



Public Participation Plan

**Univar Solutions USA, Inc.
8201 S. 212th Street
Kent, Washington 98032**

Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program

Washington State Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office
Shoreline, Washington

May 2023, Publication 23-04-023



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- apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2304023.html

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Photo supplied by Univar.

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- Cleanup site ID: 969

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¹ www.ecology.wa.gov/contact

Español

El Departamento de Ecología está anunciando el período de comentarios públicos relacionado a la limpieza ambiental del sitio Univar. Para obtener este documento, o más información sobre este sitio en español, favor de comunicarse con Janelle Anderson al 360-301-6454 o janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov.

Tagalog

Ang Department of Ecology ay nag-aanunsyo ng panahon para sa isang pampublikong pagpapahayag na may kaugnayan sa paglilinis ng kapaligiran sa site ng Univar. Para makakuha ng dokumentong ito o iba pang impormasyon tungkol sa site na ito sa Tagalog, pakisuyong kontakin si Janelle Anderson ss 360-301-6454 o janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov.

Tiếng Việt

Bộ Môi Sinh (Ecology) đang công bố thời gian lấy ý kiến công chúng liên quan đến việc tẩy nhiễm môi trường tại địa điểm Univar. Để truy cập tài liệu này bằng tiếng Việt, hoặc để biết thêm thông tin về địa điểm này bằng tiếng Việt, vui lòng liên lạc Liêm Nguyễn tại 360-790-4730 hoặc email liem.nguyen@ecy.wa.gov.

中文

華盛頓州生態管理署宣布與 Univar 的環境清理工作有關的公眾意見徵詢期。如要本文檔的中文版，或了解更多關於本網站的中文版信息，請聯繫 Sunny Becker 撥打 425-457-3842 或發送電子郵件至 sunny.becker@ecy.wa.gov。

한국어

주 환경부는 유니바 현장 환경 정화와 관련된 공개 논평 기간을 공지합니다. 한국어로 된 문서나, 이 현장에 대한 한국어 정보를 원하시면 담당자 (Jintae Lee: 360-890-5596, jintae.lee@ecy.wa.gov) 에게 연락하십시오.

ADA Accessibility

The Department of Ecology is committed to providing people with disabilities access to information and services by meeting or exceeding the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Washington State Policy #188.

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6700 or email at hwtrpubs@ecy.wa.gov. For Washington Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341. Visit [Ecology's website](http://www.ecology.wa.gov)² for more information.

² www.ecology.wa.gov/accessibility

Department of Ecology's Region Offices

Map of Counties Served



Southwest Region 360-407-6300	Northwest Region 206-594-0000	Central Region 509-575-2490	Eastern Region 509-329-3400
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Region	Counties served	Mailing Address	Phone
Southwest	Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, Wahkiakum	PO Box 47775 Olympia, WA 98504	360-407-6300
Northwest	Island, King, Kitsap, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom	PO Box 330316 Shoreline, WA 98133	206-594-0000
Central	Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan, Yakima	1250 W Alder St Union Gap, WA 98903	509-575-2490
Eastern	Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman	4601 N Monroe Spokane, WA 99205	509-329-3400
Headquarters	Across Washington	PO Box 46700 Olympia, WA 98504	360-407-6000

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DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

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Public Involvement in Contamination Cleanup

Ecology (we) developed this Public Participation Plan (PPP) in cooperation with Univar Solutions USA, Inc. (Univar). This plan is for the property located at 8201 S. 212th St., Kent, Washington.

The PPP describes how we involve the public in investigating contamination and selecting cleanup activities during the corrective action process.

We encourage the public to:

- Learn about and get involved in decision-making opportunities.
- Provide input during the investigation and cleanup of contamination.

This plan is for corrective action (cleanup). Public participation activities are coordinated between Univar and Ecology. We must make sure the cleanup and the outreach comply with Washington State's Dangerous Waste Regulations and Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) requirements. We will hold public comment periods and other public outreach during the cleanup process.

To be included in the site record, comments about the cleanup process must be submitted during comment periods. Questions and informal comments or information about the site's history are welcome anytime.

Public Participation Grants

Grants may be available to neighborhood committees, nonprofits, and other groups. For contaminated sites, these funds can be used to:

- Hire an expert to help interpret technical information.³
- Conduct activities to increase understanding and participation in the cleanup process.

For more information about public participation grants, please contact Faith Wimberley at 425-275-7285 or faith.wimberley@ecy.wa.gov. You may also visit the [Public Participation Grant webpage](#).⁴

³ Ecology currently does not have a citizen technical advisor for providing technical assistance to citizens on issues related to the investigation and cleanup of the site.

⁴ www.ecology.wa.gov/ppgrants

State and Federal Cleanup Laws

In Washington State, we use MTCA and other regulations for cleanup activities on properties that treated, stored, or disposed of hazardous wastes. These cleanups, called **corrective actions**, are required under the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets and enforces environmental standards in the United States. EPA allows Ecology to use MTCA, not RCRA, for cleanups in Washington State.

