



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Eastern Region Office

4601 North Monroe St., Spokane, WA 99205-1295 • 509-329-3400

July 5, 2023

John Parker
Central Valley School District
2218 North Molter Road
Liberty Lake, WA 99019

Re: Opinion on Proposed Cleanup of the following Site:

Site Name: Spokane Gun Club
Site Address: 19615 E Sprague Ave #9656, Spokane Valley
Cleanup Site ID: 14851
Facility/Site ID: 50340
VCP Project ID: EA0374

Dear John Parker:

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) received your request for an opinion on your proposed independent cleanup of the Spokane Gun Club facility (Site) under the Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP)¹. This letter provides our opinion. We are providing this opinion under the authority of the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA), Chapter [70A.305](#)² RCW.

Issue Presented and Opinion

Ecology has determined that, upon completion of your proposed cleanup, no further remedial action will likely be necessary to clean up contamination at the Site.

This opinion is based on an analysis of whether the remedial action meets the substantive requirements of MTCA, Chapter 70A.305 RCW, and its implementing regulations, Chapter 173-340 WAC (collectively “substantive requirements of MTCA”). The analysis is provided as follows.

¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Voluntary-Cleanup-Program>

² <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70A.305>

Site Description

This opinion applies to the only Site described as follows. The Site is defined by the nature and extent of contamination associated with the following release:

- Arsenic into the soil.
- Lead into the soil.
- Naphthalenes into the soil.
- Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) into the soil.

Enclosure A includes a detailed description and diagram of the Site, as currently known to Ecology.

Please note a parcel of real property can be affected by multiple sites. At this time, we have no information that the parcel(s) associated with this Site are affected by other sites.

Basis for the Opinion

This opinion is based on the information contained in the following documents:

1. Haley & Aldrich, Inc., Cleanup Action Plan, Spokane Gun Club, May 8, 2023.
2. Hart-Crowser, Inc., Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, Spokane Gun Club, September 20, 2021.
3. Hart-Crowser, Inc., Results of Surface Soil Sampling, Test Pits 66, 67, and 68, February 14, 2019.
4. Hart-Crowser, Inc., Interim Action Report, Former Spokane Gun Club Property, January 4, 2019.
5. Hart-Crowser, Inc., Focused Phase II Environmental Site Assessment; North Henry Road and East Sprague Avenue, Greenacres, Washington, October 22, 2018.
6. Hart-Crowser, Inc., Phase I Environmental Site Assessment; North Henry Road and East Sprague Avenue, Greenacres, Washington, October 12, 2018.

You can request these documents by filing a [records request](#).³ For help making a request, contact the Public Records Officer at publicrecordsofficer@ecy.wa.gov or call (360) 407-6040. Before making a request, check whether the documents are available on the [Site webpage](#).⁴

This opinion is void if any of the information contained in those documents is materially false or misleading.

³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Accountability-transparency/Public-records-requests>

⁴ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/14851>

Analysis of the Cleanup

Ecology has concluded that, upon completion of your proposed cleanup, **no further remedial action** will likely be necessary to clean up contamination at the Site. That conclusion is based on the following analysis:

Characterizing the Site

Ecology has determined your characterization of the Site is sufficient to establish cleanup standards and select a cleanup action. The Site is described above and in **Enclosure A**.

Beginning in 2018, soil characterization consisting of shallow samples, test pits, and borings indicated the presence of arsenic, lead, PAHs, and naphthalenes impacting soil from the ground surface to a maximum depth of approximately 10 feet below ground surface (bgs), with the largest volume of impacted soil occurring from 0 to 2 feet bgs. Select soil samples were also analyzed using the Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) approved under WAC 173-300-110(3)(a) for testing dangerous waste criteria, which indicated the presence of leachable lead and designates the soil as a Washington State Dangerous Waste (DW) under WAC 173-303-100. Approximately 3,906,295 cubic feet (144,684 cubic yards) of soil exceeding MTCA Method A cleanup levels and 152,000 cubic feet (5,630 cubic yards) of soil exceeding the DW toxicity characteristic occur in an area extending approximately 40 acres. Groundwater at the Site occurs approximately 98 feet bgs and is considered unlikely to be at risk of impact from contaminated soil due to the age of release and observed migration depth of contaminants.

Establishing cleanup standards

Ecology has determined the cleanup levels and points of compliance you established for the Site meet the substantive requirements of MTCA.

