



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

PO Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600 • 360-407-6000

January 29, 2024

Elizabeth Chamberlain
City of Walla Walla
15 N 3rd Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Re: Stillwater Holdings Chevron Cleanup, Site ID: 16913

Dear Elizabeth Chamberlain:

Thank you for your letter dated January 12, 2024 regarding your concerns with the ongoing response and cleanup of the Stillwater Holdings Chevron (Site) in Walla Walla. Ecology understands your concerns and appreciates your willingness to help expedite the cleanup process.

On January 18, 2024 Ecology sent a letter to Stillwater Holdings, LLC proposing to find that entity liable under the [Model Toxics Control Act \(MTCA\)](#)¹ for the release of hazardous substances at the Site. Any party whom Ecology finds, based on credible evidence, to be liable is known under MTCA as a “potentially liable person” or “PLP.” Stillwater Holdings now has 30 calendar days from official notification to respond to Ecology’s proposed finding of liability.

In response to the release of hazardous substances at the Site, Ecology intends to conduct the following actions under MTCA:

- Pursue an agreed order with the PLP to develop a work plan for interim action, conduct additional site characterization activities, and prepare a remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS). An interim action can be an expedited action to address some of the most contaminated areas of the site as soon as possible.
- Prepare a draft cleanup action plan (DCAP) for the remaining, longer-term cleanup of the Site.
- Oversee the completion of the remediation at the Site.

¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Rules-directing-our-cleanup-work/Model-Toxics-Control-Act>

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Ecology's policy is to work cooperatively with PLPs to accomplish prompt and effective cleanup of contaminated sites. However, if it becomes difficult to work cooperatively with the liable party, we do have other administrative options that we can consider.

In terms of funding and the response to this site, Ecology's expectation is that the released gasoline, contaminated soil, and contaminated groundwater is cleaned up as soon as possible under an Interim Action, and that the property owner will pay for the cleanup. The property owner is required to hold an insurance policy that will provide one million dollars of coverage in case of a release, which Ecology expects to be used towards the cleanup. At this time, it is my understanding that Ecology's Spill Response Program has spent over a million dollars on the initial response to the release. It is also my understanding that the property owner may be negotiating with their fuel distribution company to assist with financing the removal and replacement of the old Underground Storage Tank and piping system at the gas station. Additionally, Ecology has identified funding that we may access to assist with the long-term cleanup of the site.

Ecology looks forward to meeting with the City of Walla Walla on February 1, 2024 to discuss this project. We have facilitated your request that a representative from the Water Quality Program be assigned to the project. We appreciate your continued support in helping move the Site cleanup forward.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or if you would like additional information pertaining to the cleanup of contaminated sites, I can be reached at (360) 485-3738 or barry.rogowski@ecy.wa.gov. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Barry Rogowski, Program Manager
Toxics Cleanup Program

cc:

Nick Acklam, Toxics Cleanup Program Eastern Region Office Section Manager, Ecology
Heather Bartlett, Deputy Director, Ecology
Brook Beeler, Eastern Region Office Director, Ecology
Carlos Clements, Spill Prevention, Preparedness, & Response Program Manager, Ecology
Tim Donaldson, City of Walla Walla Attorney
Bill Joyce, Environmental Council
Vince McGowan, Water Quality Program Manager, Ecology
Derek Threet, Office of the Attorney General
Ecology Site File