This PPP is required under MTCA. MTCA sets standards to ensure contaminated site cleanups in our state protect human health and the environment.

Model Toxics Control Act

MTCA began as a grassroots citizens' initiative in 1988. We started using it in our state to clean up contaminated sites in 1989. Under MTCA, a current or past property owner or operator may need to pay to clean up contamination, until levels are safe for human health and the environment. The contamination may be on their property or coming from their property.

Under MTCA, we oversee cleanups and issue [regulations and guidance](#)⁵ for them. We investigate reports of property contamination. If the contamination is a threat to human health or the environment, the property is put on the Hazardous Sites List and the cleanup process begins.

Public participation is an important part of the MTCA process. Participation needs are determined for each cleanup site by the level of public interest and the risk posed by the contamination. People who live near the site, community groups, businesses, government entities, and other interested parties can comment on the cleanup process.

Under MTCA, the cleanup process happens in phases. Many of the phases have time for the public to review and comment on cleanup documents. See Figure 1, Washington's Formal Cleanup Process, for more information.

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

There are federal and state rules about hazardous wastes. Congress passed RCRA in 1976 to ensure safe management and disposal of hazardous waste. RCRA was updated several times to expand its scope and requirements.

RCRA's goals are to:

- Protect human health and the environment.
- Reduce waste and conserve energy and natural resources.
- Reduce or stop hazardous waste generation.

Treatment, storage, and disposal (TSD) facilities must have a permit to design, operate, maintain, or close their site. RCRA also requires facilities to clean up contamination from past and present practices. These cleanup activities are called **corrective actions**.

⁵ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/publications/9406.pdf>

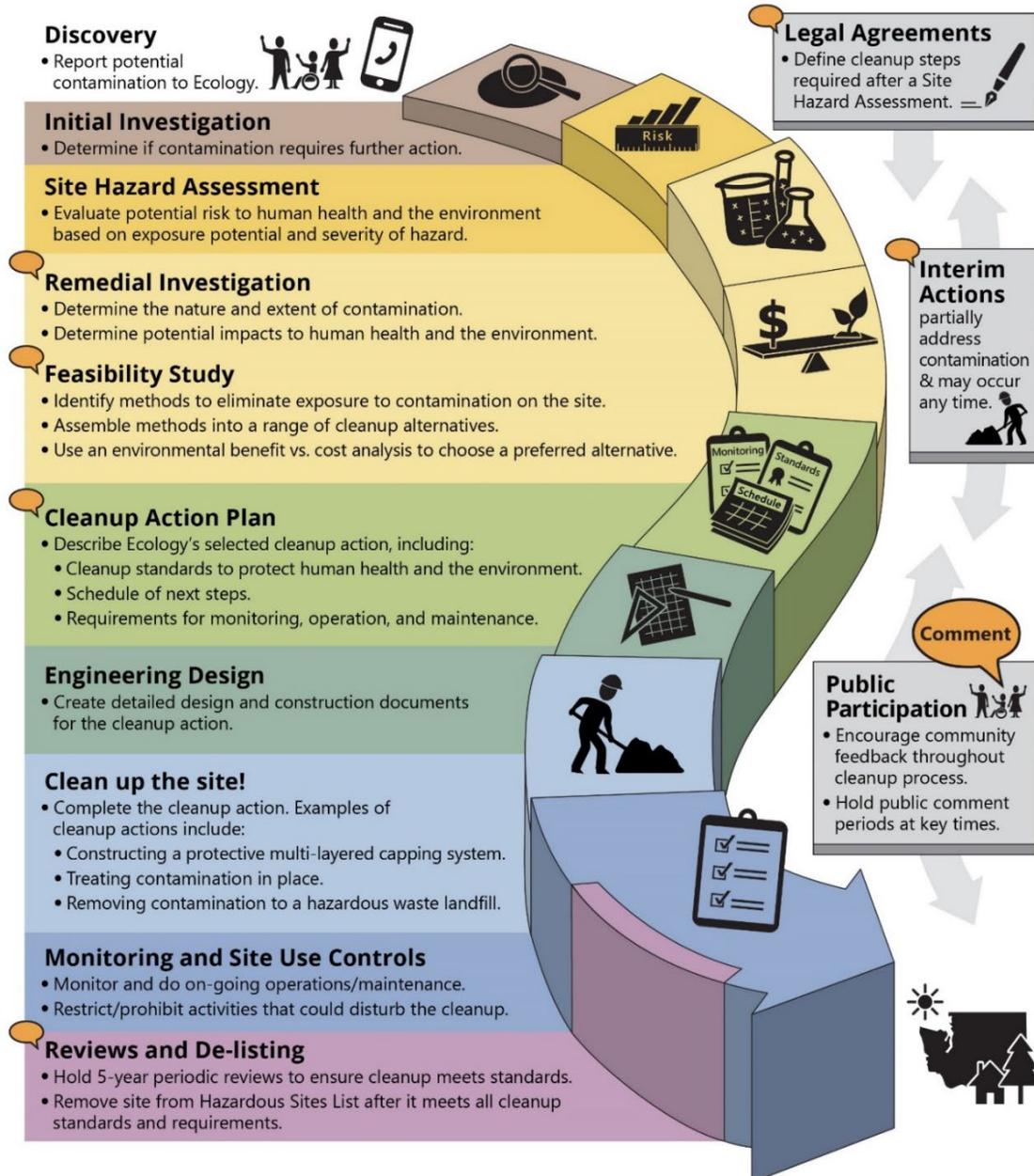
Federal RCRA and state dangerous waste regulations require opportunities for public participation during the stages of facility permitting and cleanup.