For soil, the cleanup levels were established using MTCA Method A and are based on protection of groundwater. The current land use is classified as light industrial (LI) by Spokane County; however, potential future land use includes residential development. Therefore, MTCA Method A unrestricted land use cleanup levels were deemed appropriate. The point of compliance for soils is throughout the lateral and vertical extent of the Site. This is the standard point of compliance. The cleanup levels are as follows:

Contaminant	Cleanup Level (mg/kg)
Arsenic	20
Lead	250
Naphthalenes	5
PAHs (based on toxicity equivalency normalized to	0.1

Contaminant	Cleanup Level (mg/kg)
benzo(a)pyrene)	

mg/kg = milligrams per kilogram

Selecting the cleanup action

Ecology has determined the cleanup action you proposed for the Site meets the substantive requirements of MTCA. The proposed cleanup action includes the following components:

- Soils within seven (7) previously identified DW lead sampling units will be treated in situ using a stabilizing reagent to limit solubility and mobility of DW constituents. Effectiveness of the treatment will be determined by collecting 10-point composite samples of the treated soil analyzed using the TCLP method to demonstrate soils no longer exhibit the DW toxicity characteristic of leachable lead exceeding 5 mg/L. Treated soils will be excavated following confirmation.
- Soils within 146 sampling units with contaminants of concern (COCs) exceeding MTCA cleanup levels will be excavated, with confirmation using an Incremental Sampling Methodology (ISM) of one 30-point composite sample per sampling unit. Compliance will be evaluated using a threshold of 80 percent of the applicable cleanup levels.
- A below-grade repository will be constructed onsite with an area of approximately 5 acres and a depth of approximately 30 feet bgs. Treated soils and all other soils with COCs exceeding MTCA cleanup levels will be placed in the onsite repository.
- An engineered cap consisting of a high-density polyethylene (HDPE) liner, drainage controls, and vegetated and/or hardscaped cover will be installed over the repository.
- Institutional controls in the form of an environmental covenant will be implemented to restrict land use, protect the cleanup action, and define procedures for operation and maintenance of all engineering controls.

Additional requirements

Ecology does not agree that the proposed cleanup action and confirmation sampling ensure the identification and treatment of all Site soils that would potentially designate as Washington State DW. Ecology has also determined that additional requirements must be addressed to meet the applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements (ARARs) of Ecology and other regulatory agencies. This analysis is based on the following:

- Ecology concurs that the ISM approach is likely sufficient to verify that the confirmation sampling units proposed in the Monitoring and Confirmation

Sampling Work Plan meet the MTCA cleanup standards established for the Site. However, many of the proposed sampling units illustrated in Figure 2 do not have any previous soil characterization data, and it is possible that some of the sampling units contain leachable lead that has not been identified through TCLP analyses. Ecology's [Tacoma Smelter Plume Model Remedy Guidance](#)⁵ and [Guidance for Remediation of Petroleum Contaminated Sites](#)⁶ both recommend approximately 30-50 discrete soils samples per acre for spatial characterization and 6-7 composite samples per 1,000 cubic yards for stockpile characterization. Higher resolution sampling should be conducted in areas without prior sampling data and in areas bordering identified DW units.

- Ecology has concluded that the lead screening level of 3,250 mg/kg will not be sufficient to ensure that all soils that would designate as a Washington State DW are identified and treated. The screening level was based on a small sample size (n=10) comparing total lead to leachable lead concentrations. A regression analysis of the relationship between these variables indicates a low predictive ability, with two residuals that do not fit the standard quadratic model. This results in total lead value ranges of approximately 5,000 mg/kg for a given integer value for leachable lead. Please see **Enclosure B** for a detailed summary of the regression analysis. This regression demonstrates that a larger sample size covering the full data range for total lead is necessary to provide a better fit model and a more predictive leachable lead value. To establish a statistically significant screening level, a minimum of 30 samples should be analyzed, otherwise the TCLP level of 5.0 mg/L should be used to screen soils for treatment. Additional TCLP analyses will also help determine any spatial variability patterns that may prove effective in targeting DW soils for treatment.
- Prior to any soil excavation that would generate solid waste as defined in WAC 173-350-021, the full lateral extent of DW soils needs to be delineated using either TCLP analyses or total lead analyses using an appropriate screening level as described above. Otherwise, the selected cleanup action may be subject to DW generation, treatment, and disposal standards described in WAC 173-303-140 and 173-303-170.
- A grading permit will likely be required for the cleanup action through Spokane County in addition to a Construction Stormwater General Permit (CSWGP) through Ecology's Water Quality Program. In addition to the planning and implementation of pollution-prevention controls under these permits, the SEPA requirements under WAC 197-11 must be met, including review by the applicable lead agency and opportunity for public comment. Please plan accordingly to allow adequate time for the SEPA review process.

