

Periodic Review Available to the Public

Aluminum Recycling Corporation, Spokane, Spokane County, Washington Facility Site ID 627

Comment Period March 13, 2008 through April 11, 2008

Ecology invites the public to review and comment on a periodic review of the Aluminum Recycling Corporation site. The eight-acre site is located at 3412 East Wellesley in the Hillyard neighborhood of Spokane, Washington. The site lies over the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer, a sole source aquifer that provides drinking water to more than 500,000 people.

A periodic review is conducted at least every five years after the initiation of a cleanup action as required by the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA). The purposes of the review are to evaluate site conditions after cleanup is considered complete and to ensure protection of human health and the environment.

The Hillyard Processing Company leased land from the BNSF Railway Company and operated an aluminum dross reprocessing facility at the site. Aluminum reprocessing reportedly began in 1954, and the activities continued through several changes in operators. Aluminum Recycling Corporation was the latest operator of the facility until 1987 when the property was abandoned.

Cleanup at the site focused on chloride, fluoride, nitrate, and nitrite in groundwater and elevated levels of lead in soil. In 2001 dross, and soil mixed with dross, was excavated and consolidated into an on-site pit. The pit area was capped with a cover system designed to minimize surface water from reaching the consolidated dross and soil materials. The surface water was routed into a lined evaporation pond on-site.

Institutional controls including access restrictions and a restrictive covenant, which limit land uses, were placed on the property. These restrictions limit or prohibit any activity that may interfere with the integrity of the cleanup actions and also require future owners to comply with the restrictions. Restrictions include fences, signs, land use for industrial purposes only, and limitations on groundwater withdrawal and use. These institutional controls have proven effective in reducing exposure and protecting the integrity of the cleanup action.

Since June 1997, quarterly groundwater sampling has been conducted at four monitoring wells for chloride, fluoride, nitrate and nitrite. Since completion of the cleanup action, monitoring wells MW-4 and MW-6 (upgradient and furthest downgradient) show no cleanup level exceedances for any constituents. MW-3 and MW-5 are closer to the consolidated dross and show varying increasing and decreasing contaminant trends. Nitrite has not exceeded cleanup levels at any of the wells. Overall, contaminant concentrations are showing the trends expected for a five-year time frame. Quarterly groundwater monitoring will continue, and further periodic reviews will be required as long as institutional controls are in place at the site.

The periodic review may be reviewed at the following locations:

- Spokane Public Library, Hillyard Branch 4005 N. Cook, Spokane
- Department of Ecology, Eastern Regional Office, 4601 N. Monroe
Spokane WA 99205-1295

- Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program Web site at:
http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/alum_recy/alum_recy.html

For more information or to submit written comments, please contact Sandra Treccani, Site Manager, at the Ecology address listed above, at 509/329-3412, or e-mail satr461@ecy.wa.gov.