

COLVILLE POST & POLES SITE



Draft Public Participation Plan

Interim Action and Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study

Cleanup Site ID No. 46
Facility Site ID No. 765

Prepared by:
The Washington State Department of Ecology

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Site Location

The site is located at 396 Highway 395 North near Colville in Stevens County, Washington.

What is a Public Participation Plan?

Ecology encourages the public to learn about and get involved in decision-making opportunities at the Colville Post & Poles site. Opportunities are available during specific stages of the investigation and cleanup of contamination at the site.

The Public Participation Plan (Plan) provides an overview of the Plan itself and the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA), which guides the formal cleanup process at sites in Washington State. This document also outlines the purpose of the Plan, when public notice will occur, the amount of time the public has to comment, where the potentially affected area is located, and ways the public may get involved in providing feedback. It also provides site background, a community profile, and community concerns.

Purpose of the Public Participation Plan

The Public Participation Plan has three main purposes:

- To promote public understanding of the Washington Department of Ecology's (Ecology) responsibilities, planning, and cleanup activities at the site.
- To serve as a way of gathering information from the public. This information will assist Ecology and the potentially liable persons (PLPs) to conduct the investigation and plan for cleanup in a manner that is protective of human health and the environment.
- To inform the community living near the site, as well as the general public, about cleanup activities and how to contribute to the decision-making process.

Overview of the Public Participation Plan and Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)

The Plan is required under authority of the Model Toxics Control Act. MTCA is a "citizen-mandated" law that became effective in 1989 to provide guidelines for the cleanup of contaminated sites in Washington State. This law sets standards to make sure the cleanup of sites is protective of human health and the environment. A glossary of MTCA terms is included as **Appendix C** of this Plan.

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program investigates reports of contamination that may threaten human health and the environment. If contaminants are confirmed during an investigation, the site is generally ranked and placed on a Hazardous Sites List (HSL).

The Colville Post & Poles site ranked a 3 on the Hazardous Sites List because of PCP and heavy oils in soil and groundwater. A rank of one represents the highest level of concern and five the lowest. Current and former owners or operators, as well as any other PLPs of a site, may be held responsible for cleanup of contamination based on MTCA.

Ecology identified the Colville Post & Poles site as an orphan site. This means in general that PLPs are either financially unable, or unavailable, to conduct cleanup actions in an adequate or timely manner. The legislature has allocated monies specifically for the Interim Action which will provide needed scientific information to conduct a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study at this site.

Public participation is an important part of cleanup under the MTCA process. The participation needs are assessed at each site according to the level of public interest and degree of risk posed by contaminants. Individuals who live near the site, community groups, businesses, government, other organizations and interested parties are provided an opportunity to become involved in commenting on the cleanup process.

The Plan includes requirements for public notice such as: identifying reports about the site and the repositories where reports may be read; providing public comment periods; and holding public meetings or hearings. Other forms of participation may be interviews, citizen advisory groups, questionnaires, or workshops.

Public Participation Grants and Technical Assistance

Additionally, citizen groups living near contaminated sites may apply for public participation grants (during open application periods). These grants help citizens receive technical assistance in understanding the cleanup process and create additional public participation avenues.

NOTE: Ecology currently does not have a citizen technical advisor for providing technical assistance to citizens on issues related to the investigation and cleanup of the site.

Amendments

The Plan was developed by Ecology and complies with the Model Toxics Control Act regulations (Chapter 173-340-600 WAC). It will be reviewed as cleanup progresses and may be amended if necessary. Amendments may be submitted to Ecology's site manager, Jeremy Schmidt, for review and consideration. Ecology will determine final approval of the Plan as well as any amendments.

Review of Documents and Project Contacts

Documents relating to the cleanup may be reviewed at the repositories listed on page 8 of this Plan. If individuals are interested in knowing more about the site or have comments regarding the Public Participation Plan, please contact one of the individuals listed on the following page.

