

# Moses Lake Wellfield Superfund Cleanup



## Groundwater and Soil Cleanup Continues

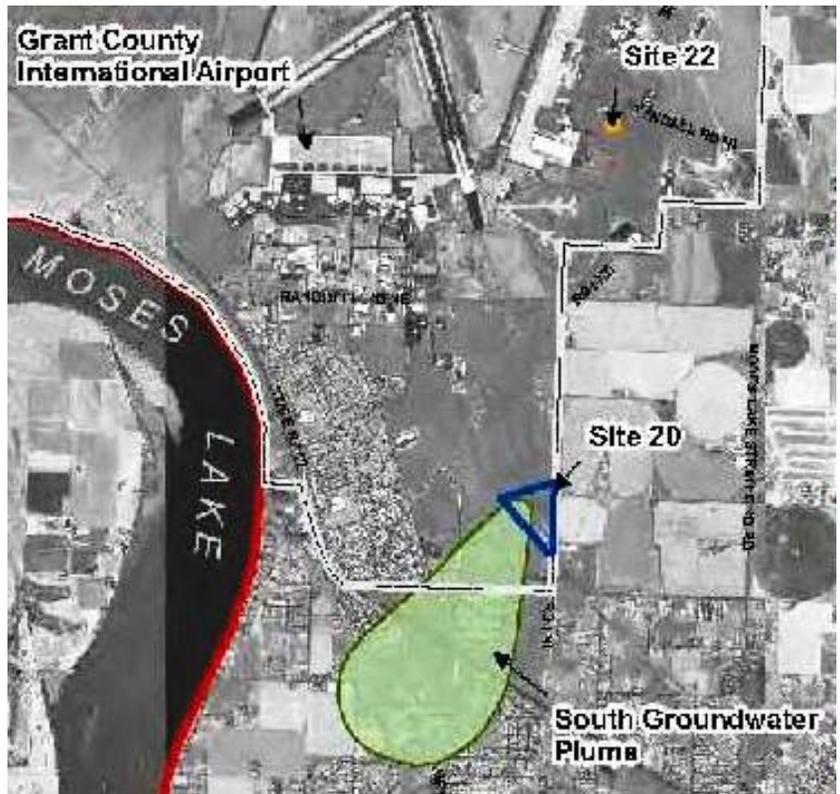
Moses Lake, Washington

Spring 2013

### Groundwater Study

EPA is continuing with a long-term cleanup of the Moses Lake Wellfield Superfund site that began last summer. The groundwater and soil cleanup areas include parts of the old Larson Air Force Base, Grant County Airport, and some areas south of the airport. EPA has been designing and testing a groundwater treatment system to remove trichloroethylene (TCE). The groundwater plumes will not be easy to clean up since they are very deep below ground and spread over a large area. We are also designing two contaminated soil site cleanups.

Most residents in Moses Lake get their drinking water from the city's municipal system or a community system. The city and community system operators test these public wells regularly to meet safe drinking water standards. EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers test private drinking water wells in the Superfund site regularly to be sure they are safe. Several private wells within the Superfund site have whole-house filters installed to remove TCE. EPA's long-term cleanup will restore the groundwater as a drinking water source.



Moses Lake Superfund Site - 2013 Investigation and Cleanup Areas

### Groundwater Treatment

Two groundwater TCE plumes begin under the old Larson Air Force Base and spread over a mile to the south. EPA is starting cleanup first at the South Groundwater Plume since it is closer to homes with private wells and we want to clean up the source of this plume.

- The South Groundwater Plume starts 150–250 feet underground at the South Base Dump (Site 20) and goes about 1.3 miles south-southwest. We found TCE levels in this plume from 88 parts per billion (ppb) beneath the dump and down to 5 ppb at the outer edges further south.
- Last summer and fall we installed groundwater monitoring and extraction wells to learn more about the size of the plume and the best way to clean it up. We will design the groundwater treatment system to pump out the groundwater and remove the TCE.
- By 2014, we will install the extraction wells and start the groundwater treatment system.

## Soil Sites

Twelve soil sites on the former Larson Air Force Base and around the Grant County Airport were used as dumps and landfills. Toxic metals like arsenic, lead, and mercury, plus gasoline, diesel, oil, PCBs, and TCE waste may have been disposed at these locations. EPA will clean up two of the sites that pose the biggest environmental risk first:

- At the South Base Dump (Site 20), EPA has tested the soils and the groundwater. EPA will design the cleanup to remove all of the contamination that exceeds EPA's safety levels for residential areas.
- At the Paint Hangar Leach Pit (Site 22), EPA has tested the soils. EPA will design the cleanup to remove all of the contamination that exceeds EPA's safety levels for industrial areas.

Cleanup evaluation and design are ongoing for the other ten dump and landfill sites.

## Expanded Private Well Sampling

During summer 2013, the Army Corps of Engineers will be sampling up to 35 wells that have never been sampled, mostly in the northern part of Cascade Valley, as well as some wells that have not been sampled for several years. They will also be replacing Whole House Filter Systems.

## Cleanup History

In 1988, the State found TCE above the safe drinking water standard in three City water supply wells on the old Larson Air Force Base and in the Skyline Water System supply wells south of the base. TCE is an industrial solvent historically used at the base and the airport for cleaning and stripping missile and airplane parts. The City fixed the wells by extending the well casings to seal off the contaminated aquifer zones. The Skyline community received bottled water until the Army Corps of Engineers constructed a new Skyline Water System well.

EPA put the Moses Lake Wellfield Superfund site on the National Priorities List in 1992 and since then, EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers have continued testing private wells throughout the site. Several homes use whole-house filters installed at their wells to remove TCE from their water. EPA issued a final interim cleanup plan in 2008. In 2010, EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers signed a cleanup settlement with Boeing, Lockheed Martin, and the City of Moses Lake. Boeing, Lockheed Martin, and City of Moses Lake will pay \$3.25 million for cleanup and the federal government will pay \$55 million.

## Contact EPA

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**Find more information on the Moses Lake Wellfield Superfund cleanup online at:**  
<http://go.usa.gov/dvh>