

ALUMINUM RECYCLING CORPORATION DRAFT REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION/ FEASIBILITY STUDY



The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has completed review of the Final Draft Phase I Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Report for the Aluminum Recycling Corporation Site (Site) located at East 3412 Wellesley Avenue, Spokane, Washington. The Site is generally bound by Wellesley Avenue to the north, Freya Street to the east, and Market Street to the west (Figure 1).

The RI/FS was completed as part of an Agreed Order issued under the Model Toxics Control Act (Chapter 173-340 WAC). The Order was between Ecology and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF), formerly known as Burlington Northern Railroad Company (BN). The purpose of the RI/FS was to determine the nature and extent of contamination at the Site and suggest potential cleanup actions.

Ecology invites the public to review and comment on the draft RI/FS which is available for review at the repositories listed in the shaded box on the right. The box also indicates where comments may be sent and additional information obtained.

Public comments will be accepted October 8, 1999 through November 9, 1999.

SITE BACKGROUND

An aluminum dross reprocessing facility was operated by Hillyard Processing Company on the land leased from Burlington Northern Railroad Company. Hillyard Processing Company reportedly began aluminum reprocessing at the Site in 1954, and the activities continued through several operator changes. Aluminum Recycling Corporation was the latest operator of the facility until 1987 when the property was abandoned.

The facility processed aluminum skim, called white dross, in a batch process. The white dross was obtained from aluminum smelters and aluminum scrap materials from various sources. This secondary processing of white dross involved the addition of sodium and potassium chloride salts. The process extracted molten aluminum metal, which was poured into ingots and sold. The high chloride waste resulting from this process is known as black dross, and it remains on Site. In addition, non-reprocessed white dross waste was deposited and is still on Site. An estimated 65,000 cubic yards of these wastes are found in piles A through R and in an abandoned pit on Site (Figure 2).

Ecology completed an inspection in December 1987 and the Site was

FACT SHEET OCTOBER 1999

REPOSITORIES:

Department of Ecology
Eastern Regional Office
4601 N. Monroe, Suite 202
Spokane, WA 99205-1295

Spokane Public Library
Hillyard Branch
4005 N. Cook street
Spokane, WA 99207-5879

For more information, please call or write:

Ms. Sandra Treccani
Department of Ecology
Toxics Cleanup Program
4601 N. Monroe, Suite 202
Spokane, WA 99205-1295
(509) 456-2740 or
1-800-826-7716
e-mail: satr461@ecy.wa.gov

MAILING LIST:

If you would like to be on the Aluminum Recycling Corp. mailing list, please call Carol Bergin of Ecology toll free at 1-800-826-7716 or in Spokane at (509) 456-6360.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

October 8, 1999 through
November 9, 1999.

August of 1991. In June 1996, Environmental Management Resources Inc. (EMR) prepared several reports characterizing waste materials and groundwater at the Site. These reports indicated that the dross contained high concentrations of chloride, fluoride, and nitrogen compounds. Chloride, fluoride, and nitrate were also found in groundwater at concentrations exceeding drinking water standards. The Agreed Order between Ecology and BNSF was signed on November 16, 1998 after a 30 day public comment period.

REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION/ FEASIBILITY STUDY

The purpose of the RI/FS was to investigate the nature and extent of contamination at the Site and determine the potential cleanup actions. Results of Site investigations are documented in the Draft Final Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study for the Hillyard Dross Site, East 3412 Wellesley Avenue, Spokane, WA.

Groundwater monitoring wells were installed to collect groundwater and soil samples at three locations and to measure water levels. Also, four test pits were excavated in the abandoned pit to sample dross, soil, and the soil/dross interface. Five soil borings were completed within the fenced area of the Site to sample soil and dross, and also to collect geotechnical data.

RESULTS OF THE RI/FS:

- ◆ Several contaminants exceeded their corresponding Method B

Cleanup Levels in various media.

- ◆ Results of groundwater sampling indicate contamination by chloride, fluoride, nitrate, and nitrite.
- ◆ Soil samples show elevated levels of metals, including arsenic, barium, cadmium, copper, and selenium.
- ◆ Dross, the source of contaminants in soil and groundwater, contains elevated levels of the contaminants seen in groundwater and soil. These include arsenic, barium, cadmium, chloride, chromium, copper, fluoride, and selenium.
- ◆ Leaching tests performed on dross and shallow soil samples indicate a slight possibility that chloride may leach from those media. However, since the materials have been exposed to the elements, most of the leachable contaminants are no longer present.

The Feasibility Study evaluated several different cleanup options for the Site. **The cleanup alternative proposed by the Potentially Liable Persons (PLPs) is on-site containment.**

- ◆ Materials would remain on-site, be regraded, and covered with a multi-media surface cap. This would prevent infiltration of rainfall and help manage stormwater runoff.
- ◆ Deed restrictions would be placed on the property and a Site fence would be maintained.
- ◆ Groundwater would be monitored to ensure that the cap remained effective.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Ecology will review all written public comments on the draft RI/FS, and, if necessary, the document will be modified. A Responsiveness Summary addressing comments will be prepared, if appropriate. Once the RI/FS is finalized, work will begin on developing and implementing the selected cleanup action for the Site.

ECOLOGY WANTS YOUR COMMENTS!

The public comment period represents an opportunity to have your ideas and comments heard by Ecology.

- ◆ **You may review and comment on the draft RI/FS October 8, 1999 through November 9, 1999.**
- ◆ Copies of the draft RI/FS are available for public review at the repositories listed in the shaded box on page one of this fact sheet.
- ◆ To review more detailed Site documents than those in the information repositories, contact Johnnie Harris of Ecology at (509) 456-2751 to schedule an appointment.
- ◆ **Files may be reviewed at Ecology in Spokane Monday through Thursday, 8-5 p.m. by appointment only.**
- ◆ **Please submit written comments by November 9, 1999 to Ms. Sandra Treccani, Site Manager, at the Ecology address listed in the shaded box on page one.**