



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS** 2221 Pacific Street, Bellingham, WA 98229  
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January 27, 2010

Barnett Automotive  
2010 Pacific Street  
Bellingham, WA 98229

**Re: Local Source Control Site Visit**

Dear Doug & Carrie:

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to meet with me on January 7th. I enjoyed meeting you and hearing about your business. The following letter summarizes observations and recommendations from our visit. If you have any questions or comments related to the content of this letter, please give me a call.

Based on our recent visit, it appears that you are doing a great job managing your business in a manner to reduce impacts to the environment. Your willingness to meet with me and your desire to improve practices are commendable.

There were only a few suggestions that I wanted to reiterate at this time, as discussed during our walk- thru of and around your shop. These are summarized by topic below.

**Spills**

I have enclosed guidance on how to better prepare for spills of hazardous materials, should they occur. Please use the emergency response sheet to post important contact information in areas where chemicals or bulk waste materials are stored. You mentioned that you do not mop your floors, and that you spot clean spills with shop rags that are laundered for re-use. This is a great practice as it removes the potential for contaminated water to be discharged to the City's sewer system. If larger spills should occur, absorbent materials can be used to soak up the spill and as long as the materials are not dripping with oil, the absorbents may be placed in bags and disposed of in the regular garbage. Solvents or other related hazardous chemical spills should be wiped up with shop rags that can be laundered for reuse.

**Parts Washer**

You mentioned during our visit that you clean the soiled water out of your CUDA parts washer every six months. Manufacturer recommendations are to remove soiled water every 2 months or as often as needed to maintain the system without the accumulation of sludge or excessive turbidity. If sludges remain in the system they become concentrated with metals over time and can become hazardous. As long as the water is replaced regularly, it may be disposed of in your utility sink or toilet. I would strongly recommend that you call Phoenix Environmental if you notice that sludge has accumulated in the bottom of the tank, to see if they can remove and dispose of the sludge and water for you as this waste could be hazardous.

**Cameron Motors Oil/Water Separator**

We visited the car dealership located at 1407 Iowa, where you stated that water from your parts washer was being disposed into the separator on site. The City inspection record on file for this location shows a PVC ball valve located near the back of the building. The purpose of this valve is to allow water to flow from the "separator" to the City's sewer system when in the "on" or "open" position. Observation of this separator revealed that it is in fact a grit chamber, and not an oil/water separator as depicted in the diagram. This means that though oil will still separate and float to the top, instead of being retained in the chamber, it will float out the pipe (which is located near the top of the chamber) and on to the sewer. When not in use, or in the open position, water added to this chamber will eventually overflow the chamber (it was nearly full at the time of our inspection) and eventually make its way to the parking lot and into the storm water catch basin located in the center of the lot. Any oily or hazardous components in this water could potentially make their way to Whatcom Creek, where they could be detrimental to plants and wildlife. Please discontinue your use of this chamber for disposal purposes.

**Blasting Cabinet**

According to the Department of Ecology, spent sand blasting grit or dust from a blasting cabinet could designate as a dangerous waste due to metals found in paints and on soiled or rusty parts that are cleaned by this process. Prior to disposal as solid waste, this material should be tested by an analytical lab to determine if it contains hazardous components. The designation process can be expensive and time consuming, so the assumption is often made that the waste is hazardous and should be handled by a licensed contractor. If you do have the material tested, and results show that it is not hazardous, and you continue to use your blasting cabinet in the same manner (generating the same or similar waste) you may dispose of this spent sand or grit as solid waste. Please refer to Page 19, Step 1, in the Department of Ecology publication "A Guide For Automotive Repair Shops" for a description of how to designate your waste.

If you would like more information on the designation process, please give me a call, or call the Department of Ecology directly for guidance. Scott Lamb, of the Department of Ecology's Northwest Regional Office, has been working with auto repair shops and other related business sectors for many years and would be a good contact for you. Scott can be reached at (425) 649-7268.

**Batteries**

Please obtain a tub or secondary containment pallet for storage of your used batteries awaiting pick up by a recycler. Secondary containment will reduce the risk of lead leaking out of the batteries and onto the floor.

**Fluorescent Light Bulbs**

Fluorescent light bulbs contain mercury and thus should not be disposed of into the regular garbage. Please collect these in a suitable container or box and dispose of them through your contractor or at the Disposal of Toxics facility on Airport Way.

I may not have addressed every regulation or law that applies to your facility during our visit. It is ultimately your responsibility to satisfy all the requirements your business may be subject to, whether or not it was included in our checklist. Please feel free to contact me regarding anything listed above, or if you have questions about environmental or regulatory issues that I did not address.

I have asked the Chamber of Commerce to add Barnett Automotive to their list of businesses who have participated in the Local Source Control program. To view this list, go to "Hot Topics" on their web site, <http://www.bellingham.com/>, and choose the "Local Source Control Partnerships" link.

Thank you again! I enjoyed meeting you.

Sincerely,

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