Univar is currently under a RCRA permit for corrective action only.

State Environmental Policy Act

Ecology and the potentially liable party (PLP) follow the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) during review and development of cleanup plans. Ecology uses SEPA during site cleanups to find and evaluate negative environmental impacts that could result from a proposed action.

Washington's Formal Cleanup Process



Washington's Cleanup Law
Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)

MTCA defines the cleanup process. This public-initiated environmental law directs upland cleanups (on land or in groundwater) and sediment cleanups (in freshwater or marine environments). Ecology enacts MTCA and regulates the cleanup process.

September 2019
Ecology Publication 19-09-166

Figure 1: [Washington's formal cleanup process infographic.](#)⁶

[Read a plain text version of Figure 1.](#)⁷

⁶ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/1909166.html>

⁷ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/parts/1909166part2.pdf>

Site Information

Site background and land use

Univar is a global company that stores, packages, and distributes a variety of chemical products. The 11-acre Kent facility has a warehouse, office, bulk storage, repackaging, and parking areas. It is surrounded by other commercial and industrial properties.



Figure 2: Topographic map of the Univar facility, located in Kent near the corner of South 212th Street and 84th Avenue South. The facility boundary is outlined in light blue. Source: Univar's RCRA Part B application.

Since 1974, Univar has stored, packaged, and distributed various chemical products from its Kent facility. It has operated under four other corporate names:

- Van Waters and Rogers, Inc. (VWR, 1974-2001)
- Vopak USA, Inc. (2001-2002)
- Univar USA, Inc. (2002-2019)
- Univar Solutions USA, Inc. (2019 to the present)

These were name changes only and were not changes in ownership.

From 1974 to 2007, Univar was considered an active dangerous waste management facility. However, it was not subject to RCRA permitting requirements until EPA hazardous waste regulations became effective in 1980.

On October 31, 2007:

- Ecology conditionally accepted certification for clean closure of the aboveground portions of the Dangerous Waste Management Units (DWMUs).
- Ecology agreed to address belowground contamination under a corrective action-only RCRA permit.

On August 5, 2020, Univar renewed their corrective action hazardous waste permit.

Contamination

In October 1991, an EPA consultant completed a RCRA Facility Assessment (RFA) and identified areas at the facility where releases of hazardous substances may have occurred or were occurring. Following EPA's assessment, the facility's RCRA Part B permit became effective on November 4, 1991.

Beginning in 1994, Ecology investigated contamination from waste disposal and accidental chemical releases at this site. Studies showed that soil in two eastern areas of the site were contaminated with solvents and chlorinated compounds. Groundwater was also contaminated. Groundwater is the water found underground in the cracks and spaces in soil, sand, and rock.

Most of the groundwater contamination is located beneath the property, but some contamination in the deeper groundwater flowed north under 212th Street and beneath an adjacent industrial property. No drinking water wells are present in or near the areas of contamination.

Past cleanups

Tank farms

From 1974 to 1982, Univar operated one 1,500-gallon dangerous waste aboveground storage tank (AST) and one 6,000-gallon dangerous waste AST. There were no known releases from either AST during their operating history. The Univar site map below shows where the tanks were located.

