



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY**  
**Eastern Region Office**

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

April 15, 2024

Larry Covey  
Director  
Office of Capital Programs  
Department of Social and Health Services  
Facilities, Finance, and Analytics Administration  
Mailstop: 45848  
P.O. Box 45848  
Olympia, Washington, 98504

**Re: Final Determination of Liability for Release of Hazardous Substances at the following Contaminated Site:**

- **Site Name: Eastern State Hospital Landfill**
- **Site Address: 850 Maple Street, Medical Lake, WA**
- **Cleanup Site ID: 16994**
- **Facility/Site ID: 51358721**
- **County Assessor's Parcel Number(s): 04135.0003, 04241.0001**

Dear Larry Covey:

On March 14, 2024, the Department of Ecology (Ecology) sent you written notice of our preliminary determination that the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) is a potentially liable person (PLP) for a release of hazardous substances at the Eastern State Hospital Landfill facility<sup>1</sup> (Site). On April 12, 2024, Ecology received your written notice accepting your status as a PLP for the Site and waiving your opportunity to comment.

Based on available information, Ecology finds that credible evidence exists that DSHS is liable for a release of hazardous substances at the Site. On the basis of this finding, Ecology has determined that DSHS is a PLP with regard to the Site.

The purpose of the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) is to identify, investigate, and cleanup facilities where hazardous substances have been released. Liability for environmental contamination under MTCA is strict, joint and several (RCW

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<sup>1</sup> <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/16994>

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70.105D.040(2)). Ecology ensures that contaminated sites are investigated and cleaned up to the standards set forth in the MTCA statute and regulations. Ecology has determined that it is in the public interest for remedial actions to take place at this Site. Ecology will contact you regarding the actions necessary for DSHS to bring about the prompt and thorough cleanup of hazardous substances at this Site. Failure to cooperate with Ecology or comply with MTCA in this matter will result in Ecology employing enforcement tools as it deems necessary and appropriate. This includes, but is not limited to, the issuance of an administrative order. Failure to comply with such an order may result in a fine of up to \$25,000 per day and liability for up to three times the costs incurred by the state (RCW 70.105D.050(1)).

Your rights and responsibilities as a PLP are outlined in Chapter 70.105D RCW, and Chapters 173-340 and 173-204 WAC. Ecology's cleanup project manager for the Site, Kristin Beck, will contact you with information about how Ecology intends to proceed with the cleanup.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact Kristin Beck at 509-514-6806 or [Kristin.Beck@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Kristin.Beck@ecy.wa.gov).

Sincerely,



Nicholas M. Acklam  
Section Manager  
Toxics Cleanup Program, Eastern Regional Office

By certified mail: 9214 8901 9403 8357 4251 52

cc: Ivy Anderson, Office of the Attorney General  
Kristin Beck, Ecology  
Ecology Site File