

# Metro Dearborn Site



## Public comment sought on cleanup plan

**Public comment period:  
September 12 - October 12,  
1994**

**Public hearing:  
Tuesday, September 20, 1994  
5 to 7 p.m.  
Bush Asia Center, downstairs  
409 Maynard Avenue S.,  
Seattle**

*The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has prepared this fact sheet to tell you about the progress of cleanup at the Metro Dearborn site, property owned by the King County Department of Metropolitan Services (METRO) in the International District of Seattle. Cleanup actions are being conducted following terms of the Model Toxics Control Act, Chapter 70-105D of the Revised Code of Washington.*

### Public comment on draft cleanup action plan

Ecology and Metro have completed the negotiations for a legal agreement to conduct cleanup actions at Metro's Dearborn site in the International District of Seattle. Available for your review and comment are a consent decree, a draft cleanup action plan, State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) documents, and an updated public participation plan.

In 1993, Ecology completed a review of the independent remedial investigation and feasibility study reports for the Metro property at 8012 S. Dearborn Street, Seattle. Public comment was received on

those reports in November of 1993. Metro conducted the investigations and studies to identify the presence and extent of contamination at the Dearborn site. Ecology and Metro then negotiated a legal agreement for cleanup work to be conducted under the cleanup action plan. The remedial investigation and feasibility study provided the information for that cleanup workplan.

A SEPA determination of nonsignificance is also available to you for comment. The comments on the SEPA documents are coordinated with the comments on the cleanup plans.

Metro and Ecology prepared a public participation plan for this site in 1993 when the remedial investigation report and feasibility study were presented to the public for comment. The plan has been updated for the cleanup activities at this site. The plan is intended to encourage a coordinated and effective strategy for public involvement tailored to the needs of this community.

The site is at South Dearborn Street and Eighth Avenue South in Seattle. Metro used the property as a transit operating base, storage site, parking lot and warehouse. Contamination includes petroleum products (diesel, leaded and unleaded gasoline, oil) and solvents.

### We want your comments

You are invited to comment on the consent

## September 1994

### Send written comments to:

Maura S. O'Brien, Site Manager  
Department of Ecology  
3190 160th Avenue SE  
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452  
(206) 649-7249

### For information call:

Susan Lee, Public Involvement  
Department of Ecology  
(206) 649-7138

### To review documents:

Bush Asia Center, Room 200  
409 Maynard Avenue South  
Seattle, WA 98104  
(206) 624-8929

Metro Library, 9th Floor  
821 Second Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104-1598  
(206) 684-2033

Seattle Public Library, 2nd Floor  
Government Publications  
1000 Fourth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104  
(206) 386-4636

Ecology, Central Files  
3190 160th Avenue SE  
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452  
(206) 649-7239

**For special accommodation  
needs or language translation  
assistance, call (206) 649-7138 or  
(206) 649-4259 (TDD).**

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decree, draft cleanup action plan, SEPA determination of nonsignificance, and updated public participation plan during a 30-day public comment period from September 12 through October 12, 1994.

Metro and Ecology will hold an open house and public hearing on Tuesday, September 20, 1994, to discuss the cleanup actions proposed for this site. You may comment orally at the hearing.

You may review the project documents in the information repositories listed in the box on page one. **Send comments in writing to Maura S. O'Brien, Ecology site manager, at the address listed on page one.**

## Site history

Metro acquired the Dearborn site in 1974 for use in transit operations, including use as a maintenance, fueling and storage facility. Metro used the facility for about four years. Before 1974, a private transit company owned and used the property. When Metro removed underground storage tanks in December 1990, leakage and contaminated soils were identified.

All oral and written comments were received on the investigation reports and the feasibility study during a 30-day public comment period in November 1993. A majority of the commentators voiced support for the cleanup and reuse of the site for the benefit of the community. The main interest was that the cleanup be conducted as quickly as possible.

## Draft cleanup action plan

After considering all comments on the study report, Ecology selected the cleanup actions and prepared a draft cleanup action plan. The plan includes a general description of the selected cleanup action.

Site cleanup actions include the following:

- demolish and remove the concrete block and wooden building

- remove contaminated soil by excavation, treat soil to cleanup standards and replace shallow clay soil down to about 15 feet
- vapor extraction and sparging for groundwater, unremovable deeper sandy soil and, to a lesser extent, unremovable clay soil
- vapor extraction and sparging for up to two years to restore groundwater, after which Ecology will determine the benefit of extending those processes up to six months.

