



RESPONSIVENESS SUMMARY

Whitney's Chevrolet, Inc.

April 30 – June 1, 2015 Public Comment Period

*Agreed Order
Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Report,
Draft Cleanup Action Plan, and
State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Checklist and Determination*

**Prepared by
Washington State Department of Ecology
Southwest Regional Office
Toxics Cleanup Program
Lacey, Washington**

June 2015

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Site Information

Address: 123 W Pioneer Ave, Montesano

Site Manager: Marv Coleman

Public Involvement Coordinator: Audrey Kuklok

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) held a public comment period on a proposed agreed order, remedial investigation (RI) report, feasibility study (FS), draft cleanup action plan (CAP) and State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) checklist and determination for the Whitney's Chevrolet, Inc. site from April 30 – June 1, 2015. Public comments and Ecology's responses for this comment period are summarized in this document.

Site Background

In the past, Whitney's stored and sold gasoline on site. Leaking underground storage tanks (USTs) polluted site soil and groundwater. Today, the property is a car dealership.

In 1996 site owners found contamination when they removed three USTs. Ecology found more contamination in 2003 to 2005. In 2007, Ecology signed an agreement with potentially liable persons (PLPs) to investigate and clean up the site. The PLPs responsible for site cleanup are Whitney's Chevrolet, Inc., Caldwell Family Holdings, LLC, and Wynoochee Lodge #42 F & AM.

From 2008 to 2011, Whitney's sampled groundwater, soil, and indoor air both on and off the property. In 2011, they did a partial cleanup by removing six USTs and contaminated soil.

Next Steps

Ecology will finalize the agreed order and cleanup action plans. The PLPs will do the cleanup work described in the plans. After cleanup, the property owner will record an environmental covenant (EC). An EC will prohibit activities that may result in the release of contaminants remaining on site after cleanup. The PLPs will monitor groundwater to make sure that the cleanup actions are working.

Responses to Comments

The only comments received during the public comment period were provided by Associated Environmental Group, represented by Mr. David Polivka, L.G/L, Hg. Thank you for your review and comments offered. The following responses are offered for those comments to which Ecology is replying. For other comments to which Ecology is not responding, Ecology has reviewed and considered them, but is not offering a response.

Comment 1: Based on groundwater flow directions provided by EPI, the groundwater is flowing to the east-southeast. However, they also show that there is a southerly component to the flow near the Tony's Site.

Ecology Response: Ecology does not see a "southerly component" on any of the figures representing groundwater gradients or iso-concentration contours. Wells KBMW-8 and KBMW-10 are located very near and straight south of the identified Whitney's plume, but do not exhibit detections of GRPH components. Tony's could sample wells TSSMW-6, 5, 2, & 10 to try to make the case for a more southerly flow component, but if it exists, these wells would be impacted by the release at Tony's.

Comment 2: Because PCE is in the contaminated groundwater plume associated with the Whitney's Site and has not been associated with activities at the Tony's Site, AEG sampled wells in the southwest corner of the Tony's Site for halogenated hydrocarbons in August 2014. Results from the analyses of the groundwater samples collected indicate the presence of low levels of PCE in the groundwater. In addition samples of groundwater collected during a previous sampling event in 2011 indicate the present[ce] of low levels of PCE in wells KBMW-11 and KBMW-12.

Ecology Response: Reference CAP Figure 7: August 2014 and February 2015 data do not show any detections of PCE southeast (toward Tony's) of wells WCMW-5 & KBMW-2, which are adjacent to Whitney's building.

The closest well to Tony's that has had PCE in it appears to be TSSMW-7 and it is included in the proposed treatment area. Benzene in groundwater east or southeast of this location is likely due to the releases at Tony's. In the Tony's files, I could only find two samples run for PCE, in 2012 – both are for soils and were ND; could find no groundwater PCE data.

Comment 3: AEG is requesting that the current Draft Agreed Order between Whitney's and Ecology not be finalized and that Ecology consider the two sites as one and enter into negotiations for an Agreed Order that includes the Tony's Site. This would allow for both Sites to be cleaned up as one.

Ecology Response: Staying on the present track means active remediation of the Whitney's plume will begin sooner, rather than get side tracked by additional investigation that will do little to expand our present understanding of the Whitney's site. Ecology can exercise its discretion to keep sites separate, rather than conjoin them, if it means a cleanup can occur faster &/or more effectively. Having a joint Agreed Order would also give Tony's the ability to argue that Whitney's is jointly, equally, and severally liable for releases (or portions of releases) that occurred at Tony's, given the difficulty of clearly defining where the two releases begin and end. Again, the only purpose this would serve is to delay the cleanup at Whitney's.

Ecology Response to Overall Comments: Ecology would not argue that there is absolutely no intermingling of GRPH components near Main Street*, but evidence of that based on PCE data is not supported. And, separating which GRPH is attributable to Whitney's —vs— Tony's will be pretty difficult barring some pretty sophisticated Forensic analyses = cost? Moving forward with the Whitney's CAP, AO for Implementation, & Remedial Activities will begin to address the contamination at Whitney's sooner, rather than later. Entering a joint Order will only delay that and really doesn't accomplish anything new, other than providing Tony's with a vehicle with which they can lobby for Whitney's to participate in Tony's cleanup on a joint & equal basis. Tony's still has to complete their work in accordance with their agreed order, in any case.

*Per the CAP, the proposed Whitney's treatment area comes across Main Street and onto Tony's facility, approaching the dispenser island, where we know extensive releases occurred

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