

Agreed Order for Investigation of Contamination Available for Public Review and Comment

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the Union Ridge Investment Co. are entering into an Agreed Order to begin investigating contamination found on and around a property in Ridgefield. The Agreed Order (legal document) requires Union Ridge Investment Co. to complete the following:

- A Remedial Investigation to define the full nature and extent of contamination. Interim actions (partial cleanup actions) may be taken if necessary to prevent the spread of contamination.
- A Feasibility Study to determine possible cleanup alternatives.
- A draft Cleanup Action Plan outlining the selected cleanup actions.

Ecology Wants Your Input!

Ecology is asking for your comments on the Agreed Order. You are invited to:

- **Review** the Agreed Order document.
- **Send** your comments to Ecology for consideration. **Comments will be accepted September 8 through October 8, 2009.**

What Happens Next?

- Ecology staff will review and consider all comments received during the comment period. All comments and Ecology responses will be summarized in a Responsiveness Summary. This document will be posted online and sent to those who commented. If appropriate, changes will be made to the Agreed Order.
- The Remedial Investigation will begin after the comment period has ended. Once the investigation is complete, a Feasibility Study will examine possible cleanup alternatives.
- A draft Cleanup Action Plan, based on results of the Feasibility Study, will be submitted to Ecology. A 30-day public comment period will be held on this document.

Comments Accepted

September 8 - October 8, 2009

Submit Comments and Technical Questions to:

Guy Barrett,
Site Manager
WA Department of Ecology
SWRO Toxics Cleanup Program
P.O. Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775
Phone: (360) 407-7115
E-mail: gbar461@ecy.wa.gov

Public Involvement Contact:

Meg Bommarito
Phone: (360) 407- 6255
E-mail: mbom461@ecy.wa.gov

Document Review Locations

Ridgefield Library
210 North Main Avenue
Ridgefield, WA 98642-9394
Phone: (360) 887-8281

WA Department of Ecology
Southwest Regional Office
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503

By appointment only:
Contact Debbie Nelson,
dene461@ecy.wa.gov or
(360) 407-6365

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

Facility Site ID # 8100630

- Once the Cleanup Action is finalized, cleanup actions will be taken.

Site Background

The Park Laundry property, located at 122 N. Main Avenue in Ridgefield, was used as a dry cleaners from approximately 1965 to 1977 although the exact dates are not known. During that time, it is suspected that chemicals typically used during dry cleaner operations (volatile organic chemicals) were released to the environment. The property was purchased by Union Ridge Investment Co. in 1979.

Investigations to date have confirmed:

- The presence of tetrachloroethylene (PCE) above state cleanup standards in both soil and groundwater.
- Contamination in groundwater is migrating off property and onto adjacent properties to the north.
- PCE and trichlorethylene (TCE) are present in groundwater samples at two nearby properties.

In 2007, the Ecology referred the property to the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for additional investigations under the federal Superfund Program. In 2008, USEPA conducted a site investigation of the property. After confirming presence of contamination, the site was transferred back to the Department of Ecology for additional investigation and to expedite cleanup.

The property was evaluated by Ecology and has been given a Washington Ranking Method rank of "3" (on a scale of 1 to 5 where "1" represents the highest level of concern). It is now part of the formal cleanup program under the Model Toxics Control Act.

