

SUPERFUND

Fact Sheet

CLEANCARE
Tacoma, Washington



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 10

January 2000

EPA to Stabilize the CleanCare Site

In December 1999, the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) requested the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to look at the CleanCare site. EPA decided that immediate actions were needed to prevent a release of hazardous materials onto the site or nearby properties and waterbodies. The site, located at 1510 Taylor Way, in Tacoma, is a former treatment, storage, disposal, and recycling facility which closed its business in November 1999.

Stormwater had been collecting on the site in low-lying areas and within containment walls around the tank farm. The stormwater discharge system had been blocked off in March 1999 when a spill released hazardous chemicals into the Lincoln Avenue ditch which flowed into the Blair Waterway. CleanCare provided temporary storage tanks to hold the on-site stormwater, so that the water would not flow off-site. Since December, EPA continues to provide temporary storage for stormwater at the site.

Additional Hazards Exist at the Site

EPA conducted an assessment of the site to document conditions that may pose a threat to human health and the environment. Over 1,600,000 gallons of chemicals and other hazardous wastes are being stored in tanks, storage containers, and drums at the 5-acre site. The containers are in poor condition and pose a potential threat if they should break or leak. The chemicals and wastes identified so far include regulated hazardous wastes, waste and used oil,

antifreeze, used solvents, paint wastes, and crushed oil filters. If any of the contamination moves off site, it could easily get into the Blair or Hylebos Waterways. Therefore, EPA is taking additional cleanup actions using our emergency authorities under Superfund.



Drums of Waste Material in Building 5

Plans for Cleanup and Stabilization of the Site

EPA is planning the following activities at the CleanCare site to prevent a release. These actions are described in an Action Memorandum dated January 7, 2000. The actions include:

Security measures:

- repairing the fence around the site
- increasing security patrols to prevent vandalism

Treatment of on-site storm and waste water:

- installing a temporary on-site treatment system for stormwater
- discharging the clean water into the City of Tacoma sewer treatment facility

Sampling, removing and/or recycling on-site waste and products:

- sampling drums, tanks and other containers to confirm their contents
- assessing the amount of remaining contamination in the piping, buildings, sumps and storage pad
- disposing of wastes stored in tanks, drums, sumps and containers at an off-site facility
- Removing products that can be re-used or recycled

Other activities (if funding becomes available)

- excavating contaminated soils and taking it off-site for treatment and disposal
- dismantling the tanks within Tank Farm 1, decontaminating and recycling the metal
- designing an asphalt cap for the excavated areas
- controlling off-site runoff of stormwater

Activities Being Conducted in Phases

EPA expects to spend about \$4 million to stabilize the site and will take at least 1 year to complete. EPA does not have the funds to do all the work at this time; therefore, the work will be done in phases.

The first phase includes bringing in a mobile treatment system to treat the 22 tanks of wastewater collected since last year. This will allow EPA to manage stormwater throughout the cleanup and reduce disposal costs. Other cleanup activities will involve cleaning and disposing of thousands of drums of waste on the site. Currently, incompatible hazardous materials are placed side by side which are a potential fire threat. Approximately 685,000 gallons of waste in the four aboveground storage tanks in Tank Farm 1 will be treated and disposed of.

