



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

15 West Yakima Avenue, Suite 200 • Yakima, Washington 98902-3452 • (509) 575-2490

November 29, 2007

CERTIFIED MAIL

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Mr. Ron Smith
U.S. General Services Administration
405 15th Street SW
Auburn, Washington 98001

Dear Mr. Smith:

RE: Early Notice Letter Regarding the Release of Hazardous Substances on property located at the Federal Building, 825 Jadwin Avenue, Richland, Ecology Facility/Site ID # 91679255

Under Chapter 70.105D Revised Code of Washington (RCW), upon receiving a report of a release or threatened release of a hazardous substance that may pose a threat to human health or the environment, the Department of Ecology (Ecology) is required to conduct an Initial Investigation.

Our records indicate that five underground storage tanks (UST) were removed from the above-reference property in 1999. Analytical results from soil samples collected during the removal identified gasoline-range hydrocarbons and benzene present above Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) Method A soil cleanup levels. Impacted soil sampled during the UST removal was determined to have high concentrations of diesel-range hydrocarbons. A risk assessment was conducted and the hazard quotient was determined to be less than the action level. One monitoring well was installed through the former tank basin. A groundwater sample contained concentrations of volatile petroleum hydrocarbons and extractable petroleum hydrocarbons in excess of the cleanup level. Additional monitoring wells were subsequently installed and in 2000, a No Further Action determination was issued for the petroleum release under the Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP).

However, during groundwater sampling for petroleum hydrocarbons, tetrachloroethene (PCE) was detected in all three wells, and trichloroethene was detected in one well. A technical assistance letter was issued for the site from Ecology in 2002 regarding the PCE contamination. No subsequent information was received and in 2005 the VCP review was closed. Ecology has since received one groundwater monitoring report dated January 2006.

Under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA), Ecology maintains a statewide database of confirmed or suspected contaminated sites. This database is made available to the public upon request and online at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/cscs/CSCSpag.HTM>. It is Ecology's decision that the above-referenced property will be added to this database because of existing groundwater located at the site.

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Please note that inclusion in the database does not mean that Ecology has made a determination regarding the identification of any potentially liable person(s) under the Model Toxics Control Act (administered under Chapter 173-340 WAC).

It is the policy of the Department of Ecology to work cooperatively with persons to accomplish prompt and effective site cleanups. Ecology prefers to achieve site cleanup cooperatively through independent cleanup actions (WAC 173-340-510). Cooperating with Ecology in planning or conducting remedial actions is not an admission of guilt or liability.

In proceeding with an independent cleanup, please be aware that there are requirements in state law which must be adhered to. In particular, WAC 173-340-300(4) requires a report of independent actions. To the extent known, the report shall include:

1. identification and location of the hazardous substance(s)
2. circumstances of the release and discovery
3. remedial actions planned, completed, or underway

More requirements of independent cleanup actions are discussed in WAC 173-340-120(8)(b). Ecology will use the appropriate requirements contained throughout this chapter in its evaluation of the adequacy of any independent remedial actions performed.

You are encouraged to contact Ecology for limited informal advice and assistance. For technical assistance you are advised to hire an environmental consultant with the appropriate expertise.

If you would like Ecology to review the independent cleanup actions conducted and determine if the site warrants no further action, you are encouraged to participate again in the VCP. Information about the VCP is available online at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/vcp/Vcpmain.htm>, or you may contact Mark Dunbar, CRO VCP Coordinator, at (509) 454-7836.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me at (509) 454-7835.

Sincerely,



Brianne D. Harcourt
Site Manager
Toxics Cleanup Program