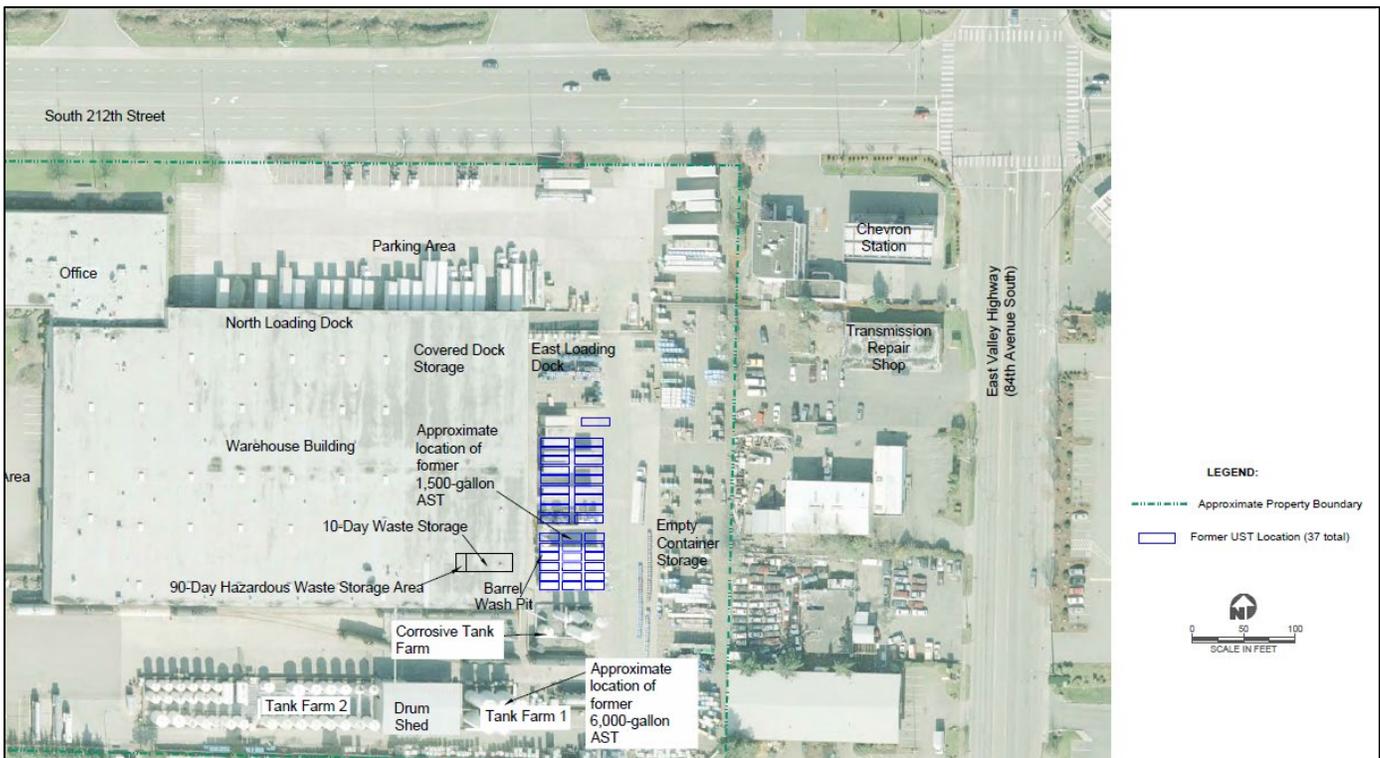


Figure 3: Tank farm locations at Univar, including 2 aboveground storage tanks and 37 underground storage tanks (outlined in purple). Source: Univar’s RCRA Corrective Action Permit Renewal Application, Part A and B.

Agreed order

On November 20, 2008, Ecology issued an agreed order (AO) requiring Univar to plan and implement a site cleanup. In 2009, Ecology selected cleanup activities from the feasibility study report.

Since then, Univar has been implementing the cleanup action plan, which includes:

- **Groundwater treatment:** To clean polluted groundwater at the site, Ecology approved a process called *enhanced reductive dechlorination*. This injects special bacteria into the polluted groundwater. The engineered bacteria “eat” the contaminants.
- **Groundwater monitoring:** The groundwater at the site is tested regularly to see if the pollutants are breaking down into less harmful chemicals. This is called *monitored natural attenuation*.
- **Ongoing treatment and sampling:** Univar will continue to test and treat the groundwater pollution at this site. This ongoing testing will help Ecology know if the treatment is effective and if any changes are needed.
- **Site use controls:** The facility has land use and groundwater use restrictions through an environmental covenant. The environmental covenant restricts the property to industrial use.

A combined, revised remedial investigation (RI), focused feasibility study (FFS) addendum, and draft cleanup action plan (CAP) were developed in 2009. The RI, FFS, CAP, fact sheet, and environmental covenant are available on the [Univar Document Repository](#).⁸

⁸ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/969>

Cleanup process

Univar must clean up the site contamination. There are six phases in the cleanup process: remedial investigation, feasibility study, cleanup plan, cleanup design, cleanup implementation, and monitoring and site use controls.

Interim actions or partial cleanups can occur at any time. There will be opportunities for public comment at each stage, except for cleanup implementation.

We apply both the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) rules to clean up hazardous waste sites. The cleanup protects human health and the environment from dangerous wastes and chemicals.

