



## Announcing Public Comment Period for EPA's Proposed Plan to Clean Up the Hamilton Road Impacted Area

Chehalis, Washington

October 2012

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency invites your comments on its Proposed Plan for cleaning up the Hamilton Road Impacted Area (HRIA). This area is part of the Hamilton/Labree Roads Groundwater Contamination Superfund Site.

The HRIA is also known as Operable Unit 1 (OU 1). You can review the Proposed Plan for the HRIA at the information repositories listed on Page 7, and on EPA's web page at

☞ <http://go.usa.gov/Ya4V>

### Your Comments are Invited by November 9, 2012

EPA will consider all comments received during the public comment period through November 9, before choosing an interim cleanup plan, called an Interim Record of Decision. It is called "interim" because EPA will propose and select other cleanups for the site after the HRIA cleanup action starts and additional site-wide data is collected and evaluated. Based on the studies done to date, EPA has determined there is enough reliable information about contamination at the HRIA to complete the Proposed Plan for this area at this time.

We encourage you to mail or email your comments, postmarked no later than **November 9, 2012**, to:

**Tamara Langton**, Project Manager  
U.S. EPA Region 10  
1200 Sixth Ave., ECL-113  
Seattle, WA 98101

Email comments to [langton.tamara@epa.gov](mailto:langton.tamara@epa.gov)

For emailed comments please put  
"HRIA Proposed Plan" in the subject line.

#### **Come to the Public Meeting**

Your verbal and written comments can help shape the final cleanup decision and will be taken at the meeting to be held:

**October 23, 2012 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.**

Veterans Memorial Museum  
100 SW Veterans Way  
Chehalis, WA 98532  
(360) 740-8875

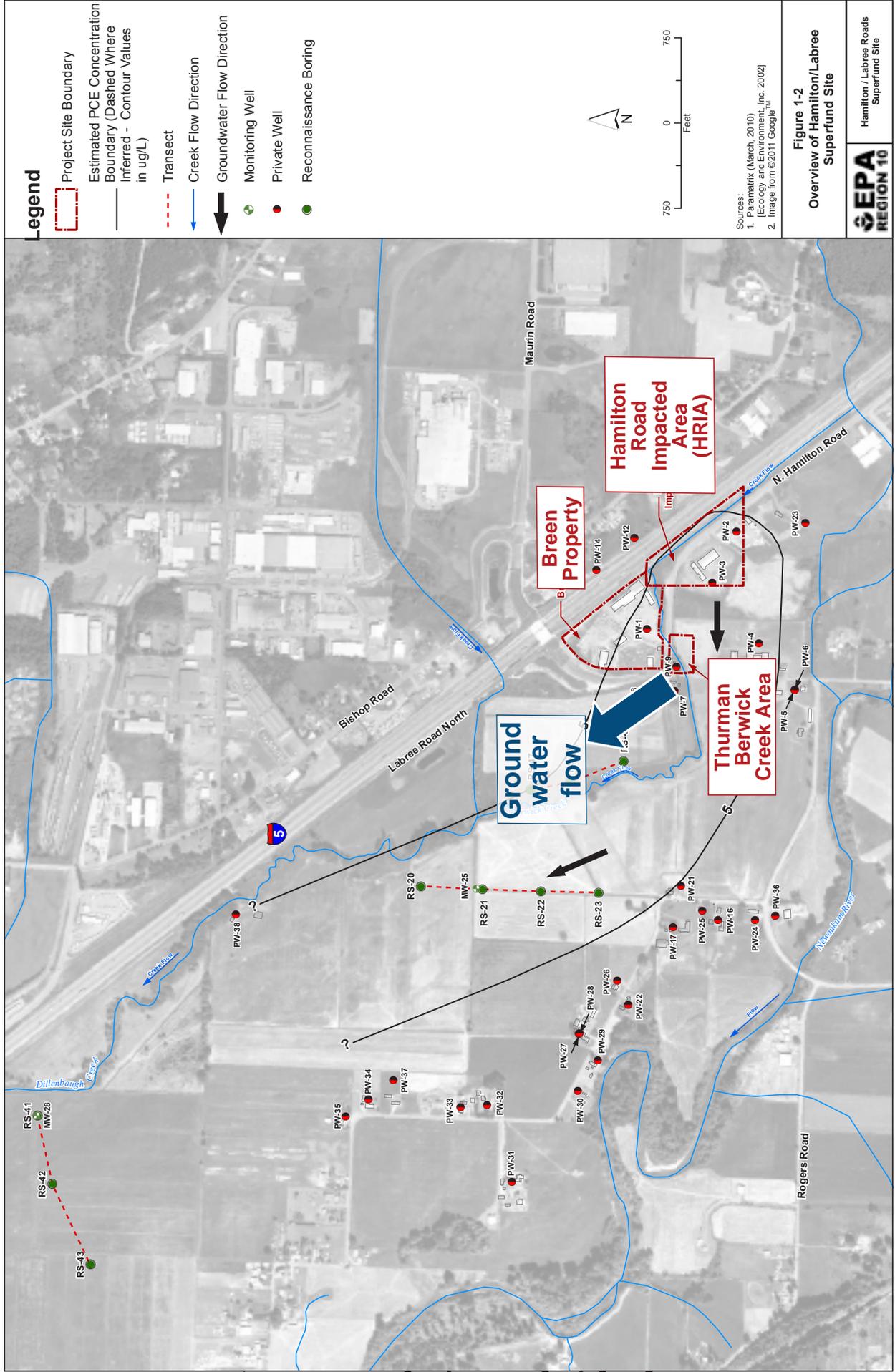
[www.veteransmuseum.org](http://www.veteransmuseum.org)

