

Ecology Met with Residents to Get Feedback about Landfill Site

On April 13, 2013 Ecology staff, and a representative for the parties performing the landfill cleanup work, conducted door-to-door interviews. Interviews focused on people who live near the landfill site, some community leaders, and residents from a nearby housing development. A total of 85 contacts were made.

Residents were asked a series of questions including what they knew about the Pasco Landfill Site, how they wanted Ecology to provide information to them, and how they wanted to be involved in cleanup decisions. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish.

This fact sheet is in response to some of the comments and questions raised during the interviews. Ecology welcomes additional questions and feedback from residents about the landfill. Please see the box at the right for names and phone numbers of people who can help answer your questions.

Where is the Landfill?

The landfill property is about 1.5 miles northeast of the city of Pasco, Franklin County, Washington and covers nearly 250 acres. It is located on Dietrich Road north of the intersection of Kahlotus Road with U.S. Highway 12. The landfill no longer accepts waste.

There are four areas within the Pasco Landfill property:

- ❖ **The Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Area** received household and commercial garbage until closure in 1993.
- ❖ **The New Waste Area** received general garbage until closure in 2001. This area is not included in the current cleanup action.
- ❖ **The Balefill/Inert Waste Area** received municipal waste and construction debris until closure in 1989.
- ❖ **The Industrial Waste Area** is divided into five zones: A, B, C, D, and E. Figure 1 shows the landfill location and zones.
 - ◆ **Zone A** contains an estimated 35,000 55-gallon drums. The drums contain solvent and paint sludges, cleaners, and other industrial waste. Treatment technologies have removed over 800,000 lbs of contaminants from soil beneath Zone A since 1997. This cleanup work is continuing.
 - ◆ **Zone B** contained nearly 5,000 drums of herbicide manufacturing waste that was removed in 2002.

ADA accommodations or documents in an alternate format, call Carol Bergin 509/329-3546 (voice), 711 (relay service), or 877-833-6341(TTY)

Para asistencia en Español
Sr. Gregory Bohn 509/454-4174

Если вам нужно помощь по русский, звоните
Larissa Braaten 509/710-7552

Technical Questions

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Public Involvement Questions

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Locations to Review Documents

WA Department of Ecology
Kari Johnson, Public Disclosure
WA Department of Ecology
4601 N. Monroe St.
Spokane, WA 99205-1295
Call for appointment 509/329-3415

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Website:

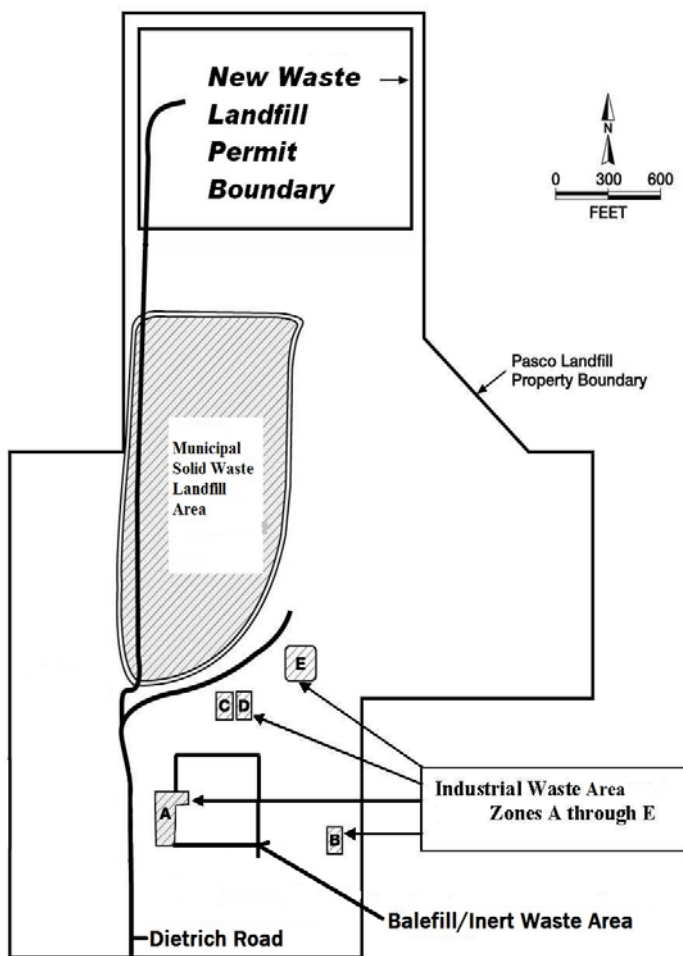
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Facility Site ID No. 575
Cleanup Site ID No. 1910
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- ◆ **Zones C and D** contain residues from disposal of approximately three million gallons of plywood resin waste; wood treatment and preservative waste; lime sludge; cutting oils; paint and paint solvent waste; and other bulk liquid waste. These two zones were combined in 2002.
- ◆ **Zone E** contains approximately 11,000 tons of sludge from paper manufacturing.

