



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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December 7, 1998

STATE OF WASHINGTON
S.W. REGULATORY OFFICE

Mr. John Hansman
The Summit Group
600 Stewart Street Suite 1704
Seattle, WA 98101-1217

Dear Mr. Hansman:

RE: Old explosives at Rite Aid construction site, 6232 12811 Meridian South and 128th Street East, Puyallup

Thank you and your contractor, Construction Associates Inc., for your excellent cooperation and prompt actions following the December 3, 1998 discovery and subsequent detonation of 1951-era dynamite unearthed at this site. I was pleased that my recommendations were followed, specifically that the site was promptly fenced and the dynamite residues secured.

Since other similar materials may still be buried on-site and unknown residues may remain from the detonation, I request that you define and characterize the site, and conduct necessary cleanup. I have asked that you submit to me by Wednesday, December 9, 1998, a draft plan of action. State regulatory authority for this is found in Chapter 70.105D RCW (Model Toxics Control Act).

I gave your consultant, David Brown, information and contacts who have had somewhat similar local cleanup sites (Frederickson Industrial Park, former Dupont Works) involving dynamite and residuals. The Frederickson Industrial Park is now known as Boeing Frederickson plant. The former Dupont Works site is adjacent to the Northwest Landing development at Dupont. Since this is a unique contaminant, I suggest you retain someone with this special expertise in dealing with dynamite.

I will refer this case to Mike Blum in Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program. Mike Blum, the Ecology site manager for the former Dupont Works cleanup, can provide you further specific guidance. He can be reached at (360) 407-6262.

INCIDENT 9009988 DEBRIEFING MINUTES

12811 Meridian St E., Puyallup

December 4th, 1998; 1230 hours

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LFD, (Facilitator/Plans) Paul Webb gave a short explanation of the purpose behind the debriefing. He stated he would be asking for one representative from each agency to give comments and feedback. First, he asked Jim Jenkins from PCSO to tell everyone exactly what had happened since the beginning of the incident.

PCSO, Jim Jenkins gave a brief overview of what had taken place since the explosives were first discovered on December 3, 1998. He stated that in the end, events were only an hour behind the original time schedule for detonation. He thanked the fire department for all the help they provided.

Jenkins turned the floor over to a bomb technician to explain what had happened at the site this morning. They started out with three crates of explosives in the bank and another crate already opened. Charges were set on all exposed materials and after 1st detonation, more were uncovered. There was then a second detonation. All that remained was some residual paper that was then burned.

Washington State Patrol, Dan Ikena: Communication between agencies was outstanding and gave a "hats off to the Sheriff's Department" for their great work.

CPFR, (Incident Commander) Wayne Garden: The incident showed how important having a unified command is for situations like this. He stated he hoped the agencies involved would take it seriously when asked to send representatives to incidents like this. In the future, agencies need to send people with authority and decision making power to make a unified command. Breaking into planning cells and then, reconvening to discuss each group's plan worked very well. He commended the private industry agencies involved for doing a great job.

DEM, Ed Reed: Felt everything went well. The only glitches were with the phone numbers provided to citizens and the school district's decision to close schools without notifying anyone.

Williams Gas, Ted Said: His company needs to do some work internally on letting the fire department know what their needs are in emergency situations. He suggested "we" get together to discuss this further.

Tacoma City Light, Craig Lohrey: Stated he thought it was a good idea to have the utility companies represented at events like this. He noted power company representatives should especially be on site in case pole rescues are needed.

Puyallup School District, Chuck Rakoski: This served as a real "eye opener" for people in the district. The decision was made last night to close the three schools. One school was in the recommended evacuation zone and another right next to it. They decided closing all three in the area was the best precaution. He apologized for not notifying anyone. He recommended that when these kinds of emergencies arise in the future, the District Office be contacted not individual schools.

Puget Sound Energy, Stephanie Kresnex: there is still some damage out there. They are still evaluating gas lines and will re-energize when evaluation is complete. As of the time of debriefing, PSE had not re-energized yet.

Willow Hill Apartments, Jim Light: 8 units in building "W" cannot be inhabited due to damage from blast. Building "P" has some windows and doors damaged.

Pierce Transit, Ray Hawkins: Great collaboration by everyone.

CPFR, John Sinclair: Stated the detonation had damaged some mailboxes and scattered mail. He stated a mail inspector would probably be investigating.

Tacoma Water, Alan Lentz: The time schedule change nearly created a problem in shutting down the water. Power is needed for shutting down the water and with the schedule change, power was nearly turned off before the water was.

LFD, (Facilitator/Plans) Paul Webb: For more extensive events, a couple of people from each agency should help work on plans. The American Red Cross left the following comments with Webb: they had a shelter set up at LDS Church, unaware that Elim Evangelical was picked as the site instead. U.S. West Representative also left word with Webb that there were "no problems" on their end.

In closing, Webb stated that the following damage has been reported: Willow Hill apartments had doors popped, 7 windows broken, 6 screens displaced, power meters separated from the building, and mailboxes destroyed. Insurance Company behind the 7-Eleven had 1 large window broken.