⁵ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/1909101.pdf>

⁶ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/1009057.pdf>

- In addition to the dust control protocols described in the Cleanup Action Plan, dust samples should be periodically collected during cleanup and construction and analyzed for total lead to determine if there is a threat posed to human health or the environment.
- Post-closure controls and monitoring will be required for the repository, including but not limited to institutional controls to restrict land use and protect the remedial actions, and annual site inspections to confirm the long-term effectiveness of the remedial actions. These controls may vary based on the to-be-determined finished surface of the repository and should be detailed in an operations and maintenance (O&M) plan submitted prior to recording the institutional controls. In addition, a public participation plan and public comment period may be required based on the proposed use of the repository property.
- All sampling data should be electronically submitted to Ecology's [Environmental Information Management](#) (EIM) database⁷. The [Toxics Cleanup Program Policy 840](#)⁸ describes data submittal requirements. Please visit the [EIM Submit Data webpage](#) for data submittal instructions.

Limitations of the Opinion

Opinion does not settle liability with the state

Liable persons are strictly liable, jointly and severally, for all remedial action costs and for all natural resource damages resulting from the release or releases of hazardous substances at the Site. This opinion does not:

- Resolve or alter a person's liability to the state
- Protect liable persons from contribution claims by third parties.

To settle liability with the state and obtain protection from contribution claims, a person must enter into a consent decree with Ecology under RCW 70A.305.040(4).

Opinion does not constitute a determination of substantial equivalence

To recover remedial action costs from other liable persons under MTCA, one must demonstrate that the action is the substantial equivalent of an Ecology-conducted or Ecology-supervised action. This opinion does not determine whether the action you proposed will be substantially equivalent. Courts make that determination. See RCW 70A.305.080 and WAC 173-340-545.

Opinion is limited to proposed cleanup

This letter does not provide an opinion on whether further remedial action will actually

⁷ <https://ecology.wa.gov/eim>

⁸ <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/1609050.html>

be necessary at the Site upon completion of your proposed cleanup. To obtain such an opinion, you must submit a report to Ecology upon completion of your cleanup and request an opinion under the Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP).

State is immune from liability

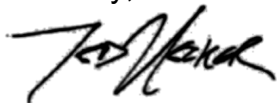
The state, Ecology, and its officers and employees are immune from all liability, and no cause of action of any nature may arise from any act or omission in providing this opinion. See RCW 70A.305.170.

Contact Information

Thank you for choosing to clean up the Site under the VCP. As you conduct your cleanup, please do not hesitate to request additional services. We look forward to working with you.

For more information about the VCP and the cleanup process, please visit our webpage⁹. If you have any questions about this opinion, please contact me by phone at 509-342-5564 or e-mail at ted.uecker@ecy.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



Ted M. Uecker
ERO Toxics Cleanup Program

tmu:hg

Enclosures (2): A – Site Description, History, and Diagrams
 B – Regression Analysis

cc: Jay Rowell, CVSD
 John Haney, Haley & Aldrich
 Christer Loftenius, Ecology 
 Nicholas Acklam, Ecology
 Eric McConnell, Ecology

⁹ <https://www.ecy.wa.gov/vcp>

Enclosure A

Site Description, History, and Diagrams

Site Description

The Site is located in Spokane Valley near the intersection of E Sprague Avenue and N Henry Lane and consists of 40.13 acres of undeveloped land adjacent to the Spokane Gun Club trap/skeet range. The range has been in operation since 1948. The nature and extent of contamination involves arsenic, lead, and PAHs in shallow soil trending NW to SE along the shooting range boundary, associated with lead shot and clay pigeon debris. Previous shot recovery activities resulted in several soil stockpiles along the boundary. The property was purchased by the Central Valley School District in 2018 and separated into two cleanup units. The northwestern parcel (55174.9186) was characterized and remediated during the initial investigation. It was given a No Further Action determination and was subsequently developed into Ridgeline High School. The remaining parcels (55174.9011, 55174.9012, 55174.9014, 55174.9043, 55174.9042, 55174.9022, and 55174.9021) were characterized and are awaiting cleanup. The shooting range remained in operation until the second phase of cleanup began in July 2021.

