



Public Participation Plan

Park Laundry Site

122 North Main Avenue, Ridgefield

For the

Toxics Cleanup Program

Washington State Department of Ecology
Southwest Regional Office
Lacey, Washington

July 2023

Publication Information

This document is available on the Department of Ecology's [Park Laundry cleanup site webpage](#).¹

Related Information

- Cleanup site ID: 4099
- Facility site ID: 8100630

Contact Information

Toxics Cleanup Program

Southwest Regional Office

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Lacey, WA 98503

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Website²: [Washington State Department of Ecology](#)

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To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6831 or email at ecyadacoordinator@ecy.wa.gov. For Washington Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341. Visit Ecology's website for more information.

¹ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/4099>

² <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Contact-us>

Department of Ecology's Regional 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	15700 Dayton Ave N 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

Public Participation Plan

**Park Laundry Site
122 N Main Avenue
Ridgefield, WA 98642**

Toxics Cleanup Program
Washington State Department of Ecology
Southwest Regional Office
Lacey, WA

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DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Table of Contents

List of Figures	ii
Public Involvement in Contamination Cleanup	1
Site contacts.....	1
Public Participation Grants	1
Washington’s Cleanup Laws	2
Model Toxics Control Act.....	2
State Environmental Policy Act.....	2
Site Information	4
Site description	4
How the site may have been contaminated.....	4
Confirmed and suspected hazardous substances at the site	5
Approach for cleanup	6
Area community.....	6
Public Participation Activities	7
How we share information with the community	7
How to share information with us.....	9
Americans with Disabilities Act.....	9
Plan Amendments.....	10
Glossary.....	10

List of Figures

Figure 1. Steps in Washington's cleanup process.....	3
Figure 2. Location of the Park Laundry site in Ridgefield	4
Figure 3. The Park Laundry site.....	5

Public Involvement in Contamination Cleanup

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) developed this public participation plan for cleaning up contamination for the Park Laundry site. The purpose of the plan is to promote meaningful community involvement during cleanup.

The plan describes ways Ecology will inform the public about contamination investigations and cleanup options throughout the cleanup process. Ecology encourages the public to learn about and get involved in decision-making opportunities. This plan identifies how and when the public can get involved during different stages of the investigation and cleanup of contamination.

Site contacts

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.

Ecology

Southwest Regional Office
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503

Cam Penner-Ash, site manager
cam.penner-ash@ecy.wa.gov
360-999-9590

Nancy Davis, public involvement coordinator
nancy.davis@ecy.wa.gov
360-489-4971

Public Participation Grants

Grants may be available to neighborhood committees, non-profits, and other groups interested in the site. For contaminated sites, these funds can be used to:

- Hire an expert to help interpret technical information.³
- Conduct activities that enhance the public's understanding of, and participation in, the cleanup process.

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.

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 website](#).⁴

Washington's Cleanup Laws

Ecology works to clean up contaminated properties throughout the state. Cleanups are construction projects that remove, treat, and/or contain potentially hazardous substances. Ecology uses the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) and accompanying regulations for cleanup activities.

This plan is required under MTCA, a law that passed in 1989. MTCA provides guidelines for contaminated site cleanup in Washington State and sets standards to ensure the cleanup protects human health and the environment.

Model Toxics Control Act

MTCA began as a grassroots citizen's initiative in 1988 and started the process of systematically cleaning up contaminated sites in Washington. Under MTCA, a current or past property owner or operator may be held responsible for cleaning up contamination on, or coming from, their property to standards that are safe for human health and the environment.

Ecology enacts MTCA and oversees cleanups in the state and issues regulations and guidance governing those cleanups. The regulations are found in [Chapter 173-340 Washington Administrative Code \(WAC\)](#).⁵ Ecology investigates reports of property contamination, and if the contamination is seen as a significant threat to human health or the environment, the contaminated property is placed on the Hazardous Sites List, and the cleanup process begins.

Public participation is an important part of cleanup under the MTCA process. Participation needs are assessed at each cleanup site according to the level of public interest and the degree of risk posed by the contamination. Individuals who live near the site, community groups, businesses, government, other organizations, and interested parties can get involved by commenting on the cleanup process.

Under MTCA, the cleanup process generally includes five phases. Each phase includes an opportunity for the public to review and comment on cleanup documents.

