

Public Comments Invited on Agreed Order for a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study

Sampling Results to be Explained at Public Meeting

The Washington State Department of Ecology will host a public meeting to discuss the draft Agreed Order that Ecology proposes to enter into with Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corporation, LLC. Ecology will also explain results of samples taken from certain wells on residential properties near the Heglar Kronquist site. The site is located 10 miles northeast of downtown Spokane in a rural area near the intersection of Heglar and Kronquist Roads in Mead, Spokane County, Washington (See Figure 1).



Looking at the site in a southwesterly direction

You are invited to:

- **Review** the draft Agreed Order and the associated documents which include a Scope of Work for performing a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study and a Public Participation Plan. The Scope of Work outlines details of work to be completed. The Public Participation Plan outlines the ways Ecology and Kaiser will involve and inform the public about the site cleanup.
- **Send** your comments to Ecology for consideration. Comments will be accepted February 9 through March 11, 2009. See the shaded box at the right for details about where to review documents and submit comments.
- **Attend** a meeting about the sampling results and proposed draft Agreed Order and have an opportunity to ask questions. In addition to Ecology staff, a representative of the Spokane Regional Health District will be available to answer health related questions. **The public meeting will be held Tuesday, February 17, 2009, from 7-9 p.m. in the Atrium at the Mt. Spokane High School, 6015 East Mt. Spokane Park Drive in Mead, Washington.**

Comments Accepted

February 9 through March 11, 2009

Para asistencia en Español
Richelle Perez 360/407-6971

Если вам нужно помощь по
русский, звоните
Tatyana Bistrevsky 509/928-7617

Submit Comments/Technical Questions

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Public Involvement Questions

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Document Review Locations

WA Department of Ecology
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Call for an appointment 509/329-3415

North Spokane Public Library
Hawthorne Branch
44 E. Hawthorne Rd.
Spokane WA 99218

Spokane Public Library
Hillyard Branch
4005 N. Cook St.
Spokane WA 99207

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Website
http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/heglar/heglar_hp.html

Facility Site ID No. 645

Agreed Order

The draft Agreed Order requires Kaiser to conduct a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study at the Heglar Kronquist site. It also formalizes the agreement between Ecology and Kaiser to assess the contamination and the need for additional cleanup actions at the site. The purpose of the Remedial Investigation is to gather more information to determine the nature and extent of site-related contamination that may be in soil and groundwater. The Feasibility Study will evaluate cleanup options.

Site Overview

The nearly four-acre site was used as a gravel pit until it was closed in 1969. The site was subsequently operated by Gemini Management, Inc. as a disposal site. Kaiser used the site during these operations from 1969 until 1974 for disposal of aluminum black dross from its Trentwood plant in Spokane Valley. Black dross is a by-product from processing aluminum materials. According to Kaiser's data, the black dross was composed of 39% sodium chloride, 19% potassium chloride, 35% aluminum oxide, 4% free aluminum, 2% cryolite, and 1% carbides, and nitrides. Nearly 55,000 cubic yards of black dross was disposed of at the site.

The dross disposal was stopped in 1974 because high levels of chloride were found in shallow water supply wells and springs down gradient of the site. Air sampling conducted downwind of the site in 1979 showed elevated levels of several organic compounds. Ammonia also was detected at levels higher than accepted by state laws.

Actions Taken

Kaiser took several steps to address the contamination in 1984 including the installation of a cover designed to protect the dross pile, and they eventually purchased the property. Monitoring that occurred from the early 1980s through 2004 indicated decreasing but still

elevated chloride and nitrates in springs downgradient from the site.

Ecology conducted an assessment of the property in 2006 and ranked the site a two on the Hazardous Sites List. The Hazardous Sites List is a record of contaminated sites throughout the state that are ranked on a scale of one to five. One represents the greatest potential threat to human health and the environment; five represents the least potential threat.

Contaminants of Concern

Past site data show that chemicals of concern related to the aluminum dross include: sodium, potassium, aluminum, chloride, fluoride, ammonia, nitrates and nitrites. The Remedial Investigation will provide additional information to identify the extent and concentration of contaminants at the site.

Initial Well Testing Begins

On December 10 and 11, 2008, Ecology and Kaiser sampled 16 residential wells near the Heglar Kronquist site. Residents asked to have their wells tested because of concerns about how the site may have impacted their wells. Kaiser was already in the process of completing a legal agreement called an Agreed Order with Ecology to begin studies at the site to determine the nature and extent of contamination. Kaiser agreed to sample wells before their legal agreement with Ecology was final because of the community concerns. Once the Agreed Order is finalized, Kaiser will conduct additional studies and identify potential cleanup options for the site.

Results Expected February 2009

An independent lab in Kelso, Washington is processing the water samples. Ecology expects to receive the results in early February 2009. Residents whose wells were tested will receive a copy of the results. Results will also be shared with other residents and the general public.

Does the Site Impact My Property?

Ecology will present results of the residential well testing at the public meeting on February 17, 2009. These results provide one aspect of information about the potential impacts of the site.

