



Seam Master Industries & Jervis B. Webb Co.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Region 9 • San Francisco, CA • September 2011

Seam Master Industries and Jervis B. Webb Co. Sites Proposed for Superfund List

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed adding both the Seam Master Industries site and the Jervis B. Webb Co. site to EPA's National Priorities List (NPL), commonly called the Superfund List (see map below). The sites are located in the city of South Gate, in Los Angeles County, California.

EPA identifies sites that may pose threats to nearby populations through actual or potential contamination of soils, groundwater, surface water, or air. Placing the sites on the NPL allows EPA to use federal resources to conduct cleanup activities at the sites, including investigating the sources of contamination and determining what measures may be necessary to protect human health and the environment.

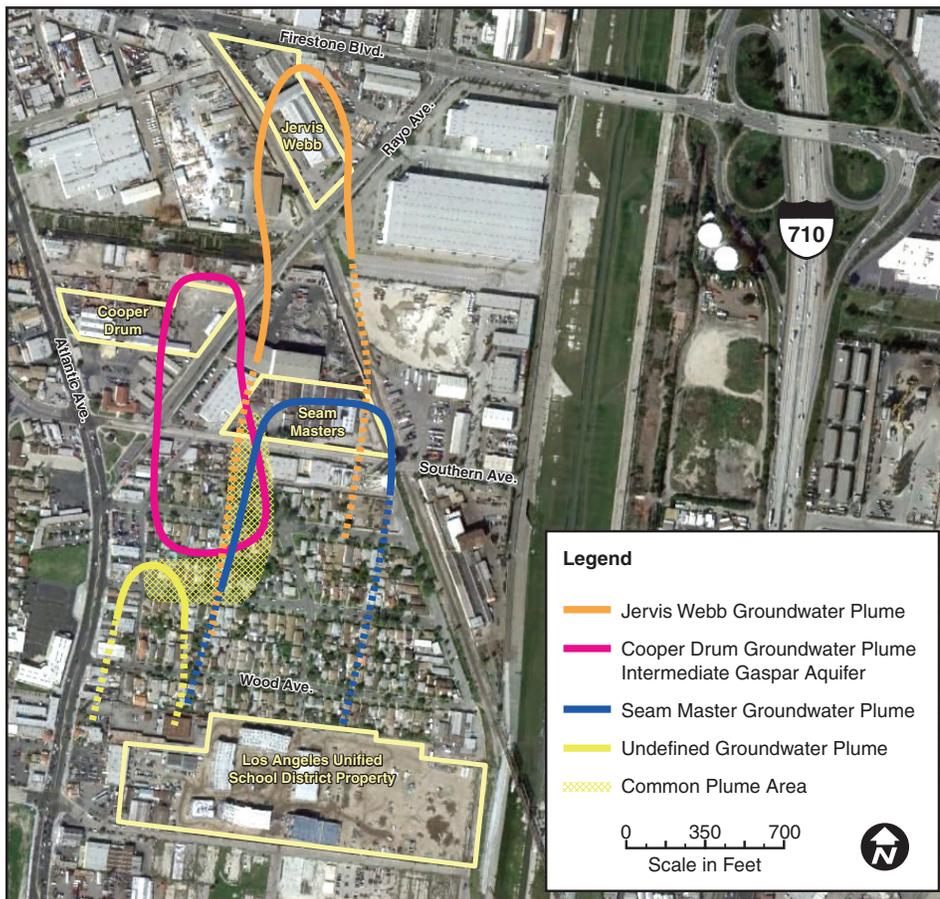


Figure 1: Estimated Groundwater Plume Boundaries

Public Comment Period for Proposed Listing

September 16th, 2011 – November 15th, 2011

Come to EPA's Informational Meeting on Proposed Listing

October 19th
6:30pm – 8:30pm

Tweedy Elementary School
9724 Pinehurst Ave
South Gate

The public comment period for the proposed listing ends on November 15th, 2011. Documents related to the proposed listing are located at EPA's Information Repository at the Leland R. Weaver Library in South Gate. Information on how to comment is located on Page 2.

An informational meeting will be held from 6:30pm – 8:30pm, October 19th at the Tweedy Elementary School, 9724 Pinehurst Ave, in South Gate. EPA will answer community questions about the proposed listing and how to provide comments to EPA Headquarters.

What are the problems at the sites?

The **Seam Master Industries** site has been used for manufacturing hot-melt adhesive tape for laying carpets since 1972. Prior to 1972, Pacific Screw Products Corporation manufactured screw products at the property until the business went bankrupt. Soil on-site and groundwater at and downgradient of the site are contaminated with *trichloroethylene* (TCE). The TCE in groundwater beneath the site has been detected at levels up to 17,000 parts per billion (ppb).

The **Jervis B. Webb Co.** site was used concurrently by the Jervis B. Webb Co. and the Blake Rivet Company. The Jervis B. Webb Co. conducted metal fabrication, finishing, painting and assembly operations associated with the manufacture of industrial conveyor belt systems from the 1950s to early 1996 on a portion of the site. On a different portion of the site, Blake Rivet Company produced aluminum and stainless steel aircraft rivets. While historic soil contamination was removed at the direction of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), since 2002 TCE has been detected in the groundwater beneath the site at levels up to 35,000 ppb.