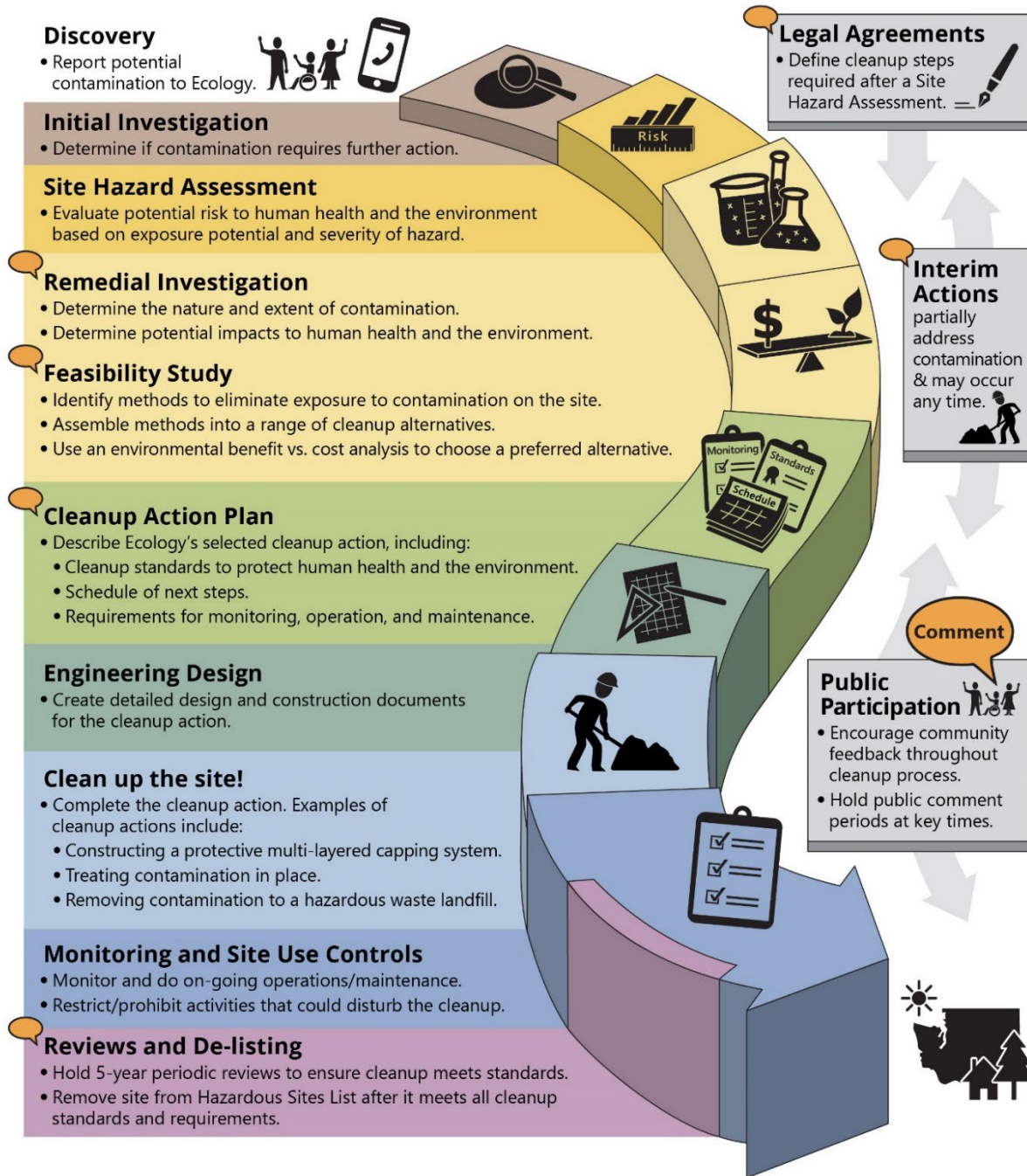
State Environmental Policy Act

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) is followed during review and development of cleanup plans.

⁴ <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Payments-contracts-grants/Grants-loans/Find-a-grant-or-loan/Public-participation-grants>

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

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. Steps in Washington's [cleanup process](#).⁶

⁶ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/1909166.pdf>

Site Information

Site description

The Park Laundry site is located at 122 North Main Avenue in Ridgefield.



Figure 2. Location of the Park Laundry site in Ridgefield.

The cleanup site is located in a central mixed land-use area that includes the older traditional commercial and residential core of Ridgefield. The site is about 0.2 miles east of Lake River, which flows into the Columbia River.

The prime area of contamination is several parcels used as parking lots. The parcels include the Park Laundry property (parcel 71040000), a parcel south of the property (67990000), and two parcels north of the property (71030000 and 71042000). To clean up the site, the City of Ridgefield will acquire the Park Laundry property (parcel 71040000).

