



## **Public Participation Plan**

**Moses Lake Port Pumphouse 1  
7810 Andrews Northeast, Moses Lake**

### **Toxics Cleanup Program**

Washington State Department of Ecology

Eastern Regional Office

Spokane, Washington

November 2023

## Publication Information

This document is available on the Department of Ecology's [Moses Lake Port Pumphouse 1 cleanup site page](#).<sup>1</sup>

### Cover photo credit

- Google Maps street view images, October 2022

### Related Information

- Cleanup site ID: 7021
- Facility site ID: 612

## Contact Information

### Toxics Cleanup Program

#### Eastern Regional Office

Erika Beresovoy  
Public Involvement Coordinator  
509-385-2290, [Erika.Beresovoy@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Erika.Beresovoy@ecy.wa.gov)

Kristin Beck  
Site Manager  
509-514-6806, [Kristin.Beck@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Kristin.Beck@ecy.wa.gov)

4601 N. Monroe St.  
Spokane, WA 99205  
Phone: 509-329-3400

**Website<sup>2</sup>:** [Washington State Department of Ecology](#)

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<sup>1</sup> <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/7021>

<sup>2</sup> [www.ecology.wa.gov/contact](http://www.ecology.wa.gov/contact)

# Department of Ecology's Regional Offices

## Map of Counties Served



<b>Southwest Region</b> 360-407-6300	<b>Northwest Region</b> 206-594-0000	<b>Central Region</b> 509-575-2490	<b>Eastern Region</b> 509-329-3400
-----------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	---------------------------------------

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

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# Public Involvement in Contamination Cleanup

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) developed this public participation plan (plan) in cooperation with ExxonMobil Corporation and the Port of Moses Lake, the parties responsible for cleanup costs, or potentially liable persons (PLPs). 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.

This plan is for an agreed order requiring the parties responsible for cleanup to complete a remedial investigation and feasibility study for the Moses Lake Port Pumphouse 1 cleanup site.

## 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

Eastern Regional Office  
4601 North Monroe Street  
Spokane, WA 99205

Kristin Beck, site manager  
Kristin.Beck@ecy.wa.gov  
509-514-6806

Erika Beresovoy, public involvement  
Erika.Beresovoy@ecy.wa.gov  
509-385-2290

### PLPs

ExxonMobil Environmental and Property  
Solutions Company  
Jeff Johnson, senior project manager  
1900 E Linden Ave, Bldg 28a  
Linden, New Jersey 07036  
Jeff.a-sh-e.johnson@exxonmobil.com  
518-860-7290

Port of Moses Lake  
Rich Mueller, director of facilities and  
operations  
7810 Andrews Northeast, Suite 200  
Moses Lake, WA 98837  
rjmueller@portofmoseslake.com  
509-762-5363

## 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<sup>3</sup>
- Conduct activities that enhance the public's understanding of, 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](mailto:faith.wimberley@ecy.wa.gov). You may also visit the [Public Participation Grant website](#).<sup>4</sup>

## Washington's Cleanup Laws

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 \(WAC\)](#).<sup>5</sup> 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 have the opportunity to get involved by commenting on the cleanup process.

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<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> [ecology.wa.gov/About-us/How-we-operate/Grants-loans/Find-a-grant-or-loan/Public-participation-grants](https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/How-we-operate/Grants-loans/Find-a-grant-or-loan/Public-participation-grants)

