

## Three Reports about Petroleum in Soil and Groundwater are Available for Comment

You have an opportunity to provide Ecology your comments about three draft reports completed for the North Colfax Petroleum Contamination site. The site is located in the city of Colfax, Whitman County, Washington.

The site lies along the east side of North Main Street at the intersection of East Tyler and East Harrison Streets. The site is approximately 1000 feet south of the Palouse River and east of the South Fork of the Palouse River (Figure 1).

The site includes several parcels, currently or previously occupied by gasoline stations. Petroleum leaks from operations at the site contaminated soil and groundwater requiring further investigations and the development of cleanup options.



North Colfax Petroleum Site

The Remedial Investigation Report provides findings of the investigations about site-related petroleum contamination. An Addendum was completed for the Remedial Investigation Report to identify data gaps that Ecology found while reviewing the Feasibility Study/Disproportionate Cost Analysis. The Feasibility Study Report provides detailed evaluation of potential cleanup alternatives.

### You are invited to:

- **Review** the Remedial Investigation, Remedial Investigation Addendum, and Feasibility Study Disproportionate Cost Analysis Reports.
- **Send** comments to Ecology **January 31 through February 29, 2012**

These documents are draft until Ecology considers public comments and makes any appropriate modifications.

### Comments Accepted

January 31 through February 29, 2012

For **ADA accommodations** or documents in an alternate format, call Carol Bergin 509/329-3546 (voice), 711 (relay service), or 877-833-6341 (TTY).

### Para asistencia en Español

Richelle Perez 360/407-7528

### Если вам нужно помощь по русский, звоните

Tatyana Bistrevsky 509/928-7617

### Document Review Locations

#### WA Department of Ecology

Kari Johnson, Public Disclosure

4601 N. Monroe St.

Spokane, WA 99205-1295

Call for an appointment 509/329-3415

#### Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Website

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=11557>

#### Whitman County Library

102 S. Main

Colfax, WA 99111

509/397-4366

### Submit Comments and Technical Questions

WA Department of Ecology

Doug Ladwig, Site Manager

4601 N. Monroe St.

Spokane WA 99205-1295

509/329-3440

[Doug.Ladwig@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Doug.Ladwig@ecy.wa.gov)

### Public Involvement Questions

WA Department of Ecology

Carol Bergin, Public Involvement

See Ecology address above

509/329-3546 or [Carol.bergin@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Carol.bergin@ecy.wa.gov)

**Facility Site ID No.** 4272

**Cleanup Site ID No.** 11557

## Parties Involved

The Colfax Grange Supply Company, Inc., CHS, Inc., and Time Oil Co. entered into a legal agreement with the Washington State Department of Ecology in 2007. The agreement required the three companies, known as potentially liable persons (PLPs), to conduct a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) at the site.

Since 2007 additional PLPs have been named because of property transactions, dissolving businesses, and new ownerships. They have been combined into a group called the North Colfax group. PetroSun Fuel, Inc. (now Pacific Convenience & Fuel, LLC), TOC Holdings Co. (formerly Time Oil Co.), CHS, Inc., and Colfax Grange Supply Company, Inc. make up the North Colfax group

## Site Background

For purposes of cleanup, the site has been divided into three main properties.

- The Colfax Grange property is located at 105 East Harrison Street. It includes a hardware store and warehouse facility. A release was confirmed in 2004 when CHS, Inc., delivered unleaded fuel to the Colfax Grange's cardtrol facility. During the fuel delivery, CHS, Inc. overfilled the tank, releasing petroleum to the ground. Efforts were made to clean up contamination by removing a section of the concrete cover and underlying soil where the release occurred. Additional groundwater monitoring wells were installed. Samples from these wells show petroleum in groundwater
- The Cenex property is bordered on the north by East Tyler Street, to the west by North Main Street, to the south by the railroad tracks and to the east by an unopened City of Colfax right-of-way. The Cenex property also includes the Cardtrol facility owned by the Colfax Grange. Colfax Grange Supply Company is the legal owner of the Cardtrol facility located at 102 East Tyler Street.

Documentation in the RI/FS refers to the Cenex property for the purpose of delineation of the residual contamination remaining at Colfax Grange Supply Cardtrol facility at 102 E Tyler Street.

- The Time Oil property is located at 804 North Main Street and includes a gasoline station convenience store with a pump island canopy (Cougar Mart).

Releases of petroleum occurred as a result of operations of petroleum gas station businesses at the site. The first release was discovered in 1999 when the Time Oil Co. upgraded the gasoline convenience store known as Food Mart 041. Petroleum was found in soil and groundwater during the upgrade of the facility. Several cleanup actions conducted by Time Oil and Colfax Grange have taken place at the site since 1999.

Groundwater monitoring wells were installed in 2001 and 2002. Samples from some of these wells found petroleum in groundwater beyond the facility's boundaries. As a result, Ecology asked Colfax Grange Supply, Inc. to install monitoring wells at their facility which is across the street from the Food Mart.

## Remedial Investigation Results

The investigations confirmed that there are elevated levels of petroleum product in soil on the Time Oil, Cenex, and Colfax Grange properties which make up the site. Petroleum products include gasoline, diesel, and heavy oils.

Groundwater sampling conducted from September 2009 to May 2011 showed four groundwater monitoring wells with petroleum product at levels that exceeded state standards. Petroleum plumes are found under the site. (A plume is a mass of contamination underground mixed with groundwater.)

Since interim cleanup actions were conducted on the Time Oil and Cenex properties, the observed



petroleum contamination plumes under the site shrank significantly. Only one groundwater monitoring well continues to show signs of petroleum contamination within the site boundaries.

