



Timeline for the Algona/Auburn Groundwater Plume Investigation and Cleanup



Photo: WA State Department of Ecology

What were the first steps to identifying the Boeing Auburn site as a Washington State cleanup site?

1987

Boeing began site-wide monitoring of groundwater on their property.

1994

Boeing formally sent a letter to the WA State Department of Ecology about TCE contamination. The letter also stated that monitoring would continue in order to determine appropriate action.

2002

Boeing and Ecology entered an Agreed Order stating that Boeing must conduct a Remedial Investigation (RI) and Feasibility Study (FS). Prior to the RI, a site hazard assessment was done to determine the hazardous waste and its risk to human health and the environment.

Who conducts the RI in the Boeing Auburn Fabrication Site Cleanup?

Boeing, as the responsible party must conduct the RI and subsequent cleanup, as stated in the Model Toxics Control Act. Ecology oversees the investigation and is working with Boeing to form a plan to reduce the contamination at the Boeing Auburn site.

What is the current progress for the RI of the Boeing Auburn site?

The site cleanup is currently in the RI phase. Later in 2016, a Remedial Investigation report will be produced for the public to read and comment on. Boeing is also currently doing a bioremediation pilot study for a cleanup method (injecting LactOil into the groundwater), which will aid in the FS to determine the best method(s) for cleanup. To date, the Departments of Ecology and Health report that, based on current data the chemicals found at the site are at low levels that are not expected to pose a risk to human health and the environment.

What type of information is being collected during the RI of the Auburn/Algona site?

The RI focused on data collection of groundwater, surface water and air quality relating to the leaked contaminant, TCE, and its breakdown products. Samples were collected from commercial and residential areas of northeast Algona and commercial and residential areas of southwest Auburn.



Photo: Jeanette Ordonez

Soil profiling during groundwater monitoring well installation.

What comes next >>>> in the Boeing Auburn Fabrication site cleanup?

- > As the RI phase comes to a close in late 2016 a draft RI Report will be released for public comment, which will last at least 30 days.
- > Following the RI comes the FS, which the current bioremediation pilot study may be a part of and is done to determine which methods will be use to clean up the site.
- > Ecology has proposed that a final cleanup plan is expected in 2017-2018.
- > Boeing will then implement the final cleanup plan, after a public comment period and Ecology approval.
- > Once the cleanup is finished, Boeing will continue to monitor for contamination, which Ecology will review.

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