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

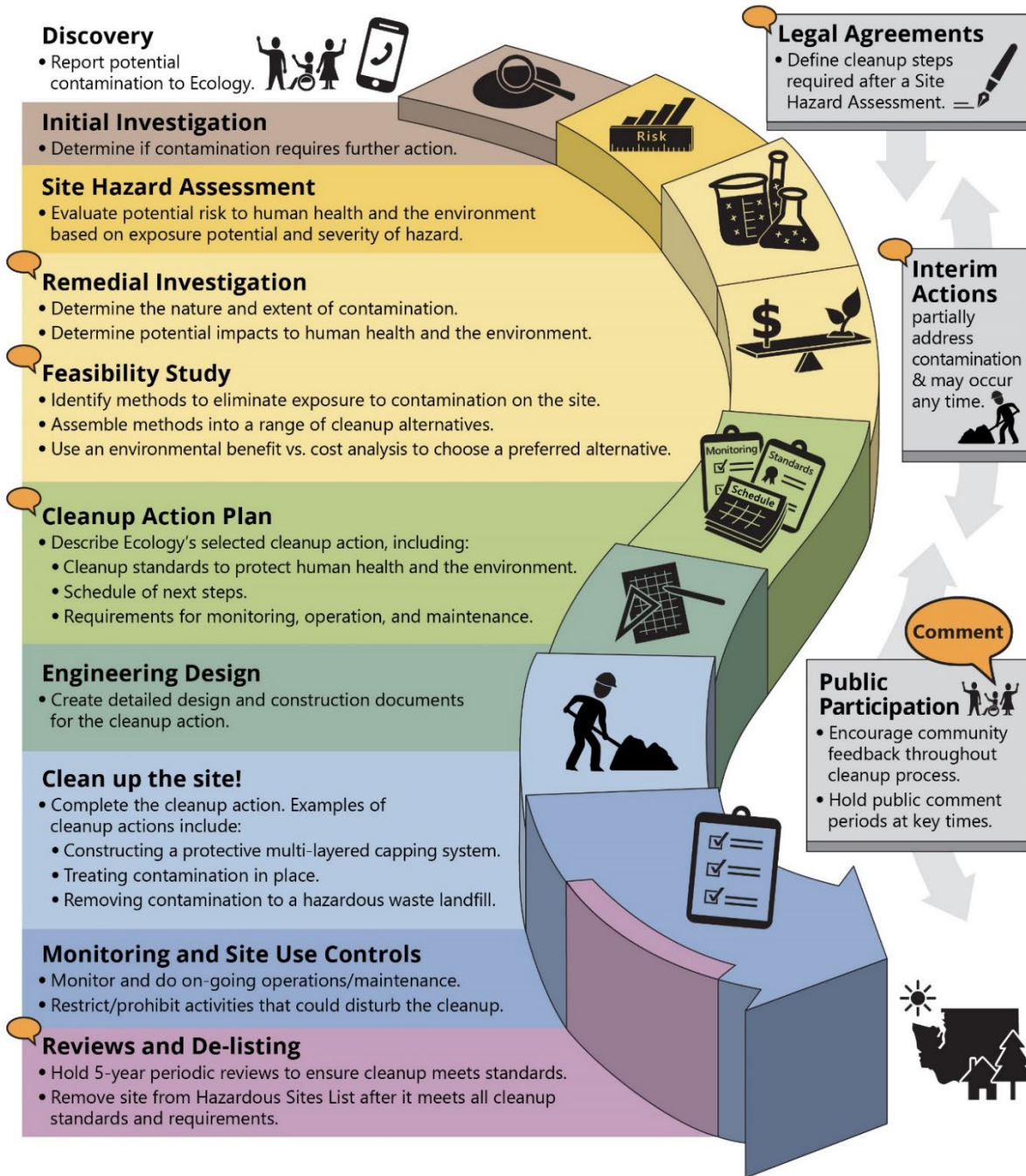
Under MTCA, the cleanup process generally includes five phases. Each phase includes an opportunity for the public to review and comment on cleanup documents.

## **State Environmental Policy Act**

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



# 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<sup>6</sup>

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

## Site Information

The site is located at 7810 Andrews Northeast, immediately north of the City of Moses Lake in Grant County (see Appendix A. Site Map). The Port of Moses Lake is a PLP because they own the site, and ExxonMobil is a PLP because they formerly leased the site.

### Land use

The site is at the Grant County International Airport. ExxonMobil formerly leased facilities historically used to dispense jet fuel at the site, including:

- Pumping equipment and dispensers located inside the Pumphouse 1 building.
- Six underground storage tanks (USTs) ranging in size from 2,000 to 50,000 gallons used to store jet fuel, located east of, and partially underneath, the Pumphouse 1 building.
- Underground piping connecting the Pumphouse 1 USTs to two above-ground storage tanks located south of the airport, as well as to Pumphouse 2 and 3 and associated fueling hydrants located east-northeast of Pumphouse 1.