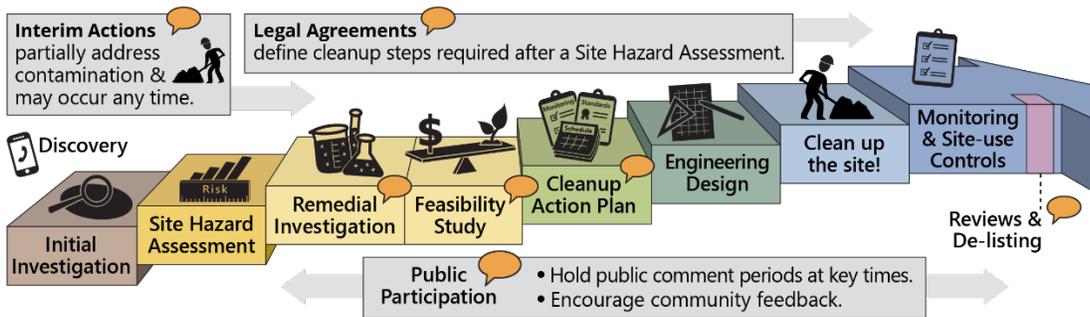


Figure 4: Formal cleanup process infographic (English).

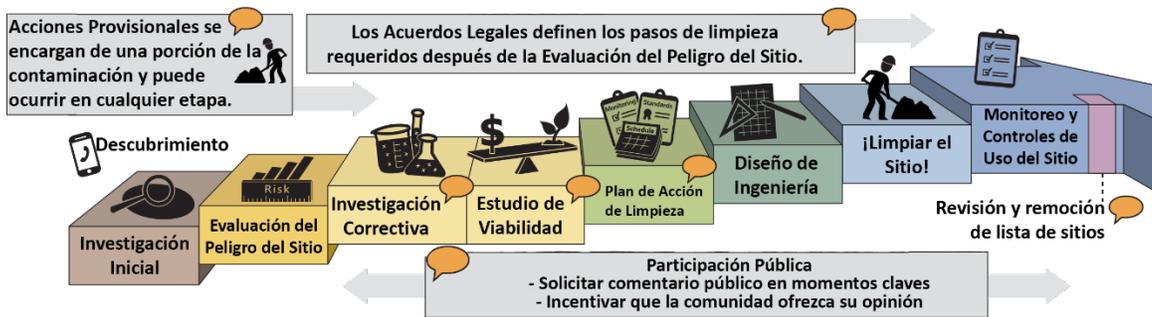


Figure 5: Formal cleanup process infographic (Spanish).



Figure 6. Formal cleanup process infographic (Vietnamese).



Figure 7. Formal cleanup process infographic (Tagalog).

Area Community

Kent is located in King County, Washington. It has a total area of 33.7 square miles and is the sixth largest city in the state. Kent is the second oldest incorporated city in Washington, after Seattle. It is in the heart of the Seattle–Tacoma metropolitan area, located 19 miles south of Seattle and 19 miles northeast of Tacoma. The 11-acre Univar facility is located approximately three miles east of Interstate 5, and two miles north of downtown Kent.

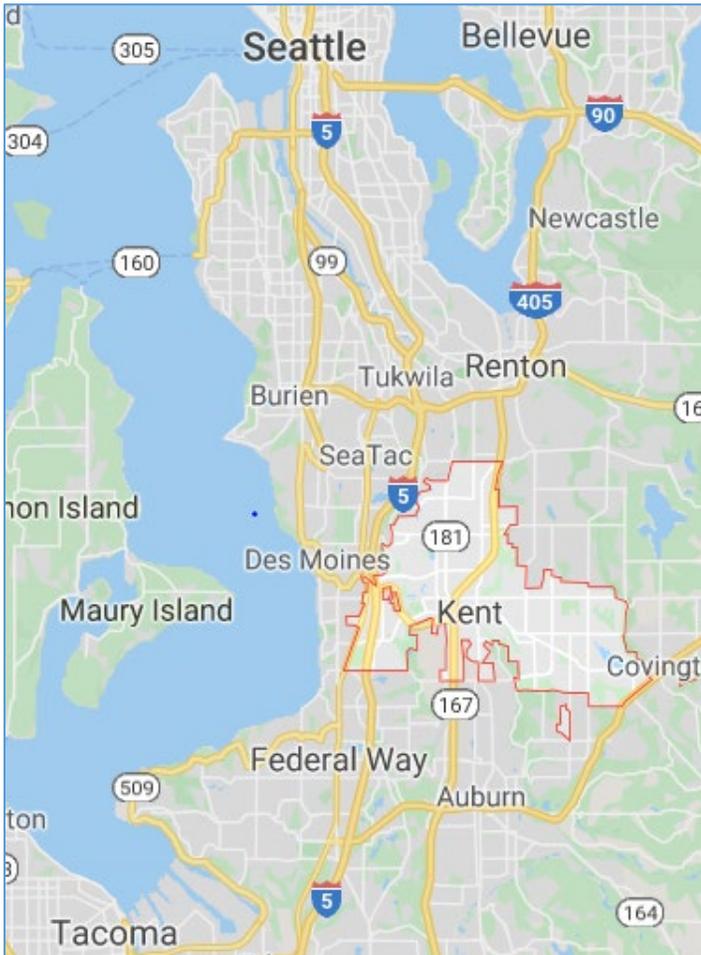


Figure 8: Google map showing location of Kent, WA.



