

May 2010 - New Sampling Planned for Certain Properties Near Heglar Kronquist Site



Looking at the site in a westerly direction

Kaiser plans to conduct additional surface water, groundwater, and well sampling along roadways and on certain private properties near the Heglar Kronquist site. The purpose of the additional sampling is to evaluate groundwater flow and possible site-related contamination in the area. Property owners affected by the work have already been contacted and have agreed to allow access to their properties. Work also will be conducted at the site. Field work begins May 3 and is scheduled to be completed May 31, 2010.

You may see a truck-mounted drill rig and other equipment on roadways and on some properties as this work begins. Additionally, you may see representatives from Kaiser, their consultants Exponent, Inc., local contractors, and Ecology in the neighborhood during the work. Disturbances to properties and property owners will be minimized, and appropriate precautions will be taken to avoid potential exposure issues.

This work is part of an Agreed Order between Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corporation, LLC and the Washington State Department of Ecology. The Order requires Kaiser to conduct a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study at the Heglar Kronquist Site.

The purpose of the Remedial Investigation is to gather more scientific information to determine whether there is site-related contamination in groundwater near the site. It also defines what contaminants may be present, where they are located, and how much is there. The Feasibility Study will evaluate cleanup options.

Contaminants of Concern

Past studies provide data about what site-related contaminants may be in the area. Sampling focused on contaminants related to aluminum dross including sodium, potassium, aluminum, chloride, fluoride, ammonia,

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Para asistencia en Español

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Если вам нужно помощь по русский, звоните

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Spokane Public Library

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Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Website

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/heglar/heglar_hp.html

Facility Site ID No. 645

nitrate, nitrite and metals. Contaminants related to agricultural and individual property practices are not part of the Remedial Investigation.

Site Background

The site is 10 miles northeast of downtown Spokane in a rural area and covers nearly four acres. It is located near the intersection of Heglar and Kronquist Roads in Mead, Spokane County, Washington.

The site was used as a gravel pit until it was closed in 1969. Gemini Management, Inc. then began operating the site as a disposal area. From 1969 until 1974, Kaiser transported aluminum black dross from the Trentwood plant in the Spokane Valley to the disposal site.

Black dross is a by-product from processing aluminum materials. According to Kaiser's data, the black dross was composed of 39% sodium chloride, 19% potassium chloride, 35% aluminum oxide, 4% free aluminum, 2% cryolite, and 1% carbides and nitrides. Nearly 55,000 cubic yards of black dross was disposed of at the site.

The dross disposal was stopped in 1974 because high levels of chloride were found in shallow water supply wells and springs down gradient of the site. Air sampling conducted downwind of the site in 1979 showed elevated levels of several organic compounds. Ammonia also was detected at levels higher than accepted by state laws.

Actions Taken

Kaiser took several steps to address the contamination in 1984 including the installation of a cover designed to isolate and protect the dross pile. Eventually Kaiser purchased the property. Monitoring that occurred from the early 1980s through 2004 indicated decreasing but still elevated chloride and nitrates in springs down gradient of the site.

Ecology conducted an assessment of the property in 2006 and ranked the site a two on the Hazardous Sites List. The Hazardous Sites List is a record of contaminated sites throughout the state that are ranked on a scale of one to five. One represents the greatest potential threat to human health and the environment; five represents the least potential threat.

Initial Well Testing Conducted December 2008

On December 10 and 11, 2008, Ecology and Kaiser sampled 16 residential wells near the Heglar Kronquist site. Residents asked to have their wells tested because of concerns about how the site may have impacted their wells. Kaiser was already in the process of completing the Agreed Order with Ecology to determine the nature and extent of contamination. However, Kaiser responded to the community concerns and agreed to sample wells before the Agreed Order was final.

Does the Site Impact My Property?

Results of domestic well testing conducted in 2008 showed only one property with slightly elevated levels of potential site-related contaminants. The results of this sampling provided one aspect of information about the possible impacts of the site. We need to complete additional sampling in order to have a more comprehensive understanding of the area.

The sampling to be conducted in May 2010 will provide more detailed information about groundwater flow and where contaminants may be found. The Remedial Investigation report will be made available to the public for review and comment when it is completed.