### How the site became contaminated

In 1992, petroleum contamination (jet fuel) at levels requiring cleanup under MTCA was found in soil during a site assessment. Then in January 1993, liquid petroleum was found in one site groundwater well located approximately 100 feet southeast of the Pumphouse 1 building. Later, liquid petroleum or petroleum products dissolved in groundwater at levels requiring cleanup have been found in 14 site groundwater wells.

Until a full investigation is completed, how jet fuel specifically got in soil and groundwater is unknown. It could have been due to leaking tanks or piping, overfilling tanks, and/or spills during refueling.

### Contamination

[Petroleum](#)<sup>7</sup> is in soil and the shallow aquifer around the site. Based on available data, it appears that groundwater contamination has not spread further than about 500 feet from the site. All drinking water wells in the vicinity are drilled into the deep aquifer, which is not affected.

### Cleanup plans

ExxonMobil installed a system to recover jet fuel from groundwater wells in 2015. Every three months, the system is maintained and the rate of pumping is assessed. Approximately 300 gallons of liquid petroleum has been recovered as of January 2018.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://wwwn.cdc.gov/TSP/PHS/PHS.aspx?phsId=422&toxId=75>

Ecology notified ExxonMobil and the Port of Moses Lake that they were responsible for cleanup in January 2019. In November 2022, we invited them to negotiate an agreed order to conduct a remedial investigation to determine the nature, extent, and magnitude of pollution at the site. When this is complete, they will use the information to develop cleanup options that will be published in a feasibility study.

## Area community

According to the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey for 2016 – 2020 (see Appendix C. *EJSCREEN ACS Summary Report*), the population of the City of Moses Lake North census tract, which includes the site, is 4,696 people. About 14 percent of households have an annual income of less than \$15,000, 14 percent earn \$15,000 to \$25,000, 31 percent earn \$25,000 to \$50,000, 15 percent earn \$50,000 to \$75,000, and the remaining 25 percent earn more than \$75,000 per year. The economic base in the area has historically been agricultural, but now includes a number of manufacturing and technology companies as well as a few alternative fuel companies. The Columbia Basin Railroad headquarters is also here. The City of Moses Lake hosts the Spring Festival Memorial Day weekend, the Moses Lake Water Sports Festival in June, and Brews and Tunes in February.

The site, which is at the northern end of the City of Moses Lake (see Appendix B. Area Map), is surrounded by a mix of land use types, with most of the property directly adjacent being industrial or rural lands. To the north and east are industrial, residential, and agricultural properties. South of the site are commercial, industrial, and residential properties. Big Bend Community College is directly southwest of the site. The western side is bordered by commercial, industrial, and agriculture properties, as well as rural areas. Nearby manufacturers include ordnance and tactical systems, graphite and composite materials, semiconductor and flat panel chemicals, and aerial lifts.

Ecology will reach out to cultural community organizations as part of our outreach and provide information in other languages as appropriate following federal guidance.<sup>8</sup> There is a significant Hispanic community that makes up 43 percent of the Moses Lake North census tract. The non-English language most widely spoken in the Moses Lake area is Spanish. Ecology will translate comment period notices to Spanish. We strive to make our public participation efforts as inclusive as possible and welcome your input about how to best reach the nearby community.

The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Spokane Tribe of Indians, and the Yakama Nation are federally recognized tribes that could be affected by the contamination. Ecology will ensure that these tribes will be engaged in any decision-making process for this site and have ample opportunity to be involved throughout the process on a government-to-government basis.

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<sup>8</sup> 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).

Moses Lake was originally a shallow lake that was dammed for irrigation and is now a reservoir that receives water from Crab Creek. Part of Moses Lake is directly southwest of the site. The lake was named for Chief Moses, leader of the Sinkiuse-Columbia Tribe that was native to the area. A public access point to Upper Crab Creek is northeast of the site, where a variety of fish species are available to anglers, including large and smallmouth bass, perch, walleye, and rainbow trout. Upper Crab Creek flows into Potholes Reservoir south of the City of Moses Lake, and Lower Crab Creek flows out of the reservoir and into the Columbia River. The Moses Lake Sand Dunes are a popular recreational destination for off-road vehicles.

