RESPONSIVENESS SUMMARY

WA DNR Webster Nursery

July 7 – August 8, 2016 Public Comment Period

New Agreed Order

Prepared by
Washington State Department of Ecology
Southwest Regional Office
Toxics Cleanup Program
Lacey, Washington

August 2016

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Site Information

Address: 9805 Blomberg Street Southwest Tumwater, Washington
Site Manager: Steve Teel
Public Involvement Coordinator: Stacy Galleher

In 2016, the Department of Ecology (Ecology) held a public comment period on the following documents:

- **Feasibility Study –** a report that evaluates different cleanup options.
- **Agreed Order –** a legal agreement to do cleanup work.
- **Draft Cleanup Action Plan** - describes the proposed cleanup actions.
- **State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Determination**—describes the potential environmental impacts of the cleanup work.

Ecology determined the cleanup actions would not have significant negative environmental impacts (a Determination of Non-Significance).

The comment period for the above documents ran from July 7 – August 8, 2016. Public comments and Ecology's responses to these comments are summarized in this document.

Site Background

The site is an operating nursery run by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (WA DNR) located at 9805 Blomberg Street Southwest in Tumwater, Washington. Soil and groundwater at the site are contaminated by a historical release of organochlorine pesticides from an underground storage tank. Specifically, the insecticide Heptachlor Epoxide (HE) remains above the state cleanup level in groundwater, 10 years after the initial cleanup of the site. Heptachlor Epoxide has not been used at the nursery since the early 1990's.

WA DNR first found the contamination in 1996 when removing the underground storage tank. In response to public concerns, Thurston County Department of Health and WA Department of Health tested residential wells in 1997. No pesticides were found in any of the wells sampled. The groundwater testing since then has shown that the contamination is contained within 20 feet of the former tank and within the DNR property boundary. The groundwater sampled at the edge of the nursery site is well below the state drinking water standard for safety.

Groundwater is water found beneath the soil surface. It collects, fills, and flows through open spaces between soil particles, and through cracks in rock.

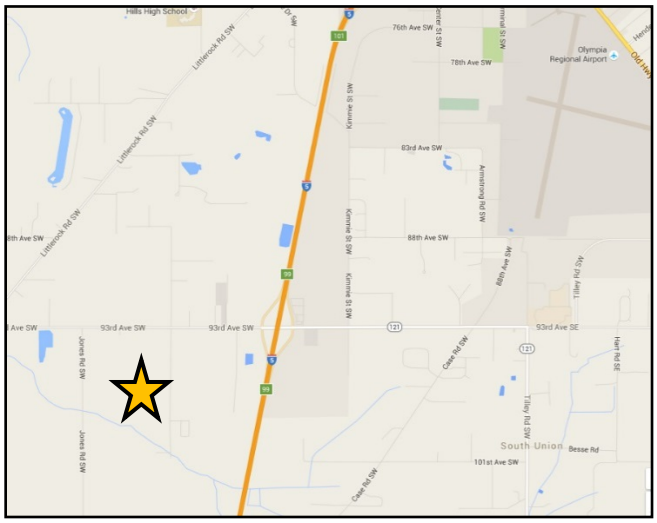
Cleanup History

In 1996, WA DNR removed the underground storage tank along with 70 cubic yards of contaminated soil (about 7 dump trucks full). At the time, they were not able to remove all

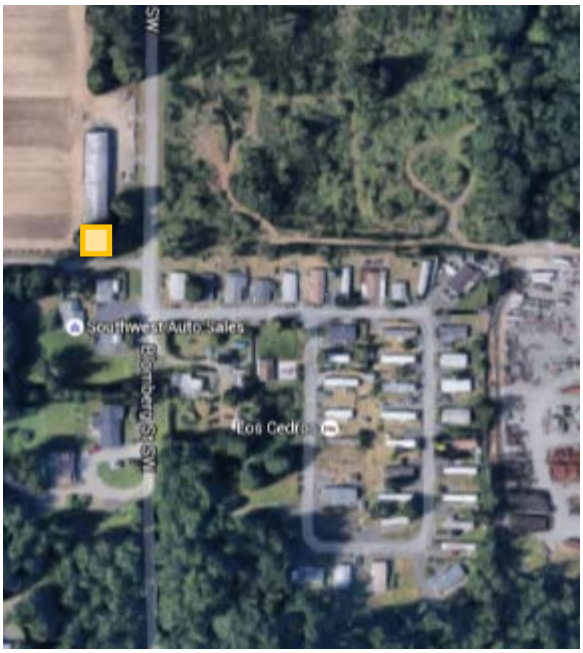
contaminated soil because groundwater was seeping in and filling the hole. Also, it was thought that digging deeper might affect the stability of the warehouse. The liquid from the tank was disposed of at a wastewater treatment and recycling facility. The contaminated soil was disposed of at a landfill facility.

Site Location

General Location



Orange Square is Where Cleanup Actions Will Occur



Comment #1: Nisqually Indian Tribe

Nisqually Indian Tribe
4820 She-Nah-Num Dr. S.E.
Olympia, WA 98513
(360) 456-5221

July 7, 2016

Steve Teel
Dept. of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Dear Mr. Teel

The Nisqually Indian Tribe thanks you for the opportunity to comment on:

Re: WA DNR Webster Nursery Cleanup Site

The Nisqually Indian Tribe has reviewed the report you provided for the above-named project. The Nisqually Indian Tribe has no further information or concerns at this time. Please keep me informed if there are any Inadvertent Discoveries of Archaeological Resources/Human Burials.

