

BOOMSNUB/AIRCO Superfund Site

WASHINGTON
EPA ID# WAD009624453

EPA Region 10
Clark County
Vancouver

3rd Congressional District
Other Names: Boomsnub/BOC Gases

Last Update: April, 2000

Site Description

The Boomsnub/Airco site covers approximately 49 acres in a light industrial and residential area of Vancouver, Washington. Boomsnub, a 0.75 acre former metal plating facility, and Airco (also known as BOC Gases), an 11 acre active compressed gas manufacturing plant, have been combined into one site because contamination from the two facilities resulted in a commingled ground-water plume covering 37 acres that is contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and chromium. The soils at the Boomsnub site became contaminated with chromium as a result of improper handling and disposal of the waste from metal plating operations during the facility's operations from 1967 to June 1994. In late 1989, a water line break released 300,000 gallons of water which likely contributed to the release of chromium to the ground water. In 1991, the State of Washington conducted an investigation of the Boomsnub site which showed the presence of VOCs in the ground-water monitoring wells. The VOCs detected in the groundwater, however, do not appear to be associated with Boomsnub's operations. BOC Gases has been in operation at its location since 1964, manufacturing compressed gas products, including liquid nitrogen, liquid oxygen, and liquid argon. BOC Gases is the source of the VOC contamination. The contaminated ground-water plume overlies the Troutdale aquifer, a regional drinking water source. Clark Public Utilities' wells, which are at risk from the chromium and VOC plume, provide drinking water to more than 60,000 people.

Site Responsibility: This site is being addressed through federal actions.

NPL Listing History

Dates

Proposed Date: 01/18/94

Final Date: 04/25/95

Deleted Date:

Threats and Contaminants

Media Affected: Groundwater & Soil

Groundwater is contaminated with high levels of chromium and various VOCs including TCE, PCE, and Freon II. Soil on the Boomsnub property is contaminated with **chromium**. Direct contact with or ingesting contaminated groundwater or soil could pose a health risk.

Cleanup Progress

Early Actions: In 1992, the state of Washington installed a treatment plant to cleanup groundwater. In 1994, EPA conducted an early action on the Boomsnub property; 6,000 tons of contaminated soil were excavated to remove the primary source of the groundwater contamination, the main plating building was removed, and an improved pump and treat system for contaminated ground water was installed to treat 100 gallons per minute.

Long-Term Actions: In 1995, EPA began an investigation into the nature and extent of site contamination to determine whether further interim or long-term cleanup actions are necessary to address site contamination. In order to manage investigation and cleanup activities, EPA divided the Site into three operable units: The Boomsnub Soil Operable Unit, the BOC Gases Operable Unit, and the Site-wide Ground-water Operable Unit. The investigation for the Boomsnub Soil and Site Wide Groundwater Operable Units was completed in 1999. EPA issued a Record of Decision for these two operable units in February 2000. The cleanup remedy includes removing (with off-site disposal) remaining chromium-contaminated soil, upgrading the existing extraction/treatment system and its continued operation for the groundwater contamination. Plans for a non-time-critical source control action at the BOC Gases operable unit is planned for 2000. This action will contain the VOCs and prevent further migration from the BOC Gases facility.

Regional Contacts

SITE MANAGER(S):	Deb Yamamoto
E-MAIL ADDRESS:	yamamoto.deb@epa.gov
PHONE NUMBER:	206-553-7216

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COORDINATOR:	Tracy Oliver
E-MAIL ADDRESS	oliver.tracy@epa.gov
PHONE NUMBER:	206-553-1388

Information pertaining to this site is housed at the following location(s):
Fort Vancouver Regional Library (Administrative Records)
1007 E Mill Plain Blvd.
Vancouver, WA 98663-1566

EPA Region 10 Superfund Records Center (Administrative Records)
1200 Sixth Avenue, ECL-076, Seattle, WA 98101

Location of AIRCO/Boomsnub Superfund Site

