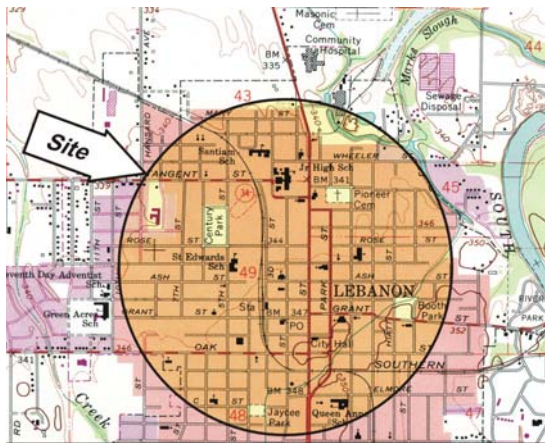


Lebanon Area Groundwater Contamination

This fact sheet provides an update on the status of the Lebanon Area Groundwater Contamination study area, and actions the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are taking to evaluate and clean up the contamination.

DEQ is coordinating with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which will conduct additional sampling in 2007 to re-evaluate the extent of groundwater contamination and the possible threat to those who still use private wells in parts of the city of Lebanon.



Approximate boundaries of the Lebanon Area Groundwater Contamination

Lebanon Area Groundwater Contamination Study Area History

In August 1990, perchloroethene (PCE) was found in groundwater from the City of Lebanon's Century Park well. Since that time DEQ has sampled nearly 120 wells for volatile organic compounds (VOCs). About 50 wells were found to have VOC levels above safe drinking water standards.

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

City Water Users Are Not Affected

Most residents in the area are connected to city water, and therefore are not affected by the

groundwater contamination. The city of Lebanon obtains its water from the Santiam River. Only people who rely on water wells in the study area are potentially affected by the groundwater contamination.

Early Investigations – 1990s

Between 1991 and 1995 DEQ and EPA conducted several investigations in the area to help define the extent of the contamination, identify contaminated water wells, and look for possible sources of the contamination. VOCs, including PCE, were discovered in shallow groundwater near several former dry cleaning businesses. PCE is commonly used as a dry cleaning solvent. DEQ installed ten monitoring wells around Lebanon in December 1994 and January 1995. DEQ worked with several residents in the late 1990s to provide alternate water supplies to reduce risks from contaminated water.

Cleanup Initiated at Several Locations

DEQ has taken significant cleanup actions at two former dry cleaning businesses, the former NuWay and Johannsen Cleaners sites. Cleanup continues at these sites, helping to eliminate some of the sources of the contamination. In 2007 DEQ will initiate bioremediation to expedite cleanup at the former Johannsen Cleaners site, at 910 Park Street.

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 negotiated a Consent Order with Safeway to conduct the work at this property previously owned by Safeway.

Recent Investigations

In 2006 EPA conducted a Preliminary Assessment and Expanded Site Inspection at the Lebanon National Guard Armory located at 350 Maple Street. This site had been identified as a possible source of the groundwater contamination; however after completing the Preliminary Assessment and Expanded Site Inspection, EPA's contractor concluded that the armory does not appear to be a significant source of the groundwater contamination in the area.



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

EPA Well Sampling in 2007

Early in 2007 EPA will conduct an Expanded Site Inspection which will include re-sampling many of the private wells DEQ sampled in the 1990s, and sampling groundwater monitoring wells in the study area. This work will provide EPA and DEQ with a current look at the levels of contamination and will discover if any residents using well water are being exposed to

unsafe levels of contamination in their water. If so, DEQ or EPA may work with the affected residents to obtain clean water. That may be accomplished through alternate water supplies or filtration.

For More Information

For more information, please contact 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.

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

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.