. In 1989, during a geotechnical study performed for Thurston County as part of a planned expansion of Black Lake Boulevard, soil and groundwater beneath the site were found to be contaminated with gasoline-range petroleum hydrocarbons (Dames and Moore, 1990).

In June and July 1995, at the time of the Black Lake Boulevard expansion, 7 underground storage tanks and 1200 cubic yards of petroleum-contaminated soils were removed from the site as an interim action. The excavated area was in the northeast portion of the site and encompassed the area between the grocery store to the property boundaries at Goldsby Road and Black Lake Boulevard (Figure 1). The depth of the excavation ranged from approximately 10 to 13 feet below ground surface. Soils from the edge of the excavated area were still found to exceed (not meet) the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) Method-A cleanup levels for benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylenes (BTEX) and total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH). The contaminated soil beyond the excavated area could not be removed because it was not accessible below the adjacent county roads (Summit, 2000).

In 2001, a remedial investigation/feasibility study was completed (Summit, 2000). The contaminant plume was defined as extending from the site's tank area downgradient to Black Lake. To remediate the remaining groundwater contamination, the selected remedial alternative was installing a treatment wall at the downgradient end of the contaminant plume along the shore of Black Lake.

The treatment wall was intended to passively remediate the contaminated groundwater flowing toward the lake. Constructed in November 2004, the wall is approximately 120 feet long, 5 feet wide, and 12 feet deep. It is composed of a permeable reactive material (an engineered sphagnum peat moss) that is designed to both absorb petroleum hydrocarbons and provide a catalytic surface on which microbial activity can occur. Natural attenuation mechanisms are relied upon to mitigate the groundwater plume upgradient of the wall. Site cleanup will be achieved when contaminant concentrations throughout the site (point of compliance) have met the established cleanup levels.

Groundwater at the site was sampled and analyzed for petroleum constituents from November 1993 to June 2009. Concentrations decreased after the excavation and removal of contaminated soils and installation of the treatment wall. However, concentrations still exceeded the MTCA cleanup levels in 5 of the 11 site monitoring wells. In August 2011, Ecology resumed groundwater sampling because of the continued elevated concentrations of petroleum constituents (Marti, 2013). This data report discusses groundwater results from select on-site wells for June 2017.

The data and associated annual monitoring reports for this project are available at Ecology's Environmental Information Management (EIM) website <a href="www.ecy.wa.gov/eim/index.htm">www.ecy.wa.gov/eim/index.htm</a>. Search Study ID, PMART007.

#### **Method and Results**

Ecology collected groundwater samples from 5 monitoring wells in June 2017. Four of the selected wells are known to have contaminant concentrations that exceed the site cleanup levels. Although well D10 also has high petroleum concentrations, it was not sampled because it is difficult to access and it has a low water volume and a slow recovery rate. All wells were sampled in accordance with Ecology's SOP EAP078 (Marti, 2014).

Samples were submitted for analysis of BTEX and TPH-G to determine petroleum contaminant concentrations upgradient and downgradient of the treatment wall. Analytical results are summarized in Table 1.

A blind field duplicate was collected from well PMW-4. The relative percent difference (RPD) for the BTEX duplicate results ranged from 0% to 5%. All BTEX analytes met the data quality objectives (DQOs) of 30% established in the Quality Assurance Project Plan (Marti, 2011). The TPH-G duplicate data from well PMW-4 had an RPD of 3% which met the DQOs. The laboratory data quality control and quality assurance results indicate that the analytical performance was good. All results are usable as reported.

Table 1: Sample Results for Black Lake Grocery, June 2017.

		Field	Measure	ements				Laboratory Analysis						
	Well	Ground-						Benzene	Toluene	Ethyl benzene	m,p- Xylene	o-Xylene	TPH-G	
Well ID	Depth from	water	pH (Std.	SC	DO	ORP			CAl	P/MTCA C	Cleanup Le	vels		
Well ID	TOC (feet)	Elevation (feet)	Units)	(uS/cm)	(mg/L)	(mV)		5 ug/L	40/ 1000	30/ 700	10	20/	800 ug/L	
									ug/L	ug/L	uş	g/L	8-	
Upper por	Upper portion of plume													
D11	13.92	131.87	6.5	541	0.23	-60		516	68	564	560	25	10,300	
G1 11 (1		•	70 /					•						
Shallow/do							Wa							
MW-2S	7.07	129.61	6.4	673	0.31	14		6480	2040	2980	9270	3660	102,000	
MW-2D	17.12	130.73	6.9	316	0.6	28		1 U	1 U	1 U	2 U	1 U	70 U	
Shallow/do	eep grou	ndwater in	nmediate	ely downg	radient o	f treatm	ent	wall						
PMW-4	10.42	130.38	6.5	648	0.82	-85		82	15	191	382	50	6720	
PMW-4 (dup)								81	15	181	370	49	6520	
MW-3S	5.80	128.95	6.1	754	0.13	-25		667	22	112	1610	143	9980	

TOC: Top of Casing

SC: Specific Conductance

DO: Dissolved Oxygen CAP: Cleanup Action Plan. **Bold**: Analyte was detected.

