
**Washington State Department of Health
Site Assessment Section
Monthly Report for September 2008**



Sites in Jefferson County

Port Townsend Paper Mill

Health Assessor - Elmer Diaz Phone: 360-236-3357

Community Outreach and Education - Erin Kochaniewicz Phone: 360-236-3358

No Site Manager Assigned

Site Background

The Port Townsend Paper (PTP) mill is an active facility located along the sheltered Port Townsend Bay on the northeastern corner of the Olympic Peninsula in Port Townsend, Jefferson County, Washington State. The Port Townsend site began operation in 1927, employs approximately 325 full-time employees, and manufactures unbleached kraft pulp paper and lineboard for sale both domestically and internationally. The pulp produces approximately 941 tons of pulp per day.

Kraft is the German word for “strength,” which is one of paper's most important characteristics. The kraft chemical pulping process is a recycling process where most of the chemicals used to produce pulp and paper are captured, recovered, and reused again and again. At the same time that spent cooking chemicals are recycled, byproducts from the pulping process are used as a fuel source to generate steam and electricity. The site contains both a pulp mill and a paper mill. The product of the pulp milling process is pulp fiber and water slurry which, through the use of mechanical and chemical treatment at the paper mill, is turned into various paper products such as boxes, paper bags, paper towels, and paper sheets.

The community residing in the Port Townsend and surrounding neighborhoods have raised health concerns that might have resulted from exposure to chemical compounds emitted into the air from the PTP mill. This health consult will address health concerns from citizens of Port Townsend related to emissions from the paper mill.

Activity Report

Comments from the community and stakeholders have been addressed. Final report was sent to ATSDR for review and final approval.

Planned Future Activities

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- DOH reviews and responds to comments.
- DOH staff is available to answer health related questions (conduct a public health meeting if necessary to explain the purpose of conducting air emissions data and the significance of air modeling).
- DOH is working closely with the mill and Ecology to assure air emissions and meteorological data are collected.
- DOH staff is available to comment on work plans that are generated in the future at this site.
- DOH is available to review air dispersion modeling results.
- DOH will not review health statistics until exposure pathways from air emissions and risk characterization are resolved.

Sites in Jefferson County

Port Townsend Paper Mill

No plan outreach activities at this time. DOH staff is preparing a general fact sheet that summarizes the major findings of the report.

Sites in King County

NEW!

South Park Soil Investigation

Health Assessor - Elmer Diaz Phone: 360-236-3357

Community Outreach and Education - Erin Kochaniewicz Phone: 360-236-3358

No Site Manager Assigned

Site Background

Chlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins and -furans have been detected in soil samples obtained from 19 residential homes in South Park. Samples of soil were analyzed for various dioxins and furans. Values ranged from 11 and 51 ppt. One location had a preliminary reading of 397 ppt. The MTCA cleanup level for dioxin and dioxin-like compounds is 11 ppt.

Activity Report

The City of Seattle is planning to communicate the results from a recent dioxin sampling conducted in residential areas adjacent to Terminal 117. DOH staff will be participating on a conference call to discuss the sample results and provide input on dioxin health messaging.

DOH staff held a conference call with the City of Seattle and other stakeholders to discuss the recent dioxin sampling conducted in residential areas adjacent to Terminal 117. The City of Seattle released preliminary soil dioxins data prior to the meeting and explained the results. The City of Seattle is planning to confirm these data for accuracy and is planning to collect more samples to determine the extent and nature of soil contamination. DOH staff prepared key health messages about the sampling results.

DOH staff received updated laboratory confirmation on the recent dioxin sampling conducted in residential areas adjacent to Terminal 117. The preliminary maximum dioxin sample (397 ppt) collected in a vacant residential yard was reanalyzed at 101 ppt. The final laboratory data package will be undergoing validation in the coming weeks. DOH staff is participating in an upcoming conference call on September 29 with other stakeholders to discuss the recent dioxin samples and a communication plan.

The City of Seattle presented an update on PCB and Dioxin testing in the T-117 Early Action Area and City Streets Rights of Way and Yards. The City is planning to complete dioxin data analysis, evaluate PCB data and identify data gaps.

