

# ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



## Hamilton/Labree Superfund Site, Chehalis, Washington

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

February 2004

EPA and the S.C. Breen Construction Company are studying the groundwater contamination at the Hamilton/Labree Superfund site. This summer, EPA will do an early cleanup of a contamination “hot spot” of tetrachloroethylene (PCE) in Berwick Creek, near the United Rentals property. In the spring, before work begins, EPA will invite your comments on that cleanup.

## EPA to Clean up Contamination from Area near Hamilton Road

EPA'S CONTRACTOR, URS, INC., IS WRAPPING UP a detailed study of the “Hamilton Road Impacted Area.” This area is west of Interstate 5, near the United Rentals property, where PCE contamination

was found in the soil and groundwater. The chemical PCE is used in dry cleaning, metal degreasing, and other industrial activities.

*(continued on page 2)*

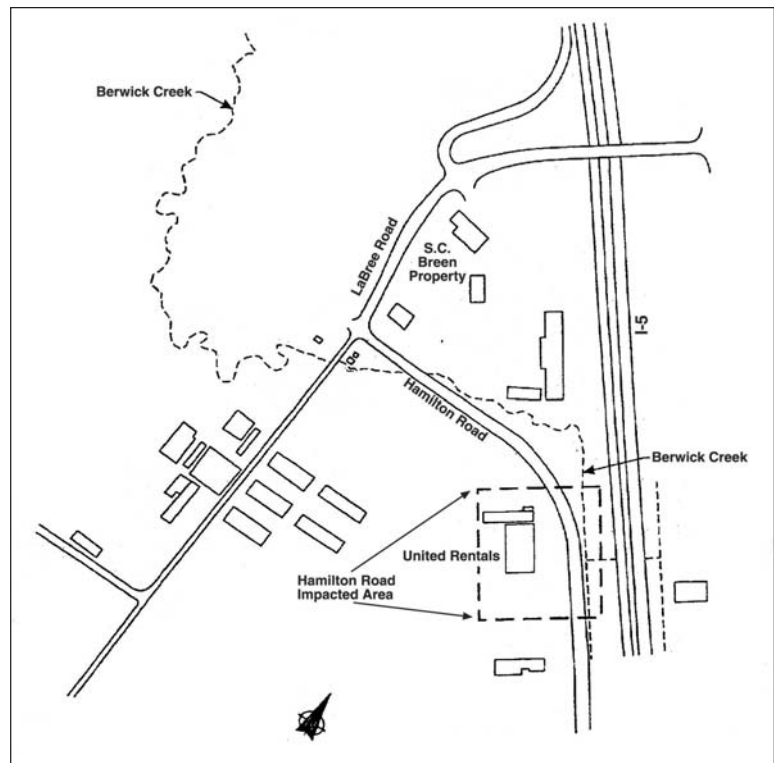
### We Would Like Your Help

EPA needs information about how PCE got into Berwick Creek in two places. EPA has not yet identified who is responsible for either release. If you have information about any release of chemicals or fluids into or near Berwick Creek, please call:

#### Bob Kievit

EPA Project Manager  
(360) 753-9014, or write to him:  
EPA Washington Operations Office  
300 Desmond Drive SE, Suite 102  
Lacey, WA 98503.

You will not need to identify yourself if you choose not to. EPA is interested in finding all potential dumping areas at the site so they can be investigated and cleaned up.



*Part of the Hamilton/Labree Superfund site, where high levels of tetrachloroethylene (PCE) have been found in the soil and groundwater. EPA is doing tests to learn how far the PCE has spread from the Hamilton Road Impacted Area to other areas of the site.*

*Farallon, Breen's contractor, is gathering data so EPA can determine the overall boundaries of the Hamilton/Labree site.*

## EPA to Clean up Contamination *(continued)*

Over the past few months, EPA’s contractor has collected and analyzed hundreds of soil and groundwater samples. Recently, groundwater in the shallow aquifer beneath the site was tested. This information will help EPA decide on the best way to clean up the PCE at that part of the site.

Tests done within the Hamilton Road Impacted Area show that at least 500 gallons of PCE may have been dumped into Berwick Creek near the United Rentals building. Most of the PCE has stayed in the soils under the creek and Hamilton Road. However, the PCE that has escaped is slowly dissolving and has created a large plume of contaminated groundwater flowing northwest. If not cleaned up, this PCE will contaminate the groundwater for many decades or longer.