There will be an **Open House** before the public meeting, from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. EPA staff will be available to answer your questions.

### About the Overall Site

The Hamilton/Labree Roads Groundwater Contamination Superfund Site is located near the intersection of North Hamilton Road and Labree Road, west of Interstate 5, about two miles south of Chehalis, Washington. The site includes several areas where tetrachloroethene (PCE) and other chemicals were released onto soil and surface water, including at the HRIA. PCE is a chemical used for dry cleaning, metal degreasing and other industrial processes.

PCE-contaminated groundwater from these areas flows west and northwest along the Newaukum River Valley. Many of the homes and businesses across the site currently use drinking water from the City of Chehalis public water supply system. However, if the PCE is not cleaned up and the contaminated groundwater continues to move down the valley, residents and workers not on the public water supply system may be at risk if they drink PCE-contaminated groundwater.



Hamilton/Labree Roads Groundwater Contamination Superfund Site. PCE-contaminated groundwater flows west and northwest from several source areas at the site

## What is the Hamilton Road Impacted Area?

The part of the site called the HRIA is a 10-acre area located along Interstate 5 and North Hamilton Road. It is the most upgradient part of the site, meaning it is upstream of the rest of the site. North Hamilton Road and Berwick Creek cross the HRIA from northwest to southeast. Berwick Creek flows north.

The source of contamination at the HRIA appears to be a release of liquid PCE directly into Berwick Creek by an unknown entity sometime before 1990. Studies done to date in the HRIA have found that PCE has contaminated Berwick Creek bed sediment

and bank surface soil, and soil and groundwater beneath the creek in what is referred to as the shallow aquifer. This PCE has continued to dissolve over time in the shallow aquifer and move to other areas of the site. If not cleaned up, it will continue to contaminate the groundwater for many decades to come.

This contaminant may pose a risk to people if they were to drink the groundwater, and if they work at the HRIA. In addition, the contamination may pose a risk to fish and animals who visit or live in the sediment and soil within the HRIA.

## About the Proposed Plan and Preferred Cleanup Alternative

The Proposed Plan for cleaning up the Hamilton Road Impacted Area describes EPA's preferred cleanup alternative, called Combined Technology Scenario (CTS) Alternative CTS-2, and compares it with a number of other possible alternatives, including taking no action.

EPA evaluated each alternative against seven of the nine established criteria identified below (#1 thru #7). Criteria #8 and #9 are not fully evaluated until after comments on the Proposed Plan are received.

EPA believes the preferred alternative best meets the criteria. The other cleanup alternatives we considered are discussed in detail in the draft HRIA Feasibility Study report and summarized in the Proposed Plan.