The Larson Air Force Base, which became the Grant County International Airport when the base closed in 1966, opened in 1942 to support World War II efforts. The purpose of the base was to serve as a training center and to protect Grand Coulee Dam and Hanford Atomic Works, where the first full-scale plutonium production reactor successfully operated. Various Air Force operations continued until the Secretary of Defense announced its closure. Today it remains one of the largest airfields in the United States and is primarily used for military and commercial test flights.

## 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.

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

## Postal mailing list

Ecology maintains a mailing list that includes addresses within a 1-mile radius of the site. Relevant local, state, and federal government contacts will be emailed.

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 or email list for this site, please contact Erika Beresovoy at 509-385-2290 or [Erika.Beresovoy@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Erika.Beresovoy@ecy.wa.gov).

## Site Register

Public comment periods, events, and other cleanup notices are published in Ecology's [Site Register](#).<sup>9</sup> To receive the *Site Register* by email, please [subscribe online](#).<sup>10</sup> or contact Sarah Kellington at [sarah.kellington@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:sarah.kellington@ecy.wa.gov) or 360-280-3167.

## Newspaper display ads or legal notices

We announce public comment periods and events in ads or notices published in the *Columbia Basin Herald*. We will also publish notice on our [Public Input & Events Listing](#).<sup>11</sup>

## Ecology's website and social media platforms

We maintain a [webpage for the site](#).<sup>12</sup> The website provides site information, and you may download cleanup documents.

We may also share information about cleanup sites through [news releases, our Ecology Blog, and social media](#).<sup>13</sup>

## Places to see print documents

If you need print documents, please contact Erika Beresovoy at 509-385-2290 or [Erika.Beresovoy@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Erika.Beresovoy@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.

## How to share information with us

At minimum, MTCA requires 30-day public comment periods for draft cleanup documents and 14-day comment periods SEPA documents. SEPA documents are often made available for public

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<sup>9</sup> [ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Site-Register-lists-and-data](https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Site-Register-lists-and-data)

<sup>10</sup> [https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAECY/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=WAECY\\_118](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAECY/subscriber/new?topic_id=WAECY_118)

<sup>11</sup> [ecology.wa.gov/Events/Search/Listing](https://ecology.wa.gov/Events/Search/Listing)

<sup>12</sup> <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/7021>

<sup>13</sup> [ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Get-to-know-us/News](https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Get-to-know-us/News)



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 Erika Beresovoy at 509-385-2290 or [Erika.Beresovoy@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Erika.Beresovoy@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 all 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 become final.

## Public events

We hold public meetings, workshops, open houses, and public hearings based on community interest. If we have not scheduled a meeting, 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 it.

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](mailto:ecyadacoordinator@ecy.wa.gov), or visit our [ADA website](#).<sup>14</sup> People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

## 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 Erika Beresovoy at 509-385-2290 or [Erika.Beresovoy@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Erika.Beresovoy@ecy.wa.gov).