Figure 9: Google map showing Univar’s location in Kent, WA.

Kent is generally divided into 3 sections:

- **West Hill:** Located along Interstate 5. This area is zoned for residential and commercial use.
- **The Valley:** Commercial and industrial area with some medium-density residential areas. Residents use a significant amount of Green River park land for outdoor recreational activities such as walking, hiking, and fishing.
- **East Hill:** Mostly residential with some retail businesses.

Univar is located in the industrial and commercial part of Kent, known locally as the Valley.

Environmental Justice and Title VI

Environmental justice (EJ) promotes fair treatment of all people under environmental laws and policies, regardless of their race, color, national origin, or income.

In Washington (and across the United States), more people of color and/or with low income live and work near industrial facilities, contaminated sites, and in neighborhoods without easy access to fresh food, green spaces, or clean air and water. These conditions negatively and unfairly affect their health and safety.

EJ strategies and compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act are key to addressing these inequities—especially through public involvement. We make every effort to inform and involve all people. To do this, we use demographic information to design our messaging to fit the community.

Demographics

These are the demographic indicators for the area around Univar Kent, including the people of color, with low-income, and/or with limited English proficiency.⁹

Table 1. Study of the people living within 3.14 square miles around the site (population 2,309).

Socioeconomic Indicators	Value	State Average	Percentile in State
Demographic Index	48%	28%	88
People of Color Population	64%	33%	90
Low-Income Population	33%	24%	72
Unemployment Rate	13%	5%	91
Limited English Speaking	8%	4%	84
Population with Less Than High School Education	7%	8%	57
Population Under 5 Years of Age	6%	6%	62
Population Over 64 Years of Age	11%	15%	32

People of color population

EPA's EJSCREEN mapping tool shows the area around Univar has socioeconomic indicators above the state's 80th percentile for people of color population.

Census data from the 2016–2020 American Community Survey indicates that the largest people of color populations near the site are:

- Asian (760 people), making up 33 percent of the population.
- Hispanic (342 people), making up 15 percent of the total population.

