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December 16, 1994

To: Dept. of Ecology
From: Chris Coldeen
Re: Underground gasoline tank soil contamination.

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DEPT. OF ECOLOGY

Dear Sir or Madam:

This report is to inform the Washington State Department of Ecology of the existence of a contaminated site on my property on Vashon Island, WA. The source of the contamination was an old underground gasoline tank which was associated with a former general store. The store closed around the beginning of WWII and so the tank had not been used for over 50 years.

I have been working with TME Environmental Services of Bremerton, WA., who has advised me on the cleanup attempt to date and has sampled the soil and had it lab tested twice.

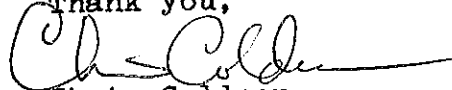
The tank was discovered when I applied for a property refinance. The property, currently a single-family rental residence, retains the early century "storefront" facade features, including a 1930's gas pump, and is a King County Historic Landmark. The loan officers wanted confirmation that the tank associated with the old gas pump had been removed. Having purchased the property in 1986 from the heir of the deceased owner, I had no knowledge of this. I contracted with TME Environmental Services to help me with this problem. We found the old 700 gallon tank was there and core-sample soil lab tests indicated contamination below the tank.

This was a great disappointment for me, as I had hoped that the tank had been empty or nearly empty when abandoned and even if rusted out would have leaked little. Dave Murdock of TME knew of the financial limitations I was faced with and has given me advice, explicit instruction, and the loan of Wash. State published guidelines for tank removal. I hired a local heavy equipment operator to assist in the project and we have removed the tank and 12 yards of contaminated soil, which we have contained on concrete slabs on site, using aeration/vapor extraction for contamination removal.

In August, Mr Murdock returned to test the soil at the bottom of what is now a 10' deep pit in front of the building. Test results, while markedly better than the first group, still did not meet Wash. State standards for the three contaminants Xylene, Benzene, and WTPH G. These are contained in a heavy clay layer.

It is my hope to get from your department, a determination of non-significance for the remainder of the contaminated soil. It would be ten feet underground, contained in clay and filled with clean soil over it. I have spent between \$4000 to \$5000 as well as much of my own time on the cleanup so far, with the project yet incomplete. While this is not a great amount of money for environmental cleanup in terms of commercial interest, coming from a limited, private family budget, it causes a much greater strain.

Thank you,



Chris Coldeen
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