USG Interiors, LLC Puyallup Site

General vicinity of site

Comments accepted:
January 7-February 5, 2019

Submit comments:
Online at:
http://cs.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=3heuK

Or by mail to:
Mohsen Kourehdar, Cleanup Project Manager
Washington Department of Ecology
PO Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775

Document review locations:
Online Site information
https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=3634

Pierce County Library
1000 Laurel St
Milton, WA 98354

Tacoma Main Library
1102 Tacoma Avenue South
Tacoma, WA 98402

Citizens for a Healthy Bay
535 Dock St Suite 213
Tacoma, WA 98402
(253) 383-2429

Ecology-Lacey Office
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503
(360) 407-6365 – By appointment

Cleanup plans available for public comment

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) is entering into a new legal agreement called an Agreed Order with USG Interiors, LLC (USG) to clean up arsenic contamination at its former USG site in Puyallup, Washington (site).

Ecology wants to hear from you

Ecology invites you to review and comment on the following cleanup documents by **February 5, 2019**.

- Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) that describes the contamination and compares cleanup options.
- Cleanup Action Plan (CAP) that outlines the cleanup option selected by Ecology.
- Agreed Order DE #11098 that requires USG to implement and maintain the recommended cleanup actions.
- State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review that describes the potential environmental impacts of the cleanup work.

You can also review and comment on the Public Participation Plan, which describes how Ecology will inform the community about site activities and opportunities to be involved in the cleanup process.

Site description

The site is located at 1005 River Road East between River Road and the Puyallup River. It is 1.58 acres and consists of four USG-owned tax parcels and portions of the Bonney Lake Used Cars property to the west, Market Place Auto property to the east, and Pierce County's Inter-County River Improvement Right-of-Way along the Puyallup River to the north. The Riverwalk Trail, a paved path at the top of the river bank, is used for biking and walking. Currently, there are no plans for future land use at the site.

Contamination

Prior to 1971, the USG facility used slag from the former Tacoma Asarco copper smelter as a raw material to produce rock wool, a mineral fiber insulation. The manufacturing waste that consisted of "baghouse dust" and "shot", was used as fill on the site to raise the grade. In the 1980s, USG learned that the slag and waste contained high concentrations of arsenic, and had contaminated soil, sediments in the Puyallup River, and groundwater.

What is Rock Wool?

Rock wool is an insulating and fire proofing material. It is made by heating rock until it is molten and blowing or spinning it into fine fibers.

Arsenic is a toxic metal. It can occur naturally in the soil or come from industrial processes. Arsenic can be harmful to human health. For more information visit: https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tf.asp?id=19&tid=3

Slag is a hard, glassy material containing elevated concentrations of arsenic, lead, and other metals. It was produced during copper smelting at Asarco.

In 1984, USG entered into an Agreed Order to assess groundwater contamination on the site. Between 1984 and 1985, USG removed contaminated soil and disposed of it at a hazardous waste landfill. Ecology required USG to monitor the groundwater after the cleanup. In 2006, USG conducted a site assessment and found soil and ground water with arsenic concentrations above the state Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) cleanup levels. In 2007, USG conducted a RI/FS. Now, Ecology and USG are proposing to implement the CAP to address the remaining contamination.

Cleanup

The proposed cleanup action involves the treatment of soil, sediment, and groundwater with a combination of solidification/stabilization techniques, excavation and off-site disposal. USG will:

- Solidify/chemically stabilize the arsenic within soil by injecting a cement-based mixture.
- Treat groundwater using in-situ chemical oxidation (see description below). Ferrous iron and oxidant chemicals will be injected into trenches or directly into the arsenic plume and in and around an arsenic "hot spot". A "hot spot" is a small area with the highest levels of contamination.
- Excavate contaminated sediment from the Puyallup River riverbank. Material exceeding state standards will be disposed of at an appropriate landfill. The river bank will later be restored.
- Apply land and groundwater use restrictions to protect human health and the environment from hazardous substances left at the site.
- Submit a monitoring plan to make sure cleanup levels are reached.

See Figure 1 for sampling locations and areas where remediation will take place. The area with the densest cluster of ferrous iron injection points indicate the likely hot spots.

Next steps

After the comment period ends, Ecology will respond to comments in a responsiveness summary. Ecology will finalize the CAP, sign the agreed order, and USG will do the cleanup work.

In-Situ Chemical Oxidation (ISCO)

The cleanup plan proposes treating groundwater with ISCO. This will help speed up the natural attenuation of arsenic. Natural attenuation relies on natural physical, chemical, or biological processes to lower contamination over time.

In ISCO, a chemical called an "oxidant" is injected into groundwater, usually through wells. Then a chemical reaction happens between naturally occurring iron, oxygen, and the arsenic. This changes the arsenic to a less mobile form. Oxidants that can be used include potassium or sodium permanganate, sodium persulfate, ozone or hydrogen peroxide.

