

## Agreed Order for a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study Available for Public Review and Comment

### Cleaning up contamination

Ecology and NuStar Terminals Operations Partnership L.P. (a subsidiary of NuStar Energy L.P.) (NuStar) are entering into an Agreed Order (legal agreement) to begin cleanup of contamination at the ST Services NuStar Energy LP Tank Farm (NuStar Tank Farm) site in northwest Vancouver. The Agreed Order requires NuStar to:

- Complete a Remedial Investigation to determine nature and extent of contamination.
- Complete a Feasibility Study to examine cleanup options.
- Monitor groundwater for chemical contaminants.

### Ecology Wants Your Input!

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

- **Review** the Agreed Order to begin cleanup of contamination.
- **Send** your comments to Ecology for consideration. **Comments will be accepted August 18 – September 18, 2008.**

### Site Background

The site property, 5420 NW Fruit Valley Road, has been used for storing and handling petroleum products since it was developed in 1957. In 2001, then-owners Cenex discovered evidence of petroleum contaminated soils while shutting down an underground gasoline vapor recovery tank. Also in 2001, a gasoline spill from an underground storage tank was reported to Ecology.

Benzene and other petroleum chemicals have been documented at levels above state cleanup standards in groundwater. See page 2 for information about the contaminants found on the site.

The site was added to Ecology's database of "Confirmed and Suspected Contaminated Sites" in 2005. Based on a site hazard assessment conducted in 2006, the site was given a Washington Ranking Method risk rank of 2 (a rank of 1 indicates the greatest risk to hu-

### Comments Accepted

August 18 through  
September 18, 2008

### Submit Comments and Technical Questions to:

Rod Schmall, Site Manager  
WA Department of Ecology  
SWRO Toxics Cleanup Program  
Vancouver Field Office  
2108 Grand Boulevard  
Vancouver, WA 98661  
Phone: (360) 690- 4798  
E-mail: rosc461@ecy.wa.gov

### Public Involvement Contact:

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

### Document Review Locations

**Fort Vancouver Regional Library**  
1007 E. Mill Plain Blvd.  
Vancouver, WA 98663  
(360) 695-1561

**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://ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/stSvcNuStar/EnergyLP\\_hp.htm](http://ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/stSvcNuStar/EnergyLP_hp.htm)

man health and the environment. A rank of 5 indicates the lowest risk).

In 2008, it was confirmed that contaminants are within the boundaries of the NuStar property and are contained below the surface. The levels of contaminants have decreased significantly since their discovery. However, some contaminants remain above MTCA cleanup standards.

### What Happens Next?

Ecology will consider public comment on the proposed Agreed Order and the order will be changed if necessary. Results of the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study will guide the selection of the final cleanup remedy.

### What is an Agreed Order?

An **Agreed Order** is a legal agreement between Ecology and the Potentially Liable Parties (PLPs). It ensures cleanup activities are conducted in a timely fashion and comply with the **Washington Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)** and other applicable laws and regulations. **The purpose of the document is to protect human health and the environment.**

### Contaminants at the NuStar Tank Farm Site

Petroleum and gasoline products containing a number of different toxic chemicals were released to the environment. Several chemicals have been detected above MTCA levels in both soil and groundwater. The main chemicals of concern are:

- ▶ **Benzene:** Benzene is a colorless liquid that can evaporate quickly in air and can dissolve in water. It is one of the top 20 chemicals produced in the United States, and is also found naturally in crude oil. Industrial processes are the main source of benzene in the environment. For more information, visit <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts3.html>
- ▶ **Methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE):** MTBE, a colorless liquid that dissolves easily in water, has been used as a fuel additive since 1979 to improve the performance of fuel. For more information, visit <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts91.html>
- ▶ **Toluene:** Toluene occurs naturally in crude oil but is also created during the fuel production process. It is used to make a wide range of products including paints, adhesives and paint thinners. For more information, visit <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts56.html#bookmark02>.
- ▶ **Xylene:** Xylene is found naturally in petroleum and coal tar but is also produced from petroleum. It is one of the top 30 chemicals produced in the United States and is often used as a solvent in various industries. In gasoline, it is found in very small amounts. For more information, visit <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts71.html#bookmark02>.
- ▶ **Naphthalene:** Naphthalene is produced by burning tobacco or wood. It is used commercially to create plastics and in homes to repel moths (moth balls). Naphthalene can be found in petroleum and coal. For more information, visit <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts67.html>.

**NuStar Tank Farm Site location**



