

Responsiveness Summary for Comments Received for the
Boise Cascade Yakima Mill Site Agreed Order No. DE 13959

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) provided an opportunity for the public to comment on the Agreed Order for the “Boise Cascade Mill Site,” located at 805 N. 7th Street in Yakima. This site is also known as the Yakima Mill Site. Under the Agreed Order, a Remedial Investigation, Feasibility Study, and Draft Cleanup Action Plan will be completed.

The Agreed Order was subject to public comment from January 18, 2017 through February 17, 2017.

Comments received are listed below and followed by Ecology’s responses in **bold**.

Comment from Roger Wilson (via email):

I own a home that borders this Site. We have a shallow well that is used for drinking water. According to the mailer you sent out, the groundwater is contaminated. The cleanup is going to disturb even more contaminates and we need to have city water run to my house and all the other houses that do not have city water. This should be done at the expense of the people who contaminated the area. It is my understanding that the city had a dump here; who is going to get us clean water and shouldn’t that be done sooner than later, to avoid any lawsuits?

Ecology Response: This phase of the process will consist of collecting soil and groundwater samples from areas throughout the 171 acre site. Collection of these samples will not impact wells used for drinking water. If later cleanup work requires hook-up to city water, Ecology will re-engage with affected property owners at that time. Note that costs for the investigation and cleanup will be paid for by the potentially liable parties, OfficeMax Incorporated, Dunollie Enterprises, LLC, LeeLynn, Inc. and Wiley Mt., Inc. and Yakima Resources, LLC.

Comment from Jim Stevenson (via telephone voice message):

Mr. Stevenson expressed his opinion that the Boise Mill site had been used to make a lot of profit for its owners while it was in active use, and he is worried that now that the site is no longer in active use, the taxpayers will be left paying the bills for the cleanup. He is hoping for a resolution that doesn’t involve the ‘wrong’ people paying for the cleanup.

Ecology Response: No taxpayer or state funds are being used. All costs for the investigation and cleanup will be paid for by the potentially liable parties, OfficeMax Incorporated, Dunollie Enterprises, LLC, LeeLynn, Inc. and Wiley Mt., Inc. and Yakima Resources, LLC.

Comment from Anonymous (via telephone voice message):

Caller suggested that trees be planted at Site.

Ecology Response: Ecology realizes the many benefits that come from tree planting. We are unsure what final site development will look like, but appreciate your input.

Comment from Bud Pannell (via telephone):

Mr. Pannell ran the log yard from the mid-1970s until the mid-1990s He called regarding the two log ponds on the property. The south log pond was filled with municipal solid waste, and the north log pond was filled with rebar-containing concrete. He stated that any asphalt was sent to a hazardous waste landfill and was not dumped in the north log pond. Mr. Pannell also stated that there was a diesel release in the log yard. He stated that Ken Leingang conducted the diesel cleanup.

Ecology Response: We appreciate this information, which will help us with site history and contaminant information. Thank you for participating in the public comment process.

Comment from John Gaudette (via telephone):

Mr. Gaudette lives near the mill site, and also owns properties near the mill site. He expressed concern about the soil that comes onto his properties when the wind blows. He was also concerned that he did not see asbestos on the contaminant list, as he knows that the boiler rooms are still located on the Site. Mr. Gaudette wanted to inform Ecology of two areas where historical dumping of used oil and other fluids took place, and of the barrels that were recently removed from an area near the 8th Street entrance to the Mill Site.

Ecology Response: Air quality is important to Ecology. Any investigation or cleanup work is required to have standard measures taken to reduce dust and track-out. Also, the contaminant list can be modified as more information is known about past practices and potential contamination. Thank you for participating in the public comment process.

Comment from Roger Moberly (via letter):

Mr. Moberly expressed concern about the amount of effort and cost to taxpayers it would take to redevelop the old mill site. He suggested that we use core drilling to assess how best to redevelop this site.

Ecology Response: No taxpayer or state funds are being used. All costs for the investigation and cleanup will be paid for by the potentially liable parties, OfficeMax Incorporated, Dunollie Enterprises, LLC, LeeLynn, Inc. and Wiley Mt., Inc. and Yakima Resources, LLC. We will pass on your comment about core drilling to the environmental professionals conducting the investigation. Thank you for participating in the public comment process.