



United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 10 Emergency Response Unit  
**POLLUTION REPORT**

**I. HEADING**

Date: December 18, 1999  
Subject: CleanCare Removal Site (CleanCare), Tacoma, Washington  
From: Michael Szerlog, OSC, USEPA, Region 10, Emergency Response Unit  
Tel: Office (206) 553-0279  
TO: See Distribution List on last page

**POLREP No.1 (Initial)**

**II. BACKGROUND**

Site ID: SSID # 106W  
Delivery Order No: 081-10 -02  
Response Authority: CERCLA,  
CERCLIS No: WASFN1002182  
NPL Status: Not Listed (former RCRA site within Commencement Bay Superfund site)  
State Notification: Washington State Department of Ecology referred site to EPA  
Action Memo Status: Signed on December 17, 1999  
Removal Start Date: December 17, 1999  
Expected Completion Date: March 17, 2001  
Site Web Page: [www.epa.gov/r10earth](http://www.epa.gov/r10earth), click Index, click C for CleanCare. or use URL: <http://epainotes1.rtpnc.epa.gov:7777/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/CleanCare>

**III. SITE INFORMATION**

**A. Incident Category**

This is a time-critical removal action at an inactive waste management facility

**B. Site Description**

**1. Site Location**

The CleanCare site is located at 1510 Taylor Way in Pierce County, City of Tacoma, Washington at Township 21, Range 3 E. in Section 26. The site comprises approximately 4.2 acres latitude 47° 16' 25" North and

longitude 122° 23' 32" West. The site is located in the "Tacoma Tidelands" area about three miles northeast of downtown Tacoma. The site is situated on a man-made peninsula, with Blair Waterway to the southwest, Hylebos Waterway to the northeast, and Commencement Bay to the northwest. The Puyallup River and Waterway drain into Commencement Bay about two miles to the west. The Tidelands area is quite low and flat, typically ranging up to 20 feet above mean sea level (MSL). The surrounding area is comprised of heavy industrial properties and is located within two miles of Interstate 5. The area to the west and east is Phillips (a TSD facility), to the east and southeast is Sol-Pro (a TSD facility), to the east is the Educator building (houses Northstar Trucking, Mapletex, and the offices of Sol-Pro), and to the north is a vacant lot currently offered for lease by ProLogis/Global Distribution Solution). Additionally, to the east is a storm water retention pond that the City of Tacoma installed. This water body is located approximately 100 feet from Building 5 (Marine Building). The site is owned by David Bromley of Bromley-Marr ECOS Inc.

The CleanCare site was an interim status treatment, storage, disposal, and recycling (TSD) facility for off-site generated hazardous and non-hazardous wastes - one of a handful of commercial TSDs operating in the state of Washington. When the facility was in operation its major function was to solidify oily sludge wastes originating from catch basins, sumps, and storm drains; recycle waste oils, antifreeze, and spent solvents; and crush used oil filters for off-site recycling by other facilities. CleanCare also received hazardous and WDOE regulated dangerous waste. This waste was stored for transport to another TSD for final treatment and/or disposal, or was blended into hazardous waste fuel. Fuel wastes primarily consisted of paint wastes and other ignitable solvents and wastes that had fuel value. Solvent was received and recycled as part of a parts-washer program marketed to generators. CleanCare picked up the spent solvent and replaced it with recycled stock. CleanCare also received "paint gun wash," solvent that was generally of low quality, routinely used to clean paint spray guns. This waste was sent to Sol Pro, an adjacent but separate TSD/recycling facility, for recycling and then returned to customers. Additionally, CleanCare recycled antifreeze in a dedicated distillation column. A separate distillation column, called the "Splitter," along with other processing equipment, recovered oil from oily waste and prepared it for used oil fuel blending.

The CleanCare facility has four separate tank farms (tank farm (TF)-1, TF-2, TF-3, and TF-4), two hazardous/dangerous waste container storage pads (container storage (CS) CS-4A and CS 4-B), and a processing area where the distillation of solvent, oil, and antifreeze used to occur.

