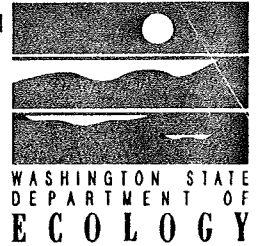


ARDEN'S COUNTRY STORE



Announcing the Availability of a Remedial Investigation Report

Ecology welcomes your comments from March 16, to April 17, 1992

The State of Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) has completed a Remedial Investigation (RI) to determine the extent to which contamination resulting from leaking underground storage tanks at Arden's Country Store in Malott threatens human health and the environment. The RI report is currently available for public review and comment.

BACKGROUND

Arden's Country Store is located in the community of Malott in Okanogan County, on the southeast corner of Old Highway 97 and Allen Street. The business is a convenience store and gas station and is owned and operated by Arden Brazil. The gas station portion of the business is not active at this time. Ecology discovered this site in February 1988 after investigating a report of gasoline-like odors in the basement of Arden's Country Store. Investigation by the local Fire Department and Ecology identified explosive levels of gasoline-like vapors traveling up through an old well shaft into the store's basement. An immediate emergency action undertaken by Ecology and the Fire Department to stabilize the site involved sealing the well and removing two old underground storage tanks located directly in front of the store. One of the tanks contained gasoline and the other a solvent containing primarily the same substances as gasoline. Contaminated soil was then removed from the area where the tanks had been located and the pit filled with clean backfill.

Results of initial sampling conducted during this emergency action indicated gasoline contaminated ground water and soil. Further, periodic ground water sampling of the well in the basement of Arden's Country Store revealed progressively higher levels of gasoline contamination.

An Enforcement Order requiring that a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) be conducted was issued to Arden Brazil on May 22, 1991. This requirement was not fulfilled, so Ecology is conducting the RI/FS.

RESULTS OF THE REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION

The field work for the Remedial Investigation was conducted this past summer. The results of this investigation have been compiled in a report. The study investigated eight potential source areas for the on-site ground water contamination. These potential source areas were located on six different properties in Malott, and included locations where other underground tanks are presently located, or had previously been located. Two of the potential source areas had formerly been sites of automobile repair and painting operations, and one source area had formerly been a refuse dump.

Of these eight source areas investigated, the study concluded that the sources of the gasoline contaminated ground water at Arden's Country Store are as follows:

* the area directly in front of Arden's Country Store from which the two old

MARCH 1992

INFORMATION/FACT SHEET

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PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON RI REPORT:

March 16, 1992 to
April 17, 1992

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES:

The RI report can be reviewed at the following locations:

Ecology Central Regional Office
address listed above

Okanogan County Courthouse
Office of the Auditor
149 3rd Avenue North
Okanogan, WA 98840

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underground storage tanks were removed in the emergency action in 1988;

* the area adjacent to the northwest corner of Arden's Country Store where three underground storage tanks currently exist.

The study confirmed that levels of gasoline contamination in the ground water at Arden's Country Store are still becoming progressively higher. The study also found that the soil on-site is highly contaminated with gasoline. Additionally, lead is present in the ground water at levels slightly above drinking water standards at Arden's Country Store and the vacant northwest corner of Old Highway 97 and B & O Road.

One of the three existing on-site underground storage tanks is known to have a leak; this tank last contained leaded gasoline. Further investigation of these tanks is being conducted.

The RI also concluded that the plume of contaminated ground water has not travelled off-site. The plume extends from the vicinity of the gas pump island and the area in front of the store to an easterly boundary located approximately twenty-five feet under the store. This plume is traveling slowly in an easterly direction, and is confined to the shallow ground water aquifer.

WHAT IS BEING DONE?

The data collected in the Remedial Investigation report (along with any other pertinent information) will be utilized in conducting a Feasibility Study (FS). The purpose of the FS is to evaluate alternative methods for cleaning up this site. The study will recommend the most appropriate cleanup option, and a Cleanup Action Plan will follow. Ecology will oversee this project to ensure compliance with the Model Toxics Control Act (Chapter 173-340 WAC).

HUMAN HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Some substances contained in gasoline, particularly benzene, have adverse health impacts associated with them. Benzene is a

known human carcinogen, and is present in the soil and ground water at the site. The levels of benzene present in the ground water greatly exceed the drinking water standard. Potential migration of contaminants causes concern; however, at this rate it will be at least several years before the contamination reaches the nearest easterly drinking water wells drawn from the shallow ground water aquifer. Ecology expects that the plume of contaminated ground water will be under control before it has a chance to travel off-site. The drinking water well located between Arden's Country Store and the Post Office is not a health concern because it is drawn from a deeper aquifer. This deeper aquifer is separate from the shallow aquifer and is not impacted by the gasoline contamination.

The presence of lead in the shallow groundwater aquifer at levels slightly exceeding the drinking water standard is also a health concern. However, there are presently no drinking water wells located in the two previously mentioned areas where these levels of lead are known to be present.

ECOLOGY WANTS YOUR COMMENTS

The public is invited to review and comment on the Remedial Investigation report through April 17, 1992. Information repositories have been set up at the locations listed in the information box on page one. The report will be available at these repositories. To review other file documents related to the site, contact Michelle Slater at (509) 454-7658 to make an appointment.

Please submit technical questions or comments to Susan Burgdorff, Ecology's site manager, at the address listed in the box on page one. Ecology will review written comments and include them, if necessary, with other information to be considered in the Feasibility Study. Updates of site activity will be provided to those who submit comments, or request to be placed on the site mailing list. Updates or requests for additional fact sheets should be directed to Mr. Jeff Phillips, Public Involvement Specialist at (509) 454-7886.