

Comments must be submitted by June 30, 2012

Lakewood, WA

May 2012

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will soon prepare the fifth in a series of Five-Year Reviews for the Lakewood Superfund Site (commonly referred to as Lakewood/Ponders Corner). The 5-Year Review process determines whether current cleanup efforts at the site still protect people and the environment. If EPA finds any problems with the cleanup during the 5-Year Review, it will recommend actions to fix them.

The Lakewood Superfund Site is located south of Tacoma in Pierce County, Washington. It sits east of New York Avenue and south of Pacific Highway South in Lakewood. The contamination at the site originally came from a local dry cleaning and laundry business. The site is now occupied by an electrical supply and lighting business.



Groundwater monitoring near Plaza Cleaners
Washington State Dept. of Ecology Photo

EPA invites you to submit comments or information that we can use during the 5-Year Review. Comments must be submitted by June 30. Comment information is on Page 2 of this fact sheet. For more information about the Site, go to the EPA website at: <http://1.usa.gov/yf3> or to the Washington State Department of Ecology website at: http://1.usa.gov/Lakewood_study

Site Background and History

In 1981, EPA sampled two Lakewood Water District drinking water wells (H1 and H2). Tests showed tetrachloroethylene and other volatile organic contamination in the wells. The contaminated wells were temporarily taken out of service. Later that year, EPA removed contaminated soils and sludges from the Plaza Cleaners property.

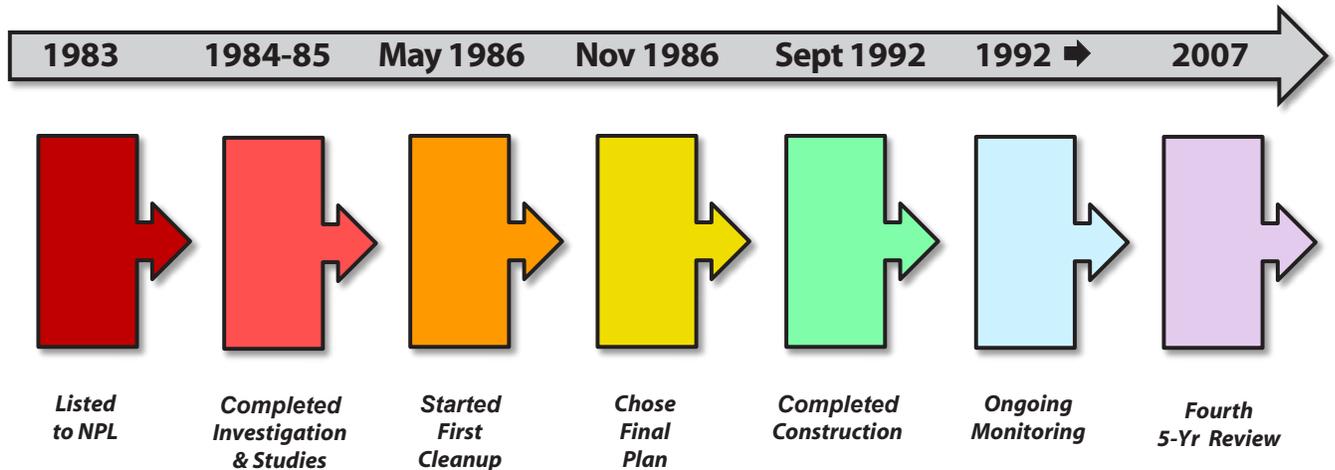
EPA listed the Lakewood site on the National Priorities List (NPL) in 1983. The NPL includes the most hazardous sites across the United States that need to be cleaned up.

At every NPL site, EPA looks at the danger to people and the environment. We then decide the best way to deal with the threat. At the Lakewood site, we chose a method of cleanup that:

- Removed contaminated soils and sludge for offsite treatment and disposal,
- Used soil vapor extraction, and
- Installed air stripping towers on the Lakewood Water District supply wells to remove contaminants.

In 1996, EPA declared the soils at the site cleaned up and we removed the soil portion of the site from the NPL.

Timeline



What Current Residents Should Know

Although EPA has removed the site from the NPL, contaminants remain in the groundwater. As a result, the Lakewood Water District still operates the system to treat groundwater at the site and the Department of Ecology monitors groundwater for contamination.

The treatment is successful, with no detectable tetrachloroethylene or other volatile contaminants in the treated water. However, the untreated groundwater still contains some contaminants because the remedy only treats water intended for consumption.

Exposure to contaminated groundwater is prevented by prohibiting the installation of drinking water wells in the area. Use of drinking wells is prohibited in the area depicted on the adjacent map. ⇒

We ask all current landowners, drillers, and realtors to take note of the restriction. EPA asks owners of property **within** the outlined area on the map to continue with this restriction. Installation of private drinking water wells is prohibited within the Lakewood Urban Growth Boundary.

