

Ward Rugh Inc.



Ward Rugh Inc.

Comments accepted:

January 1 – January 31, 2024

Submit comments:

Online at:

<https://tcp.ecology.commentinpu.com/?id=hJPWSbfpB>

Or by mail to:

Frank Winslow, Site Manager
 1250 W. Alder Street
 Union Gap, WA 98903
 509-424-0543
Frank.Winslow@ecy.wa.gov

Site info:

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/7088>

Facility Site ID: 47245321

Site Cleanup ID: 7088

Document review

locations:

Ellensburg Public Library
 209 N. Ruby Street
 Ellensburg, WA 98926
 509-962-7250

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 Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is proposing to remove the Ward Rugh Inc. Site, located at 710 W University Way in Ellensburg, from the Hazardous Sites List.

The Hazardous Sites List is a list of sites Ecology reviewed for their potential threat to human health 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 our No Further Action letter, dated September 27, 2019

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

Site Background

Ward Rugh Inc. has owned the Site since 1989. The Site operates as an importer/exporter of hay and alfalfa. In 1991, three steel underground storage tanks (USTs) were removed from the property. A diesel odor was noticed when the soil was disturbed. Soil sampling revealed petroleum (gasoline and diesel) contamination above state cleanup levels. Approximately 1500 yards of petroleum-contaminated soil were excavated, landfarmed onsite, and then left in place as a parking lot base layer. Landfarming is an above-ground treatment for deep-contaminated soil. Usually, this involves excavating contaminated soil, spreading it in a thin layer on the ground for aeration, and sometimes adding minerals, nutrients, and moisture to help degrade the contamination over time.

In 1993, a fourth UST was removed. During the removal, gasoline-contaminated soil and groundwater was encountered. Contaminated soil was excavated, however, not all could be removed due to an existing structure onsite.

What Has Been Done?

In 2018, soil and groundwater sampling was done. No soil contamination above state cleanup levels remains, except for one location next to the structure. Groundwater was also sampled 2019 and the results revealed no contamination above state cleanup levels.

Why This Matters?

Petroleum products contain benzene, which is a known carcinogen and can have harmful effects on human health and the environment. Ecology requires investigation and cleanup to reduce or eliminate exposure to contamination. Ecology has determined the cleanup performed at the site meets state cleanup standards.

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>.



First Last name

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509-424-0543



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.