Both of these documents are available at the information repositories and on the web site listed on Page 7.

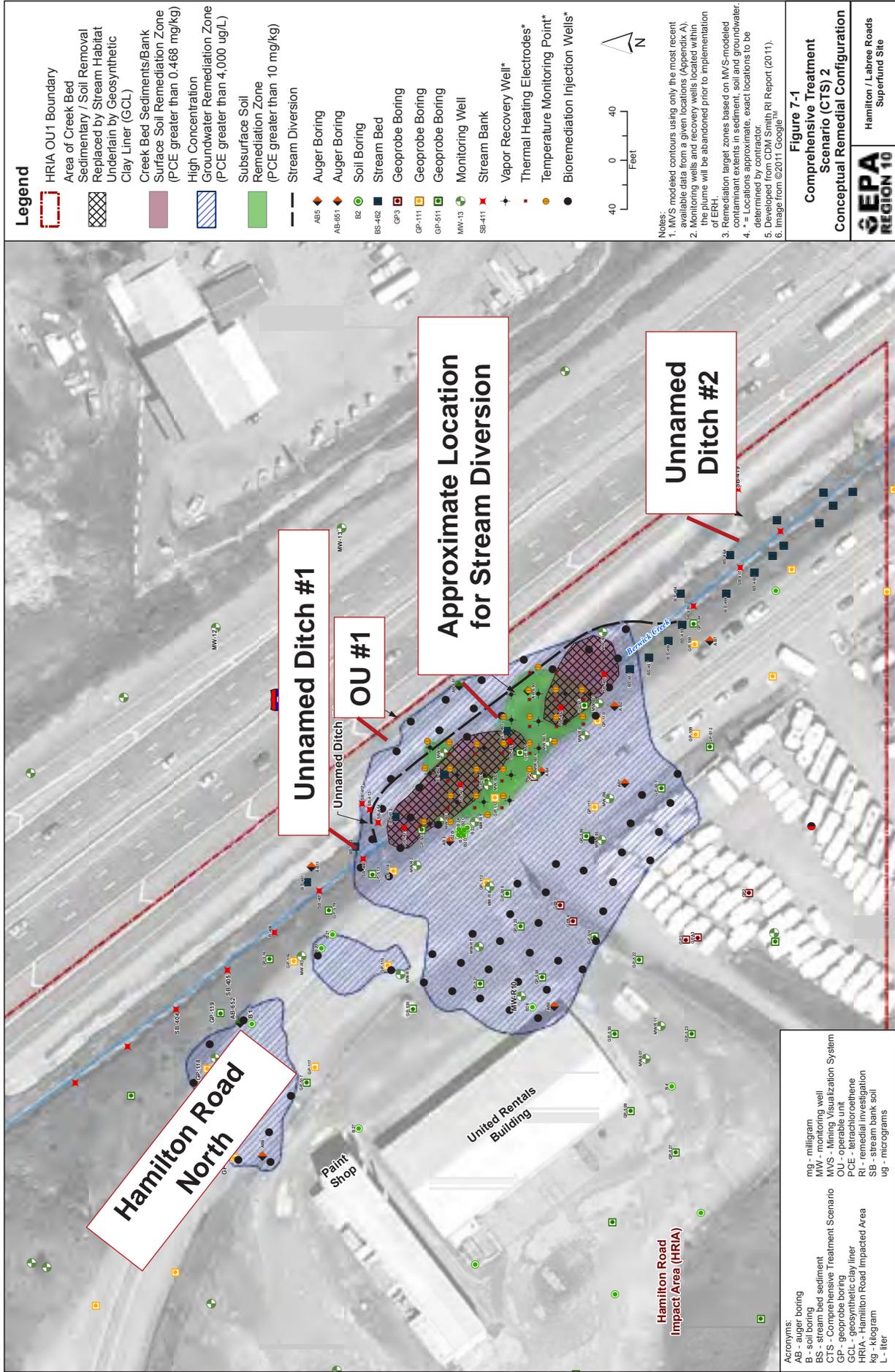
### Preferred Alternative

EPA recommends Alternative CTS-2 because it would best address the known sources of PCE contamination within the HRIA and the most immediate risks posed by these sources.