Site soils generally consist of silty gravel with sand, clay, and occasional cobbles to a depth of nine (9) feet below ground surface (bgs). Site geology includes Pleistocene Lake Missoula alluvium consisting of poorly-to-moderately sorted boulders, cobbles, gravel, and sand with interbedded silt lenses. Paleozoic Hauser Lake Gneiss occurs approximately sixty (60) feet bgs. The Site is within the boundary of the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie (SVRP) Aquifer, with the static groundwater level occurring at approximately ninety-eight (98) feet bgs and variable groundwater flow direction.

Site History

A Phase I environmental site assessment (ESA) was conducted in August 2018, and identified several recognized environmental conditions (RECs), including:

- Four stockpiles of unknown origin consisting of soil, wood, concrete, and clay target/shotgun shell debris
- Shallow soil samples from the concurrent Phase II ESA containing arsenic, lead, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) concentrations exceeding the MTCA Method A cleanup levels and lead exceeding WA State DW criteria
- Shot recovery areas on the shooting range property, which included settling ponds contained in earthen berms

Phase II ESA activities were conducted concurrent to the Phase I from July 2018 to February 2021, and initially included excavation of 23 test pits and collection of soil samples between 6 and 12 inches below ground surface (bgs) in each test pit. Clay pigeon debris was encountered in three of the test pits, but no lead shot was observed. The test pits were backfilled with the excavated material. All soil samples were analyzed

for metals, while samples from test pits containing clay pigeon debris were also analyzed for PAHs. Samples from 12 inches bgs were held for analysis until contaminants were detected in the 6-inch bgs samples. Five samples from four test pits (TP-12, TP-17, TP-18, and TP-19) contained lead concentrations exceeding the MTCA Method A unrestricted soil cleanup level at 6 inches bgs. Only TP-19 exceed the lead cleanup level at 12 inches bgs. Six soil samples from four test pits (TP-17, TP-18, TP-19, and TP-20) contained PAHs exceeding the cleanup level, with TP-18 and TP-19 also exceeding the cleanup level at 12 inches bgs. The arsenic concentration in the 6-inch bgs sample from TP-19 also exceeded the cleanup level. Additional Phase II ESA activities conducted between 2018 and 2021 included an additional 69 test pits (TP-28 through TP-63 and TP-66 through TP-98), 19 direct-push soil borings, and 20 sonic soil borings, all completed to between 6 inches and 9 feet bgs.

An interim cleanup action was conducted between September and November 2018, which included excavation of four additional test pits, stockpile removal, and remediation of lead-contaminated soil near test pit TP-12. TP-24 through TP-27 were excavated near TP-12 to constrain the extent of lead contamination identified in the Phase II. Samples collected at 6 inches bgs in the three test pits were below the MTCA Method A cleanup level. Approximately 19.6 tons of soil were excavated from a 400 square foot area around TP-12 to a depth of approximately 8 inches. Two discrete samples were collected from the excavation bottom, as well as a composite sample from the temporary stockpile. All samples were below the lead cleanup level, and the stockpile was disposed at a Subtitle D facility.

Composite samples were collected from the four unknown stockpiles (SP-1 through SP-4) identified in the Phase I. These samples were analyzed for lead, arsenic, total petroleum hydrocarbons, and PAHs. Based on the results of these analyses, the stockpile samples were also analyzed for RCRA 8 metals, leachable lead, diesel- and oil-range hydrocarbons, VOCs, and one sample for PCBs. SP-1 (approximately 358 tons) contained arsenic above the MTCA Method A cleanup level and leachable lead above the Washington State Dangerous Waste (DW) criteria, and SP-2 (approximately 84 tons) contained diesel and oil above cleanup levels as well as leachable lead. Both were disposed at a Subtitle C landfill. SP-3 (approximately 91 tons) contained non-leachable lead above the cleanup level and was disposed at a Subtitle D landfill, and SP-4 did not exceed cleanup levels for any contaminants. Discrete soil samples were collected from beneath each stockpile to confirm that no contaminants remained following excavation. Surface soil samples were collected between 0-6 inches bgs from the locations of TP-64 through TP-68 to confirm that the NW parcel where the high school development is planned met MTCA cleanup standards. All samples were below the respective cleanup levels. A chain-link fence was installed to separate the Gun Club property (west), remaining contaminated soil (south), and the future high school property (northwest), which was given an NFA determination from Ecology during the initial investigation process.

