

Walla Walla gasoline spill and cleanup

Stillwater Holdings Chevron cleanup site: Oct. 2025 update



Mitigation system update

Ecology's contractor, NWFF Environmental is on site daily, monitoring the temporary water treatment and vapor mitigation systems in the basements of the Marcus Whitman Hotel and the 106 Building.

GeoEngineers is drafting an engineering design report for the permanent mitigation systems. We expect the draft report to be available by the end of 2025.



Mitigation system at the Stillwater Holdings Chevron.

Sampling results

June 2025 sampling results indicate concentrations of gasoline-range petroleum hydrocarbons (GRPH) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) concentrations remain generally consistent with previous data, with continued decreases in some wells.

Petroleum contamination in the Marcus Whitman sump remains above cleanup levels but within Walla Walla wastewater discharge limits, requiring ongoing pretreatment before discharge.

At the 106 Building, sump petroleum concentrations were below discharge limits for the second consecutive quarter; four consecutive compliant results are required before direct discharge to the city sewer is allowed.

GeoEngineers, on behalf of Ecology, completed additional sampling at the end of September, and the results are pending.

106 Building

Ecology's original access agreement with the 106 Building expired on August 31, 2025. Since that time, Ecology has been granted temporary access in two-week durations. Ecology is working with the owner of the 106 Building to secure a more permanent access agreement, like the agreements with Stillwater Chevron and the Marcus Whitman Hotel, to continue sump water and vapor mitigation efforts.

Site history

The emergency response and cleanup operations in downtown Walla Walla began in September 2023, when Ecology spills staff responded to gasoline odors in the basement of the Marcus Whitman Hotel. Air quality testing identified potentially harmful and explosive gasoline vapors in the basement. The hotel was evacuated immediately. Vapors were also detected in two nearby buildings.

For the next month, ventilation was required to reduce dangerous vapors, and gasoline-contaminated groundwater was pumped from the affected buildings. By October 2023, the threat to the community was reduced, allowing efforts to shift from emergency response to developing a mitigation plan that would ensure the continued safety of nearby residents and businesses.

Based on sampling results, Stillwater Holdings Chevron was identified as the source of the release. Contamination from the spill continues to impact two neighboring properties, the Marcus Whitman Hotel and the 106 Building.

Questions?

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Learn more at:
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