



**Responsiveness Summary for the  
Hansville Landfill Site  
Hansville, WA**

**Public Comment Period  
March 9 through April 8, 2009**

**May 6, 2009**

**Washington State Department of Ecology  
Northwest Regional Office  
3190-160<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE  
Bellevue, Washington 98008**

## **Introduction**

A public comment period was held March 9-April 8, 2009 on the Hansville Landfill Feasibility Study (FS). Details of the site and documents are available at the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) website:

[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/hansville/hansville\\_hp.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/hansville/hansville_hp.htm)

Ecology received five responses to the public notice for the Hansville Landfill FS, three by email and two by phone.

## **Emails**

### **Email from Paul and Marianna Smyth:**

Hi Mr. Keeling,

After reading the informational brochure the Department of Ecology sent out I had a few comments. If at all possible I think we should leave the site capped. The items found in the soil and water are diminishing as you found and if moved would have to be put in someone else's back yard. In moving, there is a chance of a large movement of substances, during clean up, at well above acceptable levels. With current testing abilities the levels can be detected to a level so much lower than in the past. This typically alarms the general public when really there is no need to be alarmed. There is a point when these things are acceptable and not a hazard. This is where good discretion has to be used and trusted. This is our garbage and we are, and should be, responsible for it.

Aren't some of these substances given orally for good health? (Does/Is the general public made aware of this? It is obvious they don't look into it themselves.)

Sincerely,

Paul Smyth  
Marianna Smyth  
Smyth Lumber Mill  
PO Box 393  
Indianola, WA 98342  
(360) 598-3262 - Phone  
(360) 598-6823 - Fax  
[cedar.4u@comcast.net](mailto:cedar.4u@comcast.net) – Email

**Ecology's Reply to Paul and Marianna Smyth:**

Dear Mr. and Ms. Smyth,

The landfill will remain capped as you suggest.

In answer to your question about the contaminants yes, some of the contaminants such as iron and manganese are micro-nutrients, however others such as arsenic and the halogenated organics are not, and as far as ecology knows, play no positive role in human nutrition. Public education in toxicology or nutrition is beyond both Ecology's role and its expertise. Adding that information to the FS would be difficult and confusing.

Sincerely,

John Keeling  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
Toxics Cleanup Program

---

**Email from Mr. Alex Kuehl:**

Dear Mr. Keeling -

I came across the news release about the Public Comment Period in regards to the Hansville Ecology seeking input on the draft Feasibility Study for the Hansville Landfill.

I truly believe that our software can be of great help in regards to this project, and other projects like this one. It can save you a tremendous amount of time and money, and will greatly improve the entire public commenting process.

At [CommentManagement.com](http://CommentManagement.com), we understand how important it is for those who are affected by a decision like this one to have a way of getting involved and expressing their needs and interests. Communicating those needs and interests, as well as delivering consistent and accurate feedback to those needs and interests, is crucial.

[CommentManagement.com](http://CommentManagement.com)'s software, Confer, is a web-based comment management application that assists you throughout the entire comment and response life-cycle. It is the best solution out in the market today, and it can save your business or organization a tremendous amount of time and money every year by streamlining the public involvement process.

From private industry to the federal government, public involvement and public participation are essential for communication. Whether your next public involvement project is for a large nationwide environmental impact statement (EIS) or for a product or service available from the private industry, Confer can help insure success. As you well know, many times feedback and comments can number into the hundreds, if not thousands, of letters and other correspondence. This can quickly lead to "information

overload". What are the people concerned about? What issues were raised? These questions can be difficult to answer, unless you're using Confer.

Here are just a few of the features which Confer offers:

- Mining important information that can be utilized for improving business processes and quality
- Providing a consistent and accurate message to the public
- Integrated work flow, reducing much of the burden of managing a comment and response project
- On-line comment identification and markup
- Comments and issues get routed to the appropriate subject matter experts for responses
- Extensive reporting, graphs and charts generated from project data
- Custom comment capturing website, skinned to look like your project site. This feature alone can save your project an incredible amount of time and money
- and much more

Our product, Confer, is offered as a "Software as a Service". That means you don't need an IT staff to install and maintain the application. You don't need to purchase servers or software. You just need a computer with internet access. And we're available 24/7/365, whether you're at the office, at home, or on the road. Your complete satisfaction is truly our #1 goal. We want you as a client. But even more importantly, we want you as a repeat client as well as a reference.