<p>WA Department of Ecology Contacts: Jeremy Schmidt, P.E. Site Manager WA State Department of Ecology Toxics Cleanup Program 4601 N Monroe Spokane, WA 99205 509/329-3484 e-mail Jeremy.schmidt@ecy.wa.gov</p> <p>Carol Bergin, Public Involvement WA State Department of Ecology Toxics Cleanup Program 4601 N. Monroe Spokane, WA 99205 509/329-3546 e-mail cabe461@ecy.wa.gov</p> <p>Kari Johnson, Public Disclosure WA State Department of Ecology 4601 N. Monroe Spokane, WA 99205 509/329-3415 e-mail kajo461@ecy.wa.gov</p>	<p>Para asistencia en Español Greg Bohn WA State Department of Ecology Toxics Cleanup Program 15 West Yakima Avenue, Ste 200 Yakima, WA 98902-3452 509/454-4174</p> <p>Если вам нужна помощь на русском, звоните Larissa Braaten 509/710-7552</p>
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SITE BACKGROUND

Proposed Work

Ecology is proposing to conduct cleanup work called *Interim Actions* at the Colville Post & Poles site. The site is located at 396 Highway 395 North near Colville, in Stevens County Washington (see Appendix A - Site Map Figure)

Interim Actions

Details of the interim actions are found in the Work Plan. This Public Participation Plan is an exhibit to the Work Plan.

The following are some highlights of the proposed work:

- Obtain all necessary permits to do the work.
- Remove debris in and around surface water and concrete footings in the Process Area. Temporarily stockpile debris as necessary.
- Conduct soil and groundwater assessments.
- Prepare a report outlining the findings and work conducting during the Interim Actions.

The Interim Actions will provide information for a Remedial Investigation (RI) and Feasibility Study (FS) that will be conducted at the site. The Interim Actions will also identify any issues that might need immediate attention. This includes reducing any continuing sources of contamination impacting surface water.

The RI will gather additional information about the nature and extent of chemicals in soil and groundwater at the site. The FS will evaluate cleanup options for site-related contaminants.

State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)

The State Environmental Policy Act, known as SEPA, requires government agencies to consider potential environmental impacts of a project before beginning the cleanup. A Determination of Non-Significance indicates the proposed actions will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. A SEPA checklist and a determination will be prepared for the Interim Actions. The public will be able to comment on these two documents along with the Work Plan and associated documents before work will begin at the site.

Why the Interim Actions, RI and FS Matter

- This work will provide greater protection for humans, wildlife and the environment.
- This work is intended to cleanup remaining contaminants to meet Washington State standards under the Model Toxics Control Act.
- This work will result in cleaner land and water that may be used for other purposes.

Historical Perspective

Colville Post & Poles, Inc. and previous owners operated a wood treating facility on the nearly 23 acre site. Wood treating operations stopped in 2005.

Chemicals used to treat the wood may be harmful to humans, wildlife and the environment. In 1989 an above-ground storage tank containing pentachlorophenol (PCP) ruptured and released 10,000 gallons of chemicals to the ground.

Several investigations and cleanup actions were conducted led mainly by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and EPA's consultants. The Department of Ecology's Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program provided some early assessments and worked with the owner on compliance issues. Heavy oils and PCP were confirmed in soil and groundwater at the site.

EPA conducted two removal actions called Phase I and Phase II. The purpose of these actions was to remove any immediate threat to human health from site-related contaminants. Investigations were conducted and the buildings where wood was treated and chemicals stored were torn down. Contaminated soils were also removed. Cleanup focused on several areas:

- **The Process Area** is where much of the wood treating took place. Groundwater in this area contained petroleum product on the water in what is called a plume. The plume extended from the Process Area to the west through the North Stockpile Area to the property boundary on the western portion of the site. PCP, petroleum hydrocarbon, and dioxin contamination were found in soil in the Process Area.
- **The Main Excavation Area** was located near the Process Area. Petroleum product was observed floating on groundwater. Skimmers were used to remove as much as 300 gallons of petroleum “free product.” Soil contained PCP at levels did not meet state standards.
- **The South Stockpile Area** contained soil that had been stored in mounds. Dioxins were found adjacent to the wetlands at levels that did not meet state standards.
- **The North Stockpile Area** was used during EPA’s removal action to store contaminated soil. No samples were taken from this area.
- **The Drainage Area** is located south of the Process Area. It was a wetland area with a pond. PCP in this area state standards.
- **The Railroad ROW** area was used to store previously treated wood products. One sample location had PCP at levels that did not meet state standards.
- Nearly 4811 tons of soil with PCP contamination were disposed of at a landfill permitted to receive this type of waste.

