

Washington's Cleanup Process & Effective Public Participation at the Spokane Airport PFAS Site

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December 14, 2023

CERCLA

1980

- National Priorities List (NPL) or Superfund
- Implemented by EPA
- Oversight by EPA or Ecology

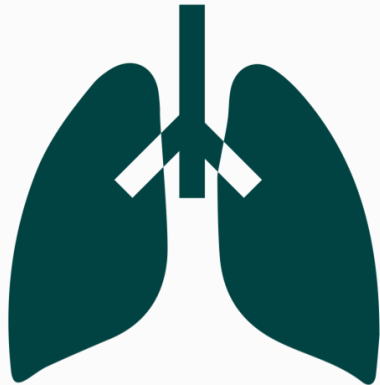


MTCA

1989

- Citizen mandated
- Implemented by Ecology

These laws were designed to protect people and the environment by reducing risk



Breathing



Touching



Swallowing

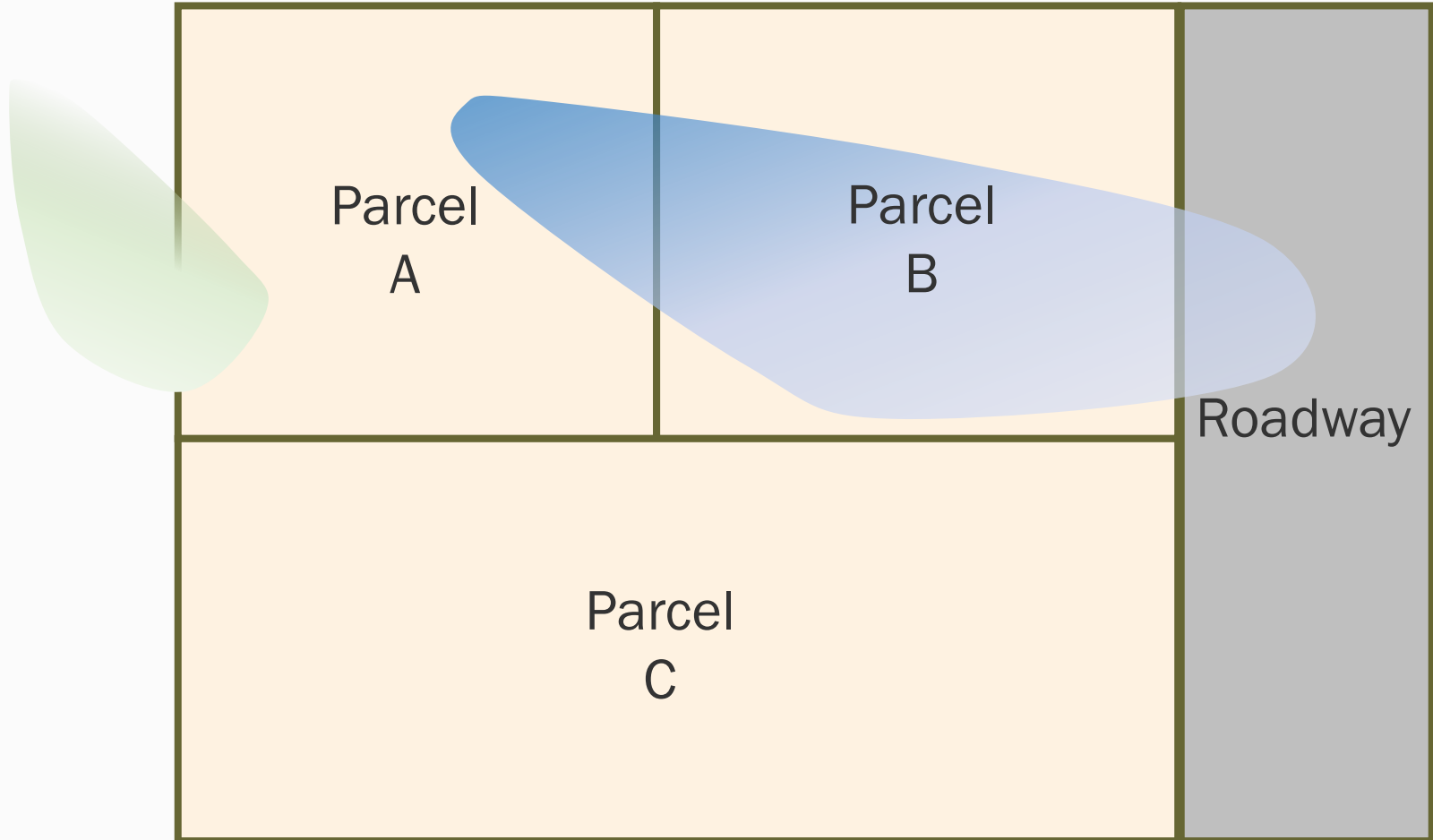
Key Principles

- Polluter pays
- Permanent remedies
- Public participation

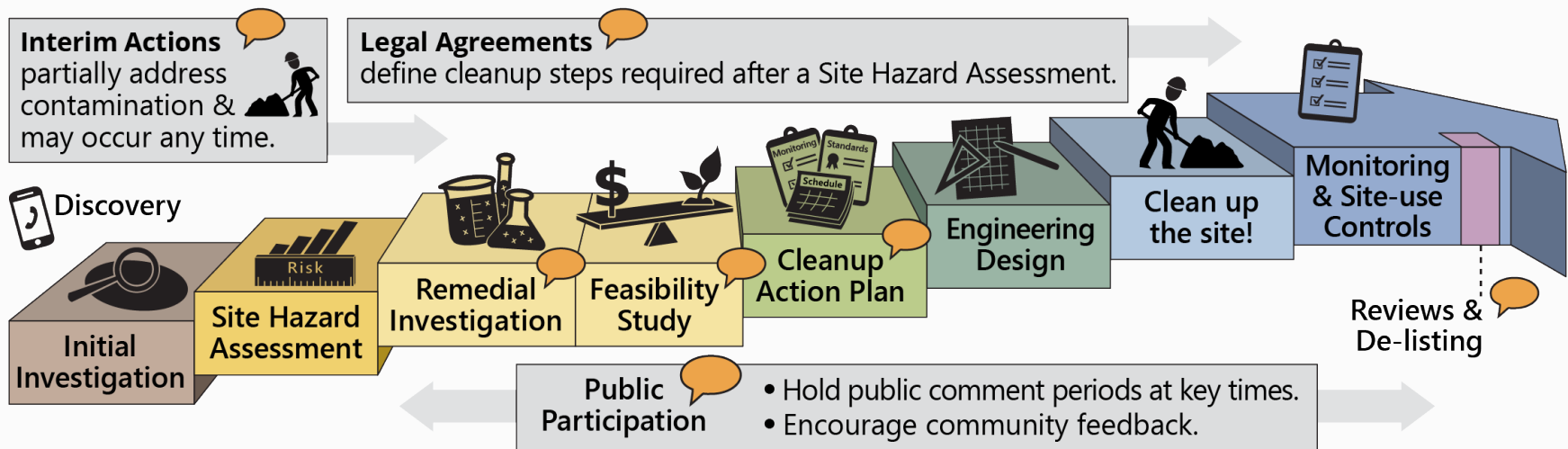


- Bias towards action
- Innovation

What is a “site”?



Cleanup: How do we get there?



Timing of steps in formal cleanup process

Cleanup step	Average
Site discovery/report received	0.1 years
Initial Investigation	0.3 years
Site Hazard Assessment (SHA)	0.3 years
Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) - includes legal negotiations	3.7 years 4–6 mos.
Public comment period	0.1 - 0.3 years
Cleanup Action Plan (CAP) – includes legal negotiations	1.1 years 9–12 mos.
Public comment period	0.1 - 0.3 years
Cleanup engineering design	3 years
Cleanup construction - includes design, construction, operation and monitoring	3 years

IF a site completed all steps sequentially = 11.7 – 12.1 years

Insights on timing:

- Not all sites go through all steps.
- Not a linear process, steps may overlap.
- There may be time between steps.

(Averages based on 180 sites)

We want your input!

- What should we know about your community?
- Mailing list area
- Communication preferences

Public Participation Plan Spokane International Airport PFAS site

**9000 W. Airport Dr., Spokane, Spokane County
Facility Site ID: 6332493, Cleanup Site ID: 16774**

Toxics Cleanup Program

Washington State Department of Ecology
Spokane, Washington

Our commitments to public involvement

MTCA required

- Site Register
- Newspaper ad
- Mailings to
 - At least ¼-mile radius around the site
- Anyone who asks for notification