Current cleanup work focuses on reducing soil and groundwater contamination from these five zones and the main municipal solid waste landfill area.

Figure 1 Landfill Waste Areas and Zones



What is the Groundwater Plume?

There is water in the ground under the landfill. Contamination from the landfill leaked into the ground, then into this water. The contaminated part of the water forms a plume that looks like a long, cigar-shaped pond under the ground. This is called the groundwater plume.

The contaminated plume is more than two miles long. It moves south from the landfill, past “A” Street, toward the Columbia River. The chemicals in this water are related to the materials disposed at the landfill. Today, treatment systems are helping to remove contamination from the soil, decreasing the level of groundwater contamination, and reducing the size of the groundwater plume (see Figures 1 and 2).

Will the Groundwater Plume Impact My Health?

Based on current scientific information, the groundwater plume should not impact your health.

- ❖ The Groundwater plume is deep under the ground. People do not come into contact with the contaminated groundwater.
- ❖ Drinking water does not come from the groundwater plume. It comes from the City of Pasco’s municipal water supply system.
- ❖ A *groundwater protection area* is outlined that restricts the construction of new wells and limits use of well water within those boundaries. If you have a well in this area and have questions or are concerned about where your drinking water comes from, please contact Rick Dawson of the Benton Franklin Health District at 509/460-4313.

Will the Groundwater Plume Impact the Value of My Home?

There is no evidence available at this time that homes are losing value due to the groundwater plume. New homes have been built along the groundwater plume area. These homes rise or fall in value along with other homes in Pasco based on the local economic and real estate indexes.

Why Haven’t I Heard of the Groundwater Plume?

Ecology developed a mailing list that includes residents who live near the landfill, businesses, local leaders, elected officials, environmental groups and others who are interested. You may have missed a mailing from Ecology because you are a new resident or your home was not on our mailing list. Ecology expanded the Pasco Landfill Site mailing list based on requests made during the community interviews.

Please contact Carol Bergin at Ecology if you want to receive future notices and updates. Carol's contact information is in the box on page one of this fact sheet.

Ecology strives to get information out to the public in a variety of ways. Information is sent at specific stages in the cleanup process to invite the public to comment on documents that guide the cleanup process. Updates are also sent periodically. Notices about the Pasco Landfill site are published in the Tri-City Herald, El Mundo, on Ecology's website, and in Ecology's Site Register.

A public meeting will be held when the Focused Feasibility Study Report is completed early in 2014. The report evaluates options for further cleanup at the landfill site. The public will be notified of this meeting through the methods outlined above.

Why is the New Zone B Landfill Cover Important?



Construction of the New Zone B Cover

In 2002 nearly 5,000 drums of herbicide manufacturing wastes were removed from Zone B. Some contaminants remain in the soil. A temporary cover was placed over the area until a new cover could be installed. The new cover provides several added benefits:

- It prevents people and animals from coming into direct contact with contaminated soils that remain at Zone B.
- It is more protective than the previous temporary cover.
- It prevents water from filtering from the surface into the contaminated soils beneath the cover.

- It includes fencing, signs, and other institutional controls, such as deed restrictions, to address the contamination long-term.
- It meets federal standards.



Zone B Cover and Fencing

Bayer CropScience completed the major work on the new cover in July 2013. The new cover is made up of the following protective layers:

- Several feet of soil material over the original temporary plastic liner.
- A manufactured, low-permeability clay liner.
- A chemical and water-resistant plastic membrane.
- A layer of topsoil approximately three feet thick over the plastic membrane.

What Happens Next?