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Planned Future Activities
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Future Documents Planned For This Site
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A technical assistance consultation will be prepared for this site by Elmer Diaz. The next stage for the technical assistance consultation is ATSDR Review Draft. The target date to reach this stage is March 2009.

The subject of this technical assistance consultation is an evaluation of soil contamination

Sites in King County

BNSF Former Fueling and Maintenance Facility Skykomish

Health Assessor - Barbara Trejo Phone: 360-236-3373

Community Outreach and Education - Erin Kochaniewicz Phone: 360-236-3358

Site Manager: Brian Sato - Washington State Department of Ecology

Site Background

Releases of petroleum (diesel and bunker C) and other contaminants occurred at this former BNSF maintenance and fueling facility in Skykomish. Ecology estimates that approximately 2 million gallons of petroleum remains in the free product plumes and contaminated soil and groundwater at the site. The contamination underlies a significant portion of the Town of Skykomish posing a threat to human health.

Activity Report

Participated in a conference call with Ecology staff and BNSF's consultants regarding indoor air test results obtained by BNSF at the Skykomish Public School in August and September 2008.

No community outreach activities were conducted.

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Planned Future Activities

Assist Ecology in evaluating possible health issues associated with the proposed cleanup options for the Skykomish Public School.

No future community outreach activities planned at this time.
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Sites in King County

South Park Air Complaints

Health Assessor - Elmer Diaz Phone: 360-236-3357

Community Outreach and Education - Erin Kochaniewicz Phone: 360-236-3358

Site Manager: No Site Manager On Record -

Site Background

Residents of South Park and Georgetown communities have voiced numerous concerns related to chemical pollution and air quality including odors, headaches, respiratory problems, miscarriage, nausea, blurry vision, fatigue, and cancer. In 1996, a community group petitioned the Agency of Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to conduct an area-wide assessment of hazardous pollutants in south Seattle. ATSDR was unable to conduct the area-wide assessment, but negotiated with the community to select 8 sites perceived by the community to potentially impact health. DOH, ATSDR's cooperative agreement partner, has evaluated potential health impacts posed by these eight sites and concluded that sites by themselves may not solely impact residential areas at levels of health concern, but may contribute in concert with other sources to create an unhealthy environment. This is especially true in areas where multiple sources are densely located in one area.

DOH has contracted to have a multiple source air dispersion model conducted in South Seattle in order to determine sources, pollutants, and impacted areas of concern.

Activity Report

DOH staff participated in a video conference with the Duwamish Interagency Group (IAG). The purpose of this group is to improve communication amongst agencies working in the Duwamish as well as the local communities. A major topic of the meeting was a discussion of the health consultation report (South Seattle air). Also discussed was DOH's upcoming community meeting and how to better involve the South Park and Georgetown communities.

The Seattle City council invited us to discuss the Duwamish Valley Seattle Air health consultation report. Ecology and Puget Sound Clean Air Agency staff also participated. The presentation went very well and the council did not request any follow-up information. We also received kudos from Councilmember Nick Licata's aide regarding our coordination with the council and pre-presentation package.

Planned Future Activities

DOH staff will be discussing with Ecology, Public Health Seattle King County and the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency a joint action agency plan and next steps.

A community meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 21st in south Seattle to address the topic of air quality in the Duwamish Valley.

Sites in Lewis County

Hamilton Road PCE

Health Assessor - Barbara Trejo Phone: 360-236-3373

Community Outreach and Education - Erin Kochaniewicz Phone: 360-236-3358

Site Manager: Tamara Langton - US Environmental Protection Agency

Site Background

Hamilton Road PCE aka Hamilton-Labree Roads GW Contamination site is located 3 miles southwest of the city of Chehalis in southwest Washington. In 1993, testing of the drinking water wells by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) revealed that six wells in the vicinity of the intersection of Hamilton and Labree Roads were contaminated with tetrachloroethene (PCE). PCE, a suspected human carcinogen, is a chemical commonly used as a solvent in metal degreasing and cleaning operations, dry cleaning and other industrial uses.

Groundwater investigations and cleanup activities are ongoing, and EPA has facilitated the supply of city water to residents and businesses impacted by the contaminant plume.

Activity Report

Technical assistance discussion with EPA regarding DOH's comments on the vapor intrusion evaluation presented in the baseline risk assessment. DOH's comments were summarized in a technical assistance report approved by ATSDR.