Based on the characterization data from the Phase II ESA, it was determined that a total lead concentration of 3,550 mg/kg or greater would result in a leachable lead concentration exceeding the DW criteria. Therefore, a DW remediation level of 3,250 mg/kg was established for the conceptual site model (CSM) to assess the potential contaminant exposure pathways and receptors. The contaminants of concern for the CSM included arsenic, lead, and PAHs, transport mechanisms and exposure pathways evaluated included infiltration, erosion/stormwater, erosion/wind, erosion/anthropogenic transport, and bioaccumulation.

A feasibility study (FS) was completed in September 2021 to evaluate remedial alternatives. The estimated volume of contaminated soil used in the FS included 152,000 cubic feet (5,630 cubic yards) of soil exceeding the WA State DW criteria, and 3,906,600 cubic feet (144,684 cubic yards) of hazardous waste soil exceeding MTCA cleanup levels. The total volume of contaminated soil was estimated at 4,058,600 cubic feet (150,313 cubic yards) to a total depth of 10 feet bgs.

Remedial technologies evaluated in the FS report included:

- Soil washing- physical and chemical removal of contaminants with washing fluids
- Phytoremediation- stabilization and uptake of contaminants by plants
- In Situ or Ex Situ solidification/stabilization- mixing of contaminated soils with a binding agent to prevent leaching of contaminants
- Thermal treatment- combustion of volatile organic contaminants

Remedial techniques evaluated in the FS report included:

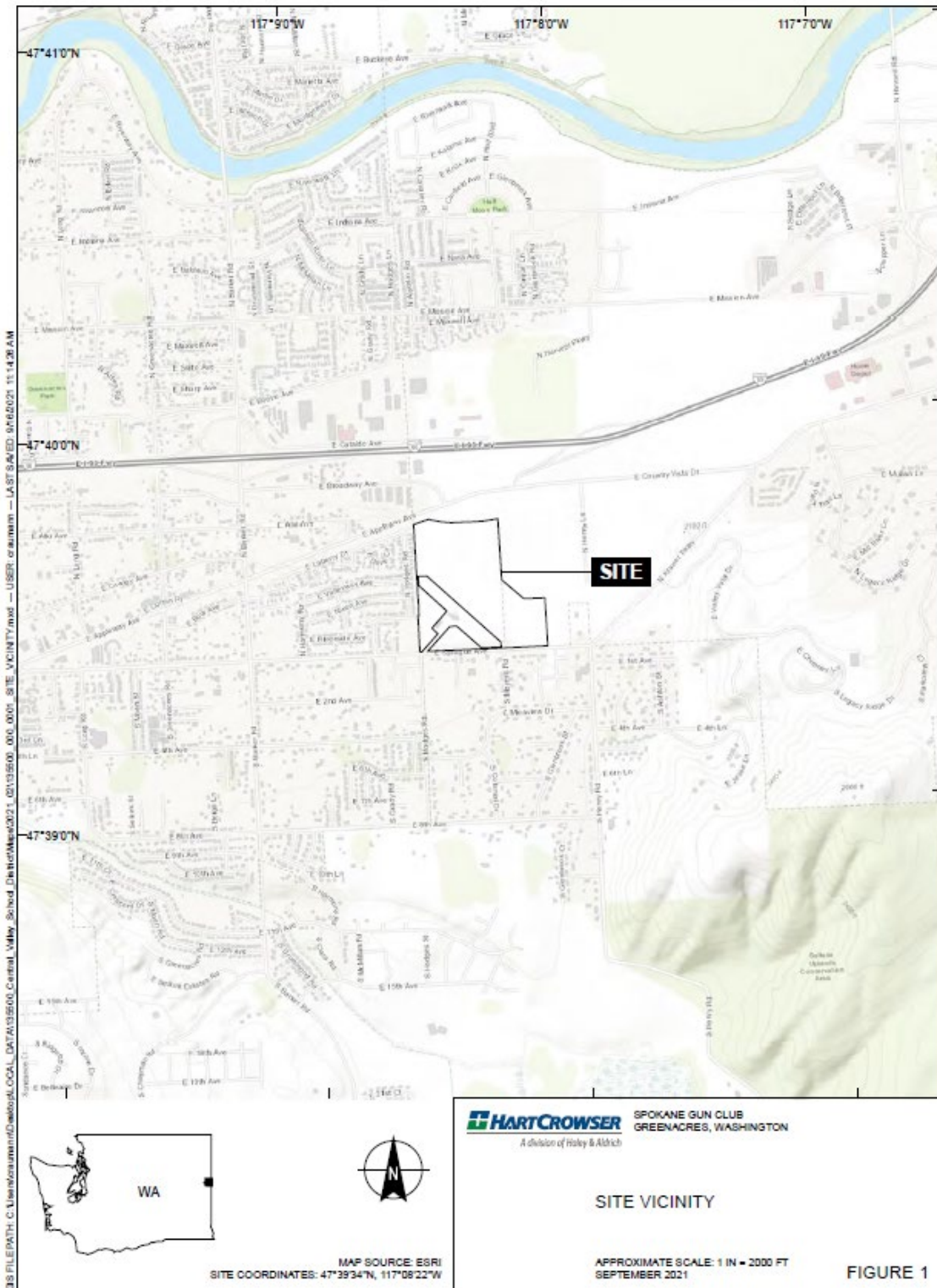
- Excavation and disposal- removal, potential treatment, and placement of soil in an on-site repository or offsite waste disposal facility
- Capping- installation of an engineered barrier to prevent direct contact and stormwater infiltration