SITE HISTORY

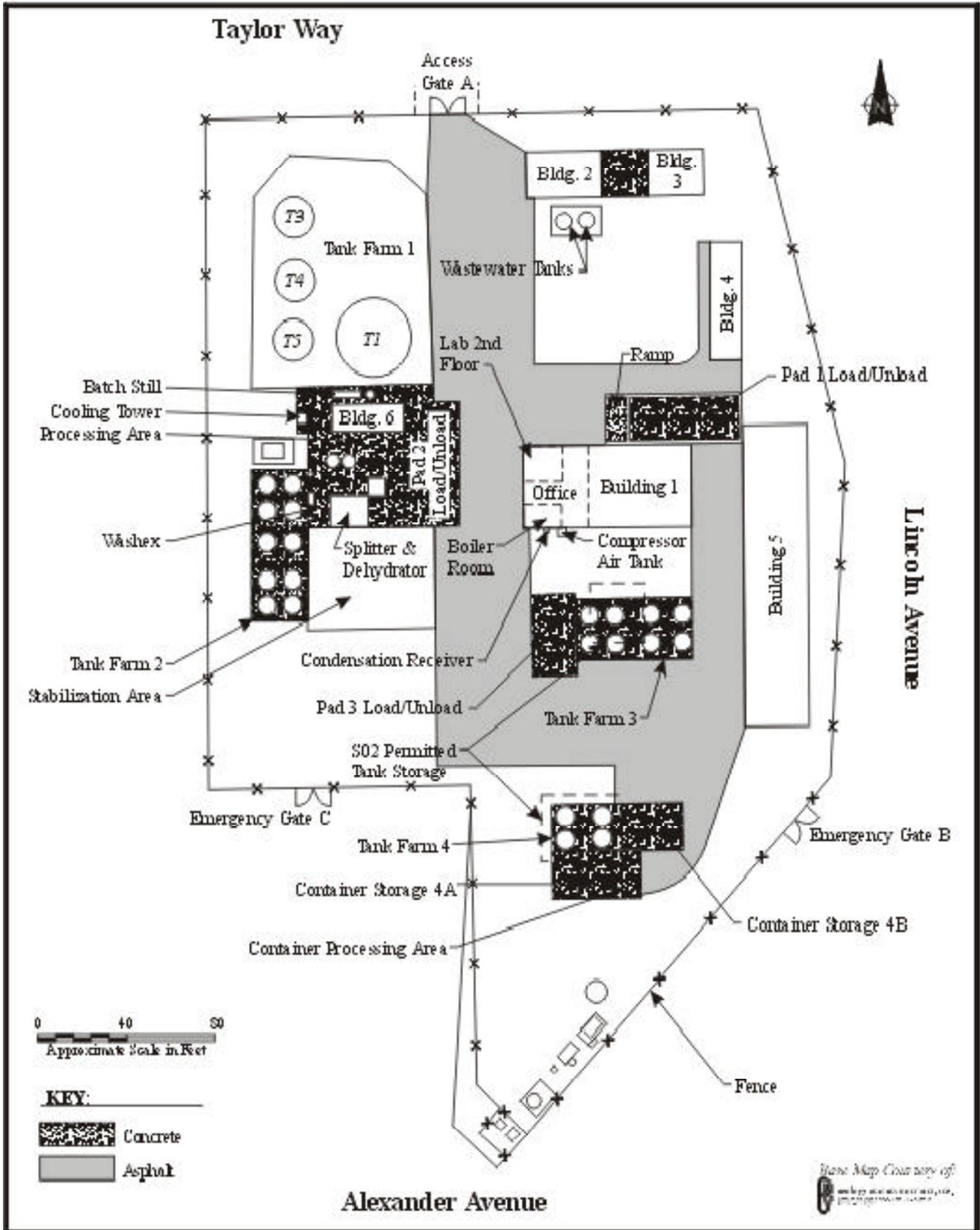
This site has been an industrial site since 1926. There have been several owners of the property who have used the site for disposal of chemical wastes, auto fluff (shredded pieces of automobile parts) and sludge. In 1975, a small tank farm was built on the property and it became a chemical and petroleum recycling facility in the late 1970s. From 1974-1999, businesses under several different names, including CleanCare, have operated the site as a chemical, solvent and petroleum recycling facility.

In 1992, Clean Care began the process of obtaining a final permit to operate a treatment, storage, disposal and recycling facility under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). The final application was submitted to Ecology in 1994. From 1994-1999, Ecology had sent letters to CleanCare notifying them that its permit application still contained serious problems which prevented Ecology from approving the final application.

Over the years, some of the companies operating at the site have had a number of serious problems with handling and disposal of hazardous waste. The most recent occurred on March 26, 1999. Approximately 1,000 to 2,000 gallons of oily waste spilled into the on-site storm drains. The wastes flowed off-site into the Lincoln Avenue ditch and followed the storm drain into the Blair Waterway. To prevent further off-site releases, the storm drains were blocked off.

Ecology inspected the site several times during 1998 and 1999 and found many violations. In July 1999, Ecology issued a \$486,000 penalty against CleanCare. In August 1999, CleanCare advised Ecology that it would close the business and they stopped taking some waste material. On November 17, 1999, CleanCare closed its doors. CleanCare is providing site access and historical knowledge of site activities to EPA to help with the current response actions at the site.

CleanCare Site, Tacoma Washington



For More Information:

Please contact Michael Szerlog, EPA On-Scene Coordinator at 206-553-0279 or Grechen Schmidt, Community Involvement Coordinator at 206-553-2587. Or call 1-800-424-4372, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m to 4:00 p.m. and ask for x 0279 or x 2587.

Technical documents relating to this removal action will be placed at the following locations when the Administrative Record is complete:

Tacoma Main Public Library
Northwest Room
1102 Tacoma Avenue South
Tacoma, WA

Citizens for a Health Bay
917 Pacific Avenue, Suite 406
Tacoma, WA

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 6th Ave.
7th Floor Records Center
Seattle, WA

To ensure effective communication with everyone, additional services can be made available to persons with disabilities by contacting one of the numbers above.

Find Us on the Web NOW!

Information on this project, will be posted on the EPA Region 10's website at <http://epainotes1.rtpnc.epa.gov:7777/R10/CLEANUP.NSF/sites/CleanCare> or <http://www.epa.gov/r10earth>, then "click" on "index", "click on "C" for CleanCare.



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Region 10 (ECO-081)
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