

Former Ken Foster Farm

In September of 2005, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), in cooperation with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), completed a Preliminary Assessment (PA) of the former Ken Foster Farm site in Sherwood.

Since publication of the PA, independent site investigations were completed by two property owners. The purpose of this fact sheet is to summarize findings of more recent work and the pending EPA site investigation.

Background

The former Ken Foster farm site is a 40 acre tract of former pasture land in southeast Sherwood.

In recent years, the former pasture was subdivided into eleven smaller tracts and redeveloped as very-low-density residential properties.

DEQ uncovered records from the former Frontier Leather Company (FLC; ECSI #116) indicating that they land applied tannery wastes to the pasture during the 1960's. Frontier Leather Company operated a leather tannery about ½ mile north of the pasture from about 1947 to 1999. The tannery site is the subject of on-going environmental investigation and cleanup under DEQ oversight.

Land applied tannery wastes included animal hides, tissue, fat and hide splits. Based on investigations of the FLC facility, tannery wastes contained elevated chromium and other metals and trace levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) and pesticides. DEQ, therefore, recommended in the PA that further investigation be performed to assess potential contamination at the Ken Foster Farm site.

Based on the information in the PA, one of the property owners on the former Ken Foster Farm site independently initiated soil sampling in the Fall of 2005 to determine if elevated concentrations of chromium or other metals were present on his property. Laboratory results confirmed that elevated concentrations of chromium and other metals were present in site soils. A preliminary risk assessment completed by the property owner's contractor indicated potential health risks posed by the contaminated soil at the site.

A second property owner completed sampling of their property in March 2006. The soil sampling results from this parcel showed lead and

chromium at levels similar to the first parcel investigation

Sampling performed to date indicates metals lead and chromium in site soils attributable to historical land application of tannery wastes at the site. As discussed below, DEQ and EPA are moving forward with a property-wide investigation to better-define the potential threat to human health and the environment.

Next Steps

DEQ has reviewed and commented on a work plan for an independent investigation of two additional parcels at the site. This work is scheduled to be completed in early summer.

In April of 2006, EPA Region 10 initiated plans to perform a site assessment at the former Ken Foster Farm site. EPA and DEQ are now in the process of developing a work plan for additional site testing and coordinating these plans with site owners and residents. EPA expects to be in the field collecting soil and well water samples in late June or early July. The findings from these sampling efforts will be used to determine the need and priority for any soil cleanup actions or other measures to protect human health and the environment.

For more information

For more information about the site, contact Steve Fortuna at the DEQ Northwest Region Office at 503-229-5166 or Joanne LaBaw at EPA Region 10 at (206) 553-2594.



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