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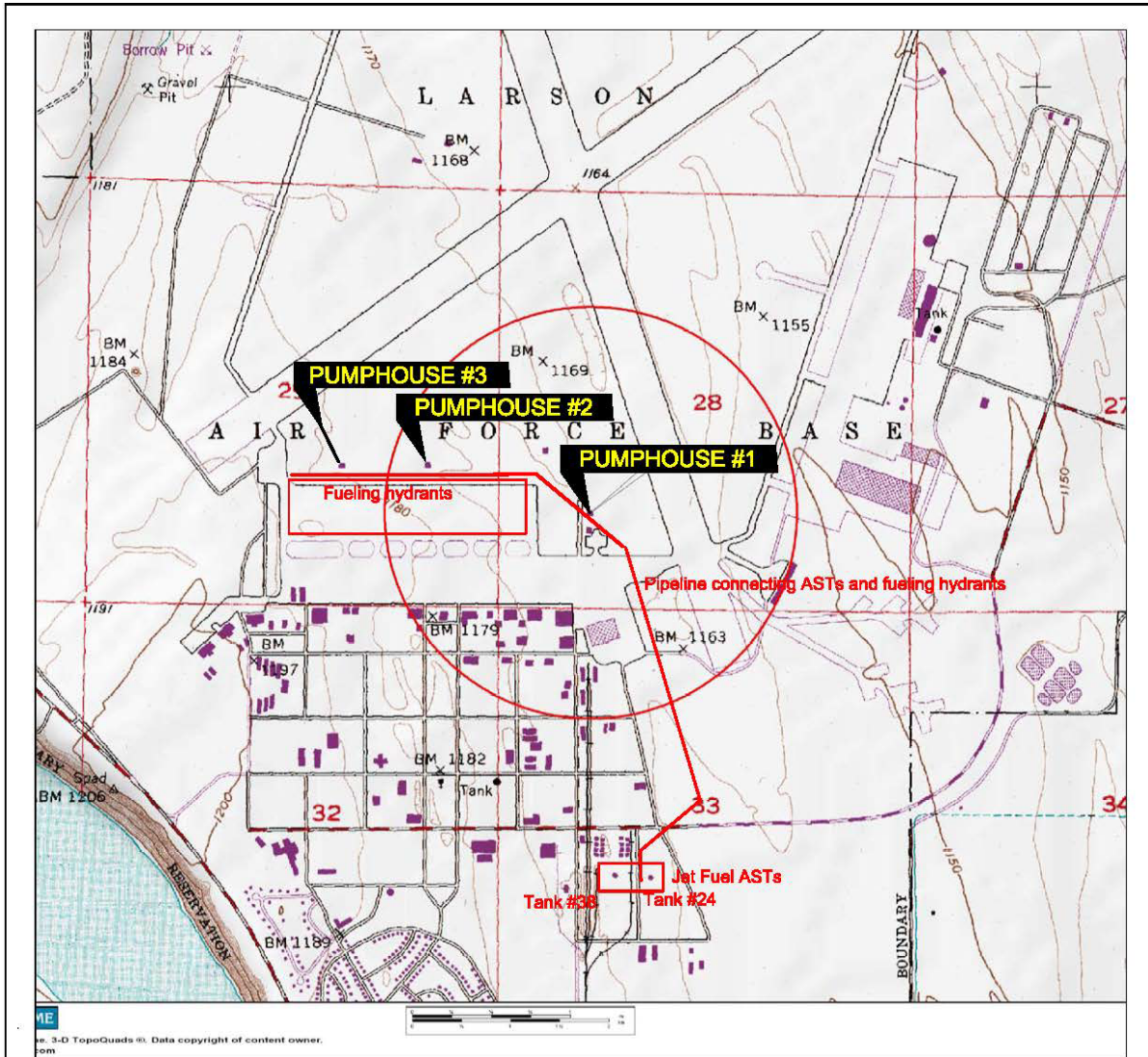
<sup>14</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Accessibility-equity/Accessibility>

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.

# Appendices

## Appendix A. Site map



FN 0312270001

### EXPLANATION

 1/2-mile Radius Circle From Pumphouse #1

### APPROXIMATE SCALE



SOURCE:  
Modified from a map  
provided by  
DeLorme 3-D TopoQuads



### SITE LOCATION MAP

GRANT COUNTY AIRPORT  
FORMER FUELING FACILITIES  
7810 Andrews Street Northeast  
Moses Lake, Washington

PROJECT NO.

031227

PLATE

1

NAG: 01/12/12



Appendix B. Area map



# Appendix C. EJSCREEN ACS Summary Report



## EJSCREEN ACS Summary Report



Location: City: Moses Lake North CDP  
 Ring (buffer): 0-mile radius  
 Description:

Summary of ACS Estimates		2016 - 2020	
Population		4,696	
Population Density (per sq. mile)		832	
People of Color Population		2,251	
% People of Color Population		48%	
Households		1,351	
Housing Units		1,399	
Housing Units Built Before 1950		87	
Per Capita Income		17,934	
Land Area (sq. miles) (Source: SF1)		5.65	
% Land Area		98%	
Water Area (sq. miles) (Source: SF1)		0.09	
% Water Area		2%	

