

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

**Park Laundry
122 N Main Avenue
Ridgefield, WA**

Washington State Department of Ecology
Southwest Regional Office
Toxics Cleanup Program
300 Desmond Drive
Olympia, Washington 98504-7775

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INTRODUCTION

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has developed this public participation plan pursuant to the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) and Agreed Order No. DE 6829 to promote meaningful community involvement during the investigation and cleanup of Park Laundry Site. This plan outlines and describes the tools that Ecology uses to inform the public about Site activities and identifies opportunities for the community to become involved.

SITE BACKGROUND

The Park Laundry property, located at 122 N. Main Avenue in Ridgefield, was used as a dry cleaner from approximately 1965 - 77 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 1975.

Investigations on the property to date have confirmed the presence of tetrachloroethene (PCE) above state cleanup standards in both soil and groundwater. It was also discovered that contamination in groundwater is migrating off property and onto adjacent properties to the north. Investigations done in 2002 and 2006 confirmed the presence of PCE and trichlorethene (TCE) in groundwater samples at two nearby properties.

In 2007, the Ecology referred the property to the EPA for additional investigations under the federal Superfund Program. In 2008, US Environmental Protection Agency 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.

CURRENT ACTIVITY

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the Union Ridge Investment Co. are proposing to enter into an Agreed Order to begin investigating contamination found on and around the property in Ridgefield. The Agreed Order (legal document) will require 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.

MODEL TOXICS CONTROL ACT CLEANUP STAGES

The Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) defines each stage of the cleanup process to protect human health and the environment. Figure 2 on page 8 details these stages.

Some steps described in the chart include “agreed orders” or “consent decrees.” These are agreements between Ecology and the parties responsible for cleanup of the pollution. In addition to the steps in the chart, “interim actions” may be taken during steps 1 through 5 (the investigation) to reduce or eliminate pollution that poses an immediate threat to human health or the environment.

The cleanup process is complex. Issues often arise that require more attention or evaluation, and may lead to changes in the steps or schedule. Every effort will be made to keep the public well-informed of changes.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

The purpose of this Public Participation Plan is to promote public understanding and participation in the MTCA activities planned for this Site. This section of the plan addresses how Ecology will share information and receive public comments and community input on the Site activities.

Public Involvement Activities

Ecology uses a variety of activities to facilitate public participation in the investigation and cleanup of MTCA Sites. The following is a list of the public involvement activities that Ecology will use, their purposes, and descriptions of when and how they will be used during this Site cleanup.

Formal Public Comment Periods

Comment periods are the primary method Ecology uses to get feedback from the public on proposed cleanup decisions. Comment periods usually last 30 days and are required under WAC 173-340-600 at certain points during the investigation and cleanup process. See Figure 2 for an outline of cleanup process and information about comment periods.

During a comment period, the public can comment in writing. Verbal comments are taken if a public hearing is held. After formal comment periods, Ecology reviews all comments received and may respond in a document called a Responsiveness Summary.

Ecology will consider the need for changes or revisions based on input from the public. If significant changes are made, then a second comment period may be held. If no significant changes are made, then the draft document(s) will be finalized.

Public comment periods will be held for draft remedial investigation/feasibility study reports, draft cleanup action plans, future agreed orders or consent decrees that are developed for the Site.

Public Meetings and Hearings

Public meetings may be held during the investigation and cleanup process as required by WAC 173-340-600. Ecology also may offer public meetings for actions expected to be of particular interest to the community. These meetings will be held at locations convenient to the community. If 10 or more people request a public meeting, one will be scheduled. Otherwise, meetings will be scheduled as needed.

Information Repositories

Information repositories are places where the public may read and review Site information, including documents that are the subject of public comment. Ecology has established three repositories for the Park Laundry cleanup project. Documents available for public review and comment can be found here:

- Washington State Department of Ecology, Southwest Regional Office, 300 Desmond Drive, Lacey, WA 98516. Please call (360) 407-6045 for an appointment.
- Ridgefield Library, 210 North Main Avenue, Ridgefield, WA 98642-9394. Phone: (360) 887-8281.
- Ecology's Web Site, http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/parkLaundry/parkLaundry_hp.html

Site Register

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program uses its bimonthly *Site Register* to announce all of its public meetings and comment periods, as well as many other activities. To receive the *Site Register* in electronic or hard copy format, contact Linda Thompson at (360) 407-6069 or by e-mail at Ltho461@ecy.wa.gov. It is also available on Ecology's web Site at http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/pub_inv/pub_inv2.html

Mailing List

Ecology has compiled a mailing list for the Site. The list includes individuals, groups, public agencies, elected officials, private businesses, potentially affected parties, and other known interested parties. The list will be maintained at Ecology's Southwest Regional Office and will be updated as needed.