Comments and Information

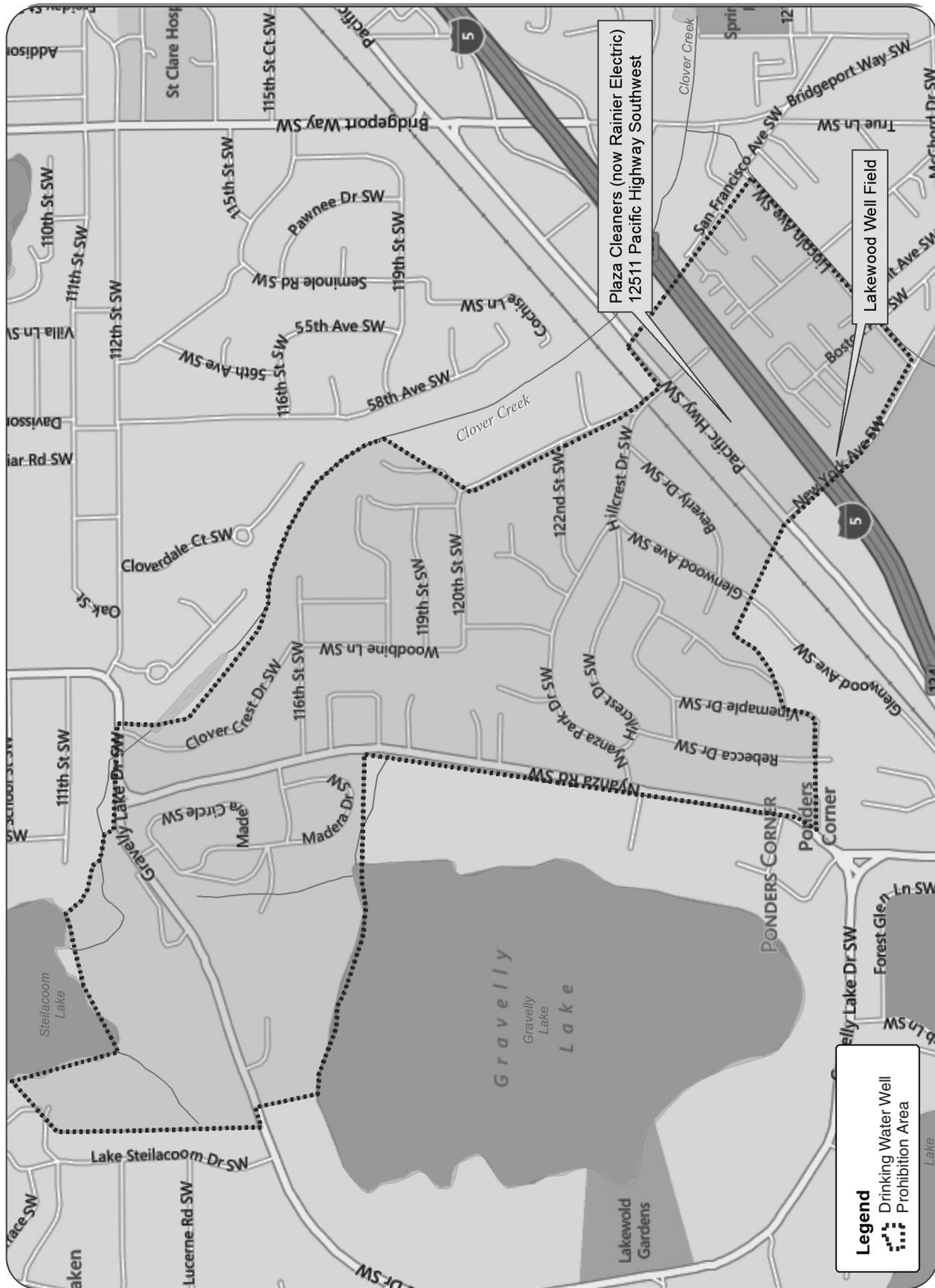
How to Submit Comments:

EPA welcomes comments that could be helpful in our evaluation of this site. Please send your comments by mail or email to

Christopher Cora
U.S. EPA, 1200 Sixth Ave, ECL-115
Seattle, WA 98101
Cora.Christopher@epa.gov

All comments must be submitted **no later than June 30, 2012**.

☎ TDD users may call the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8839 and give the operator Christopher Cora's phone number—206-553-1478



Lakewood/Ponders Corner Superfund Site



EPA Prepares for Lakewood/Ponders Corner Superfund Site 5-Year Review

Look Inside for

- ***What Current Residents Should Know***
- ***Site Background and History***
- ***How to Comment and Get Information***