⁹ <https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/>

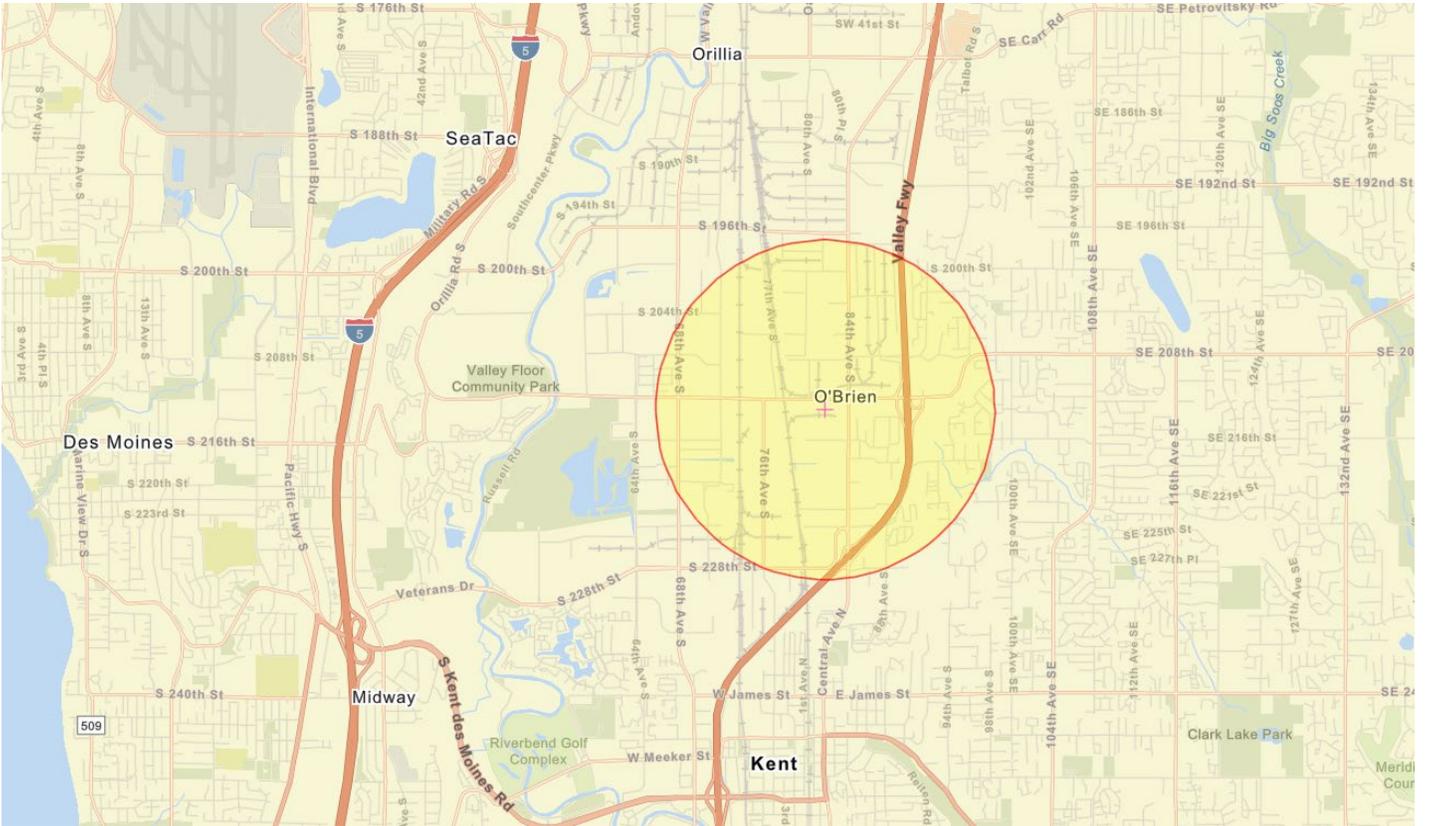


Figure 10: Environmental justice (EJ) demographic screening boundaries around Univar, from EPA's EJSCREEN mapping tool.¹⁰

English language proficiency

According to EJSCREEN census data, the households that speak English “less than very well” make up 19 percent of the area population. Some of the spoken languages include Spanish, other Asian and Pacific Island languages, Tagalog (including Filipino), and Vietnamese.

The population near the site includes non-English speaking households. The “linguistically isolated” households according to census data from 2016–2020 include the following non-English spoken languages:

- Spanish (17%)
- Other Asian and Pacific Island Languages (8%)
- Tagalog (including Filipino) (5%)
- Vietnamese (5%)

Outreach activities and language access

Based on this analysis, we will conduct the following outreach activities for this site:

- Contact cultural organizations and leaders in these communities.

¹⁰ <https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/>

- Provide information about requesting language services in all public materials.
- Provide outreach materials for this site in other languages, by request.
- Translate all documents that are vital or critical to well-being for language groups that are either 5% of the population or more than 1,000 people.

To request translation services, please contact:

Janelle Anderson, Community Outreach & Environmental Education Specialist
Washington Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office
P.O. Box 330316
Shoreline, WA 98133
Phone: 425-301-6454
Email: Janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov

Ecology will contact cultural community organizations as part of our outreach and provide information in other languages following federal guidance.¹¹ The non-English languages most widely spoken in this area are Spanish and other Asian and Pacific Island Languages. When appropriate, we will provide outreach materials in these languages. We strive to make our public participation efforts as inclusive as possible and welcome your input about how to reach the nearby community.

Tribal involvement

Ecology invites the federally recognized Muckleshoot Tribe, Puyallup Tribe, and Snoqualmie Tribe to engage in decision-making during the process on a government-to-government basis.

¹¹ Guidance to Environmental Protection Agency Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons, 69 Fed. Reg. § 35602 (June 15, 2004).

Public Participation Activities

Members of the public may ask questions, submit informal comments, or share site information at any time. Interested parties don't need to wait for a formal public comment period to contact Ecology.

However, to be included in the formal site record, comments about the site investigation, cleanup alternatives, or cleanups must be submitted during formal comment periods. In addition, the public is invited to review site documents before they become final. This is the most direct way to learn more about the site and be involved in the cleanup's decision-making.

How we share information with the community

During specific stages of the cleanup, Ecology will mail notices about public comment periods to addresses around the site. The mailing list area varies depending on the type of contamination and its location, but the list will at least include addresses within a quarter-mile radius of the site and other interested organizations and individuals. These notices will provide general information about the site, contact information for submitting comments, and times and locations of public meetings or hearings—or how to request one if a meeting is not yet scheduled.

Ecology may also develop documents outside of comment periods to keep the community updated on the site's status. These informational documents will be available online and at document repositories. Print copies may be mailed to the nearby community if we feel the message warrants the extra costs.

Comment period notices and other site announcements may also be posted in the community (for example, in local businesses, schools, and libraries).

Postal mailing list

Ecology maintains a mailing list that includes addresses near the site. This mailing list also includes local, state, Tribal, and federal government contacts.

Everyone will receive public comment notices when draft documents are available.

