

# Welch's Plant Kennewick Benton County



## Agreed Order for Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Proposed, Early SEPA Scoping Notice

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is providing an opportunity for the public to comment on upcoming activities at the Welch's Plant in Kennewick, Ecology Facility/Site # 89931898, located at 10 E Bruneau, Kennewick.

The Welch's Plant (the Site) has soil and groundwater contaminated with petroleum. Ecology has drafted an Agreed Order for a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS), which will gather more information about how much contamination is present as well as options for cleanup. In addition, Ecology would like to provide the public an opportunity to participate in the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) early scoping process to help identify environmental issues that need to be evaluated at the Site.

### Site Background

The site is a food processing facility that was formerly owned and operated by Welch Foods, Inc. (Welch's) and is now owned by Lieb Properties II, LLC.

In August 2006, PBS Engineering and Environmental (PBS) conducted a Phase 2 Environmental Assessment. This assessment was the first time petroleum contamination was discovered in soil and groundwater. PBS determined the source of contamination was two 12,000-gallon underground storage tanks that were removed in the 1970s.

### Ecology Wants Your Comments!

PBS excavated the contaminated soil on the site. They submitted two additional reports—a Limited Underground Storage Tank Assessment and a Soil Remedial Action Report—both of which were received by Ecology on August 25, 2006. PBS reported removal of contaminated soil to the depth of the water table, approximately 21 feet. Sampling results from the contaminated soil stockpile confirmed diesel and oil contamination above state cleanup levels. Sampling results from groundwater confirmed diesel and oil contamination above state cleanup levels.

### What is a RI/FS?

The Agreed Order requires Welch's to conduct an RI/FS. The RI/FS will document additional sampling data and provide an evaluation of cleanup options. Ecology will oversee the project to ensure that all terms of the Agreed Order are satisfied.

### Determination of Non-Significance

After reviewing a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) environmental checklist, Ecology has made a decision that the RI/FS process will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. The checklist and Determination of Non-Significance are part of the documents available for public comment.

## September 2007

**Ecology is Accepting Comments**  
September 26, 2007 through  
October 26, 2007

**Review Documents at**  
WA Department of Ecology  
Central Regional Office  
15 W Yakima Avenue, Ste 200  
Yakima WA 98902  
Roger Johnson, Public Disclosure  
509/454-7658

**Mid-Columbia Library**  
405 S. Dayton  
Kennewick, WA 98336

**Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Web Site**  
[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/welchs/welchs\\_hp.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/welchs/welchs_hp.htm)

**Submit Comments or Technical Questions to**  
Mark Dunbar  
WA Department of Ecology  
Toxics Cleanup Program  
15 W Yakima Avenue, Ste 200  
Yakima WA 98902  
509/454-7836  
[mdun461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:mdun461@ecy.wa.gov)

**Direct All Other Questions to**  
Frosti Smith  
Public Involvement Coordinator  
WA Department of Ecology  
15 W Yakima Avenue, Ste 200  
Yakima WA 98902  
509/454-7841  
[fsmi461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:fsmi461@ecy.wa.gov)

Please address any written comments or questions you may have on the draft Agreed Order, or any environmental issues that may need to be evaluated at the site, to Mark Dunbar at the address listed in the information box on the first page. Documents can be reviewed at the listed locations from September 26, 2007 through October 26, 2007.

Ecology will incorporate appropriate comments into the final Agreed Order, in addition to addressing other comments and questions concerning environmental issues that may need to be evaluated at the site. If ten or more persons request a public meeting on the draft Agreed Order or environmental issues that may need to be addressed at

the site, Ecology will hold a public meeting for the purpose of receiving comments.

For information about other opportunities for public involvement such as meetings, hearings, open houses and workshops, please visit Ecology's Public Involvement Calendar at <http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/publiccalendar/calendar.asp>

While you are at the calendar page, you may click on the link *Frequently Asked Questions about Effective Public Commenting* and learn more about the public comment process.