

# Smith Kem Ellensburg Inc.



Smith Kem Ellensburg Inc. site. Photo courtesy of the RI/FS Report by Floyd Snider

## Comments accepted:

March 8, 2023 – April 7, 2023

## Submit comments:

Online at:

<https://tcp.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=DSbBG>

Or by mail to:

John Mefford, Site Manager  
 1250 W. Alder Street  
 Union Gap, WA 98903  
 (509) 731-9613  
[John.Mefford@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:John.Mefford@ecy.wa.gov)

## Site info:

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=4257>

Facility Site ID: 12832256  
 Cleanup Site ID: 4257

## Document review locations:

Ellensburg Public Library  
 209 N. Ruby Street  
 Ellensburg, WA 98926  
 (509) 962-7250  
 M-F 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
 Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Department of Ecology  
 1250 W. Alder Street  
 Union Gap, WA 98903  
 509-575-2490  
 M-F 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

## Draft Cleanup Action Plan Available for Review and Comment

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is providing an opportunity for the public to review and comment on the Draft Cleanup Action Plan, associated SEPA documents, and the Draft Consent Decree for the Smith Kem Ellensburg Inc. (Smith Kem) site located at 200 South Railroad Avenue in Ellensburg.

Ecology is asking for your comments on the Smith Kem Draft Cleanup Action Plan and the associated documents.

You are invited to:

- Review the Draft Cleanup Action Plan (dCAP)
- Review the SEPA Environmental Checklist and Determination of Non-significance (DNS)
- Review the Draft Consent Decree (CD)
- Send your comments to Ecology for consideration. Comments will be accepted March 8, 2023 through April 7, 2023

## Site Background

Shell Oil Company (Shell) operated a bulk fuel facility on this property from approximately 1923 until the early 1970s. From 1948 until February 1973, Shell leased a portion of the property to Smith Kem, which operated a dealership of Shell-branded agricultural products. The agricultural products consisted of chemicals that included anhydrous ammonia, fertilizers, pesticides, and petroleum. Smith Kem handled, stored, and distributed these chemicals.

Site investigations began in 2007 and continued through 2013-2020. Sampling results showed groundwater contaminants included petroleum hydrocarbons, nitrates, ammonia, chlorinated pesticides, and herbicides.

In February 2016, Ecology entered into an Agreed Order with two of the potentially liable persons (PLPs).

A PLP is any person who Ecology finds, based on credible evidence, is liable under State cleanup laws. An Agreed Order is a legal agreement that outlines the expectations, process, and schedule for site investigation and/or cleanup.

The 2016 Agreed Order required the completion of a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) and the development of a dCAP. A Remedial Investigation (RI) shows what types of contamination exist and how far the contamination has spread (nature and extent of contamination). A Feasibility Study (FS) outlines the variety of cleanup options to address the contamination by reducing or eliminating the risk to human health and the environment. A Cleanup Action Plan (CAP) describes the final cleanup action selected for the site from the alternatives presented in the FS.

Ecology approved the RI/FS Report in January 2022. Following the public comment period, the dCAP will be finalized and approved as the CAP and the 2016 Agreed Order will be satisfied and closed.

The Consent Decree will be the agreement for the cleanup actions outlined in the CAP. The SEPA checklist and Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS) refer to the cleanup actions in the CAP. A Consent Decree is a legal agreement that describes studies and/or cleanup work to be done at a site and the terms that work is to be done.

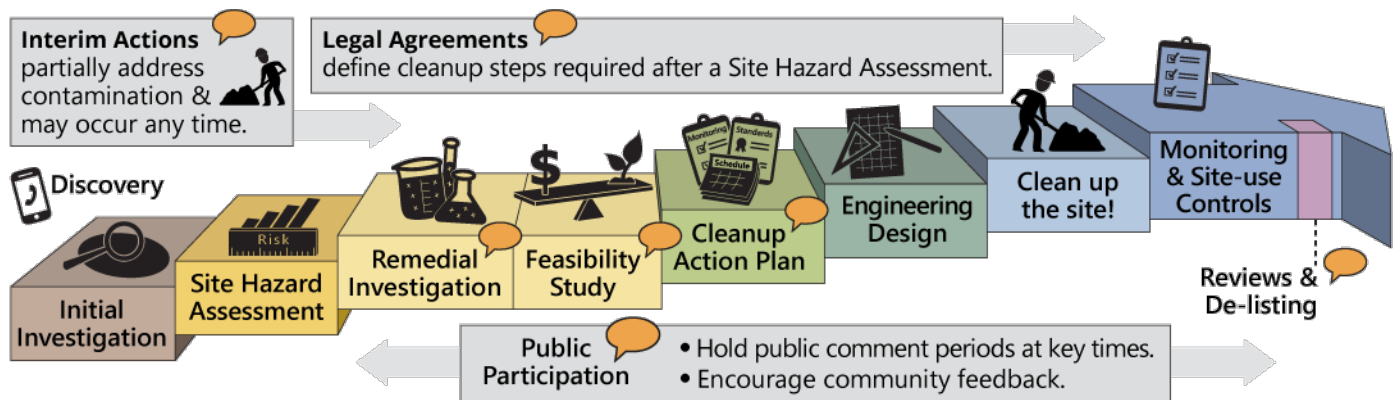
SEPA is the State Environmental Policy Act. The SEPA Checklist process helps agency decision-makers, applicants, and the public understand how proposed work will affect the environment.

### Why This Matters?

The organic chemicals known to be present at the site include petroleum hydrocarbons, herbicides, and pesticides. Petroleum hydrocarbons contain many chemicals that are harmful to human health and the environment. Certain herbicides and pesticides are persistent organic pollutants and a release of these chemicals pose a risk to human health and the environment.

### The Cleanup Process

Smith Kem Ellensburg Inc. follows Washington’s cleanup process.



### What Happens Next?

After the public comment period ends, Ecology will review and respond to comments received during the comment period. Ecology will hold a public meeting if 10 or more people request one. If no significant changes are necessary, the dCAP will be finalized as the CAP. The CAP will be implemented under the Consent Decree.

For information about other opportunities for public involvement, such as meetings, hearings, open houses, and workshops, please visit Ecology’s Public Involvement Calendar at <https://ecology.wa.gov/Events/Search/Listing>.

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at (509) 406-6931 or email [Rhonda.Luke@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Rhonda.Luke@ecy.wa.gov), or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.