Confer is simply the best product of its kind on the market. And it's also priced right. If you would like to more about our products and services, and how we can help your business, please do not hesitate to contact us. We also invite you to visit our website located at [www.commentmanagement.com](http://www.commentmanagement.com).

We look forward to serving you!

Alex Kuehl  
Business Development Director

CommentManagement.com  
PO Box 3061  
St. Augustine, FL 32085-3061  
Toll Free: (877) 767-8696  
Direct: (904) 240-4738  
E-mail: [alex.kuehl@commentmanagement.com](mailto:alex.kuehl@commentmanagement.com)

**Ecology's Reply to Mr. Alex Kuehl:**

Dear Mr. Kuehl,

Ecology only received five comments on the Hansville Landfill FS. Ecology feels it can handle this volume of comments manually without too much trouble. I did pass your email on to our public involvement specialists, so they are aware of the existence of your product, and they have the address of your web site.

Sincerely,

John Keeling  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
Toxics Cleanup Program

---

**Email from Ms. Jean Latham and Mr. Bob Latham**

John Keeling,

My comments are early, but this is when I have time to write.

Alternative #2 seems like a reasonable choice. But, since the previous capping seems to be adequately working, I am not in favor of spending more \$ on enhanced monitoring or enhanced Institutional controls.

Jean Latham  
Bob Latham

**Ecology's Reply to Ms. Jean Latham and Mr. Bob Latham**

Dear Ms. Jean Latham and Mr. Bob Latham,

The reason that Hansville Landfill is required to cleanup under the Model Toxics Control Act is that the present cap isn't working as well as is required and contamination is leaving the site and impacting groundwater.

Institutional controls and motoring are the most cost effective controls that could be found.

The Model Toxics Control Act, Chapter 173-340 RCW, is Washington State's Cleanup Regulation . It was passed by citizen initiative in 1989. You can download a copy at, <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/9406.pdf> .

Sincerely,

John Keeling  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
Toxics Cleanup Program

---

### Phone Calls

#### **Phone Call from Ms. Gloria Doyle:**

Ms. Gloria Doyle called Ecology and described a problem with her well water. Ecology discussed the problem with her, and then sent the following reply by mail.

#### **Ecology's Reply to Ms. Gloria Doyle:**

Dear Ms Doyle,

First I don't believe your well is being impacted by Hansville Landfill. It is too far from the landfill to be influenced unless there was a preferred pathway such as utility trench running from near the landfill to near your well.

I have discussed your problem with Grant Holdcroft from Kitsap County he informs me that your well is within 1000-feet of a landfill, not Hansville landfill but another closed landfill, so your problems might be caused by that landfill. In my experience landfill methane doesn't dissolve in groundwater at atmospheric pressure. However, your description of how your water flashes when exposed to a flame shows something is clearly amiss. Mr. Holdcroft contacted some of the well drillers in your area and found that several of your neighbors have had the same problem. I really don't know why your area is affected, but the problem is common enough in coal mining areas that commercially available methane removal systems exist, and your local well driller could probably install one. Your problem with color and, I assume, taste and odor should be evaluated, and your well water tested, especially for arsenic and vinyl chloride. Mr. Holdcroft can help you there. His contact information is:

Mr. Grant Holdcroft  
Bremerton Kitsap Co. Health District  
345 6th St suite 300  
Bremerton, WA 98337-1866

If you have any questions, please contact me, either by mail, by email at [jkee461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:jkee461@ecy.wa.gov), or by phone at (425) 649-7052.

Sincerely,

John Keeling  
Washington State Department of Ecology

**Phone call from Mr. Noah Israel and Ecology's reply:**

Nancy Lui, a Department of Ecology-Toxics Cleanup Program Community Outreach Specialist received a call from Mr. Israel. I replied by phone, and discussed the Hansville closure with Mr. Israel. Mr. Israel's primary concern was the possibility of finding a beneficial use for the landfill gas generated at Hansville. I explained that Hansville landfill was too small and too old to generate methane in commercially useable quantities. Additionally, use of the landfill gas is not required by any law administered by the Department of Ecology. Ecology does however encourage the use of landfill gas and is a member of EPA's Landfill Methane Outreach Program. Mr. Israel also sent an email without text but which included these web sites: [www.godstreamtech.com](http://www.godstreamtech.com) and [www.lakearmstrongcreek.com](http://www.lakearmstrongcreek.com).