Contaminants of Concern

The primary contaminants of concern focus on chemicals used in treating wood products. The contaminants include:

- Semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) which include PCP and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)
- Diesel-range petroleum hydrocarbons (DRPH)
- Metals which include arsenic, cadmium and mercury
- Dioxins

COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

Community Profile

The site is located at 396 Highway 395 North near the town of Colville (“Call-ville) in Stevens County, Washington. The town slogan is “City of Proud Heritage.” Many of the early settlers in the Colville area became famous such as David Thompson the trapper, [fill in rest]. The earliest settlers were made up of several Indian Tribes. Today Twelve Bands of Indians make up the Confederated Tribes of the Colvilles. The Kalispels also settled in the area.

A unique feature of Colville is the civic plaza developed by early “founders” that includes the City Hall, Public Library, Post Office and County Courthouse on four corners at the center of the town.

Colville is surrounded by mountains including Colville Mountain, the Selkirks running north-south, the northern Rocky Mountains, and the Colville National Forest. The Columbia River

runs south of the area and the Pend Oreille River runs north. Together these natural resources make up much of the life in the Colville area. Recreation, tourism, agriculture, mining, and timber contribute to the economy as well as local, state, and federal government.

The 4600 plus population is approximately 90 percent Caucasian. The area is increasing in diversity with an increase in Hispanics/Latinos, Russian, Ukrainian, and some Phillipino immigrants. There is also an influx of people from many other states in the U.S. Income levels tend to be in the mid to low socioeconomic range.

Community Concerns

Ecology began conducting community interviews on Saturday, December 14, 2013 and continued them in October 2014. Please contact Carol Bergin at Ecology if you are interested in being interviewed. Her contact information is on page 4.

The purpose of the interviews is to get to know some of the community members, learn what people know about the site, and inform people living near the site about the project and upcoming site activities. Interviews also serve as a way to identify how people would like to learn more about the site and become involved.

Ecology representatives went door-to-door near the site and formally interviewed a few people. Ecology will continue to gather information from community members near the site who are interested in participating in interviews.

The following highlights some of the comments from the community members who talked with Ecology both formally and informally:

- People want Ecology to keep them informed of what is taking place at the site. They do not want any surprises. They expressed an appreciation for the one-on-one interviews.
- Most people interviewed expressed a lack of trust for the federal government, specifically EPA and were not sure the state of Washington is better. Some were hopeful that the state with its experience in cleanup would do a better job.
- Many people were frustrated that EPA did work at the site and Ecology is coming back to do more. They do not understand why all of it was not completed by EPA.
- Many questions were raised about the “taking of property,” and people wanted to know why a government agency was allowed to “take property from the owner.”
- Concerns were expressed over the costs of cleanup, who would pay, how it would impact their property values and taxation.

More information will be gathered from the community as additional interviews are conducted and feedback is received during the first comment period. Many of these questions will be answered in the first Ecology fact sheet and public meeting.

Public Participation Activities and Timeline

The following is a list of some of the public participation efforts that will occur until the cleanup actions are completed:

- ❖ A **mailing list** has been developed for individuals who live near the site. The potentially affected vicinity covers any adjacent properties and homes and businesses within close proximity to the site, and areas to be investigated. These people, along with the PLPs, will receive copies of all fact sheets developed regarding the cleanup process via first class mail. Additionally, individuals, organizations, local, state, and federal governments, and any other interested parties will be added to the mailing list as requested. Other interested persons may request to be on the mailing list at any time by contacting Carol Bergin at the Department of Ecology (see page 4 for details).
- ❖ **Public Repositories** are locations where documents may be reviewed. The following locations will contain copies of any documents that go through the public review process related to this site:

WA Department of Ecology
4601 N. Monroe
Spokane, WA 99205-1295
Contact: Kari Johnson
Public Disclosure Coordinator
509-329-3415