How the site may have been contaminated

From about 1965 to 1977, the Park Laundry property was a laundry and dry cleaners. Dry cleaners used tetrachloroethylene (PCE) as a solvent to clean soiled fabrics. During dry cleaning operations, PCE was released to the environment.

Confirmed and suspected hazardous substances at the site

Ecology has confirmed the following contaminants are present in soil and/or groundwater at levels that need to be addressed by MTCA (Figure 1).

- Tetrachloroethylene (PCE)
- Trichloroethylene (TCE)

PCE and TCE are chlorinated volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Microbes in the environment naturally biodegrade PCE into TCE and other VOCs.

The Park Laundry property and the parcels on the north side of the property are the source area of contamination, where concentrations of VOCs in soil, groundwater, and soil vapor are highest and need to be cleaned up.

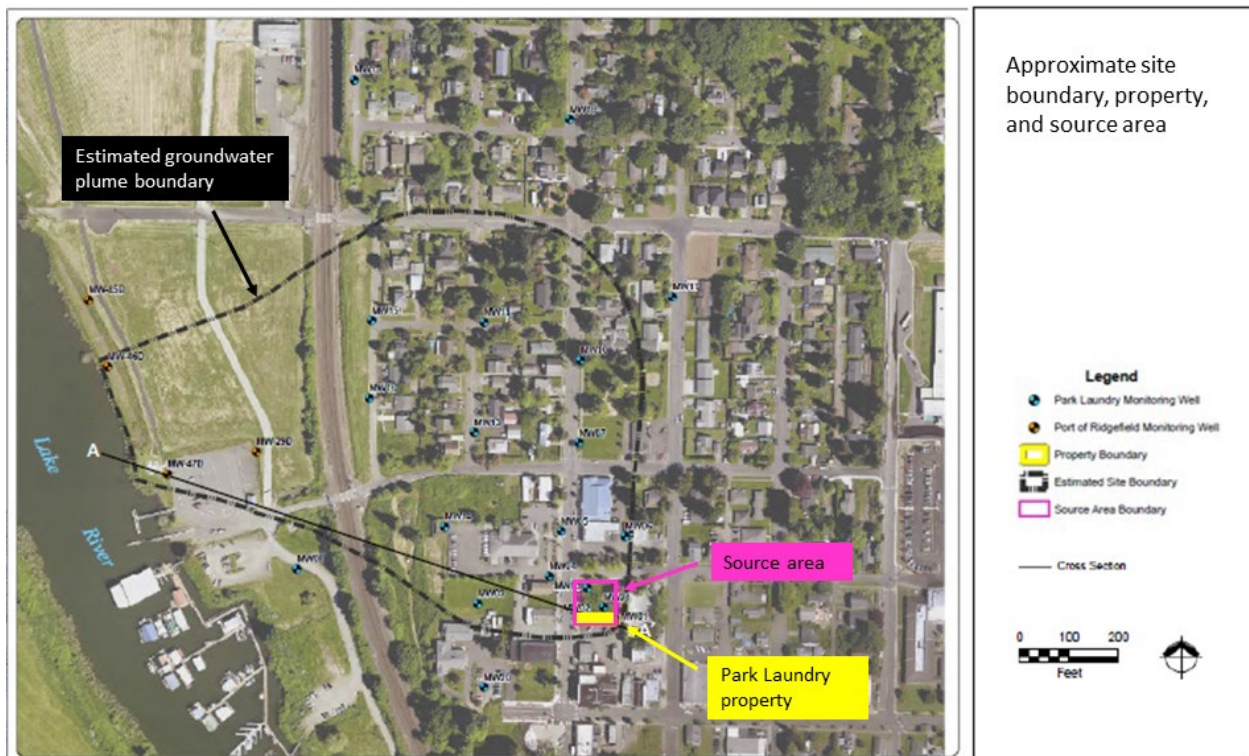


Figure 3. At the Park Laundry site, the contaminated soil is generally limited to the source area, outlined in pink. The Park Laundry property is shown in yellow. The area of groundwater contamination is called a plume. The estimated area of the plume is shown by the dashed black line. Areas are not exact.

Ecology added the site to the Confirmed and Suspected Contaminated Sites List (CSCSL) in 2006. The CSCSL contains all sites waiting for investigation or cleanup or undergoing cleanup.