ORP: Oxidation Reduction Potential MTCA: MTCA Method A Cleanup Level.

Shade: Values are greater than the CAP cleanup levels.

U: Analyte was not detected at or above the reported value.

Analytical results for BTEX and TPH-G are summarized in Table 1 and are compared to both the site's Cleanup Action Plan (CAP) cleanup levels and the MTCA Method A cleanup levels. For ease of discussion, project results have been grouped by the monitoring well location relative to the contaminant plume.

Project data collected since 1993 are presented in Table 2 and Figures 2-5.

#### **Upper Portion of the Plume – Well D11**

Well D11, located in the upper portion of the project area, continues to have BTEX and TPH-G concentrations that exceed the CAP and MTCA Method A cleanup levels (Table 1). This well is located on the northern edge of the excavated area. Although contaminant concentrations have shown up to an 80% decrease since 1995 (Figure 2), this well continues to have some of the highest BTEX and TPH-G concentrations in the project area. The June 2017 concentrations increased compared to the 2015 data. Fluctuations in the contaminant concentrations appear to coincide with changing groundwater levels.

# Shallow and Deep Groundwater Upgradient of the Treatment Wall – Wells MW-2S, MW-2D

Well MW-2S had the highest concentrations of petroleum-related contaminants of all the sampled wells in 2017. BTEX and TPH-G concentrations exceeded both the CAP and MTCA cleanup levels (Table 1). Well MW-2S is a shallow well (approximately 5 feet deep) located at the base of the bluff, about 100 feet downgradient of the former tank area. Contaminant concentrations in this well initially decreased after the treatment wall was installed (Figure 3). However, concentrations quickly rebounded and have remained fairly constant over the 2005-2017 monitoring period.

No contaminants were detected in the sample from deep well MW-2D. BTEX concentrations decreased substantially in this well following the interim action (Table 2). Contaminants were last detected in well MW-2D in 2013. This well, approximately 15 feet below ground surface, is part of a well cluster with MW-2S.

# Shallow and Deep Groundwater Downgradient of the Treatment Wall – Wells MW-3S, PMW-4

Well MW-3S is a paired shallow well located on the downgradient side of the treatment wall, about 20 feet southeast of well MW-2S. Although BTEX and TPH-G concentrations decreased significantly after passing through the treatment barrier, concentrations still far exceed the established cleanup levels (Table 1). In December 1996, BTEX concentrations in well MW-3S (Figure 4) were similar to those detected in well MW-2S. In February 2005, six months after the treatment wall was installed, concentrations in MW-3S had decreased up to 99%. Concentrations then steadily increased, before leveling off in 2011. Similar to the other sampled wells, concentrations decreased in 2015 but increased in 2017 with the higher groundwater levels.

Well PMW-4 is located downgradient of the north end of the treatment wall. Petroleum contaminants continue to exceed the cleanup levels established for this site (Table 1). BTEX concentrations have been steadily decreasing since monitoring began in 2005 (Figure 5). However, TPH-G concentrations have shown greater fluctuation and remain well above the established cleanup level of 800 ug/L.

#### **Discussion and Conclusions**

Water quality results from the 2017 monitoring continue to confirm that the near-surface aquifer at Black Lake Grocery is contaminated with gasoline-range petroleum hydrocarbons in both the upper and lower portions of the site. Concentrations have decreased since excavation and removal of contaminated soils in 1995 and installation of the treatment wall in 2004. However, groundwater contaminant concentrations continue to exceed (not meet) the cleanup levels established for this site in 4 of the 5 monitoring wells sampled in 2017. An approximate plume boundary for the shallow groundwater is shown in Figure 1.

According to the Cleanup Action Plan (CAP), treatment of the remaining contaminated soils and groundwater was expected to occur through natural attenuation and the passive treatment barrier installed along the lake shoreline.