### Long-term Cleanup Study Progress

Breen’s contractor, Farallon Consulting, is studying sources of contamination on the Breen property, as well as groundwater under the Breen property, that is flowing north and east of Hamilton Road North and Labree Road. Farallon is also studying contaminated groundwater flowing from the Hamilton Road Impacted Area. Over the past year, Farallon has gathered many groundwater, surface-water, and soil samples from the site.

Recent tests show that the plume of contaminated groundwater has traveled at least 1-1/2 miles to the northwest of the contamination sources. Because the groundwater in this area flows more to the north, EPA believes that the plume currently does not pose a risk to drinking water wells on Rice Road. Homes that were affected have already been connected to city water.

### Add Your Comments This Spring

EPA plans to finish its studies and present a draft cleanup plan for the Hamilton Road Impacted Area this spring. The Agency will notify you of the public comment period and invite your suggestions and concerns about various proposed cleanup options. After considering all public comments, EPA will choose a final cleanup plan for this part of the site.

Farallon will take more samples and do studies to help find out how far the plume has gone, where it is going, and whether it is growing. They will also study ways to clean up the sources of contamination on the Breen property.

Tests done this past summer show that there is at least one other small PCE “hot spot” under Berwick Creek, where it crosses under Hamilton Road. At present, EPA is deciding how this “hot spot” will be addressed.

EPA expects to have a draft cleanup plan for the overall Hamilton/Labree site ready in mid 2005 and will ask for your comments at that time.

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## Site History

The Hamilton/Labree site, near the corner of Hamilton and Labree Roads, is about three miles south of Chehalis, WA, along Interstate 5. Two aquifers lie under the site. The shallow one supplies drinking water to 252 local residents and businesses, as well as to three public supply wells that serve about 1,256 people. It is separated from the deep aquifer by about 100 feet of clay.

In 1999, the Washington State Department of Ecology found 64 drums containing PCE and petroleum compounds buried near the present site. The S.C. Breen Construction Company, named a potentially responsible party (PRP) for this part of the site, removed the drums and the contaminated soil around

them. In summer 2000, EPA added the site to its National Priorities List of hazardous waste sites targeted for cleanup.

PCE was found in ten private drinking water wells. In 2002, EPA and the City of Chehalis cooperated to install a new water line for these homes. The city owns, maintains, and operates the water line. EPA continues to test area groundwater to help ensure that other drinking water wells are not affected.

The Breen Company is now conducting a comprehensive evaluation of cleanup alternatives. This Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study is being done with EPA oversight.



### For More Information

*About long-term cleanup:*

**Bob Kievit**, Remedial Project Manager  
(360) 753-9014  
[kievit.bob@epa.gov](mailto:kievit.bob@epa.gov)

*For general information:*

**Debra Sherbina**  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
(206) 553-0247  
[sherbina.debra@epa.gov](mailto:sherbina.debra@epa.gov)



*For people with disabilities, if you have special requests for reasonable accommodation, please call Debra Sherbina at 800-424-4372. For TTY users, call the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339.*

EPA toll-free # 1-800-424-4372

*For health-related questions:*  
Washington State Department of Health  
**Paul Marchant** or **Marcia Henning**  
Toll-free number: **1-877-485-7316**

*For more information about the site:*  
Go to the EPA Region 10 Web page at  
<http://www.epa.gov/r10earth>,  
click on “Index,” then “H.”

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*HAMILTON /LABREE  
SUPERFUND FACT SHEET  
CHEHALIS, WASHINGTON  
FEBRUARY 2004*

### About Tetrachloroethylene (PCE)

PCE is a chemical used for metal degreasing, for dry cleaning, and other industrial processes. It can move easily through air, water, and soils, and may harm people. Exposure to high levels of PCE could cause cancer or such non-cancerous effects as dizziness and difficulty speaking and walking.

PCE shows up in the soils and groundwater at the site. But because

the water line was installed to replace contaminated drinking water wells, no one is currently being exposed to PCE from the groundwater.

For more information about possible health effects from PCE exposure, go to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Diseases Registry (ATSDR) Web page:  
<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts18.html>.