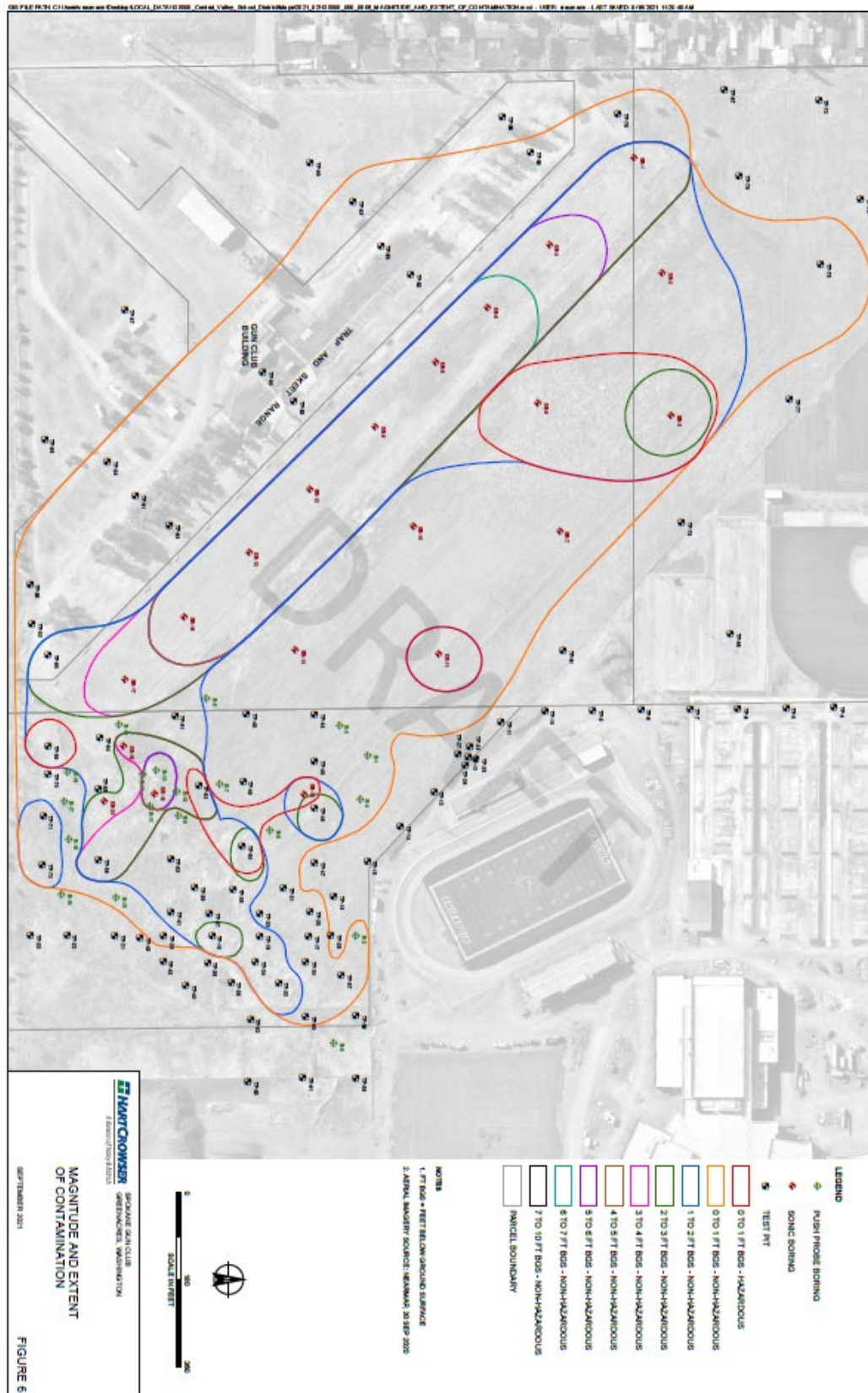
The remedial alternatives were screened for protectiveness, permanence, long-term effectiveness, short-term risk, implementability, consideration of public concern, restoration timeframe, and cost. The selected remedy included excavation of materials with contaminants above MTCA cleanup levels, stabilization of lead in materials with lead greater than 3,250 mg/kg, confirmation sampling, construction of a below-grade, approximately 5-acre on-site repository, backfill of treated and untreated materials in the repository, installation of an engineered cap, and institutional controls to protect the remedial actions.