Chemical containers include:

- Thirty above ground storage tanks (ASTs), ranging in size from approximately 20,000 to 500,000 gallons. These tanks are in secondary containment structures, although tank farm #1 has a soil floor.
- Hundreds to a few thousand 55 gallon drums (primarily in the Marine Warehouse and on container storage pads 4a and 4b)
- Five compressed gas cylinders in the truck shop

Temporary water storage tanks:

- 24 Baker tanks are located on site contents of the tanks includes; oily rain water, consolidated oil and sludge, waste antifreeze and antifreeze bottoms.

It is estimated that approximately **1,600,000 gallons** of wastes are on site

Many toxic, corrosive, ignitable, and reactive chemicals, as well as RCRA listed wastes have been documented on site, including (but not limited to):

Acetone - ignitable, listed waste  
 Antifreeze (ethylene glycol) - toxic, listed waste  
 Calcium Hypochlorite - ignitable  
 Caustic Soda - corrosive  
 Corrosive Liquids  
 Chlorinated Solvents - listed waste  
 Latex Paint - ignitable  
 Lead Acid Batteries - toxic, corrosive  
 PCB Contaminated Material - TSCA waste  
 Sodium Nitrate - reactive  
 Sodium Sulfide - corrosive, reactive

## **2. Description of Threat**

On November 1, 1999, Washington Department of Ecology (WDOE), based upon information that CleanCare was closing its doors during the middle of November, requested assistance from EPA's Removal Program to address the need for removal action. The request was based upon the approximate 1,600,000 gallons of wastes on site stored in deteriorating drums, containers, and tanks. In March 1999, the CleanCare facility had a spill/release of hazardous substances through the stormwater system that entered the Blair Waterway - part of Commencement Bay (Puget Sound). WDOE issued a \$486,000 civil penalty and order to CleanCare for hazardous waste violations and for the spill/release. The on-site stormwater system was plugged and the facility began collecting contaminated stormwater in temporary storage tanks.

## **C. Removal Assessment Results**

During November and December, 1999, EPA and the Superfund Technical Assessment Team Contractor conducted a removal assessment and data collection at the CleanCare site.

- Based on sampling results, site inventories, and on-site observations, there is approximately 1,407,000 gallons of hazardous substances exhibiting RCRA Ignitable and toxic characteristics stored in tanks located on site. Approximately 685,000 gallons of hazardous substances are stored in old deteriorating tanks (showing signs of releases and of weaknesses) located in Tank Farm -1.
- Based on sampling results, site inventories, and on-site observations, there is approximately 70,000 gallons of hazardous substances exhibiting RCRA Ignitable, toxic, corrosive characteristics, RCRA listed, and unused solvents and antifreeze stored in drums and containers located on site.
- Based on historic sampling results, removal assessment sampling results, and on-site observations, there is approximately 800 cubic yards of soils on-site containing hazardous substances that meet Removal Action criteria

#### **IV. Response Information**

##### **A. Situation**

##### **1. Current Situation**

December 16, 1999 (Thursday)

Personnel on site: 2 START in the am, 4 START in the pm  
Weather: overcast and cold (30s) warming and clearing later  
On arrival at the site, the START was informed by security that a spill had occurred on site overnight. It was determined that a temporary water storage tank (Baker Tank) had overflowed from the top. It appeared that the tank had been over pumped during the night. Spilled oil had pooled on the ground between the tank that spilled and those adjacent to it. Oil had also flowed from the Baker Tank to a surface water puddle just south of the main entrance to the site. The spill was cleaned up using spill containment boom, adsorbent pads, and a pneumatic pump. Oily water was pumped from the puddle into another Baker Tank onsite. This spill caused no offsite migration of oil or contaminated water. Because of the suspicious nature of the release, START purchased new locks, replaced the existing locks at each of the three site access gates, and installed a lock on tank T-16. The aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) and the Baker tanks were surveyed. It was determined that each AST requires 3 locks and chains to be secured, the vast majority of the ASTs were locked, and a few were unlocked. It was also determined that none of the Baker Tanks were secured and securing the tanks would require several lock per

tank and a large pipe wrench to over tighten the drain plugs. That evening chain was purchased to secure the ASTs.

