



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY**

Eastern Region Office

4601 North Monroe St., Spokane, WA 99205-1295 • 509-329-3400

February 12, 2024

Kristine Keller  
Capital Program Project Manager for Dept of Social Health Services (DSHS)  
751 South Pine Street  
Medical Lake, WA 99022

Re: Early Notice Letter Regarding a Release of Hazardous Substances:

- **Site Name:** WA DSHS Eastern State Hospital
- **Address:** 850 Maple Street, Medical Lake
- **Cleanup Site ID:** 16994
- **Facility/Site ID:** 51358721

Dear Kristine Keller:

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) Toxic Cleanup Program received an Environmental Report Tracking System (ERTS) report notification on February 8, 2024, indicating a release of potentially hazardous substances. We have investigated the release, or threatened release of hazardous substances to identify impacts to human health and the environment, as required under [Chapter 70A.305 Revised Code of Washington \(RCW\)](#)<sup>1</sup>, based on the observations and information provided during the site visit.

Ecology maintains a database of known or suspected contaminated sites that will need remedial actions to meet requirements established under the [Model Toxics Control Act \(MTCA\)](#),<sup>2</sup> Chapter 70A.305 RCW, and [173-340 WAC](#).<sup>3</sup> This state law sets the requirements necessary to clean up contaminated sites that can threaten human health and the environment.

During the investigation, Ecology determined that contamination exists at your site. As a result, we added this property to our database as a state cleanup site that will need to be cleaned up

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<sup>1</sup> <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70A.305>

<sup>2</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Rules-directing-our-cleanup-work/Model-Toxics-Control-Act>

<sup>3</sup> <https://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-340>

pursuant to MTCA requirements. Ecology assigned a cleanup site ID number (CSID No) 16994. You can find site information and electronic records for this site on [the cleanup site webpage](#)<sup>4</sup>

This letter or inclusion in our database of state cleanup sites does not mean that Ecology has made a determination about potential liability for cleanup under MTCA. Ecology's policy is to work cooperatively with individuals to accomplish prompt and effective cleanups.

Your cooperation in planning or conducting independent remedial action is not an admission of guilt or liability. All independent remedial actions must follow the requirements of state laws. Completing an independent remedial action without meeting MTCA requirements may lead to additional cleanup work or formal oversight by Ecology.

Ecology likely will require a more detailed investigation in the future if an independent remedial action does not occur on this property. Investigation typically consists of additional testing for contamination, including soil and groundwater sampling.

Enclosed is the [Model Toxics Control Act Cleanup Regulation Focus Sheet](#). For questions regarding this letter or copies of the MTCA regulations and statute, please contact Sara Fulton 509-319-0047 or Sara.Fulton@ecy.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



Nicolas Acklam  
Section Manager  
Toxics Cleanup Program, Eastern Regional Office

Enclosed [Model Toxics Control Act Cleanup Regulation Focus Sheet](#)

cc: Greg Hafer, DSHS Facility Manager  
Lisa Breen, Spokane Regional Health District  
Lori Rodriguez, Spokane Regional Clean Air Authority  
Mike LaScuola, Spokane Regional Clean Air Authority  
Derek Aubrey, Spokane Regional Clean Air Authority  
Bill Dennstaedt, Deputy Chief of Spokane County Fire District 3  
Brook Beeler, Regional Director Department of Ecology

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<sup>4</sup> <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/SiteSearchPage.aspx>