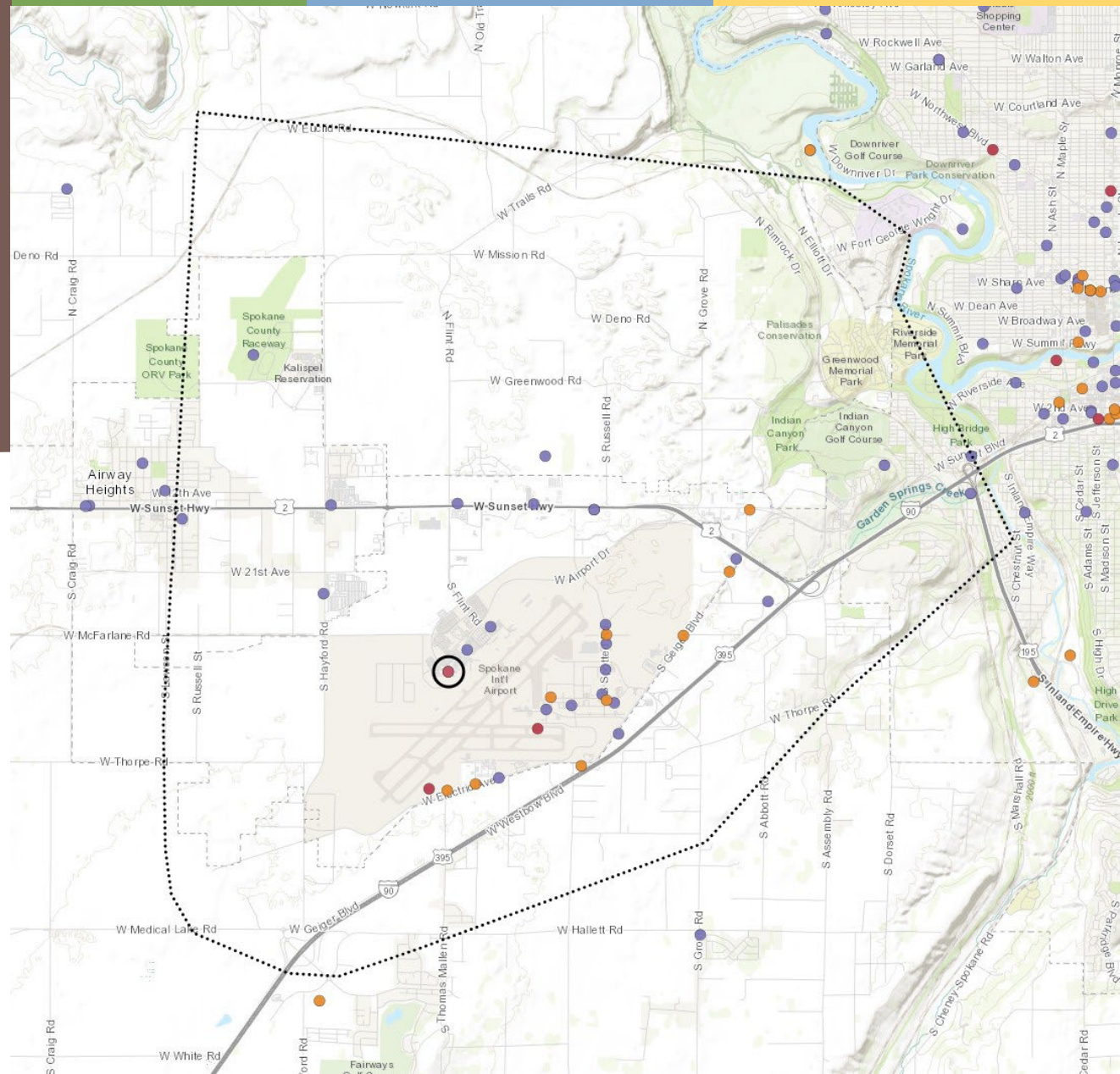
Standard practice

- Website
- Email notification
- Respond to comments

What else?

- Any community groups besides the Coalition?
- Community events or regular gatherings?
- What social media channels?

Proposed mailing list area



LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME

LANGUAGE	PERCENT
English	88%
Spanish	4%
Russian, Polish, or Other Slavic	2%
Korean	1%
Tagalog (including Filipino)	2%
Other Asian and Pacific Island	1%
Other and Unspecified	1%
Total Non-English	12%

Useful comments

- New information
- Historical / personal observations
- Expressions of support or disagreement and why
- Reference specific text or section
- Give an example

COMMENTS:

I want to know that there is some plan in effect for Union Pacific or other responsible parties pay for dealing the health effects of students residents and others who have had access to the water. ~~There~~ There might be health effects a long time down the road, and we need to make sure that there is a long-term plan to ensure their health and fund any treatments if there is a problem that could be a ~~result~~ consequence of ~~drinking~~ drinking the water, or breathing contaminated air. This needs to be a life-long system, not just a one-time checkup.

I'm also concerned with having Union Pacific be putting forward ~~the~~ a proposed solution for this when they have a financial interest in making the solution as inexpensive as possible.