December 17, 1999 (Friday)

Personnel on site: 2 START, 3 ERRS

Weather: Cool, in the 30s warming to the 40s, overcast  
START and ERRS review status of site with the security company. Additional ASTs are locked. Pumping of the non contact surface water is transferred from START to ERRS. ERRS begins pumping contact water into Baker Tanks. The asphalt area stained with oil from the release on 12/16/99 was pressure washed. The solidification bins in the process are dewatered.

December 18, 1999 (Saturday)

Personnel on site: 3 ERRS

Weather: Partially cloudy in the 40s  
Pumping of non contact surface water continues.

**2. Removal Actions to Date**

The OSC is currently writing an Action Memorandum to increase site ceiling, to ask for a \$2 million exemption, a 12-month exemption, and a change of scope.

The State (Washington Department of Ecology) provided historical information on the site during the assessment phase of the removal. The City (City of Tacoma Public Works) provided historical information, assistance with security, and with discharge criteria to their POTW (helpful in design of proposed temporary treatment system).

**3. Enforcement**

The Region currently has some information regarding potential responsible parties (PRPs) at the site. EPA intends to gather additional PRP information during the removal action.

**B. Planned Removal Activities**

To minimize/eliminate to threat to human health and the environment posed by the materials on the site, the following removal activities are planned:

Drums - organization of drums and documents (manifests & profile analyses), generator notification, hazard categorization and disposal tests, and removal of containers from the site.

Baker Tanks -	sampling, handling of contents (onsite treatment or off site disposal to be determined), cleaning tanks, and removal of tanks from the site.
Surface Water -	manage surface water as it collects onsite (including sampling, treatment, and discharge), clean concrete and asphalt surfaces that currently impact surface water, establish and implement a long term. plan/recommendation for surface water management including possibly construction of an asphalt cap.
ASTs -	sampling, handling of contents (off site disposal or combination of onsite treatment and off site disposal anticipated), clean tanks, possible dismantling of some tanks and containment structures and remove from site
Soil -	Possible further sampling prior to excavation, confirmation sampling, and removal from site or onsite treatment. Installation of asphalt cap if deemed necessary.

### **C. Next Steps**

If Action Memorandum is approved, EPA will mobilize additional ERRS, START, and the USCG Strike Team to continue managing onsite surface water and begin to address wastes stored in drums and tanks. Formulate strategy to address planned removal activities listed above. Remove empty drums and CleanCare operated vehicles from the site to make room for future site activities.

### **D. Key Issues**

Security Two suspicious releases of stored liquids have occurred on the site. Processed waste water was release into its secondary containment on the morning of 12/15/99 and oil was spilled from a Baker Tank to the ground surface during on 12/16/99, as detailed above in the Removal Actions to Date section (12/16/99). In response to these events security has been increased from one guard to two and other security options are being evaluated.

Discharge of non contact waters Noncontact surface water is being discharged to the Lincoln Avenue Ditch, as needed, with daily permission of the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE). Discharge requirements established by DOE are being followed.

Management of contact water Contact surface water (that which falls with in the secondary containment structures) is being pumped into temporary storage tanks (Baker Tanks). This water will be analyzed and the data will be used to determine what the proper treatment/disposal option is.

## V. Cost Information

Estimated costs are summarized below:

	<u>Established Ceiling</u>	<u>Estimated Costs (As of 12/18/99)</u>
EPA	\$ 10,000	\$ 1,000
START	\$ 20,000	\$ 3,000
ERRS	\$100,000	\$ 11,000
Total	<u>\$130,000</u>	<u>\$ 25,000</u>

*Note: The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.*

## VI Disposition of Wastes

No Wastes have been disposed of yet.

## VII Distribution

To: EPA Headquarters, Washington, D.C. Attention: Terry Eby  
EPA Region 10, Attention: Chris Field  
EPA Washington Operations Office, Attention: Julie Hagensen  
Washington State Department of Ecology, Attention: Jim Sachet  
City of Tacoma Public Works Department, Attention: Michael Kennedy

## VII Status

Case Pending.