The City of Colfax and some private entities get their drinking water from wells that draw from the underlying basalt bedrock aquifers deep under the site. The drinking water from the deep aquifers has not been impacted by site-related contamination. There is no impact to drinking water at this time.

There are no significant risks from contaminant-related vapors at the site.

### Feasibility Study Report

Varying degrees of soil and groundwater contamination exist on the three properties which are individually owned by members of the North Colfax Group. The following are the alternatives evaluated for each property:

#### Time Oil, Cenex, and Colfax Grange Properties

Alternative 1: Maintenance of an asphalt and concrete cap that confines contamination with monitored natural attenuation and using institutional controls such as a management plan or contaminant contingency plan for remaining petroleum in subsurface soil.

Alternative 2: Treat soil with a soil vapor extraction system and maintain the asphalt and concrete containment cap.

Alternative 3: Remove contaminated soil with shoring and off-property disposal.

Alternative 1 is the cleanup option each company recommends for their individual properties within the site.

### What Happens Next?

Ecology will review and respond to all comments **submitted by February 29, 2012**. A written Responsiveness Summary will be prepared and sent to all commenters and placed on the website listed in the box on page 1. Ecology will review public comment about the recommended cleanup options and determine which alternative(s) will best meet

regulatory requirements and protect human health and the environment. Ecology will make modifications to the report based on public comment if appropriate. If no changes are made, the report will become final.

Next, Ecology will write a Draft Cleanup Action Plan and select the most appropriate cleanup alternative(s) for the site based on current proven scientific technologies, protection of human health and the environment, and public input.

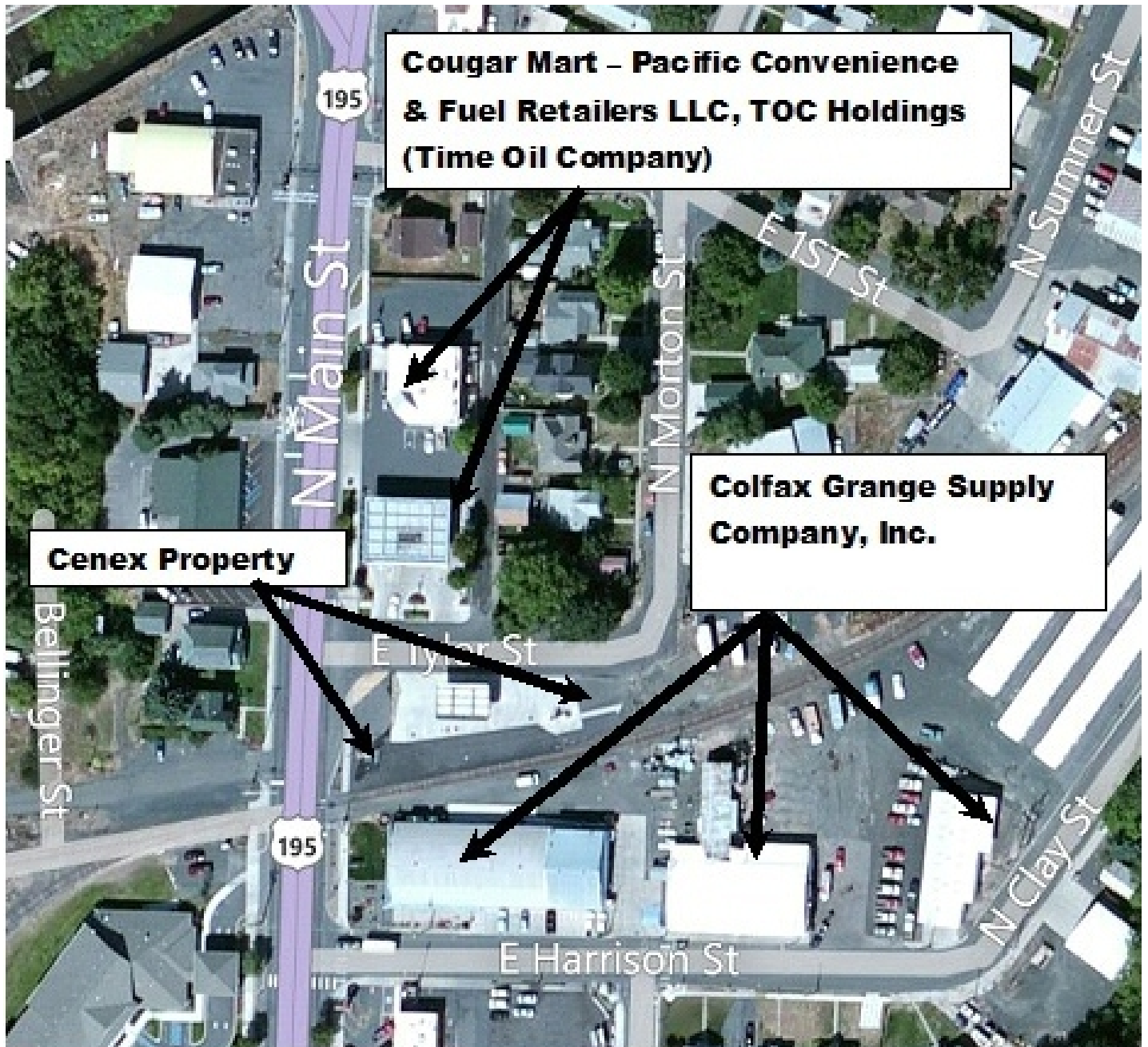


Figure 1



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington  
4601 N. Monroe  
Spokane, WA 99205-1295

North Colfax Petroleum Contamination Site  
Comments Sought on Remedial Investigation  
and Feasibility Study Reports