

Buena Site Investigations

The Washington Department of Ecology will hold a public meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 15, 2011 at Buena Nueva, 66 Highland Drive, Buena, to explain the proposed investigation of petroleum contamination at two sites in Buena and give the public an opportunity to comment on the SEPA Checklist and issuance of a Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) for these investigations.

The two sites are the Gold Nugget Market (1041 Buena Road) and the former Roby's Service Station (800 Buena Road). Ecology has entered into an interagency agreement with Yakima County, who will demolish the former Roby's Service Station and prepare the Site for the investigation. Ecology plans to hire a contractor to conduct soil and groundwater sampling. This will allow Ecology to clearly define where the soil and groundwater contamination is located.

After reviewing the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) environmental checklist, Ecology has determined that the site investigations will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

Public Comment Invited

Ecology is asking for your comments on the SEPA checklist and Determination of Non-Significance. You are invited to:

- Review the SEPA checklist and Determination of Non-Significance
- Send your comments to Ecology for consideration. Comments will be accepted September 15, 2011 through October 17, 2011.

See the box at the right for details about where to review documents and submit comments.

Where did the contamination come from?

In 1993, workers digging near the streets to install new sewer lines found petroleum contamination in the soil. In 1997, Ecology conducted an initial investigation, which showed petroleum contamination above state cleanup levels for both soil and groundwater. The contamination is believed to have come from underground storage tanks (USTs) at the Sites. To monitor the groundwater, Ecology installed twelve (12) wells throughout the town of Buena.

Comments Accepted

September 15, 2011 through
October 17, 2011

Submit Comments and Technical Questions to:

Mary Monahan - Site Manager
WA Department of Ecology
Toxics Cleanup Program
15 W Yakima Avenue, Ste 200
Yakima, WA 98902-3452
Phone: (509) 454-7840
E-mail: Mary.Monahan@ecy.wa.gov

DOCUMENT REVIEW LOCATIONS

Buena Post Office

770 Buena Road
Buena, WA
Phone: (509) 865-3097
Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
and 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

WA Department of Ecology Central Regional Office

15 W Yakima Avenue, Ste 200
Yakima, WA 98902
By appointment only:
Contact Roger Johnson,
rjoh461@ecy.wa.gov or
(509) 454-7658

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Website

Roby's Services:
<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=6888>

Gold Nugget Market:
<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=5818>

Facility/Site ID #s:

Roby's Services # 93453337
Gold Nugget Market # 28575673

The Gold Nugget Market was an active gas station until 1998. When the gas station closed, two USTs were removed from the property. In 2000, approximately 400 tons of petroleum contaminated soils were excavated and removed from the Site.

In 2001, five USTs were removed from Roby's Service Station. Petroleum contamination was confirmed for both soil and groundwater. Recently, the steel service station structure burned, making the building unusable. The burned-out structure still remains on the site. A year after the service station fire, the mobile home located on the property also burned. The mobile home has been removed from the site, but the concrete pad, septic system, and utilities are still there.

Ecology has monitored the groundwater throughout Buena for petroleum contamination since 1998. Contamination has been consistently above state cleanup levels.

Why This Cleanup Matters

Petroleum contains many chemicals that are harmful to human health and the environment, including benzene, a known carcinogen, as well as toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene.

What Happens Next?

Ecology is currently working with their hired consultants to develop a Scope of Work for the investigation. Plans are to begin this fall and will include collection of soil samples, installation of additional groundwater monitoring wells, and collection of groundwater samples. After Ecology reviews the results, we will develop a plan for cleaning up the contamination.

For information about other opportunities for public involvement such as meetings, hearings, open houses and workshops, please visit Ecology's Public Involvement Calendar at <http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/pubcalendar/calendar.asp>

While you are at the calendar page, you may click on the link *Frequently Asked Questions about Effective Public Commenting* and learn more about the public comment process.

What can you do?

1. Read about the cleanup in this handout.
2. To get more detailed information, review the supporting documents at the locations listed in this document.
3. Write down your comments and questions. Send them to the Department of Ecology at the address provided in this document.

We appreciate your comments and concerns.
Thank you.

Help with other languages and formats?

Para asistencia en Espanol: 509-454-4174

If you need this document in a version for the visually impaired call the Toxics Cleanup Program at 509-454-7841. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.