

## Cleanup Process Starts at Fuel Processors, Inc.

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) is overseeing cleanup of Fuel Processors Incorporated's (FPI) former facility in Woodland, Washington. FPI has hired a contractor, Coles Environmental Consulting, Inc. to study the contamination.

The contractors sample groundwater and soil. Groundwater is the water that flows underground through the soil. The sampling results will help Ecology determine the type and location of any contamination.

During the next couple of years, you may see people getting groundwater samples from monitoring wells or heavy equipment operating on site. Sampling has been going on since September 2008 and will continue through 2016.

Drinking water from the city's water is safe to drink. The Washington Department of Health monitors public drinking water supplies to make sure it meets standards.

### Project background

The FPI facility is located at 701 Bozarth Avenue in Woodland, Washington. Beginning in the 1930s, it was a Shell Oil Company wholesale petroleum plant. It was sold to a series of independent owners in the 1960s. A past owner planned to use the facility for solvent processing and submitted the required permitting documentation. The permit application is required for any company wanting to treat, store, or dispose of dangerous waste.

FPI purchased the site in 1984. In 1985, the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and FPI agreed to close the permit for dangerous waste disposal at the site. The site was used to collect, store, and dehydrate used oil from 1985 through 2000. It has been idle since 2000 except for maintaining the stormwater collection system.

FPI had a brief used-oil spill in 1985 that was immediately cleaned up. The oil was cleaned up and contaminated soil was dug up and sent to a permitted landfill. FPI then covered the area with a bermed, concrete secondary-containment structure. This means that any residual contamination from past operations has been "capped" with concrete. This prevents people and animals from coming in contact with any contamination.

### What do we know so far?

The soil under the plant and tank-farm areas was sampled in 2008 indicating that gasoline and oil contamination were present under much of the western half of the site.



*Crew installing a temporary borehole for soil and groundwater-grab sampling using a push probe. Located in the former tank farm. Photo by David Coles.*

Ecology is reviewing the results from the sampling work done by FPI and its environmental consultant to determine if more sampling of the groundwater and soil outside of the property is needed.

Contaminants in the groundwater and soil include:

- Weathered gasoline
- Diesel
- Used oil products
- Chlorinated Volatile Organic Compounds (CVOCs)

## What happens next?

Sampling is part of a larger cleanup process called Corrective Action (CA). Under the CA process, Ecology oversees the work that FPI is doing to determine the type and location of the contamination and help define the best cleanup solutions. You can ask questions and provide comments throughout the process. See contact information below.

The data we gather will be used for a Remedial Investigation (RI) and Feasibility Study (FS). The RI provides information about the type and extent of contamination. The FS compares different ways to clean up the site. It includes information about how much the cleanup will cost and how long it will take. The public will have an opportunity to comment on the RI and FS once a draft is ready. The draft RI/FS is expected to be ready for review in 2016. Once the RI/FS is finalized, we will then propose a draft cleanup action plan (CAP). There will be an opportunity for the public to comment on the draft CAP when it is ready.

Ecology will work closely with nearby property owners, residents, and local officials. We will:

- Ensure community impacts from sampling are minimized.
- Provide information about sampling types, dates, times, and results.
- Update Ecology's website with current project information.
- Invite public comments and questions.

## Questions?

We will continue to update the community about progress at the site. When we have results, we will create informational fliers and put them at the site. We will also update our website regularly. Ecology's website for FPI is <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=76>.

If you have questions about the sampling or cleanup process, contact Ecology's site manager, Charles Hoffman. Contact him by phone at 360-407-6344 or by email at [chof461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:chof461@ecy.wa.gov).

If you are interested in getting email updates about the site or have questions about the public comment process, contact the Public Involvement Coordinator, Bridgette Valdez-Kogle, at [brva461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:brva461@ecy.wa.gov) or 360-407-7616.

*To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call the Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program, 360-407-6700. Persons with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. Persons with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.*



*Geologist Jill Betts, LG, sampling groundwater from a temporary boring with a peristaltic pump. Photo by David Coles.*