It would also best help prevent the contaminated groundwater from moving from the HRIA to the rest of the site. The combination of technologies proposed for contaminated soil and groundwater would work together to reduce HRIA contamination as quickly as possible, and be cost effective. *See map on next page* ➡

## Criteria for Evaluating Cleanup Alternatives

1. Overall protection of human health and the environment
2. Compliance with state and federal laws known as "Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs)"
3. Short-term effectiveness
4. Long-term effectiveness
5. Reduction of mobility, toxicity, and volume of contaminants through treatment
6. Implementability, or ability to carry out, the alternative
7. Cost
8. State/Tribal acceptance
9. Community acceptance



EPA's Preferred Cleanup Alternative Would Address Contamination in the Hamilton Road Impacted Area

## EPA's Phased Approach for the Site

EPA proposes to address contamination at the overall Hamilton/Labree site using a phased approach. This would begin with an interim action at the Hamilton Road Impacted Area to address PCE-contaminated creek bed sediment and bank surface soil, soil beneath the surface, and groundwater. EPA believes this approach is the most appropriate when there is not

enough information gathered yet to determine how likely it is to be able to achieve long-term cleanup goals, like restoring groundwater to safe drinking water levels, over all or parts of the site. Addressing contamination in the HRIA is the first part of a comprehensive and dynamic strategy to manage the contaminated groundwater for the entire site.

## The preferred cleanup alternative, CTS-2 includes the following parts:

### Re-route Berwick Creek around areas of contamination

- ✓ Re-routing about 200 feet of Berwick Creek around the areas of contamination in the HRIA would help protect fish and animals that live in or visit the creek channel from possible negative impacts caused by cleanup activities. The creek would be re-routed to a location within the HRIA where it may remain permanently. The creek channel (bed and banks) would be designed to protect fish and animals, especially those living in the creek bed sediments. This means that PCE in the creek bed and banks would need to be less than 0.468 milligrams per kilograms (mg/kg) of PCE.

### Heat sediment and soil with PCE concentrations greater than 10 mg/kg

- ✓ Increasing the temperature by heating the sediment and soil would remove contaminant mass and reduce PCE concentrations to 10 mg/kg.

### Excavate and dispose of remaining sediment and surface soil with PCE concentrations greater than 10 mg/kg

- ✓ If heating the sediment and surface soil does not reduce PCE contamination to 10 mg/kg, the sediment and surface soil would be excavated.
- ✓ The excavated sediment and surface soil would be consolidated within the HRIA and treated with a chemical, such as potassium permanganate, if necessary, to meet disposal requirements. Or, the sediment and surface soil may be treated at an off-site, licensed disposal facility.

### Add organic materials to groundwater with PCE concentrations greater than 4,000 micrograms per liter (µg/L)

- ✓ Injecting organic material such as emulsified vegetable oil into groundwater with PCE concentrations greater than 4,000 µg/L would enhance the biological breakdown of PCE. It would also reduce by 90% the movement of PCE from the HRIA to other areas of the site.

### Institutional controls

- ✓ Institutional controls or "ICs" would be carried out during and after the interim cleanup action. ICs are legal restrictions, covenants or easements on property, and governmental and/or administrative controls.
- ✓ ICs would be used to help stop or reduce the possibility of people being exposed to hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants. Objectives of the ICs include preventing using groundwater for drinking water and requiring workers to wear protective gear.

### Monitoring

- ✓ Sampling of surface water, sediment, soil, groundwater, and air would be performed during and after cleanup in order to ensure people and the environment are protected, and to determine the effectiveness of the interim cleanup action.

## About Tetrachloroethene (PCE)

Other names for tetrachloroethene (PCE) include tetrachloroethylene and perchloroethylene. PCE is a chemical used for metal degreasing, dry cleaning, and other industrial processes. It can move easily through air, water, and soils and may harm people. EPA has determined that PCE is carcinogenic (causes cancer) in people by all exposure routes (swallowing, breathing in, and skin contact).

