



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

15 W Yakima Ave, Ste 200 • Yakima, WA 98902-3452 • (509) 575-2490

September 12, 2011

Mr. Gurmit Singh Kaila
1533 Kittitas Highway
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Re: A Reported Release of Hazardous Substances and Potential Liability for the Release at the following site.

- Name: Big B Mini Mart
- Address: 1611 Canyon Road, Ellensburg
- Parcel No.: 17465
- Facility Site No.: 386

Dear Mr. Kaila:

Under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA), chapter 70.105D RCW, which governs the cleanup of hazardous waste sites in Washington State, the Department of Ecology (Ecology) may identify persons that it finds liable for the release of hazardous substances at a site. Before making such a finding, Ecology must provide persons with notice and an opportunity to comment on the proposed finding. Any person whom Ecology finds, based on credible evidence, to be liable is known as a "potentially liable person" or "PLP".

As a result of a Leaking Underground Storage Tank investigation conducted by Ecology at the Big B Mini-Mart, 1611 Canyon Road, Ellensburg on April 6, 2011, Ecology believes that a release of a hazardous substance has occurred and that further action will be required at this site. Based on this investigation, Ecology intends to add this property to our database of confirmed and suspected contaminated sites.

Proposed Finding of Liability

Based on credible evidence, Ecology is proposing to find Gurmit Singh Kaila liable under RCW 70.105D.040 for the release of hazardous substances at the Big B Mini Mart facility (Site). This proposed finding is based on the following evidence:



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1. Gurmit Singh Kaila is a past operator at the Big B Mini Mart Site as established by Underground Storage Tank licensing applications on file with Ecology, and as reported to Ecology verbally.
2. Historic and current tests of groundwater at the site show that contamination with petroleum hydrocarbons exceed MTCA cleanup standards, and in some cases are present in excess of soil saturation levels, both exceedances of MTCA cleanup standards. The initial report of release occurred in 1990-1991 during the operational tenure of Mr. Kaila at the facility.
3. The MTCA Cleanup Standards for soil and groundwater are promulgated to provide protection of human health and the environment. Contaminant levels in soil and groundwater that exceed MTCA cleanup standards pose a risk to human health and the environment.

Opportunity to Respond to Proposed Finding of Liability

In response to Ecology's proposed finding of liability, you may either:

1. Accept your status as a PLP without admitting liability and expedite the process through a voluntary waiver of your right to comment. This may be accomplished by signing and returning the enclosed form or by sending a letter containing similar information to Ecology;
2. Challenge your status as a PLP by submitting written comments to Ecology within thirty (30) calendar days of the date you receive this letter; or
3. Choose not to comment on your status as a PLP.

Please submit your waiver or written comments to the following address:

Norman D. (Norm) Peck
CRO Toxics Cleanup Program
15 W Yakima Avenue, Suite 200
Yakima, WA 98902

After reviewing any comments submitted or after 30 days if no response has been received, Ecology will make a final determination regarding your status as a PLP and provide you with written notice of that determination.

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Identification of Other Potentially Liable Persons

Ecology has notified the following additional persons that they may be potentially liable for the release of hazardous substances at the Site:

1. The Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway
2. Short Stop, LLC

If you are aware of any other persons who may be liable for the release of hazardous substances at the Site, Ecology encourages you to provide us with their identities and the reason you believe they are liable. Ecology also suggests you contact these other persons to discuss how you can jointly work together to most efficiently clean up the Site.

Responsibility and Scope of Potential Liability

Please note that Ecology may either conduct, or require PLPs to conduct, remedial actions to investigate and clean up the release of hazardous substances at a site. PLPs are encouraged to initiate discussions and negotiations with Ecology and the Office of the Attorney General that may lead to an agreement on the remedial action to be conducted.

Please also note that each liable person is strictly liable, jointly and severally, for all remedial action costs and for all natural resource damages resulting from the release of hazardous substances at a site. If Ecology incurs remedial action costs in connection with the investigation or cleanup of real property and those costs are not reimbursed, then Ecology has the authority under RCW 70.105D.055 to file a lien against that real property to recover those costs.

Next Steps in Cleanup Process

In response to the release of hazardous substances at the Site, Ecology intends to conduct the following actions under MTCA:

1. Obtain current monitoring data from all existing monitoring wells at the site (including any off-property monitoring wells), report initial results to Ecology, and continue monitoring existing wells on a quarterly basis to establish the nature and extent of contamination, and ongoing groundwater gradient conditions at the site.
2. Actively and continuously recover any free-phase petroleum product present in or above groundwater at the site until approved to discontinue by Ecology.

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For a description of the process for cleaning up a contaminated site under MTCA, please refer to the enclosed fact sheet.

Ecology's policy is to work cooperatively with PLPs to accomplish the prompt and effective cleanup of hazardous waste sites. Please note that your cooperation in planning or conducting remedial actions at the Site is not an admission of guilt or liability.

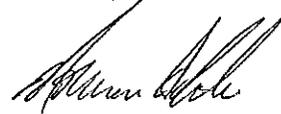
Site Listing

Also enclosed is the information on this facility that Ecology intends to add to our database of confirmed and suspected contaminated sites. Please review this information for its accuracy and return your comments within thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter.

Contact Information

If you have any questions regarding this letter or if you would like additional information regarding the cleanup of hazardous waste sites, please call me at 509-454-7837. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Norman D. (Norm) Peck
CRO Toxics Cleanup Program

Enclosures: 2

By process server

cc: Mr. Bruce Sheppard, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway
Short Stop, LLC, Attn. Gurinder "Gary" Bains