The Art of Commenting 2nd Edition

How to Influence Environmental
Decisionmaking With Effective Comments



Post-comment period

- Respond to comments
- Create Response to Comments document
- Distribute Response to Comments (email/mail commenters, *Site Register*, cleanup site page)
- Update webpage



Response to Comments Draft Cleanup Action Plan for Northport Waterfront

Public comment period held May 2 – June 1, 2022
Facility Site ID: 96239, Cleanup Site ID: 14874

Toxics Cleanup Program

Washington State Department of Ecology
Spokane, Washington

June 2022

Spokane International Airport PFAS

Facility Site ID: 6332493

Cleanup Site ID: 16774



9000 W AIRPORT DR
SPOKANE, Spokane County

Site Status

Awaiting Cleanup

Site Details

[Download Site Report](#)

[View documents](#)

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[View contaminants](#)

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Contacts

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Ecology Presenting At West Plains Water Coalition Meeting

Thursday, Dec. 14, 7–8:30 p.m., the HUB in Airway Heights, 12703 W 14th (US Highway 2)

Public participation is a key part of Washington's environmental cleanup law. Ecology will present about Washington's cleanup process and how you can be involved in the draft plan to investigate contamination and prepare cleanup options at the Spokane International Airport PFAS site. The Airport has been named the responsible party for investigating and cleaning up the site. This talk, plus audience questions, will explain and summarize the process, helping West Plains citizens know how to participate during the 30-day public comment period Ecology will hold in early 2024.

Chad Pritchard, a geology professor at Eastern Washington University, will also be available to talk about his research on mapping the hydrogeology in the West Plains. The meeting is free and open to the public. Free childcare will be available for children ages 3–9.

Negotiations For An Agreed Order Extended

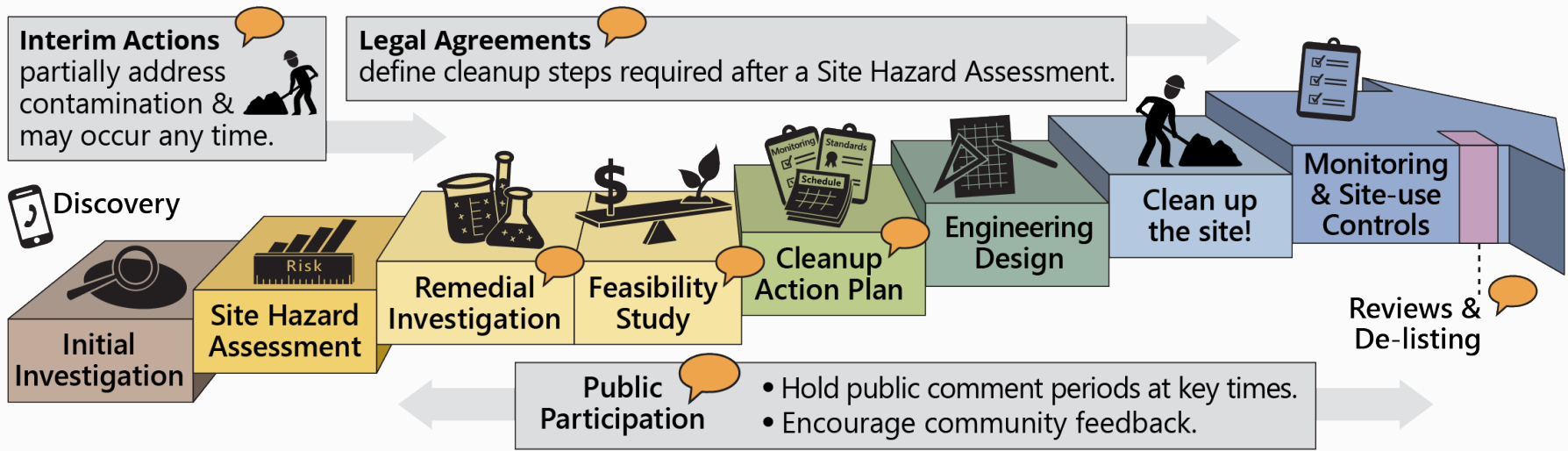
Ecology invited the Spokane International Airport (SIA) to negotiate to complete a remedial investigation/feasibility study. The 60-day negotiation period ended on November 9, 2023, and we requested SIA submit any comments by November 16, 2023.

On November 9, Ecology agreed to extend the negotiations for 60 days to allow for additional analyses of the site and scope of work ([view letter](#)). On November 16, Ecology requested SIA submit any additional comments by December 11, 2023. While a 60-day extension would extend the negotiation period to January 15, 2024, Ecology's goal is to end negotiations well before that date. No further negotiation period are not anticipated.

The remedial investigation will determine the full extent and locations of contamination. The feasibility study will

Related Information

- [Join Ecology's West Plains PFAS updates email list](#)
- [Ecology PFAS website](#)
- [Washington Department of Health PFAS webpage](#)
- [EPA PFAS website](#)
- [West Plains Water Coalition](#)
- [Spokane International Airport \(see Environmental Overview\)](#)



Thank you! Questions?
bit.ly/EcologySIA-PFAS



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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.