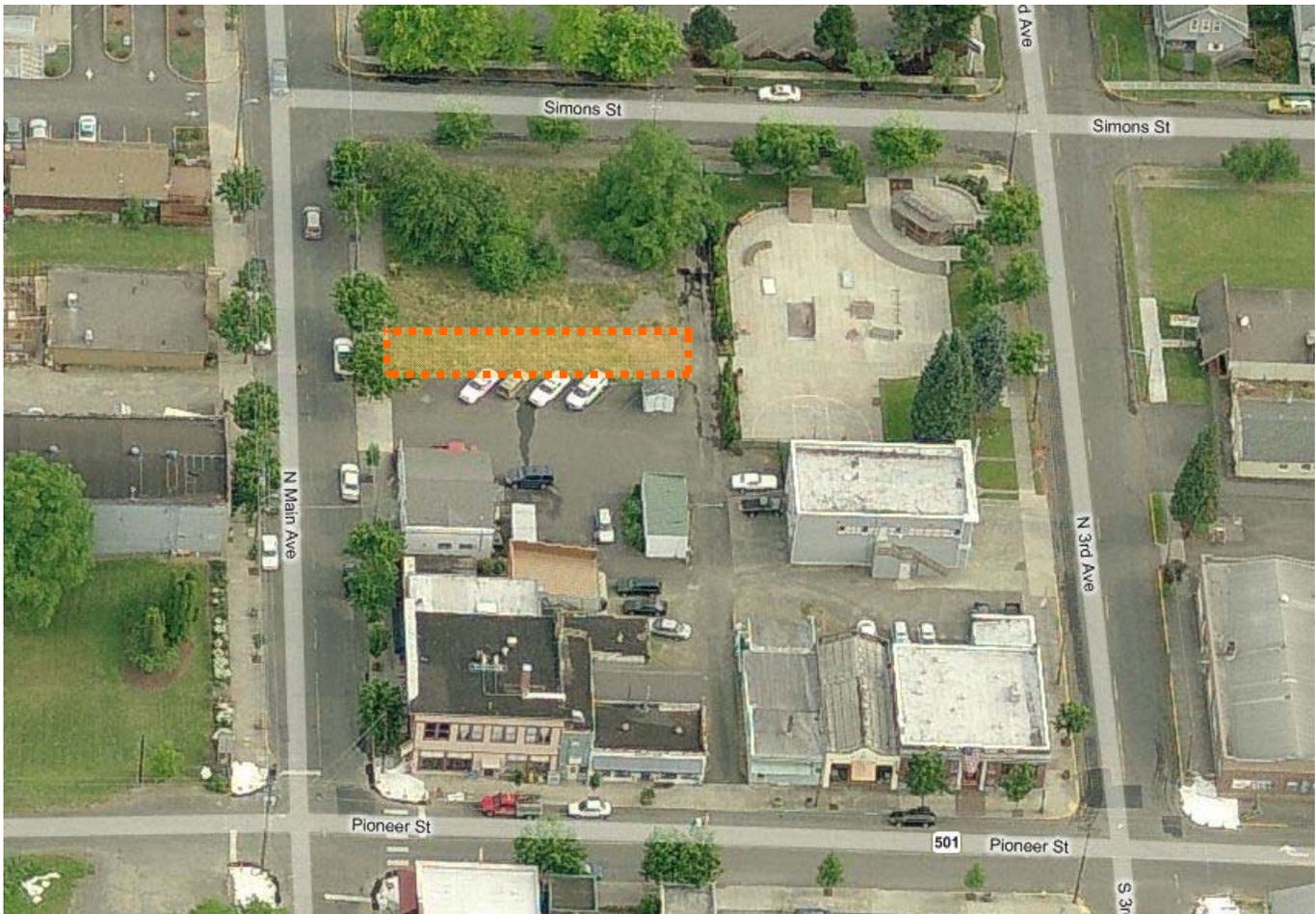


How is a contaminated site cleaned up?

- Site cleanup begins with a **Remedial Investigation (RI) & Feasibility Study (FS)**. The RI is used to determine the type of contamination and the extent. The FS evaluates possible human health and environmental impacts, and examines possible cleanup alternatives.
- Ecology may allow **Interim Actions** to partially clean up a site before the final cleanup plan is complete.
- The **Cleanup Action Plan (CAP)** describes the cleanup methods and how they will meet Ecology's cleanup standards.
- **Cleanup** - Toxic substances are removed from the site, contained on the site, or treated to make them less toxic. Ecology oversees the cleanup and can require that the site be monitored.
- **Delisting** - Ecology keeps track of toxic cleanup sites on the Hazardous Sites List. When the cleanup goals have been reached, sites will be removed from this list.

Public involvement is an important part of the cleanup process. At key stages in the cleanup, documents will be available for public review and comment. For more information about the cleanup process, please visit:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/ftc94129.html>



Park Laundry property, Ridgefield

What is Tetrahydroethylene (PCE)?

Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) is a man-made chemical that is used in dry cleaning operations and to degrease metals. It is also found in some common household products including some paints and spot removers, water repellents, wood cleaners and glues.

People are exposed to PCE mostly through air. PCE is a volatile chemical which means it readily evaporates. PCE can evaporate from dry cleaned clothes and enter indoor air. People can also be exposed by using the products listed above.

The effects of PCE on human health will vary depending on amount and length of exposure. Short-term exposure to high levels may impact the central nervous system. Workers who have a higher level of daily exposure may be more likely to get certain types of cancer. For more information on health impacts, visit <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts18.html>.





DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

PO Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775

Park Laundry Ridgefield, WA

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**Public Comment Period:
September 8 - October 8, 2009**

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