Ecology asked the Washington State Department of Health to provide an assessment of the potential health impacts of the site and evaluate the private well testing results. This work has already begun and the health department will provide its findings in a health consultation report. The report is anticipated to be available to the public in late Spring 2009.

Additionally, as Kaiser conducts a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study at the site, we will have more information to provide an accurate and comprehensive answer to the question of site-related property impacts. The Remedial Investigation will gather current scientific data about the nature and extent of contamination at the site and potentially in nearby areas. This information will help determine if there are impacts to properties near the site.

Spokane Regional Health District Contact

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WA Department of Health Contact

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What Happens Next?

Ecology will review and consider all comments that have been **received by March 11, 2009**. The Agreed Order, Scope of Work, and Public Participation Plan may be modified based upon public comments. As the cleanup moves forward and new documents are developed, the public will be notified of additional comment periods.

Why This Cleanup Matters

- Chemicals associated with aluminum dross may be harmful to human health and the environment if they exceed the levels allowed by state law.
- The Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study will provide Ecology the necessary information to determine if site-related contaminants are causing harm, and to select the best cleanup method for the site.
- The investigation and cleanup will improve protection for human health and the environment.

If you need this publication in an alternative format, call Carol Bergin at 509/329-3546. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with speech disability call 877-833-6341

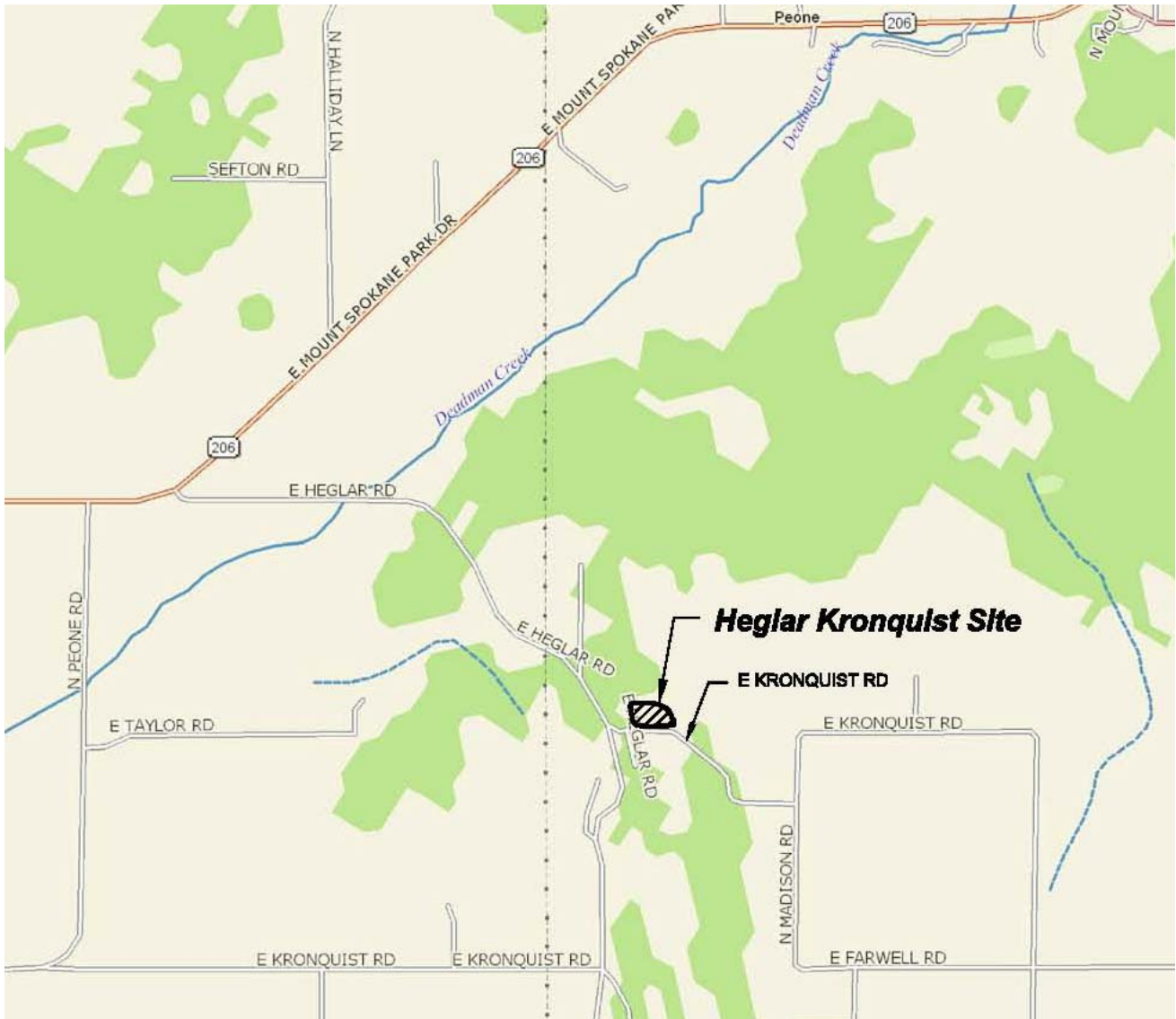


Figure 1