Colville Public Library
195 South Oak Street
Colville, WA 99114
509/684-6620

Ecology's Web Site at <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=46>

- ❖ **Opportunity to Comment**

- During each stage of cleanup **fact sheets** are created by Ecology, then distributed to individuals on the mailing list. These fact sheets explain the stage of cleanup, the site background, what happens next in the cleanup process and ask for comments from the public.
- A **30-day comment period** allows interested parties time to comment on the process. The fact sheet contains contact information about where to submit comments and where and when public meetings or hearings will be held if requested.
- The information from these fact sheets is also published in a statewide **Site Register** which is sent to those who request to be on that mailing list. People interested in receiving the Site Register should contact Seth Preston of Ecology at 360-407-6848 or e-mail seth.preston@ecy.wa.gov. The fact sheets are also posted on Ecology's web page under the Toxics Cleanup Program at <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=46>

- ❖ **Display ads or legal notices** are published in the Colville Statesman Examiner, Huckleberry Press, Ecology's website for the Colville Post & Poles site, and on Ecology's Public Events Calendar <http://www.ecy.wa.gov> to inform the general public. These notices are published at the beginning of the 30-day comment period for the public notices. They are also used to announce public meetings and workshops or public hearings.

- ❖ **Public meetings, workshops, open houses, and public hearings** are held based on the level of community interest. If ten or more people request a public meeting or hearing based on the subject of the public notice, Ecology will hold a meeting or hearing and gather comments. These meetings, workshops, or hearings will be held at a location that meets ADA standards and is close to the site. They may be held away from the site if it is necessary to accommodate large numbers of interested people. These events are announced using the same methods as display ads or legal notices.

- ❖ Flyers may also be made available in various locations throughout the community (e.g., postings at local businesses, schools, libraries, etc.) to announce public comment periods, meetings, workshops, etc.

- ❖ **Answering Questions from the Public**
If you have questions about fact sheets, documents available for public comment, meetings and hearings or about the general cleanup process, you are encouraged to contact one of the individuals listed on page 4.

Public Notice and Comment Periods Timeline

DATE	ACTION TAKEN
February 18, 2015	Public meeting to discuss Interim Actions, SEPA/DNS, Work Plan, Sampling and Analysis Plan and Public Participation Plan
February 6 through March 9, 2015	30-day comment period for Interim Actions, State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), Determination of Non-Significance (DNS), Work Plan, Sampling and Analysis Plan, and Public Participation Plan
October 24, 2014	Continued community interviews
December 14, 2013	Began community interviews about the site and proposed work.

APPENDIX A
SITE MAP - FIGURE 1

Colville Post & Poles Site



APPENDIX C GLOSSARY

Agreed Order: A legal document issued by Ecology which formalizes an agreement between the department and potentially liable persons (PLPs) for the actions needed at a site. An agreed order is subject to public comment. If an order is substantially changed, an additional comment period is provided.

Applicable State and Federal Law: All legally applicable requirements and those requirements that Ecology determines are relevant and appropriate requirements.

Area Background: The concentrations of hazardous substances that are consistently present in the environment in the vicinity of a site which are the result of human activities unrelated to releases from that site.

Carcinogen: Any substance or agent that produces or tends to produce cancer in humans.

Chronic Toxicity: The ability of a hazardous substance to cause injury or death to an organism resulting from repeated or constant exposure to the hazardous substance over an extended period of time.

Cleanup: The implementation of a cleanup action or interim action.

Cleanup Action: Any remedial action, except interim actions, taken at a site to eliminate, render less toxic, stabilize, contain, immobilize, isolate, treat, destroy, or remove a hazardous substance that complies with cleanup levels; utilizes permanent solutions to the maximum extent practicable; and includes adequate monitoring to ensure the effectiveness of the cleanup action.

Cleanup Action Plan: A document which identifies the cleanup action and specifies cleanup standards and other requirements for a particular site. After completion of a comment period on a Draft Cleanup Action Plan, Ecology will issue a final Cleanup Action Plan.

Cleanup Level: The concentration of a hazardous substance in soil, water, air or sediment that is determined to be protective of human health and the environment under specified exposure conditions.

Cleanup Process: The process for identifying, investigating, and cleaning up hazardous waste sites.

Consent Decree: A legal document approved and issued by a court which formalizes an agreement reached between the state and potentially liable persons (PLPs) on the actions needed at a site. A decree is subject to public comment. If a decree is substantially changed, an additional comment period is provided.

