

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN  
FOR THE CLEANUP ACTION**

**AT**

**RICHARDSON AIRWAYS WASHDOWN AREA  
YAKIMA AIR TERMINAL**

**JULY, 2008**

## **I. Introduction of Overview of Public Participation Plan**

Pursuant to the Model Toxics Control Act, the State law relating to hazardous waste sites, the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) seeks to provide public participation opportunities during the investigation and cleanup of hazardous waste contaminated sites. This public participation plan describes such opportunities at the Richardson Airways Site in Yakima, Washington. The goals for the plan include promoting public understanding of Ecology's responsibilities, planning activities, and remedial activities at hazardous waste sites and informing interested persons and the agencies of the status of activities at the a particular site. In addition, the Plan provides Ecology with an opportunity to obtain information on the views of the public, especially those who believe they may be affected by actions at a particular hazardous waste location.

- A. This public participation plan covers remediation activities at the Richardson Airways Site located at the Yakima Airport in Yakima, Washington.
- B. The Site is jointly owned by the City of Yakima and the County of Yakima. Mr. Ralph Richardson operated Richardson Airways, Inc. as an aerial pesticide applicator service on the Site for approximately 38 years. Due to the activities at the Site the soil at the washdown area of the facility has become contaminated with pesticides.
- C. This plan outlines public participation activities to be conducted with respect to the Site. The Plan will be reviewed at each phase of the cleanup and amended or rewritten as necessary.
- D. The Plan is divided into the following sections:
  - 1. Introduction and Overview of Public Participation Plan.
  - 2. Site Description and Regulatory History.
  - 3. Public Participation Activities.
    - a. Fact Sheets.
    - b. Public Meetings.
    - c. Information Repositories.
    - d. State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).
  - 4. List of Site Contacts
    - a. Department of Ecology.

b. Richardson Airways.

## **II. Site Description and Regulatory History**

In 1984, Ecology received a complaint that pesticides were being disposed of at the Richardson Airways facility. Ecology investigated the complaint, obtained soil samples for pesticide analysis, and made recommendations for cleanup of the contaminated soils. In 1988, the U.S. Environmental protection Agency conducted a preliminary site assessment and noted a need for additional investigations at the Site. In 1990, the Site received a hazard ranking of 2. In 1992, an agreed order for conducting a remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) at the Site was negotiated and signed by Ecology and the Site potentially liable persons (PLPs). The RI/FS was completed at the Site in 1993 and, due to site specific conditions, Ecology selected the implementation of longterm groundwater monitoring and institutional controls as the preferred alternative for cleanup at the Site. In 1997, A Consent Decree was signed between Ecology and the PLPs. It called for additional groundwater monitoring wells and the implementation of longterm groundwater monitoring. A Restrictive Covenant was also a condition of this 1997 Consent Decree. In 2007, the City and County of Yakima, owners of the Yakima Airport, decided to develop the Richardson Airways area. This has meant a 2008 Consent Decree for the excavation and disposal of all contaminated soils.

## **III. Public Participation Activities**

The cleanup action at the Site is being conducted under a legally binding document called a consent decree. Notice of the decree will be published in legal advertisements in the Yakima Herald Republic. In addition to the advertisements, Ecology will provide public notice of the decree negotiated for the Site through the publication of Fact Sheets, the opportunity for Public Meetings, and Notice in the Site Register. The public notices will give a short description of activities at the Site and encourage the public to make written or verbal comments on the proposed actions.

A. Fact Sheets. One of the tools used by Ecology to facilitate public participation is the periodic publication of Fact Sheets regarding a specific site. The Fact Sheets concerning Richardson Airways Site that have been issued by Ecology are set forth in Appendix B. Ecology will continue to write and issue Fact Sheets concerning cleanup activities at the Site as part of its public participation strategy for the Site. Fact Sheets concerning the Site will be published and distributed at specific times during the cleanup at the Site. The persons interested in obtaining future Fact Sheets should contact Richard Bassett at Ecology at (509) 454-7839.

B. Public Meetings. In addition to the Fact Sheets concerning the Site, Ecology may, depending on the volume of public interest, conduct a public meeting concerning the cleanup action. The time and place of such a public meeting would be arranged and would be advertised in the local media.

C. Information Repositories. Information repositories for copies of written documents concerning the Site are located at:

Washington Department of Ecology  
Central Regional Office  
15 West Yakima Avenue  
Yakima, Washington  
(509) 575-2800

Yakima Valley Regional Library  
102 No. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Yakima, Washington  
(509) 452-8541

D. State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), Chapter 43.21RCW, is intended to ensure that environmental values are considered by state and local government officials when making decisions at all levels of government within the state. The SEPA process starts when someone submits a permit application to an agency or when an agency proposes to take some official action.

Ecology's action at the Richardson Airways Site is to allow for additional soil sampling, and if contaminated soils are still found to be above regulatory standards, their excavation, haul, and disposal at a permitted, accepting landfill. When additional sampling indicates that the contaminated soils above regulatory standards have been excavated and disposed of, the excavation will be backfilled with clean fill and compacted. At this point, the City and County of Yakima will develop the area.

The SEPA process allows additional time and an additional avenue for the public and private sector to provide comments concerning actions to be taken at the Site. The SEPA process has been completed for the Site and no comments were received.

#### **IV. List of Site Contacts**

A. Department of Ecology.

Site Manager: Richard Bassett  
(509) 454-7834

Public Involvement Specialist: Valerie Bound  
(509) 454-7886

Washington State Department of Ecology  
Central Regional Office  
Toxics Cleanup Program  
15 West Yakima Avenue, Suite 200  
Yakima, WA 98902-3401

B. Richardson Airways.

Yakima Airport Manager: Buck Taylor  
(509) 575-6149.

Yakima Airport Assistant Manager: Jerry Kilpatrick  
(509) 575-6149