



Johns Auto Wrecking Site Responsiveness Summary

Comment Period: October 20 to November 21, 2021

Cleanup Site ID: 2120
Facility ID: 57665495
Address: 411 93rd Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501
County: Thurston
Cleanup Site webpage: <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/2120>

The public comment period was held for public review of Ecology's proposal to remove the Site from the [Hazardous Sites List](#).¹

Background

An auto-wrecking business operated at the site until around 2001. Vehicle crushing and improper handling of wrecked cars may have been the source of hazardous chemicals that leaked into the soil. Soil contaminants included petroleum hydrocarbons, carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (cPAHs), polychlorinated biphenols (PCBs), metals and tetrachloroethylene (PCE).

Ecology ranked the site's relative risk to human health and the environment based on contamination and location of the site. When we rank a cleanup site, we put the site on the state's Hazardous Sites List.

Cleanup began in 2008. About 107 cubic yards of contaminated soil were removed from several areas at the site. The contaminated soil was taken to appropriate landfills. After the contaminated soil was removed from the site, soil tests confirmed that contaminant concentrations were below state cleanup levels. Removal of debris from the wrecking operation was completed in 2014.

The owner installed monitoring wells to check the condition of groundwater. Groundwater at the site was sampled multiple times. Groundwater sampling confirmed that groundwater contaminants were below cleanup levels.

After cleanup, the site meets state cleanup standards. The cleanup is effective in protecting the health of people and the environment. In 2022, Ecology reviewed conditions at the site and determined that no further cleanup action is needed because the site meets state cleanup standards.

A comment period is required before we can consider removing the site from the Hazardous Sites List. We received one comment during the comment period. On the next page, we reviewed and responded to that comment. We considered the comment, we determined that the comment was insufficient to rescind the no further action opinion, and we are in the process of removing the site from the Hazardous Sites List.

Prepared by

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¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Site-Register-lists-and-data#HSL>

Comment from Maria Parnel

The provided information is incorrect in:" In their report, Normandeau confirms Robinson Noble's findings that Hopkins Ditch does not actually flow and is not a ditch, per se, but rather a series of small disconnected pools." This ditch does flow seasonally and drains eastward (through a culvert on Hart Road) onto several residential properties. It would seem that it does not flow if you only view it in the summer dry months. The crux of the findings in this report is that the pollution has remained on site and will continue to do so, yet this is not likely given the movement of water through the property. This needs to be determined while considering the movement of water throughout the property during the winter and spring during peak precipitation levels. Residential properties are flooded with water that flows through this property. Coho determined that there are potential exposure pathways. This should be addressed before moving forward. Surrounding residential properties should not be forced to deal with pollution that originates on other properties because consultants are ignorant in their assessment of risk. Any entity assessing risk should consult with the Hopkins Ditch District #2.

Response from Ecology

Thank you for your comment about the site and conditions in Hopkins Ditch.

Cleanup started at the site in 2008. After the contaminated soil was removed and the auto-wrecking debris was removed, the condition of groundwater was checked on multiple occasions over time. Results showed the soil was cleaned up and groundwater was not contaminated.

Remaining contaminated soil was removed from Hopkins Ditch in 2019. Surface water samples were collected at three locations in Hopkins Ditch to confirm the cleanup actions were effective. Two of the water samples from the ditch were collected from areas close to the excavations where contaminated soil was removed. Another ditch water sample was collected downstream of the area of soil excavations to confirm the background concentrations at the site. Concentrations of hazardous substances were not detected in the water from the ditch. Analysis of samples from the ditch likewise indicated the ditch sediment was not contaminated.

After reviewing the results of the cleanup and groundwater monitoring, we determined that the cleanup was effective and no further cleanup actions were required under the state's cleanup law, the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA). The cleanup complies with MTCA Method A and B cleanup levels, which are protective of unrestricted (residential) land use.

Ecology sent notice of the public comment period to both Thurston County and the City of Tumwater, who are currently deciding on involvement over the [Hopkins Ditch District](#).² Neither entity commented on the proposed Site delisting.

With the contamination removed and cleanup levels met, the Site is not likely a source of contamination to Hopkins Ditch and not a source to spread contamination from the ditch to neighboring properties under normal flows or flooding conditions. Because contamination at the site

² <https://www.ci.tumwater.wa.us/departments/water-resources-sustainability/water-resources/hopkins-ditch-district-deanexation>

has been removed, possible exposure to contamination by direct contact, and by surface water and soil ingestion are prevented.

Based on data currently available to the Department of Ecology, it is our determination that the no further cleanup action opinion letter stands, and the Site should be removed from the Hazardous Sites List.

Should anyone have analytical data or other direct evidence of a potential release onto another property, they can report it via the online statewide [Environmental Incident Report \(ERTS\) form](#)³ and Ecology would complete an initial investigation of the report.

³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Footer/Report-an-environmental-issue/statewide-issue-reporting-form>