## What we know about contamination at this site

The remedial investigation showed that contaminants on the site are from leaked or spilled petroleum products (diesel, leaded and unleaded gasoline, oil) and solvents (primarily 1,2-dichloroethane) commonly found as an additive to gasoline. Those contaminants are found in the underlying soil and groundwater. Compared with other types of contamination, petroleum contamination responds well to cleanup. Technical knowledge is available from experience in cleaning up leaking underground storage petroleum tanks in the past decade.

## Human health and environmental concerns

The contamination in the soils does not pose an immediate threat to residents, pedestrians or people working on the site during cleanup and construction. There is also no immediate threat to human health from the groundwater because this groundwater is not used for drinking water.

The contaminants have moved within the soil and into the groundwater, and they will continue to do so. The groundwater in this area flows toward Elliott Bay, and the contaminants in the groundwater could pose a long-term risk to the environment.

It is unlikely, though, that contaminants at the site will travel to other water sources because the property is not close to other water bodies. The property is not considered to be in an

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environmentally sensitive area nor near any surface water body or wetland and not within a 100-year flood plain.

## How you can comment

You can comment to Ecology about the consent decree, draft cleanup action plan, SEPA documents and updated public participation plan by doing any of the following:

- Write your comments and mail them to Ecology's site manager (you may use the form on the last page of this fact sheet).
- Write your comments at the public meeting.
- Tell Ecology at the public meeting.

## What happens next

All oral and written comments received during the comment period will become part of the official record. Metro and Ecology will address comments in a document called a responsiveness summary. This document will

be mailed to all who comment and will be available for review at the information repositories at the locations listed in the box on page one. People on the mailing list will be notified by mail when the responsiveness summary is available.

The cleanup action plan, consent decree, updated public participation plan and SEPA environmental checklist and determination of nonsignificance will be available for your comments during this 30-day public comment period. After considering all your comments on the cleanup action, Ecology will issue a final cleanup action plan. Metro will then begin cleaning up the site.

## For more information

For questions on the technical aspects of this site, the remedial investigation or feasibility study, contact Ecology's site manager, Maura S. O'Brien. For questions about public involvement or the cleanup process, contact Susan Lee. (The addresses and telephone numbers are listed in the box on page one.)

**TIME LINE FOR SOUTH DEARBORN SITE CLEANUP UNDER MODEL TOXICS CONTROL ACT**

Public Comment Period #1	Public Comment Period #2
Investigation Reports	Consent Decree, Cleanup Plan & SEPA Drafts
Nov - Dec 93	Sept - Oct 94
↓	↑
↓	↓
1992	1994
Investigation RI/FS* & Risk Assessment Reports by Metro	Finalize RI/FS* & Risk Reports by Metro
↓	↓
Aug 93	Mar 94
Ecology Review on Investigation Reports	Ecology Responsive Summary Report for Public Comment #1
↓	↓
Mar 94	Mar 94
Ecology Responsive Summary Report for Public Comment #1	Finalize RI/FS* & Risk Reports by Metro
↓	↓
Jan - Aug 94	Jan - Aug 94
Consent Decree, MTCA Cleanup Action Plan & SEPA Drafts	Consent Decree, MTCA Cleanup Action Plan & SEPA Drafts
↓	↓
Nov 94	Nov 94
Finalize Consent Decree, Cleanup Plan & SEPA	Ecology Responsive Summary Report for Public Comment #2
↓	↓
Nov 94	Nov 94
Begin Site Cleanup: Building Demolition	Finalize Consent Decree, Cleanup Plan & SEPA
↓	↓
July 95 - Late 96	July 95 - Late 96
Site Cleanup: Soils & Ground Water	Site Cleanup: Soils & Ground Water
↓	↓
July 95	July 95
Site News Update to Public	Site News Update to Public

\*RI/FS = Site Characterization (remedial investigation) and Human Health Risk Assessment and Feasibility Study for South Dearborn Facility, Aug 92, revised Oct 93.

\*\*TPH = Total petroleum hydrocarbons, typical substances from gasoline, diesel and oil underground storage tanks.