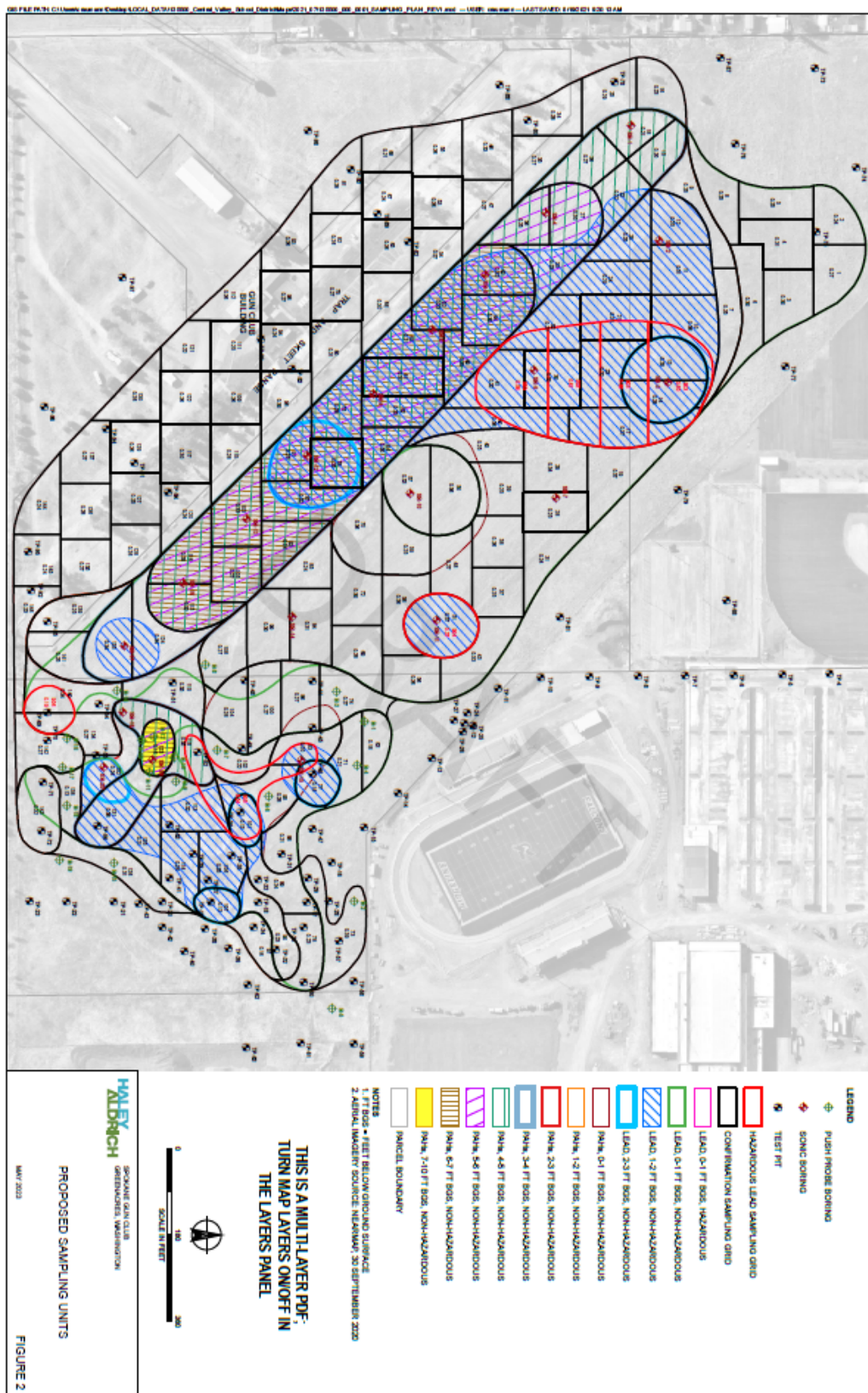
The remedy was selected with concurrence from Ecology's Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction program that any characteristic DW treated onsite to remove the characteristic would be exempt from any land disposal restrictions. A draft cleanup action plan (CAP) was completed in May 2023 which detailed the sampling methodology, in situ stabilization and TCLP confirmation sampling, repository construction, and final soil placement and capping.