Ecology anticipates the Focused Feasibility Study Report for this site will go out for review early in 2014. The public will have 30 days to review the reports and provide feedback to Ecology. Ecology will hold a public meeting during the review period to explain the Focused Feasibility Study Report, history of the site, current cleanup technologies being used, and future proposed work.

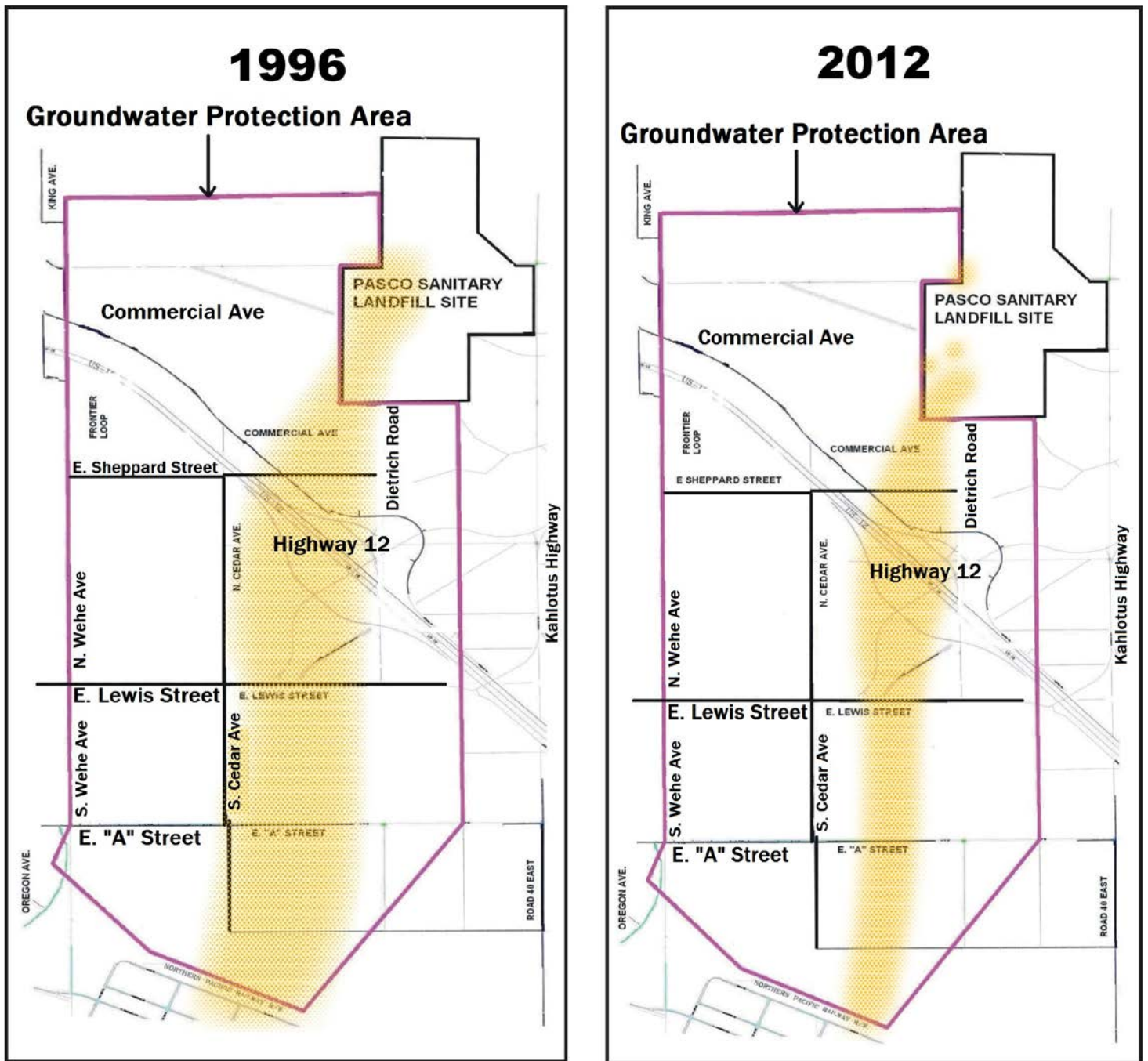


Figure 2

Groundwater Protection Area 

Groundwater Plume 