	2016 - 2020 ACS Estimates	Percent	MOE (±)
<b>Population by Race</b>			
Total	4,696	100%	772
Population Reporting One Race	4,663	99%	1,141
White	3,686	79%	576
Black	100	2%	93
American Indian	74	2%	60
Asian	44	1%	40
Pacific Islander	7	0%	17
Some Other Race	752	16%	355
Population Reporting Two or More Races	33	1%	111
Total Hispanic Population	2,004	43%	566
Total Non-Hispanic Population	2,692		
White Alone	2,445	52%	576
Black Alone	100	2%	93
American Indian Alone	74	2%	60
Non-Hispanic Asian Alone	44	1%	40
Pacific Islander Alone	0	0%	13
Other Race Alone	0	0%	13
Two or More Races Alone	29	1%	56
<b>Population by Sex</b>			
Male	2,249	48%	429
Female	2,447	52%	416
<b>Population by Age</b>			
Age 0-4	615	13%	212
Age 0-17	1,331	28%	264
Age 18+	3,364	72%	417
Age 65+	678	14%	207

**Data Note:** Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race.  
 N/A means not available. **Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2016 - 2020 .





# EJSCREEN ACS Summary Report



Location: City: Moses Lake North CDP  
 Ring (buffer): 0-mile radius  
 Description:

	2016 - 2020 ACS Estimates	Percent	MOE (±)
<b>Population 25+ by Educational Attainment</b>			
Total	2,546	100%	559
Less than 9th Grade	109	4%	156
9th - 12th Grade, No Diploma	378	15%	154
High School Graduate	919	36%	350
Some College, No Degree	653	26%	158
Associate Degree	243	10%	128
Bachelor's Degree or more	245	10%	128
<b>Population Age 5+ Years by Ability to Speak English</b>			
Total	4,081	100%	761
Speak only English	3,086	76%	440
Non-English at Home <sup>1+2+3+4</sup>	996	24%	338
<sup>1</sup> Speak English "very well"	727	18%	319
<sup>2</sup> Speak English "well"	103	3%	153
<sup>3</sup> Speak English "not well"	62	2%	98
<sup>4</sup> Speak English "not at all"	103	3%	156
<sup>3+4</sup> Speak English "less than well"	166	4%	177
<sup>2+3+4</sup> Speak English "less than very well"	269	7%	233
<b>Linguistically Isolated Households*</b>			
Total	40	100%	101
Speak Spanish	40	100%	100
Speak Other Indo-European Languages	0	0%	13
Speak Asian-Pacific Island Languages	0	0%	13
Speak Other Languages	0	0%	13
<b>Households by Household Income</b>			
Household Income Base	1,351	100%	189
< \$15,000	194	14%	83
\$15,000 - \$25,000	195	14%	110
\$25,000 - \$50,000	424	31%	153
\$50,000 - \$75,000	203	15%	121
\$75,000 +	335	25%	136
<b>Occupied Housing Units by Tenure</b>			
Total	1,351	100%	189
Owner Occupied	422	31%	148
Renter Occupied	929	69%	189
<b>Employed Population Age 16+ Years</b>			
Total	3,507	100%	669
In Labor Force	1,875	53%	395
Civilian Unemployed in Labor Force	109	3%	114
Not In Labor Force	1,632	47%	380

**Data Note:** Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race.

N/A means not available. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS)

\*Households in which no one 14 and over speaks English "very well" or speaks English only.



Location: City: Moses Lake North CDP  
 Ring (buffer): 0-mile radius  
 Description:

	2016 - 2020 ACS Estimates	Percent	MOE (±)
<b>Population by Language Spoken at Home*</b>			
Total (persons age 5 and above)	3,524	100%	657
English	2,568	73%	629
Spanish	942	27%	462
French, Haitian, or Cajun	0	0%	6
German or other West Germanic	0	0%	18
Russian, Polish, or Other Slavic	0	0%	18
Other Indo-European	2	0%	6
Korean	5	0%	13
Chinese (including Mandarin, Cantonese)	7	0%	18
Vietnamese	0	0%	18
Tagalog (including Filipino)	0	0%	18
Other Asian and Pacific Island	0	0%	18
Arabic	0	0%	18
Other and Unspecified	0	0%	18
Total Non-English	956	27%	910

**Data Note:** Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race.  
 N/A means not available. **Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2016 - 2020.  
 \*Population by Language Spoken at Home is available at the census tract summary level and up.