No community outreach activities were conducted for this site.

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Planned Future Activities

Review additional vapor intrusion test results when they become available in 2009.

No future outreach activities are planned for this site.

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Future Documents Planned For This Site

A technical assistance consultation will be prepared for this site by Barbara Trejo. The next stage for the technical assistance consultation is Internal Review Draft. The target date to reach this stage is November 2008.

The subject of this technical assistance consultation is a technical review of draft PHA developed by ATSDR Region 10.

Sites in Spokane County

NEW!

Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation - Heglar/Kronquist

Health Assessor - Barbara Trejo Phone: 360-236-3373

Community Outreach and Education - Erin Kochaniewicz Phone: 360-236-3358

Site Manager: Teresita Bala - Washington State Department of Ecology

Site Background

From 1969 to 1974, the Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation disposed of aluminum dross at this site, which is an old quarry located northeast of Spokane. The dross contains sodium chloride, potassium chloride, aluminum oxides, aluminum, cryolite, nitrides, and carbides. Elevated chlorides levels, above the federal secondary drinking water standards, have been found in the past in some drinking water wells and springs.

Activity Report

Started reviewing site documents and preparing a draft health consultation report.

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Planned Future Activities

Conduct a site visit with Ecology staff in October 2008. Complete draft health consultation report and provide copies for agency review. Participate in an Ecology lead public meeting in late 2008.

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Future Documents Planned For This Site

A health consultation will be prepared for this site by Barbara Trejo. The next stage for the health consultation is Internal Review Draft. The target date to reach this stage is October 2008. The subject of this health consultation is assess possible health threat posed by the site.

Sites in Spokane County

Euclid Road Groundwater Contamination

Health Assessor - Barbara Trejo Phone: 360-236-3373

Community Outreach and Education - Erin Kochaniewicz Phone: 360-236-3358

Site Manager: Calvin Terada - US Environmental Protection Agency

Site Background

EPA discovered TCE contaminated groundwater above the MCL (5 ug/l) at three private drinking water systems in Reardan, Washington, near Spokane. These private systems obtain their water from the underlying basalt aquifer. TCE levels measured at taps in two homes ranged from 25 to 56 ug/l TCE. A water sample collected from a water storage tank at the third residence was approximately 130 ug/l TCE. The source of the TCE is unknown. EPA has hired a contractor to design and install water treatment systems at the three residences to reduce resident's exposure to TCE via the ingestion, inhalation, and dermal pathways. EPA conducted a groundwater investigation in the area in November 2005.

Activity Report

Prepared a draft health consultation report regarding the TCE groundwater plume for internal review.

No current outreach activities for this month.

Planned Future Activities

Provide a copy of the draft TCE health consultation report in October 2008 for agency review. Prepare a draft health consultation addressing the perchlorate and NDMA found in private wells in the Deep Creek area in October and November 2008. Review new drinking water data, when it becomes available, to evaluate possible health risks.

Activities will depend on future health consultation recommendations.

Future Documents Planned For This Site

A health consultation will be prepared for this site by Barbara Trejo. The next stage for the health consultation is Agency Review Draft. The target date to reach this stage is October 2008.

The subject of this health consultation is the evaluation of health risks posed by TCE found in private drinking water wells.

A health consultation will be prepared for this site by Barbara Trejo. The next stage for the health consultation is Internal Review Draft. The target date to reach this stage is November 2008.

The subject of this health consultation is the evaluation of health risks posed by perchlorate and n-nitrosodimethylamine found in private drinking water wells

Sites in Thurston County

Budd Inlet

Health Assessor - Len O'Garro Phone: 360-236-3376

Community Outreach and Education - Erin Kochaniewicz Phone: 360-236-3358

No Site Manager Assigned

Site Background

Budd Inlet is located in southern Puget Sound, near the city of Olympia, WA. Historically, the southern portion of Budd Inlet has supported wood product industries, recreational marinas, and boat industries. It is also the home of the Port of Olympia. Several sites are listed on Ecology's Confirmed and Suspected Contaminated Sites List as contributing contaminants to Budd Inlet (for example – dioxin from the former Cascade Pole). Budd Inlet is divided into the East and West Bays by a small peninsula, which extends from the southern point. The Olympia Harbor federal navigation channel and turning basin are maintained in inner West Bay. The northern portion or the North Inlet is lined with residential properties.

