

Bremerton Gasworks Public Health Assessment

Lenford O'Garro and Erin Govednik
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Public Health – Always Working for a Safer and Healthier Washington

Site Assessments Program

- ▶ Cooperative agreement with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
 - U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
 - Principle federal public health agency responsible for health issues related to hazardous waste sites
 - Conducts Public Health Assessments (PHA) for every site on the National Priorities List (NPL)

Our Goal

- ▶ Protect people in Washington State from chemical exposures
 - Human health assessments
 - Public Health Assessments
 - Health Consultations
 - Exposure Investigation

- ▶ Provide technical assistance to local health jurisdictions

- ▶ Provide trusted health information
 - Partner agencies
 - Public

Public Health Assessment Process

Triggers

- Petition
- NPL
- Other Agency Request

Input

- Data
- Community Concerns

Scientific Evaluation

- Exposure evaluation
- Health Effects Evaluation

Products

- Public Health Assessment (Initial Release, Public Comment, Final Release)

Outcomes

- Follow-up Health Actions
- Technical Assistance to Other Agencies

Bremerton Gasworks Public Health Assessment

- ▶ Public Health Assessment is required for all sites on the National Priorities List (NPL)
- ▶ Bremerton Gasworks was officially listed on the NPL in May 2012
- ▶ We reviewed all data available at the time the site was listed

Our Assessment Looked At...

- ▶ Environmental data
 - Groundwater
 - Soil
 - Sediment
- ▶ Other potential hazards
 - Physical hazards

Our Assessment Looked At...

- ▶ Community concerns
 - Department of Health and the EPA met with community members in September 2012
 - Concerns brought up included:
 - Cancer
 - Is the drinking water okay
 - Risk from eating blackberries and shellfish
 - Exposure to contaminants

What We Found

- ▶ Trespassing on the site could result in physical injury
 - Physical hazards are at the site (abandoned ballast tanks on shoreline and metal tank on path)
- ▶ Touching or accidentally swallowing beach sediments every day for more than a year could result in an increased risk of developing cancer
 - Chemicals were found in sediments
 - This conclusion is based on sampling results from before sediment removal and the placement of the cap in 2013
- ▶ No one is drinking the contaminated groundwater located in the vicinity of the site



We Couldn't Determine

- ▶ If trespassers are touching contaminated soils at the site
 - The nature and extent of soil contamination is not known
- ▶ If people are being exposed to contaminants from eating fish or shellfish harvested at the site
 - Shellfish and fish tissue data were not available
- ▶ If people are being exposed to contaminants in blackberries collected at the site
 - Soil samples and berry samples were not available

Recommendations Already Completed

- ▶ A number of recommendations from the PHA have already been addressed, including:
 - Warning signs posted on the beach
 - Additional beach sediment data collected in 2013
 - Removal of sediments and cap placed over area with elevated PAH concentrations

Public Health Assessment Process Summary

- ▶ Initial Release and Public Comment took place
 - February 26 – March 28, 2014
- ▶ DOH is currently addressing the comments received
- ▶ Document will be resubmitted to ATSDR for final approval
- ▶ The final document will be available to the public on website (www.doh.wa.gov/consults)
 - Fact sheets will be mailed to the community

Questions?



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