

Apple Valley Elementary School



Apple Valley Elementary School – Photo courtesy of Google Street View

Comments accepted:

January 1 – January 31, 2024

Submit comments:

Online at:

<https://tcp.ecology.commenting.ut.com/?id=3Mx2tThk8P>

Or by mail to:

Mary Monahan, Site Manager
 1250 W. Alder Street
 Union Gap, WA 98903
 509-571-6661
 Mary.Monahan@ecy.wa.gov

Site info:

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/882>

Facility Site ID: 3464749

Site Cleanup ID: 882

Document review

locations:

West Valley Community Library
 223 S 72nd Avenue
 Yakima, WA 98908
 509-966-7070

WA Department of Ecology
 1250 W. Alder Street
 Union Gap, WA 98903
 509-575-2490

Proposed Removal from the Hazardous Sites List Available for Review and Comment

The Department of Ecology is proposing to remove the Apple Valley Elementary School site, located at 7 N. 88th Avenue in Yakima, from its Hazardous Sites List (HSL).

The Hazardous Sites List is a list of sites Ecology reviewed for their potential threat to human health and the environment. This review is based on how much contamination is present, how toxic it is, and how easily it can come in contact with people and the environment. Sites must go through cleanup and meet state standards before Ecology can remove them from the list.

You are invited to:

- Review the No Further Action Letter, dated February 16, 2023

Send your comments to Ecology for consideration. Comments will be accepted from January 1, 2024 through January 31, 2024.

Site Background

In 2001, the Washington State Legislature asked Ecology to prepare a strategy to address lead and arsenic soil contamination. The project's main focus was on areas that were developed into residential neighborhoods, parks, daycares, and schools.

Apple Valley Elementary School was included in the area-wide lead and arsenic sampling program that involved soil sampling at schools suspected of having a history of pesticides used on the property.

In 2005, Ecology conducted soil sampling at several locations around the school property. The results revealed elevated concentrations of lead and arsenic above state cleanup levels.

What Has Been Done?

In 2012, cleanup actions were performed at the site. Some of the contaminated soil was removed. Clean soil was placed on top of existing soil to prevent exposure and establish new grass. Geotextile fabric and engineered wood fiber were incorporated into playground areas. Bark mulch and rock gravel were used in other landscape areas. The bus lane area had a gravel base and asphalt capping contaminated soil. The irrigation system was modified to maintain the grass cover and installation of a stormwater drainage system to prevent runoff from the parking lot.

In 2019, the school was demolished and a new school was built and opened in 2021. Construction activities for the new school included excavating more of the contaminated soil, regrading the site, new geotextile fabric, landscaping materials, clean soil and sod caps placed over existing contaminated soil, and new parking lots and walkways.

In 2022, an environmental covenant was recorded on the site because not all of the contamination was removed. An environmental covenant is a legal agreement that outlines terms and restrictions of activities that may impact or threaten the continued protection of human health and the environment.

Why This Matters?

The pesticide lead arsenate was widely used from the late 1800s until the late 1940s on fruit trees in orchards to control codling moths. Over time, lead arsenate breaks down into the elements lead and arsenic. They are incredibly persistent and tend to stay near the ground surface for decades. Long-term exposure can cause health problems.

Based upon cleanup activities conducted at the site and the recording of the environmental covenant, Ecology has determined the site is no longer a threat to human health and the environment.

What Happens Next?

After the public comment period ends, Ecology will review and respond to comments received during the comment period. Ecology will hold a public meeting if requested by 10 or more people. If no changes are necessary, the site will be removed from the Hazardous Sites List.

For information about other opportunities for public involvement, such as meetings, hearings, open houses, and workshops, please visit Ecology's Public Involvement Calendar at <https://ecology.wa.gov/Events/Search/Listing>.



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To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 509-406-6931 or email at Rhonda.Luke@ecy.wa.gov, or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.