



Response to Comments

Third Periodic Review for the L-Bar Site

Public comment period: August 7 – September 5, 2025
Facility Site ID: 762, Cleanup Site ID: 88

Toxics Cleanup Program

Washington State Department of Ecology
Spokane, Washington

October 2025

Document Information

This document is available on the Washington Department of Ecology's [L-Bar cleanup site page](#).¹

Related Information

- Facility site ID: 762
- Cleanup site ID: 88

Contact Information

[Toxics Cleanup Program](#)²

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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/88>

² <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Cleanup-sites>

³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/ADA>

Toxics Cleanup in Washington State

Accidental spills of dangerous materials and past business practices have contaminated land and water throughout the state. The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) Toxics Cleanup Program (TCP) works to remedy these situations through cleanup actions. TCP cleanup actions range from simple projects requiring removal of a few cubic yards of contaminated soil to large, complex projects requiring engineered solutions.

Contaminated sites in Washington are cleaned up under the [Model Toxics Control Act](#)⁴ (MTCA, Chapter 173-340 Washington Administrative Code [WAC]), a citizen-mandated law passed in 1989. This law sets standards to ensure toxics cleanup protects human health and the environment and includes opportunities for public input.

Public Comment Period Summary

Ecology held a comment period August 7 through September 5, 2025, for the draft Third Periodic Review for the L-Bar cleanup site.

Ecology appreciates the comments we received from one person. We address them in the Response to Comments section that begins on Page 4. We finalized the report and updated it to add a new requirement to measure groundwater levels in the well that supplies water to the site during the Site semi-annual monitoring events.

Site Background

The site was used for metals processing from the early 1900s until 1991 by Northwest Magnesite and then L-Bar Products. When the plant closed, an estimated 100,000+ tons of flux bar and its residues were left on the site. Flux bar is a magnesium-processing byproduct from which L-Bar recovered magnesium granules.

Cleanup actions included:

- Removing flux bar, flux bar residue, and contaminated soil and disposing of it off-site
- Improving surface water drainage controls
- Allowing contaminants in soil and shallow groundwater to dissipate naturally over time
- Long-term monitoring

⁴ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Rules-directing-our-cleanup-work/Model-Toxics-Control-Act>

Response to Comments

The comment letter is printed verbatim. Ecology's response follows the comments.

Eleanor Mattice, received online August 13, 2025

Please continue with the 2012 periodic review recommendations to test ground water and inspect the site to assure the landowner is doing his inspections and there are no new problems arising.

Ecology's response

Thank you for your comment. Ecology will continue to review site conditions every five years, including surface and groundwater monitoring data. We are in communication with the responsible parties to ensure site inspections are completed, use restrictions are followed, and controls to limit public access are maintained.