Is My Drinking Water Safe?

Yes. Although groundwater contamination has occurred, it has not affected drinking water sources in the South Gate area.

Drinking water wells in the area are not currently impacted by contaminated groundwater, however, movement of contaminants pose a future threat to drinking water sources. This is the basis for EPA's proposed listing. TCE contamination at both of these sites is present above the drinking water Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). The federal and California MCL for TCE in drinking water is 5 ppb.

There are at least 35 drinking water wells within four miles of the site. The drinking water supply wells immediately downgradient of the two sites are screened in a deeper aquifer and are not currently contaminated. However, because the aquifers are connected, there is the potential that the drinking water wells may become contaminated.

Listing the two properties is a part of EPA's plan to address significant environmental impacts to communities along the I-710 corridor in L.A. County. The state of California supports the proposal of both of the sites.

How Do I Comment on the Proposed Listing?

A 60-day public comment period is currently underway to receive community input on EPA's proposal to add the Seam Master

Industries site and the Jervis B. Webb Co. site to the National Priorities List (NPL). The documents that form the basis for EPA's proposed listing of the sites are contained in public Dockets located at EPA Headquarters in Washington, DC, in the Regional offices, and by electronic access at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

CDs containing all of the documents that support the evaluation of both the Seam Master Industries site, and the Jervis B. Webb Co. site are also available at the Leland R. Weaver Library (see Page 3).

During the comment period, comments are placed in the Headquarters docket and are available to the public on an "as received" basis. A complete set of comments will be available for viewing in the Regional docket approximately one week after the formal comment period closes.

EPA considers all comments received during the 60-day public comment period before making a final listing decision.

Public Comments Must Be Postmarked By November 15th, 2011. Please include the docket identification number when submitting comments.

The FDMS Docket Number for the Seam Master Industries site is: **EPA-HQ-SFUND-2011-0645.**

The FDMS Docket Number for the Jervis B. Webb Co. site is: **EPA-HQ-SFUND-2011-0644.**

Comments may be submitted by one of the following methods:

- Go to <https://www.regulations.gov>
- E-mail comments to superfund.docket@epa.gov
- Mail comments (no faxes or tapes) to:
Docket Coordinator, Headquarters
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
CERCLA Docket Office
(Mail Code 5305T)
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.
Washington, DC 20460

For more information on submitting comments please visit:
<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/npl/pubcom.htm>

What if the Seam Master Industries site or the Jervis B. Webb Co. site are placed on the Superfund List?

If either of the sites are finalized on the Superfund List, an in-depth cleanup investigation is performed, followed by an analysis of ways to address the contamination. EPA then identifies the preferred

cleanup remedy for each site and shares this in a public meeting which is accompanied by a formal public comment period. After all public comments are considered, EPA documents the selected remedy in a legal document called a Record of Decision (ROD).

Following the ROD, EPA designs, constructs, tests, operates and/or performs the necessary cleanup activities. The public is encouraged to share its issues and concerns throughout the Superfund process.

Community Involvement

EPA is committed to involving the public in its cleanup process. The Seam Master Industries site and the Jervis B. Webb Co site are at the beginning of the Superfund process, and they may ultimately not be placed on the Superfund list. Nevertheless, EPA is issuing this fact sheet, publishing a public notice and conducting a public meeting to begin the process of including the public in its decision-making process.

Our Community Involvement Program focuses on answering the community's questions about its cleanup effort, providing information to the community about site activities, and incorporating community issues and concerns into Agency decisions.

EPA organizes its involvement effort by developing a Community Involvement Plan. The Plan identifies sites issues and concerns, and notes the various tools and techniques EPA can use to keep the public involved. The focus of the Plan is based on one-on-one interviews with residents and other stakeholders. *If you are interested in being interviewed to help us with this effort, please contact David Cooper, Community Involvement Coordinator, at the number below.*



Mailing List Coupon

If you would like to be on EPA's mailing list for the Seam Master Industries and Jervis B. Webb Co., please send an e-mail or return the coupon below to David Cooper (US EPA Region 9, 75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-6-3), San Francisco, CA 94105, cooper.david@epa.gov).

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (optional) _____

E-mail (optional) _____

Affiliation (optional) _____

What is Superfund?

Superfund is the commonly-used name for the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), a federal law that enables EPA to respond to hazardous waste sites that threaten public health and the environment.

EPA responds to a hazardous waste site by identifying those that are responsible for contaminating it, then requiring them to perform cleanup activities under EPA oversight. If EPA is unsuccessful in identifying responsible parties to perform cleanup activities, EPA may use Superfund monies to perform the cleanup itself.

If a responsible party is not identified, a site cannot undergo a federal cleanup unless it is listed on the NPL.

Documents related to the sites are available in EPA's Information Repository at the Leland R. Weaver Library, 4035 Tweedy Blvd., South Gate, CA 90280 (323) 567-8853. Each site has its own web site:

<http://www.epa.gov/region09/seammaster>

<http://www.epa.gov/region09/jerviswebb>

If either of the sites is added to the Superfund list, EPA will publish a notice in the newspaper and will issue a fact sheet announcing next steps.



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Versión en español adentro

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75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-6-3)
San Francisco, CA 94105
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