

East Washington Fluff

Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund ([WQARF](#)) Site

Boundaries:

The East Washington Fluff WQARF Site (Site) is located in Phoenix, Arizona. The plume is bounded approximately by Buckeye Road to the north, 5th Street to the east, Pima Street to the south and 3rd Street to the west.

The Site's geographic boundaries depicted on the [site map](#) represent the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's (ADEQ) interpretation of data available at the time the map was constructed. The map is intended to provide the public with basic information as to the estimated extent of known contamination as of the date of map production. The actual extent of contamination may be different. Therefore, the boundaries for the Site may change in the future as new information becomes available.

Site Status Update:

Harrison Properties (the owner of the site) placed a layer of crushed, recycled concrete material (18 to 24 inches thick) on top of the existing engineered cap in early 2010. ADEQ expressed concerns about the concrete placement activities and the potential impacts on the integrity of the engineered cap. At ADEQ's request, Harrison Properties' environmental contractor, GeoTrans, is performing an engineering evaluation of the current approved activities, as well as activities that had already taken place at the site. GeoTrans prepared a Work Plan for the engineering evaluation of the placement of materials on the cap. ADEQ approved the Work Plan in October 2010. At this time, the engineering evaluation is on-going.

Community Involvement Activities:

A [community advisory board](#) (CAB) was formed for this Site. They completed their review process and are no longer meeting. Past CAB meeting agendas and minutes can be viewed at the Information Repositories listed below.

Site History:

1997: ADEQ conducted site characterization activities. Results indicated cadmium, chromium, lead, and [polychlorinated biphenyls](#) (PCBs) in fluff waste at concentrations greater than ADEQ and EPA health-based guidance levels and groundwater protection standards. ADEQ installed a 12-foot fence around the perimeter of the Site and posted warning signs.

1999: The Site was added to the [WQARF Registry](#) on June 16, 1999 with a score of 22 out of a possible 120.



Pile of Auto Shredder Fluff

2000: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted a Targeted Site Assessment (TSA) in March. EPA installed and sampled three groundwater [monitor wells](#) as part of the TSA. The wells were analyzed for total and dissolved cadmium, total and dissolved lead, total and dissolved chromium, PCBs, and [volatile organic compounds](#) (VOCs). The TSA indicated that the concentrations of PCBs, lead, cadmium, and arsenic in soil were above the health-based action levels.

In December, the [Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry](#) (ATSDR) and the [Arizona Department of Health Services](#) (ADHS) prepared a [health consultation report](#) in response to a request from the [City of Phoenix](#) (COP). COP requested that the ATSDR evaluate the environmental conditions and determine whether a public health hazard exists as a result of exposure to the contaminated soils at the Site. The health consultation concluded:

- A public health hazard may exist when the Site fence is breached and direct contact with superficial materials and/or fluff piles, which contain PCBs, occurs.
- Off-site exposure to contaminants in blowing dust originating from the Site presents no apparent public health hazard.

2001: In April, ADEQ began an [early response action](#) (ERA). The objective of the ERA was to construct an engineered barrier to eliminate the direct exposure pathway between the contaminated media and the human population. In September, the ERA was completed. Approximately 5,907 tons of hazardous waste were removed from the Site. A total of 819 tons of solid waste was also removed from the Site. A [protective soil cap](#) was then installed at the Site to prevent exposure to any remaining contamination in the soil.



Early Response Action at Site

2003: The Draft [Remedial Investigation](#) (RI) Report was completed. On July 16, 2003, the public comment period for the draft RI Report was announced. The public comment period ended on October 17, 2003.

2006: The Final RI Report and [feasibility study](#) were completed.

2007: On May 18, 2007, ADEQ filed a DEUR on the property to ensure that the engineered cap remains in place and the property is only used for non-residential uses.

2008: ADEQ sampled the soils under the removed building pad, and analytical results indicated an area of lead contamination at low levels. ADEQ removed the impacted soil (approximately 135 tons).

2009: No activities occurred.

2010: Harrison Properties (the owner of the site) placed a layer of crushed, recycled concrete material (18 to 24 inches thick) on top of the existing engineered cap in early 2010. ADEQ expressed concerns about the concrete placement activities and the potential impacts on the

integrity of the engineered cap. At ADEQ's request, Harrison Properties' environmental contractor, GeoTrans, is performing an engineering evaluation of the current approved activities, as well as activities that had already taken place at the site. GeoTrans prepared a Work Plan for the engineering evaluation of the placement of materials on the cap. ADEQ approved the Work Plan in October 2010. At this time, the engineering evaluation is on-going.

Contaminants:

The Site is ten acres in size and contains significant quantities of [auto shredder fluff](#) co-mingled with native soils. The current contaminants of concern at the Site include: [lead](#), [cadmium](#), [arsenic](#) and [polychlorinated biphenyls](#) (PCBs), a substance historically used as cooling oil in electric components. The contaminants of concern are present in the soil only. No contaminants of concern have been detected in the groundwater above the [Aquifer Water Quality Standards](#). Contaminants of concern at the Site may change as new data become available.

Public Health Impact:

All surface piles of auto shredder fluff, including the main fluff pile, have been removed from the Site. A protective soil cap was installed at the Site to prevent exposure to any contamination in the soil. The ADHS has concluded that the soil cap will prevent future direct contact with the contaminants present in on-site soils and wastes at the Site and that the cap is protective of human health.

Site Hydrogeology:

The wells at the Site are currently dry. The total depth of the deepest well is approximately 86 feet below ground surface (bgs). Four rounds of groundwater monitoring and sampling were completed prior to the wells going dry. The depth to water beneath the Site ranged from 76 to 86 feet bgs during the period from July 2000 to April 2001. Groundwater during this period flowed in a west/northwest direction at a gradient of 0.007 feet per foot.

Contacts:

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Information Repository:

Interested parties can review select Site documents at the information repository at the [Harmon Public Library](#) located at 1325 S. 5th Avenue in Phoenix, (602) 262-4636.

The complete official Site file can be reviewed at the ADEQ Main Office located at 1110 W. Washington Street, in Phoenix. Please contact (602) 771-4380 or (800) 234-5677 to schedule an appointment with 24-hour notice to review these documents. Once all documents requested have been collected, you will be contacted for a review Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the ADEQ Records Management Center, 1110 W. Washington Street in Phoenix, AZ.