

## Lebanon Area Groundwater Contamination Update Mar 2008

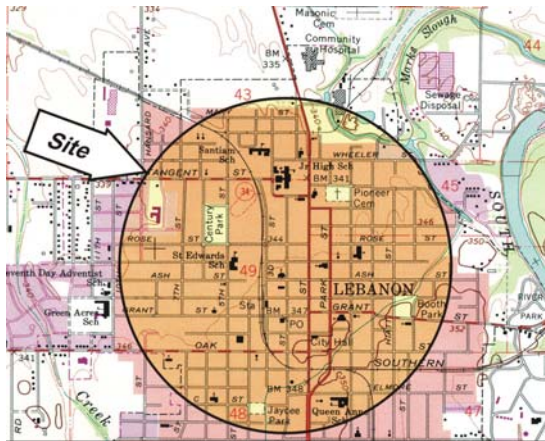
### DEQ expands area where wells will be sampled

This Fact Sheet provides an update about the Lebanon Area Groundwater Contamination study area, and actions the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is taking to evaluate and eliminate risks posed by the contamination.

Some wells in Lebanon are contaminated with tetrachloroethylene (PCE) or trichloroethylene (TCE). The contamination is likely from a number of different sources that historically handled these chemicals, including dry cleaning shops.

The contamination extends beneath an area of approximately 0.6 square miles. The study area is roughly bounded by Mary St. to the north, D St. to the south, Hiatt St. to the east, and 10th St. to the west.

It is in this area that DEQ will be doing additional sampling to evaluate potential risks, and work to eliminate them.



*Approximate boundaries of the Lebanon Area Groundwater Contamination*

### Lebanon City Water Not Contaminated

Most residents in the area are connected to city water for their household use, and therefore are not affected by the groundwater contamination. The city of Lebanon obtains its water from the Santiam River.

Only people who live in the study area and rely on well water are potentially affected by the groundwater contamination.

### DEQ Expanded Sampling in 2008

Beginning in February and March, DEQ's contractor, Hart Crowser, will survey additional residents in an effort to identify more residents that might be using well water. The survey will help DEQ identify wells that should be sampled. Sampling is planned for spring 2008.

Hart Crowser will sample newly identified wells, and wells sampled in the past, to determine whether they are contaminated by PCE or TCE. Sampling is not mandatory, but DEQ hopes residents will participate in the study. DEQ will pay for the sampling and testing, and residents will receive the laboratory test results.

### Protecting Residents from Contamination

DEQ will use its expanded well water survey and sampling information to help determine how many residents are affected by the contamination.

DEQ will work with residents and the city to try and provide alternative water supplies to residents whose wells are contaminated. Most likely this would involve switching from using well water to city water. The DEQ's Orphan Site Program will likely pay for the switch from wells to using city water when residential wells are contaminated above federal drinking water standards, provided funds are available.

### Previous Action

DEQ and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have conducted sampling in Lebanon before – beginning in the mid 1990s. Most recently, EPA conducted well sampling in March 2007 to evaluate the extent of groundwater contamination and the possible threat to those who still use private wells in parts of the city of Lebanon. Several affected wells were identified by the EPA sampling.

### Cleanup Initiated at Several Locations

DEQ has initiated cleanup at two former dry cleaning businesses, the former NuWay and Johannsen Cleaners sites. Recent cleanup activities at these sites have greatly reduced levels of contamination at these properties.



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DEQ is also overseeing cleanup conducted by Safeway at the former Poly Clean cleaners, located at the site of the new Rite Aid store at 70 E. Oak Street. DEQ and Safeway have a legal agreement for Safeway to investigate and clean up this property previously owned by Safeway.

### **For More Information**

DEQ understands you may have questions about the health risks associated with using well water in Lebanon. DEQ is working closely with Oregon Department of Human Services' Environmental Health Assessment Program (EHAP). EHAP staff can answer questions about the health effects of drinking contaminated water.

Questions about sampling of wells and switching from well water to city water should be directed to the DEQ. Contact information is provided below.



*DEQ staff collecting a water sample from a residence supplied by a private water well.*

### **Contact Information**

#### Contacting DEQ

For more information, please contact the DEQ Project Manager, Don Hanson, at (541) 687-7349 or toll free at (800) 844-8467, extension 7349; or via email at [hanson.don@deq.state.or.us](mailto:hanson.don@deq.state.or.us)

#### Contacting EPA

For questions about EPA's work in Lebanon, please contact Joanne Labaw at EPA's Region 10 office in Seattle. Joanne can be reached at (206) 553-2594 or via email at [labaw.joanne@epa.gov](mailto:labaw.joanne@epa.gov)

#### Contacting EHAP

For questions about health risks associated with using contaminated well water, please contact Julie Early-Alberts at the Environmental Health Assessment Program (EHAP) of the Department of Human Services. Julie can be reached at (971) 673-1210, or via email at: [julie.early-alberts@state.or.us](mailto:julie.early-alberts@state.or.us)

#### **Alternative formats**

*Alternative formats (Braille, large type) of this document can be made available. Contact DEQ's Office of Communications & Outreach, Portland, at (503) 229-5696, or toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011, ext. 5696.*