Additionally, Ecology requested the Department of Health (DOH) provide an assessment of the site called a Health Consultation. The Consultation indicated more information is needed to determine site-related impacts to health. DOH also made recommendations to Ecology that would help determine health risks. Ecology incorporated these recommendations as part of the investigations.

What Happens Next?

Kaiser will continue their investigative studies and prepare a report of the findings along with an evaluation of possible cleanup options. The investigations will be completed by the end of 2010.

Ecology will review the report and cleanup options. Once Ecology approves the draft documents they will be made available for public comment in late summer or early fall 2011. Documents will become final after public comments are reviewed and any applicable changes are made.

Why This Cleanup Matters

- Chemicals associated with aluminum dross may be harmful to human health and the environment if they exceed certain levels.
- Results of the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study will provide necessary data about contaminants that will aid in developing cleanup methods.
- The final cleanup will improve protection for human health and the environment.

WA Department of Health Contacts

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A copy of the Health Consultation is available at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/oehas/pubs/kaiseralum09.pdf>

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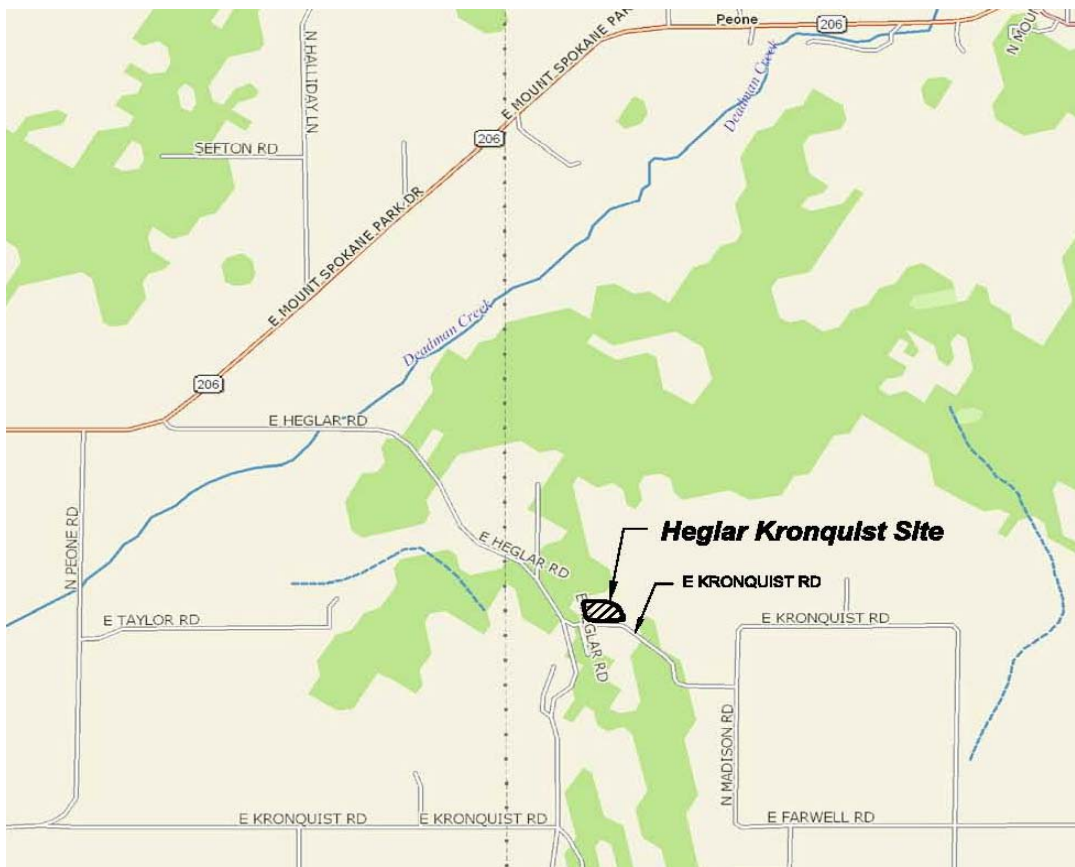


Figure 1



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Heglar Kronquist Site Update