



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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April 14, 2021

Debbie Taege
Project Manager
Boeing EHS Remediation
PO Box 3707, MC 9U4-26
Seattle, WA 98124-2207

Re: Response to Letter dated March 17, 2021 *Response to Ecology's February 1, 2021 Comments on the Draft Feasibility Study and Draft Supplemental Feasibility Study Reports, Boeing Auburn Facility, Agreed Order No. 01HWTRNR-3345*

Dear Debbie Taege:

The Washington state Department of Ecology (Ecology) has received and reviewed the above-referenced letter (Boeing's Response Letter). Ecology appreciates Boeing's agreement to implement the final remedies for the Site AOCs as summarized in the Response Letter and FS Summary Letter (Boeing 2021). Ecology looks forward to resolving the issues in dispute and working with Boeing to expediently prepare and implement the Cleanup Action Plan (CAP).

In the Response Letter, Boeing provided two attachments:

- Attachment A, that identified two issues regarding the application of cleanup levels at the Site that Boeing disputes; and
- Attachment B, providing responses to selected Ecology general comments, that Boeing considers pertinent to development of the cleanup action plan (CAP).

This letter is Ecology's answer to the disputed issues listed in Attachment A and gives Ecology's response to selected general comments from Attachment B.

Ecology Decision on Issues in Dispute stated in Attachment A – Application of Appropriate Cleanup Levels

In Attachment A of the Response Letter, Boeing disputes:

- 1) The use of surface water quality standards to define groundwater cleanup levels at the Site.
- 2) The use of surface water quality standards to evaluate compliance in the Chicago Avenue ditch and Auburn 400 ponds.

Boeing asserts that Ecology has not provided sufficient rationale for the agency's position. Boeing and Ecology have discussed this issue for years, Boeing has repeatedly voiced the company's objections to Ecology's cleanup standards decisions. Ecology has seriously considered these objections and has provided extensive explanation and justification in prior correspondence (Ecology 2019a; Ecology 2019b; Ecology 2019c; Ecology 2017). However, our professional/technical and regulatory opinions differ, and Ecology understands that Boeing may still disagree with Ecology's cleanup standards for the Site. Ecology believes the disputes are based on conflicting perspectives, not a failure to effectively communicate each party's position. Therefore, Ecology has determined:

1. Surface water quality standards apply as groundwater cleanup standards in groundwater at the Site from Boeing Property boundary to the surface water in the Chicago Avenue ditch, Auburn 400 north and south basins, and Mill Creek. CPOC can be set at the Boeing Auburn property boundary.
2. Surface water quality standards apply to stormwater features, including the Chicago Avenue ditch and the Auburn 400 stormwater basins.

Boeing should submit a written notification that they accept Ecology's informal dispute resolution decision -OR- invoke formal dispute resolution within seven business days of receiving this letter according AO Section VII.11(B). If Boeing accepts the decisions stated in this letter, Boeing and Ecology should meet within two weeks to discuss the schedule for dCAP preparation.

Responses to Attachment B – Responses to General Comments

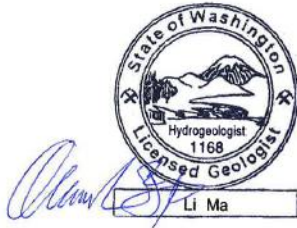
In Attachment B of the Response Letter, Boeing provides comments and responses to selected Ecology comments. Boeing notes that these are provided to clarify future communications and to assist in preparation of the CAP. I have not included Boeing comments that I do not think require a response. Ecology’s responses are provided below.

Location	Boeing Comment or Response	Ecology Response
p. 1, para. 2	In the dCAP, Boeing will modify Figure B-1 to propose areas for implementing ICs and/or ECs for soil areas associated with AOCs on property owned by Boeing. Ecology will be responsible for enforcing implementation of ECs and ICs on property owned by other PLPs to the AO.	Boeing should still identify in the CAP where (and what) ICs and ECs are needed on other properties.
Remediation Objectives	Addressing the vapor intrusion pathway should not be considered a remediation objective for the Algona focus area.	Even if there are no current vapor intrusion exceedances, one of the objectives of treatment in this area is to decrease CVOC concentrations to ensure protectiveness under potential future conditions. This objective should be retained.
Remediation Objectives	Concentrations of CVOCs in the stormwater features should not be a remediation objective for the Algona focus area.	See response to Attachment A. This objective should be retained.
Back Diffusion	Boeing disagrees with Ecology’s comment that “back diffusion is not a predominant factor” at the Site.	Ecology agrees that back diffusion does occur at the Site and may result in the low-level CVOC concentrations at some areas. Ecology does not believe that back diffusion is a dominant mechanism affecting CVOC fate and transport in the Site aquifer. Back diffusion may have significant impact in some isolated areas.
Reasonable Restoration Time Frame Evaluation	If SWQS are applied as cleanup levels for groundwater, resulting in an estimated restoration timeframe of approximately 100 years, Boeing will request that Ecology approve the use of a COPC.	Ecology can approve Boeing use of a CPOC at their property line. This would allow Boeing to clean up to the drinking water standard on their property.

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Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this letter at (425) 649-7280 or lima461@ecy.wa.gov

Sincerely,



Li Ma, PhD, LHG
Project Manager
Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program

ecc: Katie Moxley, The Boeing Company
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Christa Colouzis, PE, Ecology
Raman Iyer, Ecology

References:

Ecology 2019a. Ecology cleanup standards identified for Trichloroethylene (TCE) and breakdown chemicals in groundwater; FS #2018; CS #5049; EPA ID #WAD041337130. Letter from Robin Harrover, Ecology, to Carl M. Bach, The Boeing Company. February 28, 2019.

Ecology 2019b. RE: Auburn CULs Follow-Up. Email from Robin Harrover To Deborah A Taege. April 25, 2019.

Ecology 2019c. Ecology's Cleanup Standards based on the Model Toxics Control Act specific to the Boeing Auburn Site: FS #2018; CS #5049; EPA WAD041337130. Letter from Robin Harrover, Ecology, to Debbie Taege, The Boeing Company. June 28, 2019.

Ecology 2017. Ecology's Email to Boeing dated Jan., 26, 2017. Water Quality Criteria applicable to the Auburn 400 Ponds, Outlet collection ponds and conveyance ditches in Auburn and Algona. A attachment to Ecology 2019a.