

Park Laundry Site Response to Comments

Today's Date: September 21, 2023

Cleanup Site ID: 4099
Facility ID: 8100630
Address: 122 N Main Ave, Ridgefield
County: Clark
More information: [Park Laundry webpage¹](#)
Public Comment Period: August 10 to September 11, 2023

Documents for review and comment

- Consent Decree DE 21768
- Cleanup Action Plan
- State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Determination of Non-Significance
- Public Participation Plan

Background

The Park Laundry site was a laundry and dry cleaners from about 1965 to 1977. During that time, tetrachloroethylene (PCE) was leaked to the environment. PCE is a volatile organic compound used as a solvent to clean fabrics.

The Park Laundry property and the parcels on the north side of the property are the source area of contamination and need to be addressed under the state's cleanup law, the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA, see Figure 1).

The consent decree requires the City of Ridgefield to acquire the Park Laundry property within six months of the effective date of the CD. The city will become a potentially liable person responsible for cleanup. By owning the property, the city will have access to and control over the property to clean it up. The city will carry out the cleanup described in the Cleanup Action Plan, scope of work, and schedule.

Ecology's cleanup plan is designed to clean up contaminated soil and groundwater. The plan combines soil excavation and groundwater treatment to reduce the amount of contamination at the site. The plan includes a monitoring plan to make sure the cleanup is successful. Institutional controls will make sure the cleanup is effective in the long term.

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

Comment period and next steps

During the comment period, August 10 to September 11, 2023, we received two comments. We considered the comments and made no changes to the documents after the comment period. We will sign the CD and send the agreement and the cleanup action plan to the court to be finalized. After acquiring the property, the city will begin the engineering and design stage and do the cleanup work.

The comments submitted and our responses are listed below.

You can follow the progress of cleanup at the [Park Laundry webpage](#).²

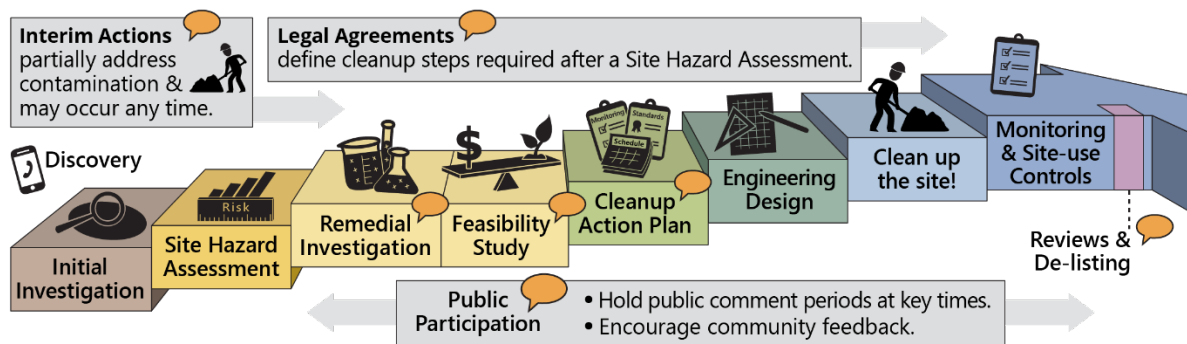


Figure 1. The Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) is Washington’s cleanup law. There are several steps in the MTCA cleanup process. The comment bubbles indicate major milestones in the process when there is an opportunity for public comment.

Prepared by

Cam Penner-Ash
Cleanup Project Manager
cam.penner-ash@ecy.wa.gov

Nancy Davis
Public Involvement Coordinator
nancy.davis@ecy.wa.gov

² <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/4099>

Comment from Cathy Winters

The documents show the contaminated soil will be removed and disposed of "appropriately." I'd like to know where it's going and how it will affect the land where it's dumped. Seems like we're just transferring our problems to someone else.

Response from Ecology

Section 4.0 of the Draft Cleanup Action Plan briefly outlines the disposal process for contaminated soil. Excavated soil will be assessed for hazardous content and disposed of at a Subtitle C, or other appropriate landfill. For more information refer to the [EPA's Basic Information About Landfills](https://www.epa.gov/landfills/basic-information-about-landfills)³ webpage. Exact disposal methods and locations will be determined during the Engineering Design Phase of the project. Disposal methods will be reviewed and approved by Ecology during the design phase to ensure they comply with applicable standards and regulation.

³ <https://www.epa.gov/landfills/basic-information-about-landfills>

Comment from Port of Ridgefield



August 17, 2023

Cam Penner-Ash, Site Manager
WA State Department of Ecology
PO Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775

Mr. Penner-Ash:

The Port of Ridgefield is writing to express our full thanks for and support of the proposed Park Laundry Site Cleanup. The cleanup activities being proposed are what's needed to solve this longstanding issue of toxic dry-cleaning pollution in our downtown.

For decades, this brownfield has been a blighted spot in our community. As we have worked to revitalize our downtown, this property has languished behind others as the cleanup burden greatly exceeded any redevelopment potential. These dry-cleaning chemicals have persisted and even travelled, showing up in the groundwater monitoring wells on the Ridgefield waterfront. Ignoring this problem is no solution. While there may be short term inconveniences involved in the cleanup work, they're greatly surpassed by the long-term benefits to human health, the environment, and downtown economic development.

If we can answer any questions or provide any additional information, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Mueller".

Randy Mueller
Chief Executive Officer

PORT COMMISSION
SCOTT HUGHES, JOE MELROY, BRUCE WISEMAN

T: 360-887-3873
WWW.PORTRIDGEFIELD.ORG

Response from Ecology

Your comment is noted. Thank you for your comment.