Containment: A container, vessel, barrier, or structure, whether natural or constructed, which confines a hazardous substance within a defined boundary and prevents or minimizes its release into the environment.

Contaminant: Any hazardous substance that does not occur naturally or occurs at greater than natural background levels.

Enforcement Order: A legal document, issued by Ecology, requiring remedial action. Failure to comply with an enforcement order may result in substantial liability for costs and penalties. An enforcement order is subject to public comment. If an enforcement order is substantially changed, an additional comment period is provided.

Environment: Any plant, animal, natural resource, surface water (including underlying sediments), ground water, drinking water supply, land surface (including tidelands and shorelands) or subsurface strata, or ambient air within the state of Washington.

Exposure: Subjection of an organism to the action, influence or effect of a hazardous substance (chemical agent) or physical agent.

Exposure Pathways: The path a hazardous substance takes or could take from a source to an exposed organism. An exposure pathway describes the mechanism by which an individual or population is exposed or has the potential to be exposed to hazardous substances at or originating from the site. Each exposure pathway includes an actual or potential source or release from a source, an exposure point, and an exposure route. If the source exposure point differs from the source of the hazardous substance, exposure pathway also includes a transport/exposure medium.

Facility: Any building, structure, installation, equipment, pipe or pipeline (including any pipe into a sewer or publicly-owned treatment works), well, pit, pond, lagoon, impoundment, ditch, landfill, storage container, motor vehicle, rolling stock, vessel, or aircraft; or any site or area where a hazardous substance, other than a consumer product in consumer use, has been deposited, stored, disposed or, placed, or otherwise come to be located.

Feasibility Study (FS): A study to evaluate alternative cleanup actions for a site. A comment period on the draft report is required. Ecology selects the preferred alternative after reviewing those documents.

Free Product: A hazardous substance that is present as a nonaqueous phase liquid (that is, liquid not dissolved in water).

Groundwater: Water found beneath the earth's surface that fills pores between materials such as sand, soil, or gravel. In aquifers, groundwater occurs in sufficient quantities that it can be used for drinking water, irrigation, and other purposes.

Hazardous Sites List: A list of sites identified by Ecology that requires further remedial action. The sites are ranked from 1 to 5 to indicate their relative priority for further action.

Hazardous Substance: Any dangerous or extremely hazardous waste as defined in RCW 70.105.010 (5) (any discarded, useless, unwanted, or abandoned substances including, but not limited to, certain pesticides, or any residues or containers of such substances which are disposed of in such quantity or concentration as to pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health, wildlife, or the environment because such wastes or constituents or combinations of such wastes; (a) have short-lived, toxic properties that may cause death, injury, or illness or have mutagenic, teratogenic, or carcinogenic properties; or (b) are corrosive, explosive, flammable, or may generate pressure through decomposition or other means,) and (6) (any dangerous waste which (a) will persist in a hazardous form for several years or more at a disposal site and which in its persistent form presents a significant environmental hazard and may affect the genetic makeup of man or wildlife; and is highly toxic to man or wildlife; (b) if disposed of at a disposal site in such quantities as would present an extreme hazard to man or the environment), or any dangerous or extremely dangerous waste as designated by rule under Chapter 70.105 RCW: any hazardous substance as defined in RCW 70.105.010 (14) (any liquid, solid, gas, or sludge, including any material, substance, product, commodity, or waste, regardless of quantity, that exhibits any of the characteristics or criteria of hazardous waste as described in rules adopted under this chapter,) or any hazardous substance as defined by rule under Chapter 70.105 RCW; petroleum products.

Hazardous Waste Site: Any facility where there has been a confirmation of a release or threatened release of a hazardous substance that requires remedial action.

Independent Cleanup Action: Any remedial action conducted without Ecology oversight or approval, and not under an order or decree.

Initial Investigation: An investigation to determine that a release or threatened release may have occurred that warrants further action.

Interim Action: Any remedial action that partially addresses the cleanup of a site.

Mixed Funding: Any funding, either in the form of a loan or a contribution, provided to potentially liable persons from the state toxics control account.

Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA): Washington State's law that governs the investigation, evaluation and cleanup of hazardous waste sites. Refers to RCW 70.105D. It was approved by voters at the November 1988 general election and known is as Initiative 97. The implementing regulation is WAC 173-340.

