

## NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST (NPL)

\*\*\*Final Site\*\*\*

May 2012

### BREMERTON GASWORKS | Bremerton, Washington Kitsap County

#### **Site Location:**

The Bremerton Gasworks site is located in Bremerton, Washington along the Port Washington Narrows. The site is located approximately a mile and a half from downtown Bremerton.

#### **Site History:**

The site includes discharges from an outfall pipe from the Bremerton Gasworks facility, a former gasification facility which used the carbureted water gas method from approximately 1930 to the mid-1950s. Between the mid-1950s and 1963, the facility produced gas by blending propane and air. By 1968, the gasoline and oil above-ground tanks had been removed and by the 1980s the remaining gas plant above-ground features had been removed. The majority of the former facility area is currently vacant, although surrounding properties are used for commercial and industrial purposes.

#### **Site Contamination/Contaminants:**

Various contaminants have been detected within upland sources, ground water beneath the site, and within the Washington Narrows sediments. Site contaminants include tars which are associated with the gasification processes used at the former facility. These tars contain volatile aromatics and carcinogenic polyaromatic hydrocarbons. Heavy metals and benzene, among other contaminants, were also found at the site. Upland sources include soil contamination to a depth of approximately 30 feet with contaminant concentrations above the EPA Regional Screening Levels (RSLs). Ground water beneath the site is also contaminated. Sediments in the Washington Narrows adjacent to the site contain concentrations of contaminants above the Adverse Effects Levels set forth in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Screening Quick Reference Table.

#### **Potential Impacts on Surrounding Community/Environment:**

Site sources are potentially contaminating the Washington Narrows, a part of the Puget Sound designated a national priority as one of the nation's great water bodies. Two species of federally listed threatened fish are present in the vicinity of the site. Puget Sound is used as a sport and commercial fishery. The Suquamish Tribe has also used the area as a subsistence fishery.

#### **Response Activities (to date):**

In the fall of 2010, the US Coast Guard issued an order to Cascade Natural Gas to remove a pipe that was spilling tars into the Washington Narrows. Forty feet of pipe were removed and the pipe was plugged. Contaminated sediments adjacent to the pipe were also removed. In addition, visibly contaminated sediments were covered with organo-clay mats and clean beach materials which will serve as a temporary cap. The removal action did not address the majority of impacted sediments, upland sources or contaminated ground water.

#### **Need for NPL Listing:**

The Washington State Department of Ecology has requested that the EPA be the lead regulatory agency for this site. The scope and complexity of the site requires a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study to address site sources, ground water and sediments. The EPA received letters from the state and Suquamish Tribe supporting listing the site on the NPL.

*[The description of the site (release) is based on information available at the time the site was evaluated with the HRS. The description may change as additional information is gathered on the sources and extent of contamination.]*

For more information about the hazardous substances identified in this narrative summary, including general information regarding the effects of exposure to these substances on human health, please see the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) ToxFAQs. ATSDR ToxFAQs can be found on the Internet at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/index.asp> or by telephone at 1-888-42-ATSDR or 1-888-422-8737.