Please contact Meg Bommarito at (360) 407-6255 or mbom461@ecy.wa.gov if you would like to have your address added to or deleted from this mailing list.

Fact Sheets

Ecology will mail fact sheets to persons and organizations interested in the Park Laundry cleanup project to inform them of public meetings and comment opportunities and important Site activities. Ecology also may mail fact sheets about the progress of Site activities.

Newspaper Display Ads

Ecology may place ads in *The Columbian* to announce public comment periods and public meetings or hearings for the Site.

Plan Update

This public participation plan may be updated as the project proceeds. If an update is necessary, and constitutes a substantial change in the plan, it will be announced via site register and the web site.

Points of Contact

If you have questions or need more information about this plan or the Park Laundry cleanup project, please contact the following:

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Figure 1. Park Laundry Site location.

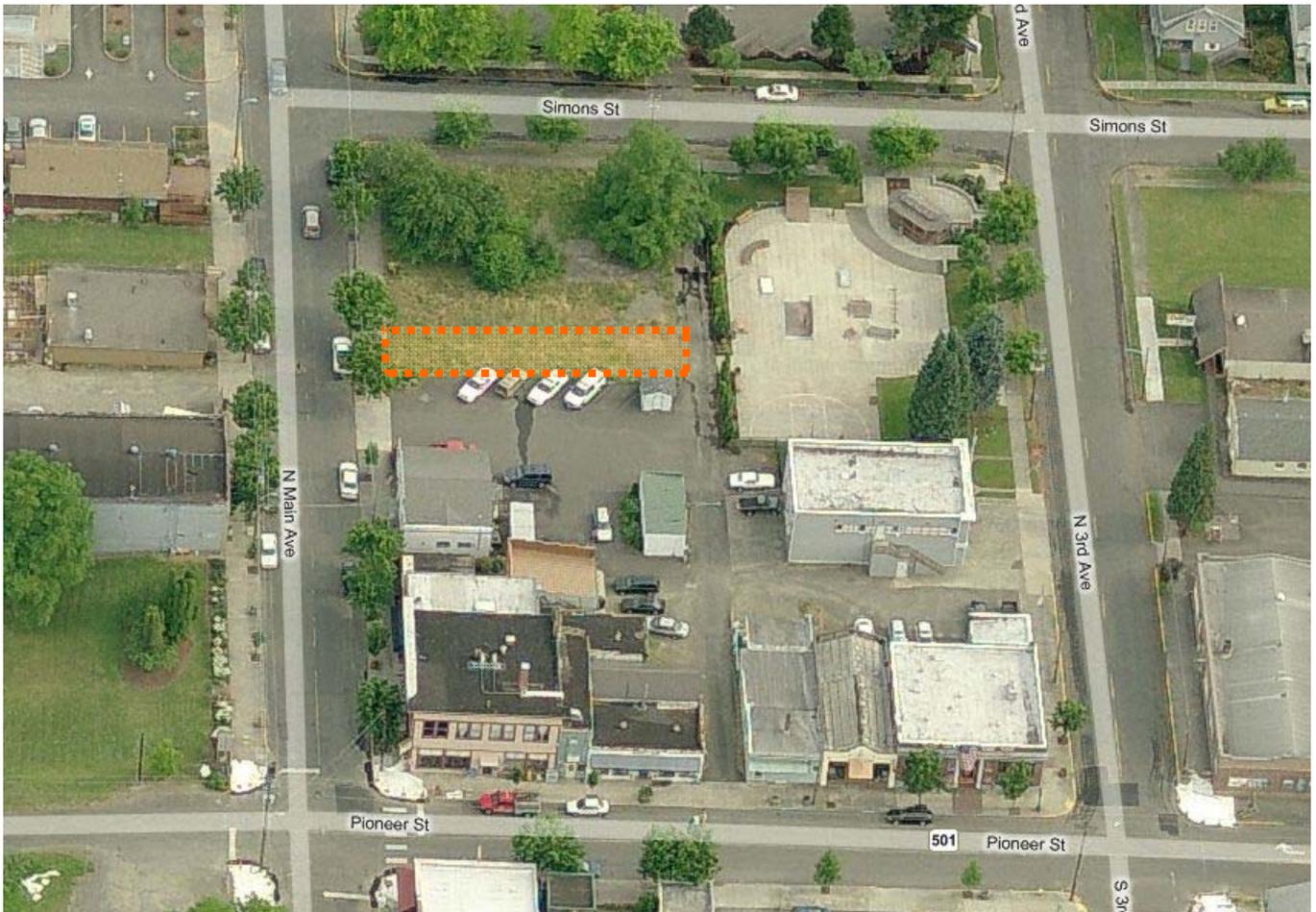


Figure 2. Steps in the Model Toxics Control Act Cleanup Process.

