
Former Able Pest Control 62nd Avenue Property, Kenmore



Cleanup of contaminated soil at residential site to begin summer 2000

Comment period:
May 30 to June 27, 2000

Ecology issues draft Agreed Order to implement Cleanup Action Plan

The Washington State Department of Ecology has proposed a legal agreement with the current and former owners of the former Able Pest Control site, also referred to as the 62nd Avenue Property, that requires the cleanup of soil containing pesticides in amounts exceeding Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) residential cleanup standards. This site is ranked "2" on the state's Hazardous Sites List (1 is the highest assessed risk and 5 the lowest).

The legal agreement, called an *Agreed Order*, is used to implement the Cleanup Action Plan.

The draft *Cleanup Action Plan* that has been prepared describes the cleanup actions proposed for the site.

Opportunity to comment

Before the Agreed Order and Cleanup Action Plan become final, we offer you an opportunity to review these documents and give us your input.

Additionally, Ecology has reviewed a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Checklist, has determined the proposed cleanup will not have an adverse impact on human health and the environment, and has issued a Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) for the cleanup. The SEPA Checklist and DNS are available for your review and comment as well.

Background

The site, a residential property, is located at 18115 62nd Avenue NE within the City of Kenmore, King County, Washington. The site is the location of the former Able Pest Control and is referred to as the 62nd Avenue Property.

Because it has been affected by the contamination, the site has been expanded to include the adjacent Lake Forest Park Preschool located at 6124 NE 181st Street.

Able Pest Control operated an extermination business at the site from 1969 until 1986. The contamination is most likely a result of the previous owner's handling of pesticides during that time. In 1986, the property was sold to the current owner.

Health and environmental concerns

The main concerns have been the former residents at the 62nd Avenue property and the adjacent preschool. Evaluation of soil sampling data indicates the amount of pesticides in the soil at the preschool is not an immediate health concern. However, a complete cleanup of the site is necessary because the pesticides may pose a long-term health threat to people or animals that come into direct contact with the chemicals. As long as the chemicals of concern are quickly and properly cleaned up, the risks at this site will remain minimal.

Investigations conducted

Investigations at the site found concentrations of the pesticides chlordane and dieldrin in soil at levels above MTCA residential soil cleanup standards.

Ecology and the Seattle-King County Health Department conducted additional sampling along the property line and in the preschool playground. Results of these samples showed elevated levels of pesticides along the property line and lower levels in the playground. Due to the potential for children at the preschool to be exposed to pesticides, Ecology determined that immediate remedial action was necessary and issued an Emergency Agreed Order.

Under the Enforcement Order, 10 cubic yards of soil were excavated from the preschool and 20 cubic yards of soil were excavated from the 62nd Avenue property. A buffer zone was constructed along the property boundary between the preschool and the 62nd Avenue property. These actions were conducted in May and June 1998.

In May 1999, an interceptor trench was installed in the buffer zone to capture concentrations of pesticides moving from contaminated areas of the 62nd Avenue property into the buffer zone and, consequently, onto the preschool property.

Subsequent monitoring showed the pesticide contamination was still moving onto the preschool property. During December of 1999, pesticide- contaminated soil was again removed from the preschool property.

In December 1999, a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) was completed and an RI/FS report submitted to Ecology under its Voluntary Cleanup Program. The RI/FS report summarized the results of the investigation and evaluated the feasibility of various soil cleanup alternatives.

Proposed cleanup

The soil cleanup proposed in the Cleanup Action Plan includes excavating, treating (when possible), and disposing all soil containing one or more of the target pesticides in concentrations above MTCA residential soil cleanup standards.

What happens next

Once the public comment period ends, Ecology will review all comments submitted and if no substantial changes are suggested, will finalize the Agreed Order and Cleanup Action Plan.

The cleanup is expected to begin this coming July when the preschoolers are on summer break. Once cleanup is complete and all the requirements under the order have been met, the site may go through public comment to be delisted from the Hazardous Sites List.

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