During the remediation design, it was predicted that concentrations of the petroleum contaminants would decrease naturally with time due to removal of most of the source material and natural biodegradation processes. The effects of biodegradation were expected to be most noticeable at the limits of the excavated area and proceed downgradient over time. It was estimated that contaminant concentrations would be below cleanup levels within 10-25 years (Summit, 2005).

In 2011-2012, conventional parameters were measured to evaluate natural attenuation properties of the site. The site was characterized by low levels of dissolved oxygen, oxidation reduction potential, nitrate, and sulfate but elevated iron concentrations (Marti, 2013). Under these conditions, the petroleum hydrocarbons should be subject to a variety of biodegradation processes such as iron or sulfate reduction. Project data indicate that biodegradation of the contaminants is occurring. Petroleum hydrocarbon concentrations are decreasing in conjunction with anaerobic or reducing conditions, indicating that biodegradation is occurring in the shallow groundwater throughout the site.

The second part of the remediation is the treatment wall that was installed in fall of 2004 as a passive barrier that remediates contaminated groundwater as it flows toward Black Lake. Data from wells MW-3S and PMW-4 confirm that contaminant concentrations decrease on the downgradient side of the treatment wall; however, concentrations in these wells still consistently exceed the established cleanup levels for this site. Because the sorptive and reactive capacity of treatment barriers is limited, contaminant concentrations in these two wells should continue to be monitored. If concentrations begin to increase, it could indicate that the treatment wall is losing its sorptive or reactive capacity.

BTEX and TPH-G were not detected in near-shore sediment or water samples collected by Ecology (Coots, 2005). However, the presence of high contaminant concentrations in wells MW-3S and PMW-4, which are less than 10 feet from the lakeshore, suggests the contaminant plume may extend to Black Lake.

### Recommendations

Based on the June 2017 monitoring results, the following recommendations are provided:

- Groundwater monitoring downgradient of the treatment wall should continue on an annual
  to bi-annual basis as recommended in the Compliance Monitoring Plan (Summit, 2004) to
  determine if the contaminant removal capability of the reactive materials remains effective
  in remediating contaminated groundwater. If the treatment wall materials lose their
  sorptive or reactive effectiveness, they may need to be replaced.
- The natural attenuation properties of the Black Lake Grocery site should be evaluated to determine if site cleanup levels will be reached in a timely manner. It was estimated that contaminant concentrations would be below cleanup levels within 10-25 years after 2005 (Summit, 2005).

### References

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Summit, 2005. Engineering Design Report, Black Lake Grocery, Olympia, Washington. Project Number 0551-002. Prepared by Summit Envirosolutions, Inc. for Man K. Pak. March 2005.

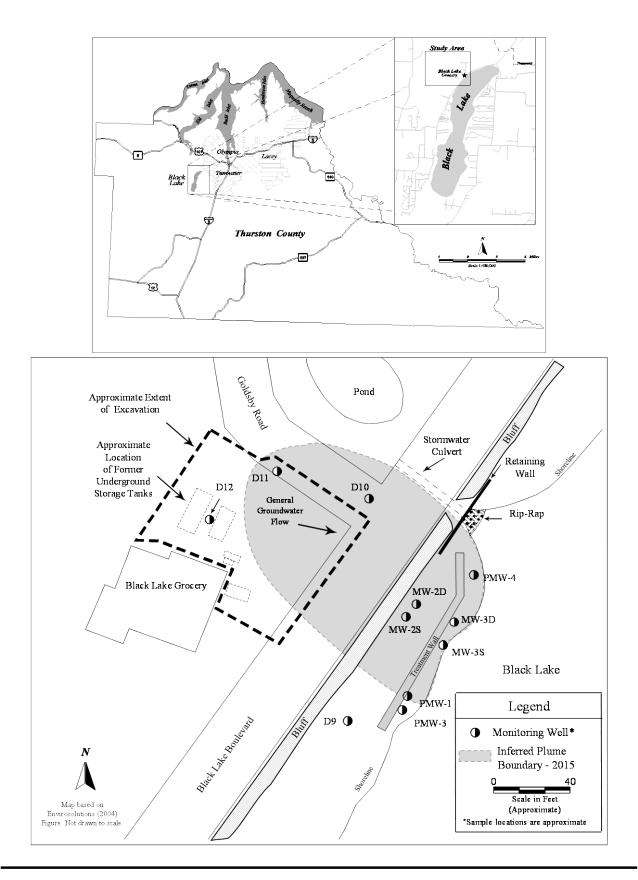


Figure 1. Black Lake Grocery Location and Site Details.

