
Greenacres Landfill Enforcement Order



Fact Sheet December 1998

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is issuing an Enforcement Order (Order) to the Liberty Lake Land Company, LLC to satisfy the requirements of the Final Cleanup Action Plan (FCAP) at the Greenacres Landfill Site and the regulations set forth in the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) Chapter 173-340-440.

The Order requires Liberty Lake Land Company, LLC to place appropriate institutional controls on their property, which lies over the groundwater contaminant plume coming from the Greenacres Landfill. Ecology believes that the institutional controls are necessary to protect human health and the environment. Institutional control language was provided to Liberty Lake Land Company, LLC.

Ecology invites the public to review and comment on the Enforcement Order. Public comments will be accepted December 22, 1998 through January 22, 1999. The shaded box at the right indicates where information is available and comments may be submitted.

SITE BACKGROUND

The Greenacres Landfill Site (Site) is located approximately 14 miles east of the City of Spokane in Spokane County, Washington. As shown in Figure 1, the Site is located mostly within Section 16 and portions of Section 21, Township 25 North, Range 45 East, Willamette Meridian (W.M.). The Site covers approximately 50 acres and is situated in a former ravine that merges with the Spokane Valley to the north. Underlying the Spokane Valley is the Spokane-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. This aquifer was designated as a "Sole Source Aquifer" in 1978 and provides the drinking water for approximately 400,000 people in Spokane County.

The Site was reportedly used for dumping through the late 1940's. In 1951, the Site was deeded to Greenacres Township for use as a municipal landfill. The Greenacres Township operated the Site as a municipal landfill from 1950 to 1967. The township form of government was dissolved and Spokane County assumed operation of the landfill in 1967. Spokane County operated the landfill from 1967 until 1972 when the landfill was filled to capacity and closed.

During a ground water quality monitoring survey in 1978 a nearby residential well, located approximately 600 feet downhill from the landfill boundary, was found to be contaminated. Additional testing completed in 1980 indicated the presence of volatile organic compounds in the well. In 1984 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) placed the Site on the

National Priorities List (NPL). In 1985 EPA conducted a preliminary investigation of the Site at which time three ground water monitoring wells were installed. Monitoring data collected by EPA and Ecology indicated the Site was the source of contamination observed in the residential well and the two downgradient monitoring wells. The data further showed that hazardous substances or contaminants were being released into groundwater of the state. These contaminants include volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds and metals.

EPA and Ecology agreed in 1985 that Ecology would assume lead agency status. A Memorandum of Agreement between the EPA and Ecology executed in 1989 gave Ecology responsibility for all aspects of the remedial investigation, feasibility study, remedial design, remedial action and community relations activities at state lead Superfund sites. The agreement specified that all activities at state lead NPL sites such as Greenacres Landfill would be completed under state authorities. In 1985, Ecology initiated remedial investigation activities at the Site, undertaking and completing a community relations plan, a seismic refraction survey, a hydrologic budget, and a detailed remedial investigation work plan.

In 1988, Spokane County began conducting a Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study (RI/FS), under Consent Order 87-0926 at the Site. The purpose of the Remedial Investigation was to determine the nature and extent of the release of hazardous substances at the Site. The purpose of the Feasibility Study was to identify, develop, evaluate, and select cleanup alternatives, which are consistent with a permanent remedy to prevent or minimize the release, or threatened release, of hazardous substances from the Site.

The RI/FS was completed in 1991. The results of the investigation confirmed earlier data that leachate from the landfill is contaminating underlying alluvial and bedrock aquifers with volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds and metals. In addition, low levels of volatile organic gases were detected on-site and off-site during sampling of landfill soil gas. Following a public hearing and additional opportunity for public review and comment, Ecology completed the Final Cleanup Action Plan (FCAP) for the Site on December 21, 1992. Ecology and Spokane County entered into formal Consent Decree negotiations on April 14, 1993 to implement the FCAP. Consent Decree negotiations for the implementation of the Cleanup Action Plan failed to reach consensus and were terminated after one year. Ecology issued Enforcement Order No. DE 94TC-E101 to Spokane County which required the County to implement the Cleanup Action Plan.

Spokane County has conducted ground water monitoring in accordance with the 1994 Enforcement Order from the period of May 1994 to present. The groundwater monitoring program showed that volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds, and select metals are present in several monitoring wells above cleanup levels established for the Site. In addition, Spokane County conducted indoor air sampling of a nearby residence in accordance with the 1994 Enforcement Order in September 1994. Ecology and Spokane County negotiated a Consent Decree to implement the Cleanup Action Plan. The Consent Decree was filed in Spokane County Court in December 1997. The Consent Decree between Ecology and Spokane County replaced the Enforcement Order No. 94TC-E101 issued in 1994. Liberty Lake Land Company elected not to be a signatory to the Consent Decree.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

A Cleanup Action Report for the Greenacres Landfill remedial action will be submitted to Ecology. Ecology will finalize the report and make the report available for a thirty-day public review and comment period. Groundwater monitoring will continue on a quarterly basis.

ECOLOGY WANTS YOUR COMMENTS!

The public comment period is an opportunity to have your ideas and comments heard by Ecology. You may review and comment on the Greenacres Landfill Enforcement Order December 22, 1998 through January 22, 1999. Copies of these documents are located at the repositories listed in the shaded box on page one.

Written comments will be accepted at any time during this period and should be addressed to Mr. William Fees, Site Manager, at the address listed below. Ecology will review all written comments submitted on the Enforcement Order. A Responsiveness Summary of the comments will be prepared, if appropriate, and made available for public review at the information repositories listed on page one. If necessary, Ecology will revise the Order based on public comments received.

To review additional Site documents available in Ecology's Eastern Regional Office, contact Mary Gaddy at (509) 456-2727 to schedule an appointment.

A Regional Citizen's Advisory Committee member may also be contacted for general information or discussion of regional environmental issues. You may contact Phil at (509) 327-3032.

However, Technical questions and formal comments regarding the Greenacres Landfill Site should be addressed to Mr. William Fees at the address and number shown below.

REPOSITORIES:

**Spokane Public Library
906 West Main
Spokane, WA 99201
Spokane County Public Library
12004 East Main Avenue
Spokane, WA 99206-5193**

**Department of Ecology
Eastern Regional Office
4601 N. Monroe
Spokane, WA 99205-1295**

For more information and/or submission of comments, please contact:

**Mr. William Fees
Department of Ecology
Toxics Cleanup Program
4601 N. Monroe
Spokane, WA 99205-1295
(509) 329-3400 or**

1-800-826-7716

[e-mail: wfee461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:wfee461@ecy.wa.gov)

Please include name and address if you wish your comment to be formally considered.

MAILING LIST: If you are currently not on the Greenacres Landfill mailing list and want to be, please call Carol Bergin of Ecology at (509) 456-6360 or toll free at 1-800-826-7716.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE ENFORCEMENT ORDER:

December 22, 1998 through January 22, 1999.
