



# FILE COPY

STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

15 W Yakima Ave, Ste 200 • Yakima, WA 98902-3452 • (509) 575-2490

June 2, 2008

**CERTIFIED MAIL**

7002 2410 0007 8527 5918

Mr. Andrew C. Erickson  
PO Box 774  
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Dear Mr. Erickson:

RE: Release of Hazardous Substances at Smith-Kem Facility (Site), 200 Railroad Avenue, Ellensburg, ERTS #604450, F/SID # 12832256

On July 2, 2007, the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) was notified of a release or potential release at the above-referenced property. Therefore, under Chapter 70.105D Revised Code of Washington (RCW), Ecology is required to conduct an initial investigation and determine any threat to human health or the environment.

Ecology reviewed the July 26, 2007 Limited Site Characterization report received on March 17, 2008, and submitted by Sage Earth Sciences, Inc. The report describes the presence of diesel-impacted soils at levels which exceed the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) cleanup levels.

In addition, a site visit was conducted by Ecology personnel on May 29, 2008. Mr. Richard Bassett met with Mr. Andrew Erickson at the facility. Mr. Erickson showed me much of his facility and told me the limited history he knew of the business. He said the business began with petroleum products in 1923 and later with pesticide products in 1948. He mentioned that Shell Oil had been involved with the business during part of its history.

Mr. Erickson said he was presently dismantling the many large-volume tanks that were on the property. No releases were seen on the ground surface, though stains were evident in some areas and Sage's test pit results indicate that releases had occurred in the past. Sage did not analyze for pesticides and metals in soil or groundwater, nor gasoline or heavy oils in groundwater.

Ecology recommends the following actions be taken to address the contamination:

1. Hire a well-qualified consultant to fully characterize the soil and groundwater in and surrounding the Site. This would include a Site History and the installation of an adequate number of groundwater monitoring wells and then quarterly sampling from them.
2. Compile a Report of the history and soil and groundwater sampling results and submit it to Ecology for either a Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) cleanup or an administrative action (Agreed Order, Consent Decree, etc.) that directly involves Ecology.



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Under MTCA, Ecology maintains a listing of confirmed or suspected contaminated sites. It is Ecology's decision that the above-referenced property will be added to this information system because of the diesel-impacted soils referenced in the Sage Report. This listing is made available to the public upon request and online at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/cscs/CSCSpage.HTM>.

Ecology has also determined that a Site Hazard Assessment described in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-340-320 will be required at this site. It is the policy of the Department of Ecology to work cooperatively with persons to accomplish prompt and effective site cleanups. Ecology prefers to achieve site cleanup cooperatively through independent cleanup actions (WAC 173-340-510). Cooperating with Ecology in planning or conducting remedial actions is not an admission of guilt or liability.

In proceeding with an independent cleanup, please be aware that there are requirements in state law which must be adhered to. In particular, WAC 173-340-300(4) requires a report of independent actions. To the extent known, the report shall include:

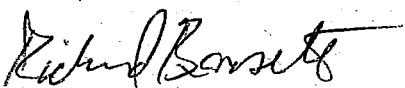
1. identification and location of the hazardous substance(s)
2. circumstances of the release and discovery
3. remedial actions planned, completed, or underway

More requirements of independent cleanup actions are discussed in WAC 173-340-120(8)(b). Ecology will use the appropriate requirements contained throughout this chapter in its evaluation of the adequacy of any independent remedial actions performed.

You are encouraged to contact Ecology for informal advice and assistance. For technical assistance you are advised to hire an environmental consultant with the appropriate expertise.

I have enclosed a Focus sheet to assist you in familiarizing yourself with the MTCA regulations. If you have any questions regarding this letter or the requirements under the Model Toxics Control Act, please call me. My phone number is (509) 454-7839.

Sincerely,



Richard Bassett  
Site Manager/Initial Investigations  
Toxics Cleanup Program

Enclosures