Past and current commercial and industrial activities identified in East Bay include cargo handling, boat manufacturing, marina operations and a wood-treating facility. Moxlie Creek flows through a culvert that discharges into the southern end of East Bay. The former Cascade Pole wood treating facility is a cleanup site located on the north end of the peninsula. The Swantown Marina and Boatworks is located on the eastern side of the peninsula.

Activity Report

DOH made update to final health consultation and the document was mailed out.

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Planned Future Activities
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Sites in Thurston County

Morris Road/Yelm Air Quality

Health Assessor - Len O'Garro Phone: 360-236-3376

Community Outreach and Education - Erin Kochaniewicz Phone: 360-236-3358

No Site Manager Assigned

Site Background

Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department (TCHD), Environmental Health Division, were called in to address air quality concerns raised by a resident along Morris Road SE Yelm. Since December 2006, the complaints have escalated, and issues brought forward have led TCHD to conduct more extensive investigations of neighboring properties. TCHD have engaged in numerous site visits, sampling activities, and coordination with other agencies including U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Olympic Regional Clean Air Agency (ORCAA), Washington State Department of Ecology and DOH.

Activity Report

Draft health consultation is currently under internal review process.

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Planned Future Activities
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Future Documents Planned For This Site
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A health consultation will be prepared for this site by Len O'Garro. The next stage for the health consultation is Agency Review Draft. The target date to reach this stage is November 2008. The subject of this health consultation is evaluating data to address air quality along Morris Road

Sites in Thurston County

Palermo Wellfield

Health Assessor - Barbara Trejo Phone: 360-236-3373

Community Outreach and Education - Erin Kochaniewicz Phone: 360-236-3358

Site Manager: Chris Cora - US Environmental Protection Agency

Site Background

Trichloroethylene (TCE) and tetrachloroethylene (PCE) contaminated groundwater, originating at some commercial properties located hydraulically upgradient of the residential Palermo community in Tumwater, flows below the community posing a possible indoor air health risk.

Activity Report

The health consultation memorandum regarding EPA's second five year review for the Palermo site was approved by ATSDR and sent to EPA.

No community outreach activities conducted for this site.

Planned Future Activities

DOH will continue working with EPA to evaluate the groundwater to indoor air pathway for the Palermo neighborhood. DOH will prepare a health consultation report, in the future, summarizing its findings, conclusions, and recommendations regarding the health risks associated with the groundwater to indoor air pathway.

No future community outreach activities are planned for this site. Future activities will depend on health consultation recommendations and stakeholder feedback.

Future Documents Planned For This Site

A health consultation will be prepared for this site by Barbara Trejo. The next stage for the health consultation is Internal Review Draft. The target date to reach this stage is April 2009.

The subject of this health consultation is an evaluation of the groundwater to indoor air pathway.

Sites in Whatcom County

Swift Creek

Health Assessor - Barbara Trejo Phone: 360-236-3373

Community Outreach and Education - Erin Kochaniewicz Phone: 360-236-3358

Site Manager: No Site Manager On Record -

Site Background

A landslide that occurred about 50-60 years ago on Sumas Mountain in northern Whatcom County annually provides an enormous amount of material to Swift Creek during rain and snowmelt. This material has caused a long history of flood control problems downstream near the town of Everson. Annual dredging has been occurring for many years to prevent flooding. Until recently, the sediment material removed from the creek bed was taken by the public and used as fill in driveways, etc.

The material was known to contain low levels of naturally occurring asbestos, but it has recently been revealed that it may contain high levels of naturally occurring asbestos. Whatcom County Health Department has requested assistance from DOH to determine health risks posed by naturally occurring asbestos in Swift Creek sediments.

Public use of the dredged sediment has been discouraged.

Activity Report

Continued work on the joint Whatcom County Health Department and Washington Department of Health advisory regarding asbestos in Swift Creek sediments. Participated in the monthly agency call.

Worked on advisory with Whatcom County.

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Planned Future Activities

Other work to be determined.

To be determined in the future.
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