Vancouver Water Station #1 and #4 Superfund Sites – Notice of Intent to Delete from National Priorities List

Region 10

September 2017

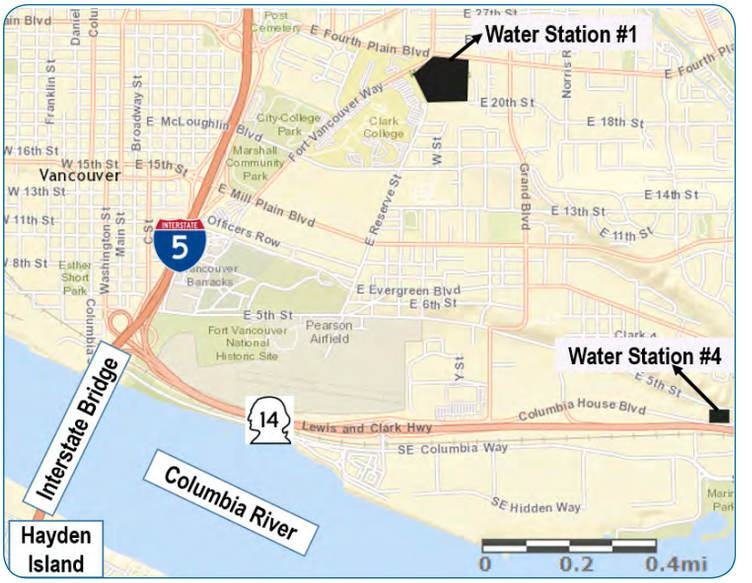
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is issuing a Notice of Intent to Delete the Vancouver Water Station #1 (WS1) and #4 (WS4) Superfund Sites in Vancouver, Washington from the National Priorities List. The NPL is a list of hazardous waste sites (Superfund Sites) in the United States that EPA designated as national priorities for cleanup. This fact sheet provides information about the history of WS1 and WS4 and why EPA is proposing to delete these sites from the NPL.

What is the purpose of WS1 and WS4?

Groundwater pumped from WS1 and WS4 is blended together with water from other locations to provide drinking water to the Vancouver region. Additionally, the aquifer from which WS1 and WS4 draw water also supplies water to other municipal wellfields and some private wells.

Why did EPA list WS1 and WS4 as Superfund Sites?

During routine monitoring in 1988, the City of Vancouver discovered the presence of tetrachloroethylene (PCE) in the water at WS1 and WS4 and immediately modified pumping rates to protect public health. PCE is a contaminant that may harm the nervous system, liver, kidneys, reproductive system and also may increase the risk of developing cancer. In 1992, EPA established a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), an enforceable drinking water standard, for PCE of 5 parts per billion.



Map of WS1 and WS4 *- Map shows the location of the Vancouver Water Station #1 (WS1) and #4 (WS4) Superfund Sites in Vancouver, WA.*

Map Sources: *Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, ESRI Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, NGCC, © OpenStreetMap, contributors, and the GIS User Community, County of Clark, Oregon Metro, Bureau of Land Management, State of Oregon GEO, State of Oregon, Garmin, INCREMENT P, NGA, USGS, U.S. Forest Service.*

The City of Vancouver installed an air stripping treatment system at WS4 in 1992 (air stripping moves air through the water to cause evaporation and contaminant removal) and installed five air stripping towers at WS1 in 1993. However, elevated levels of PCE were still found in untreated groundwater.

What was the source of tetrachloroethylene (PCE)?

In 1989, the City of Vancouver and EPA investigated the potential sources of PCE at WS1 and WS4 by inspecting local dry cleaners and other businesses where PCE may have been used. The City of Vancouver independently pursued responsible parties, resulting in legal settlements.

What did EPA and its partners do to clean up PCE at WS1 and WS4?

EPA's cleanup plan called for the City of Vancouver, in cooperation with the Washington State Department of Health, to continue operation of the air stripping treatment systems to remove PCE from drinking water. Continual pumping at a rate consistent to meet customer demand was expected to eventually flush the PCE out of the groundwater. Monitoring for PCE in the groundwater and treated water was also required.

Why is EPA is proposing to delete WS1 and WS4 from the NPL?

Data shows that the air stripping treatments at WS1 and WS4 have effectively removed PCE from the City of Vancouver's water supply. Furthermore, sampling data indicate PCE in untreated groundwater has been reduced below federal and state drinking water standards.

Are there any remaining health concerns related to Vancouver's drinking water?

No. Vancouver's drinking water meets all federal and state requirements. Independent lab testing results of Vancouver's water are available in an annual consumer confidence report, required by EPA, and posted on the city's website at www.cityofvancouver.us/water. The City of Vancouver intends to continue use of the treatment systems indefinitely due to the benefits provided. Any proposal to change that operation would require approval by the Washington State Department of Health.

Was the public notified about the contamination at WS1 and WS4?

The City of Vancouver and the Washington State Department of Health were the first to let the public know of PCE in the groundwater at WS1 and WS4 as well as actions to limit exposure, including changes in pumping rates and installation of air stripping systems. EPA also notified the public prior to listing the sites on the NPL and issuing the final cleanup plans (also called a Record of Decision or ROD).

Will I have an opportunity to provide feedback on EPA's proposed deletions?

Yes. You may submit your comments on these proposed deletions using any of the methods listed below. Please check the website links below for the comment submission deadline.

- **Submit comments online:**
  - For comments on WS1: https://www.epa.gov/superfund/vancouver-water-station1
  - For comments on WS4: https://www.epa.gov/superfund/vancouver-water-station4
- **Submit comments by email:** Please send your comments to knudsen.laura@epa.gov
- **Submit comments by mail:** Laura Knudsen – U.S. EPA Region 10
  1200 6th Ave., Suite 900
  RAD-202-3
  Seattle, WA 98101

For More Information

Site documents for WS1 and WS4 are available for viewing at the City of Vancouver's **Water Resources Education Center** at 4600 SE Columbia Way, Vancouver WA. The Water Center is open **Monday to Friday** from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and **Saturday** from noon to 5 p.m. Please call for directions (360-487-7111). These documents are also available online at the website links shown above.

Who may I contact if I have more questions?

For additional questions, please contact the following EPA staff:

- **Laura Knudsen**, Community Involvement Coordinator • 206-553-1838 • knudsen.laura@epa.gov
- **Jeremy Jennings**, Remedial Project Manager• 206-553-2724• jennings.jeremy@epa.gov

TDD or TTY users, please call 800-877-8339 and give the operator Laura Knudsen's phone number.

EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency