

Department of Ecology
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PUBLIC COMMENT REQUESTED

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DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Fact Sheet

Site Cleanup Documents Available for the Univar USA Inc. Facility in Kent, WA

Summary

This fact sheet describes:

- ✓ The Univar USA Inc. facility
- ✓ Site investigation, cleanup plans, and Environmental Policy Act documents
- ✓ Ecology's process to finalize the report
- ✓ How the public can participate

Environmental investigations indicate that soil and groundwater at Univar's Kent facility are contaminated with various organic chemicals. Under state and federal law, Univar must investigate and cleanup the contamination. Opportunities for public input are part of the cleanup process. A comprehensive site report and draft cleanup plan along with other documents is now available for public review and comment.

Site Description

For over thirty years, Univar has stored, packaged, and distributed various chemical products from their facility in Kent. The facility covers eleven acres and is surrounded by many other commercial and industrial properties.



Location of Univar's facility in Kent, WA.

In the mid 1990s waste management activities and releases of hazardous substances were investigated and cleanup actions were initiated under state and federal cleanup laws.

Soil and groundwater beneath the site are contaminated with organic chemicals and chlorinated compounds. Low concentrations of organic chemicals in the lower part of the groundwater aquifer have migrated north across 212th Street beneath an adjacent industrial property.

Remedial Investigation, Focused Feasibility Study Addendum, and Draft Cleanup Action Plan

The purpose of a remedial investigation is to characterize environmental conditions. After that a feasibility study can develop possible cleanup alternatives for the property. A Draft Cleanup Action Plan then describes a preferred cleanup plan chosen for the site. Following public comment, Ecology will select the preferred cleanup action and amend the existing agreed order for site cleanup to implement the plan.

The draft cleanup action plan proposes **treatment** of contaminated areas using enhanced reductive dechlorination, **monitored natural attenuation** for treatment of the downgradient groundwater plume, and **institutional controls** to assure long-term protection of human health and the environment.

A restrictive (environmental) covenant will be placed on the property. This covenant is required since contaminants in excess of cleanup standards will remain on the property after the cleanup action.

Draft State Environmental Policy Act Checklist

The purpose of the State Environmental Policy Act or SEPA is to identify and evaluate whether there are probable significant adverse environmental impacts of environmental proposals. The public is invited to comment on the site draft cleanup documents.

**Public Comment Period
30 Days
July 15 to August 17, 2009**

The documents are available for review at:

Kent Regional Library
212 2nd Avenue N.
Kent, Washington 98032
253-859-3330

The information desk can direct you to Univar's documents

You may also view them, by appointment, at:

Washington State Dept. of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office
3190 - 160th AV SE
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452

Please call Sally Alexander (425-649-7239) or Sally Perkins (425-649-7190) to schedule an appointment.

Comments must be postmarked or received by **August 17, 2009**. Send them to:

Greg Caron
WA State Dept. of Ecology
15 W. Yakima Ave. #200
Yakima, WA 98902-3452
Tel: 509 454-7893
email: grca461@ecy.wa.gov

To receive a copy of any of the documents contact Greg Caron at the number above (TTY relay service available at 1-800-833-6388).

Procedures for Reaching Final Decisions

These documents are subject to public review and comment. The public review process under the state's Model Toxics Control Act can be found in the Washington Administrative Code 173-340-600.

A Public Hearing is Possible

If ten or more people request a public hearing, Ecology will schedule one. To request a hearing, or to request special accommodation for a hearing, contact Greg Caron by August 17, 2009. To find out if a public hearing will be held and/or its date and location, contact Greg Caron **after August 10, 2009**.

How to Participate

You may request, review, and comment on the site cleanup documents. Comments must be received by August 17th to be considered.

The most effective comments are those that:

- ✓ Provide specific information describing what aspect you believe is inappropriate.
- ✓ Provide factual and regulatory support for the comment.
- ✓ Suggest changes to fix the problem.
- ✓ Include supporting material. If the comment references a report not in Ecology's records, you must provide a copy of the reference.

Decision Making Process

Responding to comments and testimony

Ecology will consider and respond to written comments submitted by the public and any testimony, if a public hearing is held.

Final decisions

After considering all comments and possible testimony, Ecology will make a final decision or make a new tentative decision on the draft documents. If public comments result in substantial changes, then an additional public comment period will take place.

Effective date of decisions

After considering public comments, Ecology will make a final decision on the draft documents. The effective date of Ecology's decision will be set forth in the respective documents.

Ecology is an Equal Opportunity Agency. If you need this information in an alternative format, or you have special accommodation needs for the meeting, contact Greg Caron at (509) 454-7893 (Voice) or 711 or 1-800-833-6388 (TTY relay service)

UNIVAR USA, INC – KENT, WA Fact Sheet Glossary

Agreed Order: A legal agreement between Ecology and a potentially liable person to conduct work toward a cleanup.

Aquifer: An underground layer of water-bearing permeable rock or unconsolidated materials (gravel, sand, silt, or clay) from which groundwater can be usefully extracted using a water well.

Cleanup Action Plan: An Ecology approved document that selects the final site cleanup action(s) and specifies cleanup standards and other cleanup requirements.

Comment Period: A time when the public can review and comment on documents and proposed actions. For example, a comment period may allow community members to review and comment on proposed cleanup action alternatives and plans.

Groundwater: Water found beneath the earth's surface that fills pores between materials such as sand, soil, or gravel. In some places (aquifers), ground water occurs in quantities sufficient to use for drinking water, irrigation and other purposes.

Information Repository: A file containing current information, technical reports, and reference documents available for public review. It is usually in a public building convenient for local residents such as a school, city hall, or library.

Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA): Legislation requiring identification, investigation, and cleanup at facilities where hazardous substances were released. It defines the role of Ecology and invites public involvement in the decision-making process. MTCA regulations are administered by the Washington State Department of Ecology. The legislation was passed by citizens of the State of Washington through an initiative in 1988.

Potentially liable person: Any person who is responsible for cleaning up a contaminated site.

Public Notice: Adequate information mailed to people who have made a request of Ecology and to persons in the potentially affected vicinity of the proposed action. Also includes a mailing to appropriate news media, a publication in the local (city and county) newspaper of largest circulation, and the opportunity for the interested persons to comment.