An earlier Public Participation Plan was developed for the site in 2009. Since then, Ecology contacts have changed, and we take this opportunity to create a new plan to update information in the plan.

Approach for cleanup

The Cleanup Action Plan (CAP) describes how the site will be cleaned up. The cleanup is designed to remove VOCs contamination in soil and groundwater. The approach combines soil excavation and groundwater treatment to reduce the amount contamination at the site. The plan includes a monitoring plan to make sure the cleanup is successful. Institutional controls are proposed to make sure the cleanup is effective in the long term.

The public has opportunities to review and comment at steps in the cleanup process (see Figure 1). The public has already commented on the site investigation, which identifies the extent of contamination, and the feasibility study, which considers options for cleanup. The cleanup action plan and the legal agreement to implement the plan will be available for public comment when the documents are ready.

Area community

The community within a 1-mile buffer around the study area has a population of about 3,010 people. There is a slightly larger percentage of children living in the vicinity of the site than other communities in the state. According to the 2016-2020 American Community Survey (ACS, US Census; accessed November 2022) the area is in the 63rd percentile for the number of children under age five compared with other areas in the state.

The ACS-estimated population of age 5+ year-olds who speak English less than very well is 3%, indicating that as a general approach, translating information from English to other languages is not currently warranted for this site. However, Ecology will provide outreach to cultural community organizations in other languages as needed and appropriate following federal guidance.⁷

The Washington Tracking Network (WTN) Environmental Health Disparities ranking tool compares health and social factors that may contribute to disparities in a community with other communities in the state. A low ranking is 1 and the highest ranking is 10. Based on this tool, the environmental health disparities rank for this census tract is low (rank 1) compared with other census tracts in the state.

The individual WTN environmental characteristics that ranked high (rank 8 or above) for this census tract relative to other tracts in the state were:

- Proximity to heavy traffic roadways (rank 8).
- Transportation expense (rank 8).

We strive to make our public participation efforts as inclusive as possible and to consider the demographics of the community. We welcome your input about how best to reach the nearby community.

⁷ 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).

Several federally recognized tribes have interest around the site because they own land and rely on resources that could be affected by the contamination. These include the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, and Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs. Ecology will invite the Tribes to be engaged with any decision-making process for this site. There is ample opportunity to be involved throughout the process on a government-to-government basis.

Public Participation Activities

Members of the public may ask questions, submit informal comments, or share site information at any time. Interested parties do not 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 and influential 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 surrounding the site. The mailing list area will vary depending on the type of contamination and where it's located, but the list will at least include addresses within a 1/4-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 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 associated cost and resources.

Postal mailing list

Ecology generates a mailing list that includes addresses within a 1/4-mile radius of the site and relevant local, state, and federal government contacts.

These people receive public comment notices when draft documents are available.

We will 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 Nancy Davis at 360-489-4971 or nancy.davis@ecy.wa.gov.

Site Register

Ecology publishes public comment periods, events, and other cleanup notices in the [Site Register](#).⁸ To receive the *Site Register* by email, please contact Sarah Kellington at 360-280-3167 or sarah.kellington@ecy.wa.gov, or [subscribe online](#).⁹

Newspaper display ads or legal notices

We announce public comment periods and events in ads or notices published in *The Columbian*. We will also publish notice on our [Public Input & Events Listing](#).¹⁰

Ecology's website and social media platforms

We maintain a webpage for the [Park Laundry](#)¹¹ cleanup site. The webpage provides information and links to download cleanup documents related to the site.

We may also share information about cleanup sites through [news releases, our blog, and social media](#).¹²

Viewing print documents

During public comment periods, you can find print documents at the following locations:

Ridgefield Community Library
210 North Main Avenue
Ridgefield, WA 98642
360-906-4770

Washington Department of Ecology, by appointment
Southwest Regional Office
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503

To schedule an appointment to view documents at Ecology, please contact Susan Baxter at 360-407-6365 or PublicDisclosureSWRO@ecy.wa.gov

Signs around the cleanup site

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

⁸ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Site-Register-lists-and-data>

⁹ https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAECY/subscriber/new?topic_id=WAECY_118

¹⁰ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Events/Search/Listing>

¹¹ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/4099>

¹² <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Who-we-are/News>

How to share information with us

We invite the public to share information with us anytime by phone and email. During specific stages of the cleanup, we will solicit the public to share information with us.

At a minimum, MTCA requires 30-day public comment periods for draft cleanup documents and 14-day comment periods for SEPA documents. SEPA documents are often available for public review with other cleanup documents. In that case, we combine the comment periods, and they 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 Nancy Davis at 360-489-4971 or nancy.davis@ecy.wa.gov.

