



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Northwest Regional Office • 3190 160th Avenue SE • Bellevue, Washington 98008-5452 • (425) 649-7000

December 13, 2004

Dear Community Member,

RE: Site Update, Landsburg Mine site, Ravensdale, Washington

We have heard from many individuals and interested parties regarding contamination at the Landsburg Mine cleanup site. Ecology appreciates the significant community interest in this cleanup process. This letter provides a status report on the site, and updates our January 2004 fact sheet (available on the internet at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/0409001.pdf>). We plan to update you in the future as the process moves along.

Background: The Landsburg Mine site was an underground coal mine located about 1.5 miles northwest of Ravensdale, and about 500 feet south of the Cedar River in southeast King County. The mine site occupies property owned by Palmer Coking Coal Company and the Plum Creek Timber Company, L.P. Mining occurred at the site from the 1940s to the 1970s. In the late 1960s and 1970s, the northern portion of a subsidence trench located above the former mine was used for the disposal of industrial wastes.

The Department of Ecology negotiated a legal agreement with the potentially liable persons (PLP) Group to investigate the extent of contamination and develop cleanup options for the site (called a remedial investigation and feasibility study). The PLP group then conducted the remedial investigation and feasibility study, which Ecology made available for public comment in 1996. The PLP group proposed a draft consent decree to Ecology in 1997, to be negotiated between the Department of Ecology and the PLP group for a site cleanup action plan.

In November 2002, Ecology reviewed the proposed draft of the cleanup action plan submitted by the PLP Group. Ecology has not proceeded with the completion of the draft cleanup action plan in order to evaluate technical concerns raised by the City of Kent regarding protection of the city-owned Clark Spring watershed located approximately half a mile from the south end of the former mine. The City has requested further investigation of the contaminants and hydrogeologic characterization of the site and a re-evaluation of the PLP Group's cleanup alternative.

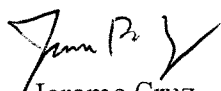
Recent Developments: In September 2004, Ecology met with representatives from the City of Kent, PLP Group, and stakeholder groups to discuss technical regarding the degree of knowledge of the site hydrogeology and contamination. The City requested a supplemental investigation to further characterize site conditions and hydrogeology. Last month Ecology met with City of Kent Mayor Jim White and public works staff to further address the city's concerns about the safety of Clark Spring watershed and their request for a supplemental investigation. Ecology agreed to a deadline to make a decision on the City's request. The draft cleanup action plan remains on hold as we address these important concerns.



Next Steps: Ecology is working hard to bring a timely resolution to any potential contamination issues at this site. The complex technical issues that merit evaluation require careful and thoughtful analysis by Ecology's technical staff. Ecology will make a decision on the city's request for a supplemental analysis on or before January 3, 2005. We will then update you on this decision and the status of the overall cleanup process. The consent decree and associated cleanup action plan will be made available for public review and comment at a later time. The time needed to reach this step will depend on the time needed to complete the supplemental investigation, if approved by Ecology.

Thank you for your participation and continued interest in this cleanup effort as we work toward a solution that protects public health and the environment. If you have any questions about this update or the overall cleanup process, please contact the Site Manager at (425) 649-7094, or email at jcr461@ecy.wa.gov. For information about public involvement for this site or to be added to the mailing list, contact Justine Asohmbom, Public Involvement Coordinator, at (425) 649-7135 or by email at juas461@ecy.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerome Cruz", with a large checkmark-like flourish at the end.

Jerome Cruz
Site Manager