

## Hazardous Substances under 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Ellensburg

### Notice:

The intent of this memo is cautionary only. For approximately 250 feet west of the intersection with North Water Street hazardous substances may exist under 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the adjacent sidewalks. The substances are trapped in the contaminated soils beneath the street and adjacent sidewalks and include mainly gasoline and benzene, though the soils may also contain lesser amounts of toluene, ethylbenzene, xylenes, and diesel fuel. Because of the avenue's asphalt cover, the substances may be discovered as elevated hydrocarbon fumes or contaminated soils.

The contaminated soils under 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue were found during an investigation of the Wondrack property. The Wondrack property is on the northwest corner of Water Street and 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue. It was a large fuel distributing plant that operated from the early 1920's to about 1984. Sixteen of the twenty-one test pits excavated in the street in 2004 found hazardous substances in the soil that were in excess of the Model Toxics Control Act cleanup standards. Contaminants left the Wondrack property and traveled under the street to the opposite sidewalk.

The contaminated soils from the test pits were excavated and hauled off. The pits were back-filled with clean soils. However, because so many utilities (gas main, water main, sewage main, electrical main, cable, telephone) exist under 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the adjacent sidewalks, the excavation of the entire 250 feet was not practical, safe, or economically feasible.

The City of Ellensburg Public Works Department has a February 2, 2011 SAIC submittal and a March 25, 2011, addendum letter that documents this stretch of 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The SAIC submittals include a Soil Management Plan (Attachment B). It obligates the Chevron Environmental Management Company (address below) to have a consultant present during any subsurface activity in this portion of 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue. They shall also properly dispose of all contaminants found in the soil above MTCA Method A cleanup levels. The Kittitas County Public Works Department mapped this contamination and, where work is required in this stretch of 15<sup>th</sup> Street, the various utilities are required to reference this map.

Public Works is aware that trapped hydrocarbon contamination in soil can create fumes that may be unsafe for several reasons. Subsurface work in this portion of 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue should be carefully planned in advance and Chevron and its consultant contacted. It is also possible that in-situ remediation may abate the contamination when subsurface work becomes necessary.

### Chevron Environmental Mgmt. Co.

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