

Ephrata Landfill

Grant County

Pub. No. 06-07-035



Agreed Order / SEPA Determination Of Non-Significance

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) prepared this fact sheet to provide you with information about the implementation of the Agreed Order and associated activities at the Ephrata Landfill.

Site Location and Background

The Ephrata Landfill is located about three miles south of Ephrata, on the east side of Highway 28. The landfill site is about 125 acres and is currently owned by Grant County.

The City of Ephrata began operating the Ephrata Landfill in approximately 1942 and owned and operated it until 1974. The U. S. Bureau of Reclamation leased additional property for the landfill to the city. Grant County began operating the landfill in 1972 and was deeded the property in 1994. The landfill operated as an open dump prior to 1962 and it operated continually as an unlined cell until a new lined cell was opened in 2005.

Approximately 2000 drums of industrial waste were buried at the landfill in August 1975. The site was added to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) list of potential hazardous sites in 1979 and Ecology completed a Phase I site investigation in 1987. In 1990, Ecology ranked the site and put it on the Hazardous Sites List. Sites are ranked relative to each other on a scale of 1 to 5 based on toxicity and potential threat. A score of 1 represents the highest level of concern and 5 the lowest. The Ephrata Landfill ranked as a 5.

Groundwater sampling at the site began in 1988. A 1990 assessment report noted anomalous contaminant concentrations in groundwater in the uppermost aquifer. After discussions with Ecology in 2000, the county installed two extraction wells as part of a voluntary cleanup program. Recent sampling shows that the upper three aquifers are contaminated with metals, solvents, and other chemicals. The buried drums and waste in the old landfill

cell may be contributing to the contamination. Some of the contaminants detected in groundwater at the site are the same chemicals believed to be in the drums. Continuing deterioration of the drums may be releasing chemicals into the soil and groundwater. The County has finished adding waste to the portion of the landfill in which the drums are located and that cell is awaiting capping and closure.

Agreed Order

Ecology issued Final Determinations of Potentially Liable Person (PLP) status to the City of Ephrata and Grant County on January 10, 2005. The PLPs and Ecology agreed to negotiate an Agreed Order for the cleanup of the landfill. An Agreed Order is a legal document discussed in the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA), chapter 70.105D RCW, in which the PLP agrees to perform remedial actions at the site in accordance with the provisions of the order.

Negotiations began in October 2005 and the draft agreement will be signed by the PLPs in December 2006. The draft Agreed Order will be open for public review and comment for 30 days after it is signed by the PLPs. Ecology will then respond to the public's comments and make changes if appropriate. The Agreed Order will then be signed by Ecology and become the document that guides cleanup activities at the landfill. The PLPs will seek a remedial action grant from Ecology which will cover much of the cost of the cleanup activities.

(Continued on page 2)

FACT SHEET

December 2006

Agreed Order and SEPA Determination for the Ephrata Landfill

Comments Accepted

December 28, 2006 through January 27, 2007

Repositories

Ephrata City Library
45 Alder Street NW
Ephrata, WA 98823

Department of Ecology
Eastern Regional Office
4601 N. Monroe Street
Spokane, WA 99105

Questions and Comments Contact

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Для помощи на русском языке

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Phone: 509/477-3881

Website

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/ephrata_lf/ephrata_lf_hp.htm

Interim Action

An Interim Remedial Action Plan (IRAP) is included in the Agreed Order as Exhibit C. The interim remedial action only partially addresses the cleanup of a site. The interim remedial action corrects a problem that may become worse or reduces a threat to human health and the environment. The IRAP includes the following activities for the Ephrata Landfill: exploration for buried drums and sampling of contents, removal of buried drums, capping of the closed cell, and the treatment and disposal of contaminated groundwater.

the public comment period to Cole Carter, Site Manager, at the Ecology address listed in the box on page 1. A public hearing on the cleanup activities at the Ephrata Landfill will be held if requested by ten or more people.

If you require special accommodations or need this document in an alternate format, please contact the Solid Waste & Financial Assistance Program at (360) 407-6900. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341.

Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study

The purpose of the Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study (RI/FS) is to collect, develop, and evaluate information for cleanup activities. Information obtained during the interim action is incorporated into the RI/FS. Upon completion of the RI/FS, remedial alternatives will be evaluated. Then a remediation plan will be developed and, after a public review period, implemented.

SEPA Determination of Non-Significance

A State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) checklist, chapter 43-21C RCW, has been prepared for the proposed actions. Grant County determined that the proposed actions will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and has issued a Determination of Non-significance (DNS).

Ecology Wants Your Comments

The public comment period is an opportunity to have Ecology hear your ideas and comments. You may review and comment on the Agreed Order and the SEPA DNS during the 30-day period after the document is signed by the PLPs. Please submit written comments before