



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Response to Comments

Draft Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study for Warden City Water Supply Wells 4 & 5

Facility Site ID: 2802409

Cleanup Site ID: 1618

Public comment period held:

July 30 – August 28, 2018

Summary of a public comment period and responses to comments

September 2018

Publication and Contact Information

This document is available on the Washington State Department of Ecology's website at <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/CleanupSiteDocuments.aspx?csid=1618>.

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Toxics Cleanup in Washington State

Accidental spills of dangerous materials and past business practices have contaminated land and water throughout the state. The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) Toxics Cleanup Program works to remedy these situations, which range from cleaning up contamination from leaking underground storage tanks, to large, complex projects requiring engineered solutions.

Contaminated sites in Washington State are cleaned up under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA, [Chapter 173-340 Washington Administrative Code](#)), a citizen-mandated law passed in 1989. This law sets standards to ensure toxics cleanup protects human health and the environment and includes opportunities for public input.

Public Comment Period Summary

Ecology held a comment period from July 30 through August 28, 2018, for the draft [Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study](#) for the Warden City Water Supply Wells 4 & 5 cleanup site.

The remedial investigation documents the extent and locations of ethylene dibromide (EDB) contamination in soil and groundwater at the site. The feasibility study evaluates four cleanup options.

Ecology appreciates the comments we received from one person, which we address in the Response to Comments section that begins on page 2. After considering the comments, Ecology has made the draft report final without further changes.

Warden City Water Supply Wells 4 & 5 Background

The site is located at 1800 W. 1st Street in Warden. J.R. Simplot Company (Simplot), the property owner since 1971, is responsible for cleanup.

In 1989, the City of Warden found that wells 4 and 5 contained EDB at levels exceeding safe drinking water standards. The city stopped using Well 4 and permanently closed it in 2010. Well 5 is only used for irrigation. The community's current drinking water supply is coming from wells 6, 7, and 8. These wells have been tested and do not contain the pesticide EDB.

From 1971 to 1992, Simplot stored, blended, and transported agricultural chemicals, including EDB, at the site. After the City of Warden discovered EDB in wells 4 and 5, the surrounding area was investigated to locate the contamination source. Soil at the Simplot

property was found to contain EDB at levels that are a potential risk for groundwater contamination and consistent with EDB levels in groundwater.

Response to Comments

Kenneth Enns, July 30, via email

Our water system is the Sage Hills Second Water System located southwest of Warden. What is the risk that our system being contaminated by EDB getting into the ground water in the Wanipum aquifer? How deep are the 12 monitoring wells? It appears that Option 3 is the best option, however there is no time frame given for when the removal of the contaminated soil is going to start. I would like to attend a public meeting if scheduled.

Thanks, Ken

Ecology's response, August 8, via email: We believe the risk is low. The City of Warden operated wells within one mile south of the cleanup site that have no detections of EDB, and the limits of contamination have been defined as shown in the Remedial Investigation.

The monitoring wells are up to 75 feet deep. Four wells are screened in silt and sandy silt. Eight of the wells are screened 5-15 feet into the basalt.

The schedule for cleanup will be established after public comments are considered. As soon as all public comments have been addressed, Ecology will write a Cleanup Action Plan, a draft of which will be open for public comment. The legal agreement associated with the plan, which will also be available for public review and comment, will specify the scope of work and schedule.

Thank you for your interest in a public meeting. We will schedule one if 10 people request it. Your request is the first one we have received.