

# LEHIGH CEMENT COMPANY

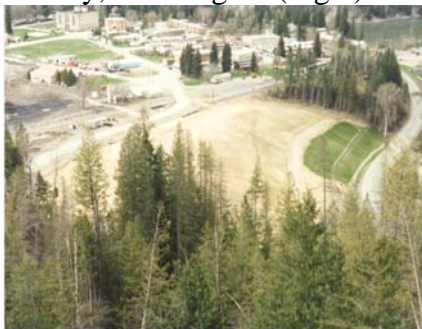
## Closed Cement Kiln Dust (CKD) Pile Site



### Comments Invited on Three Draft Documents that will Guide Cleanup: Cleanup Action Plan, SEPA DNS and Consent Decree

#### Groundwater Cleanup Proposed

The Washington Department of Ecology and Lehigh Cement Company propose to enter into a legal agreement called a Consent Decree to clean up groundwater at the Closed Cement Kiln Dust (CKD) Pile Site. The Site is located near Metaline Falls at approximately milepost 14.7 along Highway 31 in Pend Oreille County, Washington (Fig 1).



Closed CKD Pile Site  
Metaline Falls, Washington

#### Site Overview

Lehigh owned and operated a cement processing plant at the Site from 1914 until the plant was closed in 1989. Cement kiln dust, a by-product of cement processing, was collected from the plant and disposed of in a landfill on-site. Contamination in water underneath and downgradient of the landfill is a result of the interaction between the cement kiln dust and groundwater. In 1996 Lehigh closed the CKD landfill, and it is

now known as the Closed CKD Pile. Lehigh constructed an approved cover over the Closed CKD Pile and installed a storm water management system.

Groundwater continues to be contaminated, is highly alkaline (high pH) and contains arsenic, chromium, lead and manganese. The contaminated groundwater is amber-colored and flows into Sullivan Creek along the west bank. Sullivan Creek flows into the Pend Oreille River. The Site-related groundwater contamination exceeds levels allowed under state cleanup standards.



Sullivan Creek



#### Public Comments Requested

The box at the right indicates where the Draft Cleanup Action

#### January 2006

##### Comments Accepted

January 25 through  
February 24, 2006

##### Document Review Locations

*WA Department of Ecology*  
Eastern Regional Office  
4601 North Monroe  
Spokane, WA 99205-1295  
Mrs. Johnnie Landis  
509-329-3415

##### *Metaline Falls Public Library*

Cutter Theatre Building  
302 Park Street  
Metaline Falls, WA 99153  
509-446-3232

##### *Ecology's Toxics Cleanup*

##### *Website:*

[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/lehigh/lehigh\\_hp.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/lehigh/lehigh_hp.htm)

##### Comments/Technical Questions

Mr. William Fees, P.E.  
WA Department of Ecology  
Toxics Cleanup Program  
4601 N. Monroe  
Spokane, WA 99205-1295  
509-329-3589 or 1-800-826-7716  
E-mail: [wfee461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:wfee461@ecy.wa.gov)

##### Requests for Public Meetings, Hearings, and Mailings

Ms. Carol Bergin  
Public Involvement Coordinator  
Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program  
1-800-826-7716 or 509-329-3546  
E-mail: [cabe461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:cabe461@ecy.wa.gov)

Plan (DCAP), State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) and Consent Decree may be reviewed and comments submitted. **Comments will be accepted January 25 through February 24, 2006.** Additionally, if ten or more people request a public hearing to give formal testimony about these documents Ecology will comply with the requests.

### **Draft Cleanup Action Plan (DCAP)**

The DCAP is based on information obtained from the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study reports about the Site. The purpose of the DCAP is to evaluate proposed cleanup options outlined in the Feasibility Study and select cleanup actions for the Site. The following are the proposed cleanup actions.

### **Selected Cleanup Actions**

- Installing, operating, and maintaining an in-situ (in place) groundwater treatment system east of the Closed CKD Pile between Highway 31 and Sullivan Creek. The treatment system will consist of a subsurface hydraulic barrier that intercepts contaminated groundwater and directs it toward a treatment corridor. The purpose of the treatment corridor is to lower the pH of the groundwater before it is discharged to Sullivan Creek. The lowered pH will result in metals contamination being removed from the groundwater. Discharges to Sullivan Creek that occur as part of the groundwater treatment system will meet requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The NPDES permit will be available for public comment along with the Engineering Design Report by late 2006.
- Installing, operating, and maintaining a gravity drain along the southern edge of the Closed CKD Pile. The drain will intercept groundwater and redirect it away from the Closed CKD Pile. The intercepted water will be routed to an area at the eastern side of the barrier.
- Monitoring to assess performance of the treatment system. Details of the monitoring program, including parameters and

frequency, will be specified in the Compliance Monitoring Plan.

- Applying and maintaining institutional controls. Institutional controls are measures to limit or prohibit activities at the Site that could interfere with maintaining the cleanup once it is completed. Fences, signs, and a restrictive covenant on the property are required. A restrictive covenant is a document that shows the type and location of contamination on the property and limits how a property may be used.

### **No Probable Adverse Impacts to Environment**

The State Environmental Policy Act, known as SEPA, requires government agencies to consider potential environmental impacts of a project before beginning the cleanup.

- After review of an environmental checklist and other site-specific information, Ecology has determined the cleanup of metals and alkaline (high pH) in groundwater will not have a probable adverse impact on the environment.
- This action will benefit the environment by reducing the release of toxic chemicals from the site.
- Therefore, Ecology has issued a Determination of Non-Significance.

### **Consent Decree**

The Consent Decree is a legal document that formalizes the cleanup agreement between Ecology and Lehigh Cement Company. The decree implements the groundwater cleanup action for the Site; however, it does not relieve Lehigh of its ongoing responsibility to provide for operation and maintenance of the cover and stormwater system for the Closed CKD Pile (See Exhibit G of the Consent Decree for details). After the public comment period the Consent Decree becomes final and is entered into Superior Court. The decree ensures cleanup will proceed in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

### What Happens Next?

Ecology will review all written comments received and modify the documents if appropriate. A Responsiveness Summary will be prepared to address written comments. A copy of the summary will be mailed to individuals who submit comments and will also be available at the repositories and web site listed in the box on page one.

An Engineering Design Report will be developed after the DCAP, Consent Decree and SEPA DNS documents have become final. The report provides engineering design details necessary to accomplish cleanup at the Site. The report along with the NPDES permit will be available for public comment in late 2006.

Figure 1

