



# **Response to Comments**

## **Draft Feasibility Study and Supplemental Feasibility Study for Boeing Auburn**

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**Public comment period held April 26 – June 18, 2021**  
**Facility Site ID: 2018, Cleanup Site ID: 5049**

**Hazardous Waste & Toxics Reduction Program**

Washington State Department of Ecology  
Shoreline, Washington

June 2021, Publication 21-04-035

## Publication Information

This document is available in the [Boeing Auburn document repository](#)<sup>1</sup> and on the Department of Ecology's website at:

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/summarypages/2104035.html>.

### Related Information

- Facility site ID: 2018
- Cleanup site ID: 5049

## Contact Information

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<sup>1</sup> <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/CleanupSiteDocuments.aspx?csid=5049>

<sup>2</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Cleanup-sites>

<sup>3</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>

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DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

# Toxics Cleanup in Washington State

Past business practices and accidental spills of dangerous materials contaminated land and water throughout the state. The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction (HWTR) program works to remedy these situations at sites with a RCRA permit through corrective actions. Most HWTR corrective actions are large, complex projects requiring engineered solutions.

Contaminated sites in Washington are cleaned up under the [Model Toxics Control Act](#)<sup>4</sup> (MTCA, Chapter 173-340 Washington Administrative Code), a citizen-mandated law passed in 1989. This law sets standards to ensure toxics cleanup protects human health and the environment and includes opportunities for public input.

## Public Comment Period Summary

Ecology held a comment period April 26 – June 18, 2021 for the Boeing Auburn site’s draft Feasibility Study<sup>5</sup> and draft Supplemental Feasibility Study<sup>6</sup> (FS/SFS). More information is available in the [public notice](#)<sup>7</sup> that was mailed to the surrounding community.

We appreciate the comments we received from two people and address them in the Response to Comments section. After considering the comments, we have finalized the draft documents without further changes.

## Site Background

Boeing treated and stored hazardous waste at its Auburn facility and used a liquid chemical—trichloroethylene (TCE)—to clean metal airplane parts. The site became contaminated when some of the TCE leaked into soil and groundwater. The groundwater contamination extends off the Boeing property. Boeing no longer uses TCE, so there is no risk of more TCE contamination from the facility.

## Response to Comments

The comment letters are printed verbatim in alphabetical order based on the commenter’s last name. Each letter is followed by Ecology’s response.

## Index of comments received

Everyone who submitted comments is listed below in alphabetical order by their last name, followed by the date we received their comments and the page on which their comments are

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<sup>4</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/MTCA>

<sup>5</sup> Available for download: <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/DocViewer.ashx?did=98746>

<sup>6</sup> Available for download: <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/DocViewer.ashx?did=98743>

<sup>7</sup> <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2104021.html>

printed as received. We omitted contact information (postal and email addresses and phone numbers).

Table 1. Index of comments received

Name	Date received	Page
Anonymous	June 17	5
Gregory Hutcherson	June 11	5

## Anonymous, received via Smart Comments on June 17

Subject: Boeing Auburn Feasibility Study Comment Period

As an Algona resident, I strongly support the use of the surface water cleanup standard and expect Boeing to be a responsible neighbor and get the cleanup underway as soon as possible. Natural attenuation as a lone strategy seems irresponsible, lazy and cheap; it's simply waiting for the problem to go away on its own. Using enhanced bioremediation to help resolve this problem sooner is the right thing to do to help the residents and the environment of this area by cleaning up the TCE. Simply keeping it trapped in the soil and groundwater is not acceptable, it needs to be properly broken down and eliminated. We do not want toxic, cancer-causing chemicals in our environment. We do care about this problem still and would like the remediation to start as soon as possible.

### Ecology's response

Dear Algona resident,

Thank you for taking the time to review the Boeing Auburn Feasibility Study and make comments. We appreciate public involvement and believe your comments will make our work more complete.

We hear your concerns. We will apply the more stringent standard (Surface Water Cleanup Standard) and an effective remediation technology (enhanced bioremediation) at the Boeing Auburn site to safeguard the environment and human health according to the state environmental law, MTCA.

The next phase of the project is developing an action plan, called Cleanup Action Plan. We will put that plan out for public comment when it's ready. We look forward to your continued involvement in this process so we can clean up the site in an efficient and responsible way.

Thank you again for your comments.

## Gregory Hutcherson, received via Smart Comments June 11

Subject: Boeing Auburn Feasibility Study Comment Period

I'm glad that after careful consideration, you've agreed upon a better standard of "clean". I think taking your time with all these reviews and reassessments is foolhardy. Auburn is one of

the few townships, if not only, in King county that has commercial agriculture. We believe in hard work and taking care of the land we occupy and share. Please get this cleanup underway ASAP. If not with biologics, please contact Paul Stamets in Shelton Washington who has done cleanups using fungi. Get it DONE! Realize our farmers in Auburn would be fools to use city water to grow their crops. One the chlorine & chloramines kill the good bacteria in the soil and two, it would be ungodly expensive. If your plumes hit their property, it will be pumped up out of the ground thru their wells and recycled on the surface, spreading it further and further as rain seasons come each year. This is your responsibility. Take action before people get word, especially ecological watch dogs and start picketing your Renton and Mukilteo plants. That would be even worse press and PR wouldn't it? Act now before it gets much worse, and I mean that both ways.

## **Ecology's response**

Dear Mr. Hutcherson,

Thank you for taking the time to review the Boeing Auburn Feasibility Study and make comments. We appreciate public involvement and believe your comments make our work more complete.

We hear your concerns. We will apply the more stringent standard (Surface Water Cleanup Standard) and effective remediation technology (enhanced bioremediation) at the Boeing Auburn site to safeguard the environment and human health according to the state environmental law (MTCA) and its procedures.

Based on the investigations at the site, drinking water is safe because drinking water for the cities of Algona, Pacific, and Auburn comes from public wells. The domestic and municipal wells are east of the contamination and the groundwater flows away from the wells—contaminants will not be pumped out through those wells. We also tested water from ditches, ponds, and people's yards—contaminants in surface water are very low and will not harm crops, wildlife, or pets.

The next phase of the project is developing an action plan, called Cleanup Action Plan. We will put that plan out for public comment when it's ready. We look forward to your continued involvement in this process so we can clean up the site in an efficient and responsible way.

Thank you again for your comments.