We'll add additional individuals, organizations, and other interested parties to the mailing list as requested. If you would like to be added to the mailing list for this site, please contact Janelle Anderson at 425-301-6454 or janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov.

Site Register

Public comment periods, events, and other cleanup notices are published in Ecology's [Site Register](#).¹² To receive the Site Register by email, please [subscribe online](#),¹³ or contact Sarah Kellington at sarah.kellington@ecy.wa.gov or 360-280-3167.

¹² ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Site-Register-lists-and-data

¹³ https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAECY/subscriber/new?topic_id=WAECY_118

Newspaper display ads or legal notices

We will announce public comment periods and events for this site in ads or notices published in the Kent Reporter,¹⁴ elSieteDias,¹⁵ and Northwest Asian Weekly.¹⁶

Ecology's website and social media platforms

We have a [Univar webpage](#)¹⁷ with more information and related documents. Information may also be shared about cleanup sites through social media sites, [news releases](#),¹⁸ and [Ecology's blog](#).¹⁹

Document repositories

You may review documents in person at this location by appointment:

Washington State Department of Ecology
Northwest Region Office
15700 Dayton Ave N.
Shoreline, WA 98133-9716
Reception (24-hour): 206-594-0000

To schedule an appointment, please contact:

Michael Hart
michael.hart@ecy.wa.gov
Public Disclosure Coordinator

Signs around the cleanup site

We may also display signs with information about project status, traffic impacts, and health risks around the cleanup site.

How to share information with us

You may ask questions, submit informal comments, or share site information with us at any time. Please contact Janelle Anderson at 425-301-6454 or janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov.

To be included in the formal site record, comments must be submitted during formal public comment periods. At minimum, MTCA requires 30-day public comment periods for draft cleanup documents and 14-day comment periods for SEPA documents. SEPA documents are often made available for public review with other cleanup documents. In that case, we combine the comment periods, and they will last at least 30 days. We may hold comment periods longer than 30 days.

We may also identify public concerns and cleanup goals by meeting with and soliciting information from interested community members and organizations. To collaborate with us about this site, please contact Janelle Anderson at 425-301-6454 or janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov.

¹⁴ kentreporter.com

¹⁵ <https://elsietedias.com/>

¹⁶ <https://nwasianweekly.com/>

¹⁷ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/969>

¹⁸ <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Get-to-know-us/News>

¹⁹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/blog>

Public comment periods

Formal 30-day comment periods allow members of the public to comment on draft documents, legal agreements, and proposed cleanup actions. If there is enough interest, Ecology may extend the public comment period. When Ecology oversees SEPA determinations, we hold comment periods for at least two weeks and comment periods may last 30 days or more when other cleanup documents are available for review at the same time.

Following a comment period, we publish all the input we received and respond to comments and questions. If the comments result in significant changes to the cleanup documents, then the documents will be revised and re-issued for public review. If the comments don't result in significant changes, they become final.

Public events

We hold public meetings, workshops, open houses, and public hearings based on community interest. If we haven't scheduled a meeting, we will hold one if 10 people request it—we may extend the public comment period so the meeting occurs during it.

Events are held at near the site at venues that meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards. Public meetings, workshops, open houses, and hearings are announced in advance using a variety of methods.

Americans with Disabilities Act

The Department of Ecology is committed to providing people with disabilities access to information and services by meeting or exceeding the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Washington State Policy #188.

To request an ADA accommodation, contact the Ecology by phone at 360-407-6700 or email at hwtrpubs@ecy.wa.gov. For Washington Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341. Visit [Ecology's ADA website](#)²⁰ for more information.

²⁰ <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>

PPP Amendments

Ecology developed this PPP following MTCA regulations (WAC 173-340-600). We review it as the cleanup progresses and amend it as necessary. You may suggest amendments to Janelle Anderson by phone at 425-301-6454 or email janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov.

This PPP includes information for the public regarding opportunities for public involvement and comment. The planned outreach activities will keep the public informed and provide ways for people to communicate their concerns and questions.

If you feel the planned outreach activities are insufficient or need changes, we welcome your feedback. Different outreach activities or outreach tools can be used right away, with or without updating this plan.

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

Table 2. List of abbreviations and acronyms.

Abbreviation or Acronym	Definition
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
Cleanup	Corrective action
Ecology	Washington State Department of Ecology
EJ	Environmental Justice
EJScreen	EPA's Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool
EPA	US Environmental Protection Agency
MTCA	Model Toxics Control Act
PLP	Potentially liable party
PPP, Plan	Public participation plan
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
SEPA	State Environmental Policy Act
Site	Area where hazardous substances at the facility are currently located
Tank farm	Existing aboveground fuel tanks
TSD	Treatment, storage, and disposal facility
Univar	Univar Solutions
WAC	Washington Administrative Code