(Hart-Crowser, Inc., 2018-2021, Haley & Aldrich, 2023)

Site Diagrams

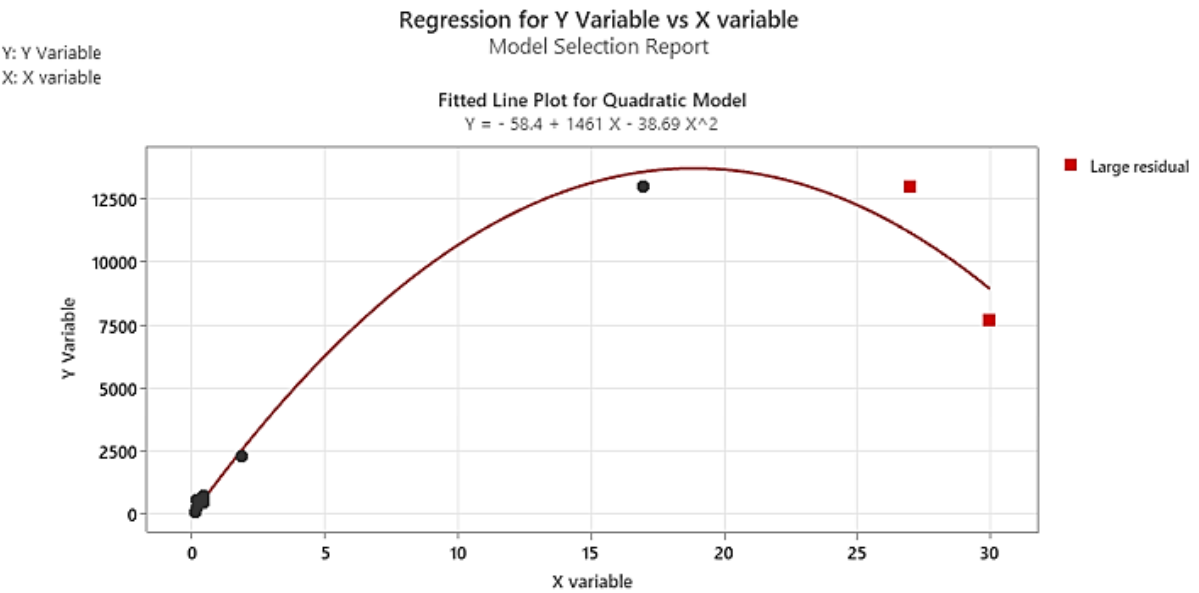






Enclosure B

Regression Analysis



Statistics	Selected Model Quadratic	Alternative Model Linear
R-squared (adjusted)	97.25%	73.95%
P-value, model	<0.005*	0.001*
P-value, linear term	<0.005*	0.001*
P-value, quadratic term	<0.005*	—
Residual standard deviation	882.026	2714.204

* Statistically significant ($p < 0.05$)

Regression for Y Variable vs X variable Report Card

Check	Status	Description
Amount of Data		Your sample size ($n = 10$) is not large enough to provide a very precise estimate of the strength of the relationship. Measures of the strength of the relationship, such as R-Squared and R-Squared (adjusted), can vary a great deal. To obtain a more precise estimate, larger samples (typically 40 or more) should be used.
Unusual Data		2 data points have large residuals and are not well fit by the equation. These points are marked in red on the plots. You can hover over a point or use Minitab's brushing feature to identify the worksheet rows. Because unusual data can have a strong influence on the results, try to identify the cause for their unusual nature. Correct any data entry or measurement errors. Consider removing data that are associated with special causes and redoing the analysis.
Normality		Because you have less than 15 data points, you should use caution when interpreting the p-value. With small samples, the accuracy of the p-value is sensitive to nonnormal residual errors.
Model Fit		You should evaluate the data and model fit in terms of your goals. Look at the fitted line plot to be sure that: • The sample adequately covers the range of X values. • The model properly fits any curvature in the data (avoid over-fitting). • The line fits well in areas of special interest.

