

SCHWERIN CONCAVES, INC.

REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION



The Washington Department of Ecology is offering the Schwerin Concaves, Inc. Remedial Investigation (RI) work plan for a 30-day public review and comment period. The Schwerin Concaves Site is a former hard chromium electroplating facility located two miles north of Highway 12 on Sapolil Road in Walla Walla County, Washington.

The purpose of the RI is to collect, develop, and evaluate information regarding contamination in affected areas on and off-Site. The Remedial Investigation will also define the type, extent, and degree of soil and groundwater contamination at the Site.

The Site has been identified by Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program as an orphan site, because Schwerin Concaves, Inc. is unable to conduct remedial action in an adequate or timely manner due to financial difficulties. Therefore, Ecology will use Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) Chapter 70.105D RCW funds to complete Site investigation in accordance with MTCA requirements.

Ecology believes the RI is necessary to protect human health and the environment in affected areas.

Ecology invites the public to review and comment on the RI work plan from **August 16 through September 17, 2001**. The box at the right indicates where documents

may be found, comments submitted and additional information obtained.

SITE BACKGROUND

Schwerin Concaves, Inc. owned and operated a hard chromium electroplating facility on this property from the late 1970s to now. Chromium contamination of soil and groundwater has been documented at two locations at the Site.

Past wastewater treatment operations resulted in high levels of hexavalent chromium being deposited in soil from a leaking treatment tank. This tank is located just north of the electroplating shop. Soil contamination to a depth of 24 feet has been documented.

Chromium soil contamination has also occurred in the area formerly used to store "self-propelled" equipment. Wastewater and/or wastewater treatment sludge containing chromium was ponded and allowed to evaporate in this location. Contamination of soil in this area has been documented to a depth of nine feet.

Chromium contamination has also been detected in two drinking water wells on-Site which are no longer in use. National drinking water standards have been set for the amount of chromium allowed in drinking water. The extent of soil and groundwater contamination has not been fully characterized in these areas.

FACT SHEET: **AUGUST 2001**

COMMENTS ACCEPTED: **August 16 through** **September 17, 2001**

Document Locations:

Walla Walla Public Library
238 East Alder Street
Walla Walla, WA 99362
Hours: M/T 12-8 W 10-8
Th/F/Sat 10-5

Department of Ecology
Eastern Regional Office
4601 N. Monroe
Spokane, WA 99205-1295

Technical Questions **Contact:**

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Para asistencia en Espanol: Antonio Valero (509) 454-7840

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outside Spokane call
toll free 1-800-826-7716 or
Spokane at (509) 456-6360
E-mail cabe461@ecy.wa.gov

Ecology has also sampled neighboring drinking water wells. Water sample results indicate no contamination has been found in the wells neighboring the Site. Additionally, Dry Creek has been sampled and contamination has not been detected in the creek.

Adverse health effects may be experienced from long term chromium exposure. Most exposure happens as a result of breathing air in a work setting where it is being used or by drinking water or eating food that is contaminated with chromium.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

After the 30-day public comment period, the Remedial Investigation for the Site will begin. Any written comments received during the comment period will be answered in a Responsiveness Summary. The Summary will be made available at the information repositories on page one. If appropriate, Ecology will revise the Remedial Investigation work plan based on written comments received.

HOW YOU MAY BE INVOLVED:

- ◆ **Review the Remedial Investigation work plan.**

Documents are available at the repositories on page one. To review documents at Ecology, contact Johnnie Harris at (509) 456-2751 to schedule an appointment. Reviews may be scheduled for Monday through Thursday, 8-5 p.m. by appointment.

- ◆ **Send in your written comments August 16, 2001 through September 17, 2001 to:**

William J. Fees, P.E. at Ecology
(see box on page one for details).

- ◆ **Share this information with any individuals or groups you think should be informed about the Site.**