- At high concentrations in air, particularly in closed, poorly ventilated areas, exposures can cause dizziness, headache, sleepiness, confusion, nausea, difficulty in speaking and walking, unconsciousness, and death.
- At low levels in ambient air or drinking water (below the drinking water standards) risk of adverse health effects is minimal.
- The Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for PCE has been set at 5 parts per billion. EPA believes, given present technology and resources, this is the lowest level to which water systems

can reasonably be required to remove this contaminant should it occur in drinking water.

- These drinking water standards, and the regulations for ensuring these standards are met, are called National Primary Drinking Water Regulations. All public water supplies must abide by these regulations.

**MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level** is the legal threshold limit on the amount of a substance that is allowed in public water systems under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The limit is usually expressed as a concentration in milligrams per liter (parts per million), or micrograms per liter (parts per billion) of water. For more information about possible health effects from PCE, see the Agency for Toxic Substances and Diseases Registry web page at [http://1.usa.gov/PCE\\_fact](http://1.usa.gov/PCE_fact) Search under "T" for tetrachloroethylene or go to [www.atsdr.cdc.gov/az/t.html](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/az/t.html)

## Site Studies and Past Cleanups

The Breen property covers about 11 acres and is bounded by Interstate 5 to the east, North Hamilton Road to the south, and Labree Road to the west.

Contamination was first identified at the site in **1993–94**, when the Washington State Department of Health found six private water-supply wells contaminated with PCE. The Washington State Department of Ecology started providing bottled water to affected well owners, and began investigations to determine the source of this contamination.

In **1998**, two areas of contamination were discovered at the site: the HRIA and an area northwest of the HRIA on property owned by the S.C. Breen Construction Company.

In **1999**, about 70 drums, pails and cans, and 600 tons of PCE and petroleum-contaminated soil were removed from under a building on the Breen property.

In **2000**, EPA added the site to its Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) of contaminated sites selected for further investigation and cleanup.

Actions related to cleanup at the site take place under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known as Superfund.

From **2000–2002**, EPA installed a new public water supply line to homes and businesses whose private wells were or could be contaminated with PCE. Since then, investigations suggest there are other sources of contamination at the site.

However, more site-wide data is needed to develop other cleanup action(s) for the site that will achieve long-term protection of human health and the environment.

## Draft Site-Wide Cleanup Studies Available

In late 2011, EPA completed two draft reports on the entire Hamilton/Labree Roads Groundwater Contamination Superfund Site:

- the Remedial Investigation Report, which describes the nature and extent of contamination across the entire site
- the Baseline Risk Assessment Report, which evaluates current and potential future risks to people's health and the environment from contamination across the site

These draft documents are available at the information repositories and web site listed on this page. Additional studies are required to finalize these site-wide documents and prepare cleanup options for other areas of the site outside of the Hamilton Road Impacted Area.

However, there is enough valuable information in these draft reports to proceed with cleanup options for the HRIA.

## What Are the Next Steps?

EPA will consider all comments received during the public comment period before choosing a cleanup action for the Hamilton Road Impacted Area.

The interim Record of Decision, which will include responses to comments, will be available for review in early 2013.

## Find the Proposed Plan

You can review the Proposed Plan and the Administrative Record (documents that support the cleanup decision) at:

### **Vernetta Smith Chehalis Timberland Library**

400 N. Market Blvd.  
Chehalis, WA 98532

☎ (360) 748-3301. *Call for hours*

### **EPA Region 10**

Superfund Records Center  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101

☎ Toll free: 800-424-4372 ext. 4494 or  
206-553-4494. *Call for an appointment*

### **Online**

Find site documents, including the Proposed Plan, Draft HRIA Feasibility Study Report, and more on EPA's Hamilton/Labree web site: <http://go.usa.gov/Ya4V> or <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/cleanup.nsf/sites/HLabree>

## For More Information

### **General Information**

Debra Sherbina

Community Involvement Coordinator

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or 206-553-0247

 [sherbina.debra@epa.gov](mailto:sherbina.debra@epa.gov)

### **Technical Information**

Tamara Langton

Project Manager

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or 206-553-2709

 [langton.tamara@epa.gov](mailto:langton.tamara@epa.gov)

*If you need materials in an alternative format, please contact Debra Sherbina at 1-800-424-4372 ext. 0247*

 *TDD users please call the Federal Relay Service: 800-877-8339 and give the operator Debra Sherbina's phone number.*



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