



Tribal Engagement Plan Van Stone Mine

**20 miles north of Colville, Stevens County
Facility Site ID: 1554858, Cleanup Site ID: 461**

Toxics Cleanup Program, Eastern Region

Washington Department of Ecology
Spokane, Washington

August 2025

Document Information

This document is available on the Department of Ecology's [Van Stone Mine cleanup site page](#).¹

Related Information

- Facility Site ID: 1554858
- Cleanup Site ID: 461

Contact Information

[Toxics Cleanup Program](#)²

Eastern Region Office
Erika Beresovoy
4601 N. Monroe St.
Spokane, WA 99205
Email: erika.beresovoy@ecy.wa.gov
Phone: 509-385-2290

ADA Accessibility

The Department of Ecology is committed to providing people with disabilities access to information and services by meeting or exceeding the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Washington State Policy #188.

To request an ADA accommodation, contact the Ecology ADA Coordinator by phone at 360-407-6831 or email at ecyadacoordinator@ecy.wa.gov. For Washington Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341. Visit [Ecology's website](#)³ for more information.

Language Access

The Department of Ecology offers free translation and interpretation services. If you need help in your preferred language, please call Erika Beresovoy at 509-385-2290 and request an interpreter, or email erika.beresovoy@ecy.wa.gov.

¹ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/461>

² <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Who-we-are/Our-Programs/Toxics-Cleanup>

³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Accountability-transparency/Our-website/Accessibility>

Tribal engagement in contamination cleanup

The purpose of this Tribal Engagement Plan is for the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) to invite affected Tribes as sovereign nations to learn about and consider their rights and interests for Ecology-conducted and Ecology-supervised cleanup sites.

Ecology's goal is to provide timely information, effective communication, continuous opportunities for collaboration, and when necessary, government-to-government consultation, as appropriate for each cleanup site ([WAC 173-340-620](https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-340-620)).⁴

Site information

Van Stone Mine

[20 miles north of Colville, Stevens County, Washington, 99114](#).⁵

This is an Ecology-conducted cleanup.

Facility Site ID: 1554858, Cleanup Site ID: 461

Ecology's [Van Stone Mine cleanup site page](https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/461)⁶

Tribal engagement process

This Tribal Engagement Plan proposes actions Ecology will take to provide timely and relevant information and offer meaningful engagement opportunities to Tribes during investigation and cleanup of Ecology-conducted and Ecology-supervised contaminated sites.

Tribal engagement is separate from and in addition to public involvement. Tribes and indigenous peoples are welcome to also participate in Ecology's public involvement process. Ecology's [Public Participation Plan](#)⁷ for the site has more information about that process.

Ecology invites each Tribe to share their perspective on what constitutes meaningful engagement for this site, enabling us to develop a more effective process.

⁴ <https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-340-620>

⁵ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/neighborhood/?csid=461&lat=48.758146&lon=-117.760511&zoom=15&radius=false>

⁶ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/461>

⁷ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/document/5052>

Ecology's proposed Tribal engagement actions

- Invite potentially affected Tribes as early as possible in the cleanup process to share and discuss information about the site and to understand the Tribes' concerns.
- Provide a copy of the Tribal Engagement Plan to potentially affected Tribes for review and comment.
- Invite the Tribes to share their preferred engagement process and propose any changes to this Tribal Engagement Plan.
- Provide early notifications and opportunities for collaboration and input at specific points in the cleanup process. See Table 1, page 4.
- Communicate project timelines, review timeframes, and comment period deadlines.⁸
- Provide Tribes at least as much time to provide input as provided to the public in each stage in the process.
- Notify potentially affected Tribes when Ecology identifies a potentially liable person under WAC 173-340-500.
- Meet with Tribes upon request.
- Keep effective communication open throughout the cleanup process.
- If long-term monitoring is required for the cleanup, learn from the Tribes what level of engagement is preferred during monitoring.

If a Tribe requests government-to-government consultation, engage Ecology leadership and facilitate that process.

Ecology's Tribal engagement responsibilities under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)

Ecology will initiate engagement with affected Tribes before a remedial investigation or an interim action at a site, or as early in the investigation and cleanup process as possible.

Ecology will seek to maintain meaningful engagement with Tribes throughout the cleanup process.

This Tribal Engagement Plan is publicly available on the cleanup site page.







⁸ Ecology aims to finalize documents shortly after the close of comment periods.



Figure 1. Washington's Cleanup Process under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)⁹

⁹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/spills-cleanup/contamination-cleanup/cleanup-process>

Table 1: Ecology documents and cleanup actions where Tribes will be invited to review and comment

	Document or Action	Ecology-conducted
	Interim action plans	X
	Legal Orders or Agreements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consent decrees & amendments • Agreed orders & amendments • Enforcement orders & amendments 	
	Remedial investigation work plans	X
	Remedial investigation reports	X
	Feasibility study reports	X
	Cleanup action plans (CAPs) <i>(which may or may not include institutional controls¹⁰)</i>	X
	Engineering design reports	X
	Implementation plans substantially changing cleanup action plans	X
	Periodic review reports	X
	Amendment of institutional controls	X
	Removal of institutional controls	X
	Removal of sites from contaminated sites list	X

¹⁰ Institutional controls are legal and administrative tools that help protect people from exposure to contaminants. Examples include prohibiting use of groundwater for drinking, requiring maintenance of a barrier to prevent exposure, and zoning and property use restrictions, among others.

Tribes

Ecology identified the following Tribes as potentially affected by site contamination and cleanup.

Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation

Rodney Cawston, Environmental Trust Program Director

Email: rodney.cawston.env@colvilletribes.com

Phone: 509-634-2426

Rebecca Hunt, Department of Natural Resources Director

Email: rebecca.hunt.adm@colvilletribes.com

Phone: 509-634-2249

Yvette Joseph, Transboundary Manager, Office of Environmental Trust

Email: yvette.joseph.env@colvilletribes.com

Phone: 509-634-2345

Cindy Marchand, Colville Business Council Fisheries & Natural Resources Chairwoman,
Inchelium District

Email: cindy.marchand.cbc@colvilletribes.com

Phone: 509-634-2216

Spokane Tribe of Indians

Chad McCrea, Department of Natural Resources Director

Email: chadm@SpokaneTribe.com

Phone: 509-626-4420

Brian Crossley, Water & Fish Program Manager

Email: crossley@SpokaneTribe.com

Phone: 509-626-4408

Fred Kirschner, Tribal Consultant

Email: fred.kirschner@spokanetribe.com

Phone: 509-924-0184

Other Tribal engagement opportunities

In addition to engagement through MTCA, Ecology will also contact Tribes for the following purposes when relevant to the cleanup.

- Cleanup activities, especially those that disturb the ground, can affect or reveal cultural resources that may need to be assessed for protection or preservation, called a [Cultural Resource Review](#).¹¹
- Identifying and analyzing environmental impacts associated with governmental decisions as required by the [State Environmental Policy Act](#)¹² (SEPA) and associated [SEPA rules](#).¹³
- Implementing [Washington's Environmental Justice Law \(HEAL Act\)](#).¹⁴

¹¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/about-us/payments-contracts-grants/grants-loans/find-a-grant-or-loan/area-wide-groundwater-investigation-grants/cultural-resources-review>

¹² <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review>

¹³ <https://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=197-11>

¹⁴ <https://ecology.wa.gov/about-us/who-we-are/environmental-justice/heal>