



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

106 South 6th Ave. • Yakima, Washington 98902-3387 • (509) 575-2490

August 18, 1994

David Plesha
Asst. Superintendent
Sunnyside School District
1110 South 10th Street
Sunnyside, WA 98944

FILE COPY
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Re: Ranking of Outlook Elementary School

Dear Mr. Plesha:

This is to inform you that the Department of Ecology (Ecology) has completed its revision of the Washington Ranking Method (WARM) ranking matrix, as proposed in the March 8, 1994 Special Issue of the Site Register. Those hazardous sites where there is actual, or a high potential for, drinking water contamination will receive a higher WARM ranking.

This revision has been done in response to legislative direction that Ecology give higher priority to actual/potential drinking water contamination. The WARM, as previously issued, did not give the highest rankings to sites where groundwater was the only affected pathway. However, these sites have been noted on Ecology's Hazardous Sites List as having groundwater as the only affected pathway, and that Ecology could choose to give them higher priority where drinking water was affected.

As a result of this matrix revision, your site, previously ranked 5, will now rank a 3. Changes in rankings due to this revision will be published in the August 23, 1994 Special Issue of the Site Register.

What does this new ranking mean for you?

- There will be no effect if remedial action (cleanup) is already underway at your site. The new ranking will better reflect the priority which Ecology has given this site.
- For those sites currently awaiting cleanup, an increase in site ranking will normally result in the site receiving higher priority from Ecology in terms of initiating remedial action.

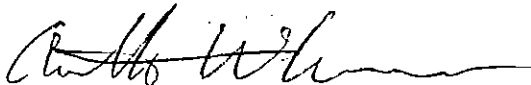
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What does an increase in Ecology's priority mean for you?

- Ecology has been directed by the Legislature to ensure that those sites currently being worked on are of the highest priority in terms of all sites known by the department. Priority for initiating cleanup is set by the WARM ranking, along with consideration of many other site-specific factors.
- An increase in your site's priority normally will mean that it has moved up the list of those sites awaiting cleanup, and that it will receive increased attention from the department in seeing that this cleanup does occur.
- Ecology prefers, and encourages, cleanups initiated by those owners/operators responsible for the contamination. This can be accomplished through cleanups totally independent of Ecology approval/oversight (independent cleanups), or through formal negotiated agreements, with Ecology oversight, such as consent decrees or agreed orders.
- Where cleanup actions cannot be achieved expeditiously through the above, an Ecology-initiated administrative order (enforcement order) will be issued, requiring cleanup activities by the responsible party without a negotiated agreement.

Please call Jim Chulos at (509) 454-7294 if you have any questions about the above described options for initiating cleanup of your site. Please call Michael Spencer at (206) 407-7195 if you have any questions/comments about your site ranking change.

Sincerely,



Anthony W. Grover
Section Manager
Toxics Cleanup Program

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cc: Jim Chulos
Michael Spencer