The benefit of ISCO is it's "in situ", meaning it can be done in place without excavating soil or pumping and treating groundwater. For this site, it may also reduce the ability of arsenic in the soil "hot spot" to leach into the groundwater.

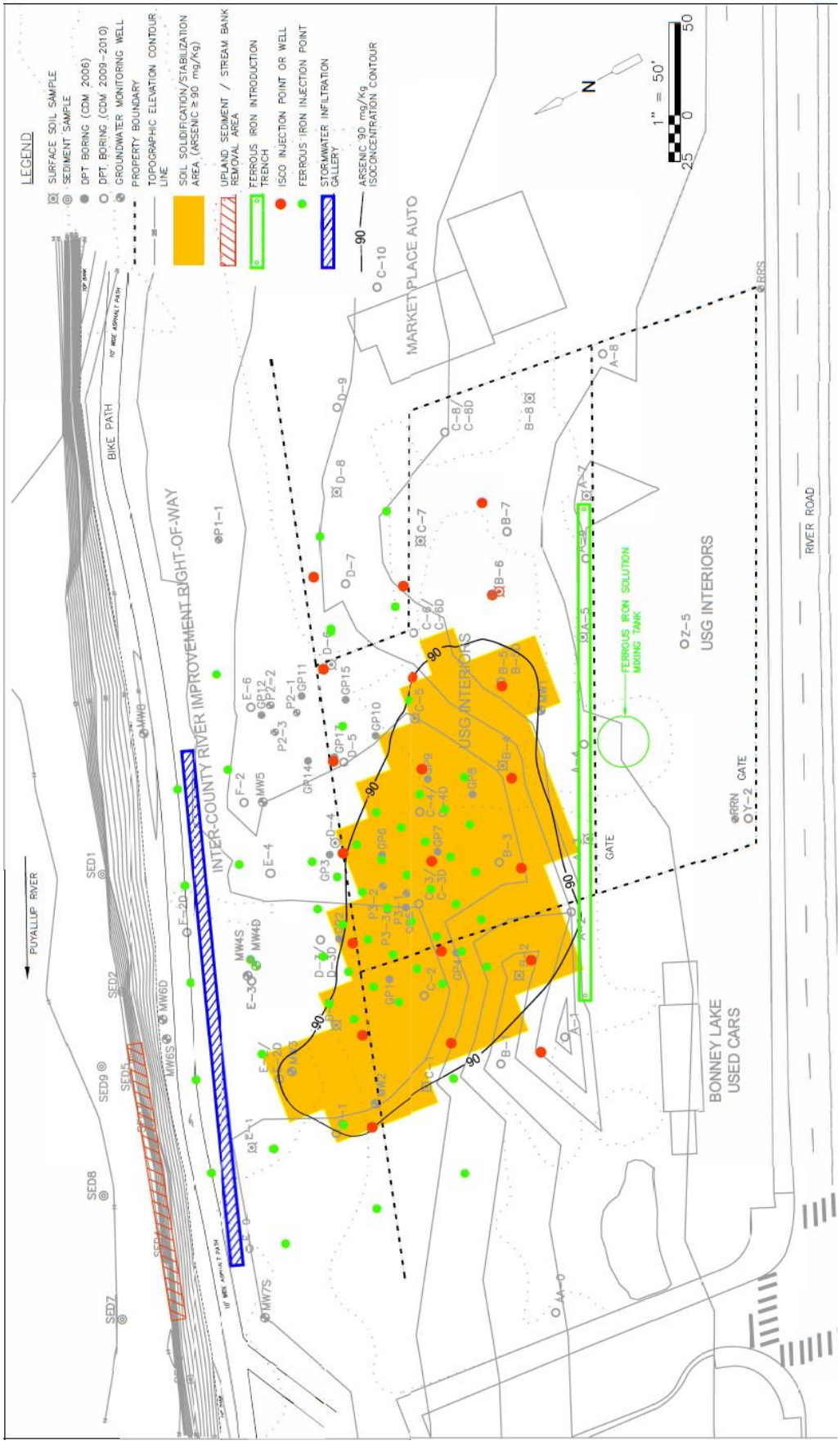

Figure 1 Proposed Cleanup Actions

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Toxics Cleanup Program
PO Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775

USG Interiors LLC Puyallup Site

Public comment period

January 7 -February 5, 2019

Why did I receive this mailing?

The Washington State Department of Ecology is working with USG to investigate and clean up the USG site at 1005 River Road E. This fact sheet is being mailed to inform the community about the cleanup.

What can I do?

Please review the site documents and submit your comments, questions, and concerns.

To be removed from this mailing list: Please call Sheila Coughlan at (360) 407- 6255 or e-mail Sheila.Coughlan @ecy.wa.gov.

Site Cleanup ID: 3634
Facility Site ID: 1217

Accommodation Requests: To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-407-6831 or visit https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility. People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341