Public comment periods

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

Following a comment period, we publish the input we received and respond to significant 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 do not result in significant changes, then they are finalized.

Public events

We hold public meetings, workshops, open houses, and public hearings based on community interest. If we have not scheduled a hearing, we will hold one if 10 people request it, and this may cause us to extend a public comment period, so the meeting occurs during the comment period.

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

Americans with Disabilities Act

To request ADA accommodation for disabilities, or printed materials in a format for the visually impaired, contact the Ecology ADA Coordinator at 360-407-6831 or ecyadacoordinator@ecy.wa.gov, or visit our [ADA Website](#)¹³. People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

¹³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Accessibility-equity/Accessibility>

Plan Amendments

Ecology developed this plan following MTCA regulations (WAC 173-340-600). We review it as the cleanup progresses and amend it as necessary. You may suggest amendments to Nancy Davis at 360-489-4971 or nancy.davis@ecy.wa.gov.

This plan includes information for the public regarding opportunities for public involvement and comment. The outreach activities discussed in this section reflect Ecology's current plans for keeping the public informed and providing ways for those interested in the site to communicate their concerns and questions to us.

If you feel the planned outreach activities and mechanisms described in this plan are insufficient, or should otherwise be modified, we will work to find solutions. New outreach activities or outreach tools established as a result can be implemented right away, with or without amending this plan.

Glossary

Agreed Order: A legal agreement between Ecology and a Potentially Liable Person (see below) to conduct work toward a cleanup.

Cleanup: Actions that deal with a release or threatened release of hazardous substances that could affect public health or the environment. Ecology often uses the term "cleanup" broadly to describe response actions or phases of cleanup, such as the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study.

Cleanup Action Plan (CAP): A plan that explains which cleanup option(s) will be used at a site. The Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study provide the data and analysis to write a CAP. It also takes into account public comments and public concerns.

Comment Period: A time period during which the public can review and comment on various documents and proposed actions. For example, Ecology may hold a comment period to provide community members an opportunity to review and comment on proposed cleanup action alternatives and proposed plans.

Consent Decree: A formal legal settlement agreement filed in court to conduct work toward a cleanup. The terms are agreed to by the PLP (see below), Ecology, and the state Attorney General's office.

Contaminant: Any hazardous substance that does not occur naturally or occurs at greater than natural background levels.

Feasibility Study: This study develops and evaluates cleanup options for a site.

Groundwater: Water found beneath the earth's surface that fills spaces between materials such as sand, soil, or gravel. In some aquifers, groundwater occurs in large enough amounts to be used for drinking water, irrigation, and other purposes.

Interim Action: A cleanup action that only partially addresses the cleanup of a site.

Interim Action Work Plan: A plan that describes the activities required to complete an interim action.

Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA): A law passed by Washington voter initiative in 1988. Its purpose is to find, investigate, and clean up places where hazardous substances have been released. It defines Ecology's role and encourages public involvement in cleanup decisions.

Potentially Liable Person (PLP): Any individual(s) or company(s) potentially responsible for, or contributing to, the contamination problems at a site. Whenever possible, Ecology requires PLPs to clean up sites.

Public Notice: At a minimum, adequate notice mailed to all persons who have made a timely request of Ecology and to persons residing in the potentially affected vicinity of the proposed action; mailed to appropriate news media; published in the local (city and county) newspaper of largest circulation; and the opportunity for the interested persons to comment.

Public Participation Plan: A plan that describes how the public can provide input on the cleanup of the site.

Remedial Investigation: This study characterizes the site and defines the type and extent of contamination.

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS): Two distinct but related studies. They are usually performed at the same time, and together referred to as the "RI/FS." They are intended to:

- Gather the data necessary to determine the type and extent of contamination.
- Establish criteria for cleaning up the site.
- Identify and screen cleanup alternatives for remedial action.
- Analyze in detail the technology and costs of the alternatives.

Remedial Investigation Work Plan: A plan that describes how the remedial investigation will be conducted.

Repository: A file containing site information and reports for public review. It is usually located in a public building convenient for local residents, such as a public library, school, or city hall.

Responsiveness Summary: A summary of oral and/or written public comments received by Ecology during a comment period on key documents, and Ecology's responses to those comments.

Risk: The probability that a hazardous substance, when released into the environment, will cause an adverse effect in the exposed humans or living organisms.

Site: Any area where a hazardous substance, other than a consumer product in consumer use, has come to be located.