

# Colville Post & Poles Cleanup Site



## CONTACTS & INFORMATION

### Comments accepted:

July 4 – August 4, 2016

### Submit comments to:

Jeremy Schmidt - Site Manager  
4601 North Monroe Street  
Spokane, WA 99205  
jeremy.schmidt@ecy.wa.gov

Technical questions:  
(509) 329-3484

### Document review locations

Colville Public Library  
195 South Oak Street  
Colville, WA 99114  
(509) 684-6620

Ecology Eastern Regional Office  
4601 North Monroe Street  
Spokane, WA 99205  
Please call (509) 329-3400 for an appointment.

### ONLINE:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=46>

**Facility Site ID No. 765**

**Cleanup Site ID No. 46**

## Ecology invites public input on draft Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Work Plan

The nearly 23-acre Colville Post & Poles site is located at 396 Highway 395 North, four miles outside of Colville in Stevens County, Washington. The site is within 200 feet of the [Colville River](#), which flows into Lake Roosevelt, a reservoir created by the Grand Coulee Dam on the Columbia River.

Colville Post & Poles, Inc. used the site to treat wood, primarily fence posts and rails, for about 60 years from the 1940s to 2005. Raw wood was dipped in tanks of heated solution and then dried on nearby drip pads. Treated wood was stockpiled on the ground in various locations in the yard.

Throughout the wood-treating period, pentachlorophenol and diesel leaked from piping and drip pads. In 1989, a 10,000-gallon, above-ground storage tank leaked pentachlorophenol to the ground. As a result, pentachlorophenol, petroleum products, dioxins, and furans have been found at the site.

In 2000, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation petitioned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to assess contamination at the site. Colville Post & Poles, Inc. closed down in 2005 when the owners couldn't afford upgrades required to meet environmental standards. Site cleanup is government-funded because the site owners/former operators are unable pay for it.

To address immediate threats to humans and the environment, the [EPA took action](#) in 2005 and 2006. They investigated the site, demolished treatment and storage buildings, installed groundwater monitoring wells,



## WHY IT MATTERS

Accidental spills of dangerous materials and past business practices have contaminated land and water throughout the state. The Washington State Department of Ecology Toxics Cleanup Program works to remedy these situations, which range from cleaning up contamination from leaking underground storage tanks, to large, complex projects requiring engineered solutions.

**Top right:** Debris at the Colville Post & Poles site that were left near and in surface water when the wood-treating operations ended in 2005. Photo taken during an Ecology site visit in April 2014.

**Bottom right:** After the Washington State Department of Ecology took interim cleanup actions in 2015, debris in and near surface water were moved and stockpiled on plastic sheeting.

and excavated and safely disposed of some contaminated soil, debris, and drummed wastes.

When funding became available in 2015, the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) took steps toward completing site cleanup. We removed debris in and around surface water and concrete footings in the area where wood was treated, temporarily stockpiled debris as necessary, and did an initial assessment of soil and groundwater contamination. Five groundwater samples contained pentachlorophenol and diesel at levels requiring cleanup.



## Request a public meeting

Erika Bronson  
Public Involvement Coordinator  
erika.bronson@ecy.wa.gov  
(509) 329-3546  
Ecology will hold a meeting if 10 people request one.

## Special accommodations

To request Americans with Disabilities Act accommodation, or printed materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at (509) 329-3546 or visit [www.ecy.wa.gov/accessibility.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/accessibility.html). Persons with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. Persons with speech disability may call TTY at (877) 833-6341.

## Language assistance

Para asistencia en Español:  
(360) 407-6097  
preguntas@ecy.wa.gov

한국어에서 지원에 대 한: (425) 649-7166

Liên hệ bằng tiếng Việt, xin liên lạc: (360) 407-6948

若需中文翻譯: (360) 407-6956

To address remaining contamination, Ecology is directing a remedial investigation and feasibility study to determine the full extent of remaining contamination and evaluate final cleanup options.

The public is invited to review the draft Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Work Plan from **July 4 through August 4, 2016**.

## Proposed work to further investigate contamination

The draft work plan includes installing groundwater monitoring wells and sampling soil to define where contamination ends.

Nine 2-inch diameter monitoring wells will be installed around the suspected groundwater plume to define its edges. Groundwater will be sampled, analyzed, and reported quarterly.

Past investigations showed that soil at shallow depths from about 6 inches to 1.5 feet below the ground surface may require cleanup. Multiple soil samples will be taken in approximately 38 places and analyzed for the following contaminants that are based on historical site operations:

- Dioxins/furans
- Diesel
- Pentachlorophenol
- The metals cadmium and mercury

Field sampling procedures for groundwater and soil are in the Sampling and Analysis Plan in Appendix B of the work plan. Quality control guidelines are in the Quality Assurance Project Plan in Appendix C.

## Next steps

After public review, contractors will follow the work plan to investigate the site during late summer and fall 2016. Next, they will draft the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study report, which will be available for public review and comment. When that is final, Ecology will draft a cleanup action plan and present it for public review and comment.

If substantial changes are made to any of the draft documents as a result of public comments, Ecology will hold another comment period.



Toxics Cleanup Program, Eastern Region  
4601 North Monroe Street  
Spokane, WA 99205

## Ecology seeks feedback on cleanup at Colville Post & Poles



### Public Comment Period for Draft Remedial Investigation Work Plan

**July 4 – August 4, 2016**

The Washington State Department of Ecology is investigating contamination at the Colville Post & Poles site at 396 Highway 395 North, four miles outside Colville in Stevens County. Former wood-treating operations left pentachlorophenol, petroleum, dioxin, and furan contamination. The proposed investigation will determine the full extent of soil and groundwater contamination and evaluate cleanup options. Please contact us with your questions and comments.