Sincerely,

Jackie Wall
THPO
Nisqually Indian Tribe
(360)456-5221 Ext. 2180
wall.jackie@nisqually-nsn.gov

Ecology Response

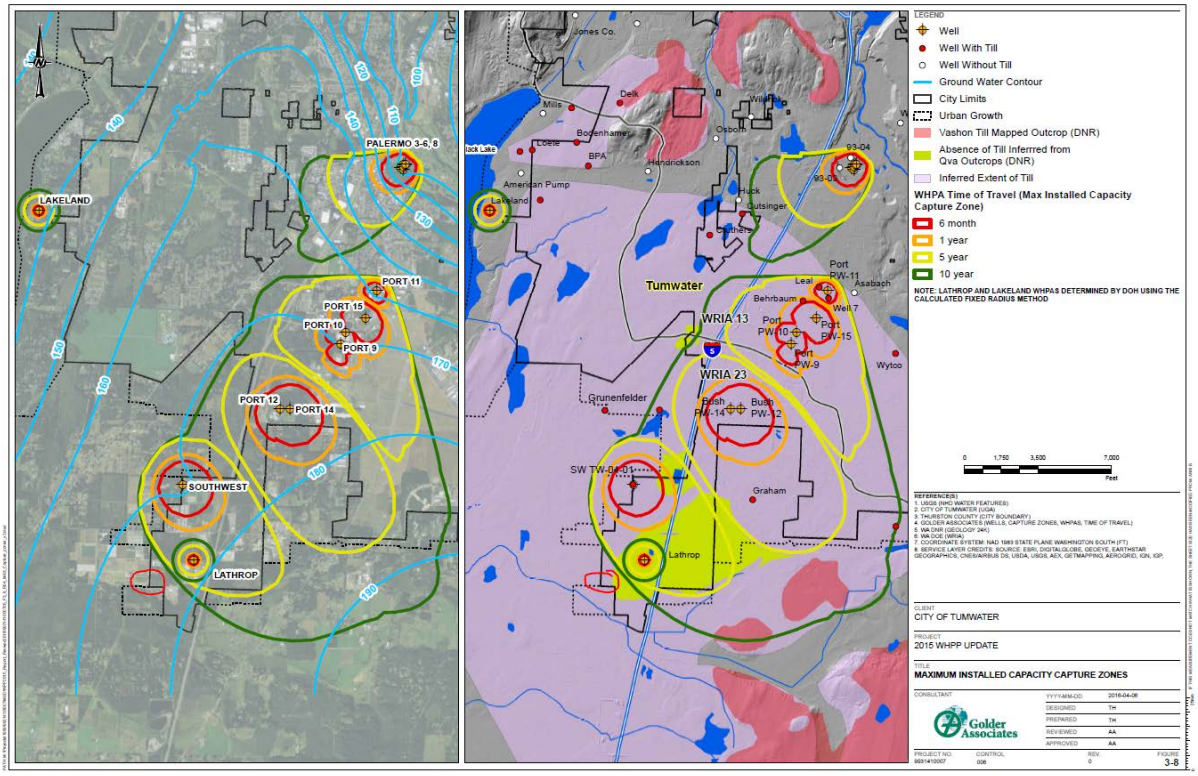
Thank you for your comments. An Unanticipated Discovery and Monitoring Plan will be included as part of the Remedial Action Work Plan. Please let us know if you would like to review the Unanticipated Discovery and Monitoring Plan when we receive it. This plan shall indicate that the Nisqually Indian Tribe shall be notified if any archaeological materials and/or human burials are discovered.

Comment #2: City of Tumwater

From: Dan Smith, Water Resources Program Manager
Sent: Tuesday, July 12, 2016 11:53 AM
To: Galleher, Stacy (ECY); Teel, Steve (ECY)
Subject: RE: Comment Period on cleanup documents and SEPA for WA DNR Webster Nursery Cleanup Site

This site is located adjacent to the City of Tumwater's proposed Southwest Wellfield. Our modeling suggests that the impacted area of the site is within approximately 500' of our wellhead protection zones (see figure, below). I circled the approximate area of the contaminated site. In the below image, you'll see a yellow area on the right side, indicating a zone where till is considered absent. This is an estimated area, and may be larger. This absence suggests a higher potential for groundwater contamination in waters contributory to the City's proposed wellfield. In addition, the Lathrop Well is currently active.

It is the City's hope that this site is cleaned up fully, with an understanding that public drinking water supplies are being developed and may be impacted by remnant contamination. It is generally accepted that taking care of the contamination now, while drinking water supplies are being developed, would be far less expensive than addressing contamination after public water supplies have been developed and additional treatment systems will be necessary to remediate the contamination. As a state agency, responsibility for the clean-up will remain in perpetuity. Please ensure this site is fully cleaned up to potable drinking water standards.



Ecology Response

Thank you for your e-mail and for providing the Figure showing the city's wellhead protection areas and extent of till map. Ecology shares the city's desire to clean up the site fully so that any potential drinking water supplies are safe from contamination. We are confident that the cleanup will accomplish this goal in a short timeframe, before additional City of Tumwater drinking water supplies can be developed. Also, please note that we have examined the figure that you attached to your e-mail with regard to the distance of the contaminated groundwater at the Site to the city's 10-year time of travel contour. By our calculations, the distance is actually approximately 1,225 feet rather than 500 feet because the red circled area on the map is much larger than the actual size of the Site. Likewise, it appears that the contaminated groundwater at the Site is not within the mapped yellow area where till is considered absent but is approximately 700 feet from the mapped area of absent till.