

FORMER BURNS AIR FORCE RADAR STATION (ECSI # 1703)

Cleanup Status Report

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

The site is located on Burns Butte overlooking the cities of Burns and Hines, which are 5 miles to the east, in Harney County. Between 1954 and 1958, a total of 31.91 acres were acquired by the Air Force from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for an Aerospace Defense Command site on Burns Butte. Improvements constructed by the Department of Defense (DOD) included several large antennas, power generation facilities, and numerous support facilities for the site. Beginning in approximately 1970, DOD began selling portions of the property to various entities and individuals. The portion of the property that includes the improvements and presents environmental concerns was assigned to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, which conveyed the property to Burns Union High School District No. 2 effective December 1973. The school district deeded the lands back to the federal government in 1977. GSA transferred the property to Russell and Aileen Wilson in approximately 1979. The Wilson's have deeded the land to a relative.



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PROJECT STATUS

DEQ's Air Quality (AQ) Program documented friable asbestos at the site during an investigation on April 09 2002. The asbestos is associated with the remnant structures and building components at the site (e.g. wallboard, insulation, etc.). The asbestos has become friable and more of an inhalation hazard over time. DEQ also coordinated with the Oregon Human Services Division (ODHS) and performed a site tour on November 7, 2002. ODHS published a health assessment dated, May 2003. The conclusions of the assessment indicate that the site may pose a public health threat due to the presence of exposed friable asbestos. The primary exposures of concern are related to site visitors such as trespassers and to site workers. The health assessment recommends that friable asbestos and physical hazards be remediated throughout the site. DEQ has contacted the current site owners and the federal government (DOD and the Corps of Engineers) regarding responsibility for cleanup of the site. The current owners are unable to pay for cleanup and the federal government is unwilling. The site was declared Orphan in June 2003.

DEQ is using a contractor to scope a removal action at the site. DEQ is also issuing a Focused Feasibility Study (FFS) for public review during the month of November 2003. The FFS provides the basis for selecting a removal (interim cleanup action) at the site. DEQ will consider all public comments prior to selecting the removal action at the site. The removal/cleanup action will likely occur during spring 2004 and may involve on-site or off-site disposal of asbestos containing material and solid waste.