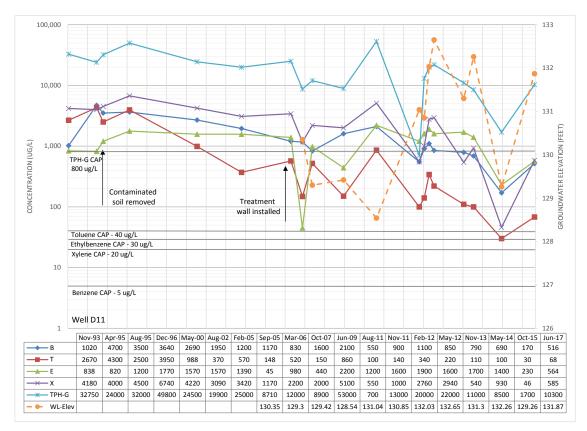


Figure 2. BTEX and TPH-G Results (ug/L) for Well D11, November 1993 to June 2017.



Figure 3. BTEX and TPH-G Results (ug/L) for Well MW-2S, December 1996 to June 2017.

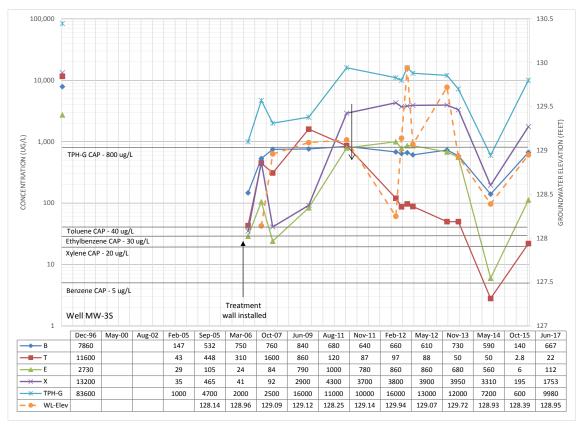


Figure 4. BTEX and TPH-G Results (ug/L) for Well MW-3S, December 1996 to June 2017.

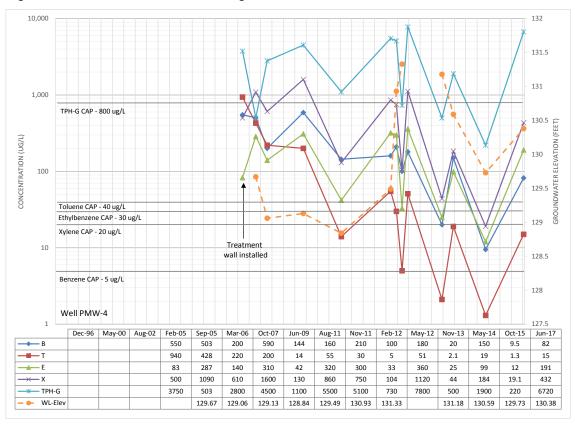


Figure 5. BTEX and TPH-G Results (ug/L) for Well PMW-4, February 2005 to June 2017.

Table 2. BTEX and TPH-G Groundwater Results (ug/L), November 1993 to October 2015.

			D12			D10					
Date	В	Т	E	Х	TPH-G	В	Т	E	Х	TPH-G	
11/1993						8450	8670	1450	5260	30,680	
4/1995									1		
8/1995	0.5	0.5 U	0.7	1 U	50 U				1		
12/1996	0.5 U	0.5 U	0.5 U	1 U	50 U	8150	4830	2190	9680	45,500	
5/2000	0.5 U	0.5 U	0.5 U	1 U	50 U	5580	931	1070	3660	40,700	
8/2002	0.5 U	2 U	1 U	1.5 U	100 U	8270	674	1680	3290	32,100	
2/2005	17	34	5.8	31	360	706	79	237	295	5420	
9/2005	2.2	1.4	1 U	2	100 U	3440	368	525	1050	15,700	
3/2006	1.6	1 U	1 U	15	100 U	4000	150	570	290	9000	
10/2007	9.6	1 U	1 U	24	140	510	22	38	190	1300	
9/2009	1 U	1 U	1 U	3 U	100 U	3700	130	540	290	6800	
8/2011	1 U	1 U	1 U	3 U	140 U	4400	120	700	400	3300	
11/2011	1 U	1 U	1 U	3 U	40 U	2700	100 U	360	300 U	2300	
2/2012	1 U	1 U	1 U	3 U	70 U	5800	100 U	910	750	4700	
5/2012	1 U	1 U	1 U	3 U	70 U	2000	58	410	450	2500	
11/2013	1 U	1 U	1 U	3 U	70 U	REJ	REJ	REJ	REJ	REJ	
5/2014	1 U	1 U	1 U	3 U	70 U				1		
10/2015											
CAP CL	5	40	30	20	800	5	40	30	20	800	