Monitoring Wells: Special wells drilled at specific locations on or off a hazardous waste site, where groundwater can be sampled at selected depths and studied to determine the direction of groundwater flow and the types and amounts of contaminants present.

Natural Background: The concentration of hazardous substance consistently present in the environment which has not been influenced by localized human activities.

National Priorities List (NPL): EPA's list of hazardous waste sites identified for possible long-term remedial response with funding from the federal Superfund trust fund.

Owner or Operator: Any person with any ownership interest in the facility or who exercises any control over the facility; or in the case of an abandoned facility, any person who had owned or operated or exercised control over the facility any time before its abandonment.

Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbon (PAH): A class of organic compounds, some of which are long-lasting and carcinogenic. These compounds are formed from the combustion of organic material and are ubiquitous in the environment. PAHs are commonly formed by forest fires and by the combustion of fossil fuels.

Potentially Liable Person (PLP): Any person whom Ecology finds, based on credible evidence, to be liable under authority of RCW 70.105D.040.

Public Notice: At a minimum, adequate notice mailed to all persons who have made a timely request of Ecology and to persons residing in the potentially affected vicinity of the proposed action; mailed to appropriate news media; published in the local (city or county) newspaper of largest circulation; and opportunity for interested persons to comment.

Public Participation Plan: A plan prepared under the authority of WAC 173-340-600 to encourage coordinated and effective public involvement tailored to the public's needs at a particular site.

Recovery By-Products: Any hazardous substance, water, sludge, or other materials collected in the free product removal process in response to a release from an underground storage tank.

Release: Any intentional or unintentional entry of any hazardous substance into the environment, including, but not limited to, the abandonment or disposal of containers of hazardous substances.

Remedial Action: Any action to identify, eliminate, or minimize any threat posed by hazardous substances to human health or the environment, including any investigative and monitoring activities of any release or threatened release of a hazardous substance and any health assessments or health effects studies.

Remedial Investigation (RI): A study to define the extent of problems at a site. When combined with a study to evaluate alternative cleanup actions it is referred to as a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS). In both cases, a comment period on the draft report is required.

Responsiveness Summary: A compilation of all questions and comments to a document open for public comment and their respective answers/replies by Ecology. The Responsiveness Summary is mailed, at a minimum, to those who provided comments and its availability is published in the Site Register.

Risk Assessment: The determination of the probability that a hazardous substance, when released into the environment, will cause an adverse effect in exposed humans or other living organisms.

Sensitive Environment: An area of particular environmental value, where a release could pose a greater threat than in other areas including: wetlands; critical habitat for endangered or threatened species; national or state wildlife refuge; critical habitat, breeding or feeding area for fish or shellfish; wild or scenic river; rookery; riparian area; big game winter range.

Site: See Facility.

Site Characterization Report: A written report describing the site and nature of a release from an underground storage tank, as described in WAC 173-340-450 (4) (b).

Site Hazard Assessment (SHA): An assessment to gather information about a site to confirm whether a release has occurred and to enable Ecology to evaluate the relative potential hazard posed by the release. If further action is needed, an RI/FS is undertaken.

Site Register: Publication issued every two weeks of major activities conducted statewide related to the study and cleanup of hazardous waste sites under the Model Toxics Control Act. To receive this publication, please call (360) 407-7200.

Surface Water: Lakes, rivers, ponds, streams, inland waters, salt waters, and all other surface waters and water courses within the state of Washington or under the jurisdiction of the state of Washington.

TCP: Toxics Cleanup Program at Ecology

Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH): A scientific measure of the sum of all petroleum hydrocarbons in a sample (without distinguishing one hydrocarbon from another). The “petroleum hydrocarbons” include compounds of carbon and hydrogen that are derived from naturally occurring petroleum sources or from manufactured petroleum products (such as refined oil, coal, and asphalt).

Toxicity: The degree to which a substance at a particular concentration is capable of causing harm to living organisms, including people, plants and animals.

Underground Storage Tank (UST): An underground storage tank and connected underground piping as defined in the rules adopted under Chapter 90.76 RCW.

Washington Ranking Method (WARM): Method used to rank sites placed on the hazardous sites list. A report describing this method is available from Ecology.