			D9			D9 (continued)					
Date	В	Т	Е	Х	TPH-G	Date	В	Т	Е	Х	TPH-G
11/1993	909	3520	1720	6050	57,570	10/2007	1 U	1 U	1 U	1 U	100 U
4/1995	830	1500	1300	2600	28,000	9/2009	1 U	1 U	1 U	1 U	100 U
8/1995	570	680	510	1100	13,000	8/2011	1 U	1 U	1 U	3 U	140 U
12/1996	164	190	170	418	3300	11/2011	1 U	1 U	1 U	3 U	40 U
5/2000	1					2/2012	1 U	1 U	1 U	3 U	70 U
8/2002	1					5/2012	1 U	1 U	1 U	3 U	70 U
2/2005	1 U	8.4	4.9	33	1510	11/2013	1 U	1 U	1 U	3 U	70 U
9/2005	1 U	17	3.7	18	160	5/2014	1 U	1 U	1 U	3 U	70 U
3/2006	1 U	1 U	1 U	1 U	100 U	10/2015					
CAP CL	5	40	30	20	800	CAP CL	5	40	30	20	800

			PMW-1			PMW-3					
Date	В	Т	E	Х	TPH-G	В	Т	E	Х	TPH-G	
2/2005	1 U	1 U	1 U	1 U	100 U	1.1	8.7	1 U	1 U	125	
9/2005	272	7.2	2.3	11	100 U	14	296	9.7	33	523	
3/2006	1 U	6.7	1 U	1 U	100 U	2.7	320	1 U	16	480	
10/2007	1 U	1 U	1 U	1 U	100 U	6.1	340	27	34	480	
9/2009	1 U	2.4	1 U	3 U	100 U	1 U	1 U	1 U	3 U	150	
8/2011	1 U	1 U	1 U	3 U	140 U	1 U	1 U	1 U	3 U	140 U	
11/2011	2.5	6.6	4.2	9.4	110	1 U	5.4	1 U	3 U	40 U	
2/2012	1.9	18	2.3	5.3	92	1 U	1 U	1 U	3 U	70 U	
5/2012	1.3	9.5	4	7.2	83	1 U	1.5	1 U	3 U	70 U	
11/2013	1.6	1.1	1.1	8.9	70 U	1 U	1 U	1 U	3 U	70 U	
5/2014	3.6	1.1	1.8	16	70 U	1 U	1 U	1 U	3 U	70 U	
10/2015											
CAP CL	5	40	30	20	800	5	40	30	20	800	

			MW-2D			MW-3D					
Date	В	Т	E	Х	TPH-G	В	Т	Е	Х	TPH-G	
12/1996	3040	7300	1830	10,700	64,000	132	138	21	1440	11,600	
5/2000	787	29	42	13	425						
8/2002	4.2	2 U	1 U	1.5 U	219	0.5 U	2 U	1 U	1.5 U	100 U	
2/2005	47	105	23	139	1200	1 U	1 U	1 U	1 U	100 U	
9/2005	63	21	3.7	31	395	78	89	16	100	800	
3/2006						1.6	1 U	1 U	1 U	100 U	
10/2007						51	70	44	190	490	
9/2009	3.5	1 U	1 U	3 U	100 U	1 U	1.4	1 U	5	100 U	
8/2011	1 U	1 U	1 U	3 U	140 U	1 U	1 U	1 U	3 U	140 U	
11/2011	19	1 U	1 U	3 U	40 U	1 U	1 U	1 U	3 U	40 U	
2/2012	50	1 U	1 U	3 U	70 U	1 U	1 U	1 U	3 U	70 U	
5/2012	30	1 U	1 U	3 U	70 U	1 U	1 U	1 U	3 U	70 U	
11/2013	36	1 U	1 U	3 U	70 U	1 U	1 U	1 U	3 U	70 U	
5/2014	1 U	1 U	1 U	3 U	70 U	1 U	1 U	1 U	3 U	70 U	
10/2015	1 U	1 U	1 U	3 U	70 U						
CAP CL	5	40	30	20	800	5	40	30	20	800	

U: The analyte was not detected at or above the reported result.

REJ: Sample data was rejected.

**Bold:** The analyte was positively identified.

Shade: Value is greater than the CAP cleanup level.

CAP CL: Cleanup Action Plan Cleanup Levels.

<sup>--</sup> Not Sampled