

DRAFT

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

For

**Wolfe & Parks
149 and 167 Main Street
Morton, Washington 98356**

Submitted by:

Washington State Department of Ecology
Southwest Regional Office
Toxics Cleanup Program
300 Desmond Drive
Olympia, Washington 98504-7775

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1.0 Introduction

The Wolfe & Parks site is located at 149 and 167 Main Street (site) in Morton, Washington. Groundwater and soil contamination resulting from past bulk fuel operations on the Wolfe & Parks was detected in 1993. The owners of the property, Chevron Texaco, Jan's Lost and Found Thrift Store, Dana and Diana Wolfe, Cowlitz River Valley Historical Society, are entering into an Enforcement Order (agreement) with the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) to continue the cleanup of the site. Enforcement Orders are legal documents approved and issued by Ecology. The Wolfe & Parks Enforcement Order formalizes the agreement between Ecology and Chevron Texaco, Jan's Lost and Found Thrift Store, Dana and Diana Wolfe, Cowlitz River Valley Historical Society regarding cleanup of the site.

Since 2004, the Chevron Texaco, Jan's Lost and Found Thrift Store, Dana and Diana Wolfe, Cowlitz River Valley Historical Society and its consultant, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), have been working with Ecology to investigate, plan, and coordinate the cleanup of the soil and groundwater contamination. An interim action was performed by SAIC in October 2005, but contaminated soil and groundwater remain above state cleanup levels. Ecology and Chevron Texaco, Jan's Lost and Found Thrift Store, Dana and Diana Wolfe, Cowlitz River Valley Historical Society will work together to provide consistent outreach to the community surrounding the site and to others interested in the cleanup.

1.1 What is a Public Participation Plan?

Public participation plans are an important component of Washington's Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) and accompanying regulations Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 70.105D *et seq* and Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-340-600. Public participation plans summarize activities designed to give the public a meaningful opportunity to learn about and provide input on important cleanup decisions

This plan is subject to public comment, and Ecology welcomes input on how communication and this plan may be enhanced.

1.2 Goals of this Public Participation Plan

This plan is designed to achieve specific goals as well as satisfy the requirements of MTCA. The goals of this Wolfe & Parks public participation plan are:

- To maintain open communication and provide information about site cleanup to promote public understanding of the cleanup process;
- To ensure the public's questions are answered and concerns are addressed;
- To notify the public of opportunities to comment on and be involved in technical decisions; and
- To provide additional sources of information.

1.3 Objectives of Public Participation

Objectives are specific measurable actions that Chevron Texaco, Jan's Lost and Found Thrift Store, Dana and Diana Wolfe, Cowlitz River Valley Historical Society or Ecology will take to meet plan goals. The Chevron Texaco, Jan's Lost and Found Thrift Store, Dana and Diana Wolfe, Cowlitz River Valley Historical Society and Ecology will monitor the plan's objectives to see that the goals are met and to ensure the community is well-informed about and involved in decisions regarding the site.

Objectives:

- Work with community leaders and the Lewis County Health Department to assess the method and need for outreach to non-English speaking audiences. Design and use techniques and activities that are effective.
- Work with the local library, local churches and other resources to communicate with community members that may not speak English.
- Provide the Fact Sheet in English and Spanish to the local community, if necessary. Direct mail the English and Spanish versions to property owners within 1 mile of the site, if necessary.
- Translate the Fact Sheet into additional languages if recommended by community leaders.

- If necessary, set up contacts within Ecology for non-English speaking community members that can serve as translators. Involve Ecology's TIRT (translation) teams.
- Post the Enforcement Order and related materials at Centralia College East, on the Ecology website, and with the Southwest Regional Office in Lacey. Translate the Enforcement Order or other materials if there is public interest in such translations.
- Hold a public meeting, hearing or open house if there is community interest in such an event or if it would enhance communication of important information and public input.

1.4 Plan Participants

The key participants carrying out this plan include Chevron Texaco, Jan's Lost and Found Thrift Store, Dana and Diana Wolfe, Cowlitz River Valley Historical Society and Ecology. Another important participant is Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), Chevron Texaco's environmental consultant.

Contact information for Ecology is listed in Section 4.3 of this plan.

2.0 Site Background

2.1 Site History

Chevron Texaco, Jan's Lost and Found Thrift Store, Dana and Diana Wolfe, Cowlitz River Valley Historical Society are current or past owners of Wolfe & Parks and are the Potentially Liable Parties (PLPs) under this Enforcement Order. Chevron Texaco, Jan's Lost and Found Thrift Store, Dana and Diana Wolfe, Cowlitz River Valley Historical Society are responsible for site investigation and cleanup actions and related costs.

This site is currently an active second hand thrift store and there has been a release of hazardous substances above standards established MTCA, Chapter 70.105D of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW). MTCA is a citizen generated law defining Ecology's clean up standards for hazardous waste sites.

Ecology **has approved** a work plan for Chevron Texaco, Jan's Lost and Found Thrift Store, Dana and Diana Wolfe, Cowlitz River Valley Historical Society to do remedial investigations at the site. The investigations are designed to determine the extent and type of contamination on the Wolfe & Parks and are currently underway.

According to a Remedial Investigation performed for Chevron Texaco by Science Application International Corporation (SAIC) in **1995/1996**, petroleum hydrocarbons, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene (BTEX) and diesel oil have been released to soils and groundwater on the site.

The proposed Enforcement Order requires Chevron Texaco, Jan's Lost and Found Thrift Store, Dana and Diana Wolfe, Cowlitz River Valley Historical Society to conduct a cleanup of soil and groundwater that may contain petroleum hydrocarbons, BTEX and diesel.

2.2 Environmental and Health Impacts

Both the soil and groundwater at the Wolfe & Parks site have been contaminated. The Lewis County Health Department completed an initial site investigation of the site on May, 2003. Contaminated groundwater at the site is not used for drinking or other consumptive uses. Drinkable water is provided to the site and nearby properties by the City of Morton.

The property is currently used as a lost and found thrift store. Some human exposure to contaminants could occur from contact to the soil if digging was to occur.

The RI/FS will provide new information useful for identifying and describing the contamination and related environmental and human health risks, and for developing an effective cleanup action. The cleanup action will be designed to ensure long-term exposure does not occur from contaminants at the site.

2.3 Site Cleanup

The RI/FS is just one step in the clean up of the Wolfe & Parks site. A specific cleanup action will be selected and implemented once the RI/FS is complete. Clean up of the

site will need to meet all federal and state standards and Ecology will oversee cleanup activities.

The public will be invited to comment on the selected cleanup action once the RI/FS is complete.

3.0 Regulatory Framework for Site Cleanup & Public Participation

3.1 Overview of the Regulatory Framework

Cleanup activities at the Wolfe & Parks site fall under MTCA. Passed into law in 1989, MTCA is intended to provide a clear and efficient process to clean up contaminated sites to standards that are safe for both human health and the environment. Under MTCA, a current or past owner or operator may be held responsible for the cleanup.

Ecology is responsible for implementing and enforcing the provisions of MTCA and its accompanying administrative regulations. Ecology investigates reports of property contamination and determines if a significant threat exists to human health, the environment, or both. If a significant threat exists, the site is placed on the Hazardous Sites List and a cleanup process begins.

3.2 Steps in the State Cleanup Process

Washington State's laws and regulations lay out each step in the cleanup process to ensure that cleanups are protective of human health and the environment. The basic steps are:

- site discovery and initial investigation;
- site hazard assessment and hazard ranking;
- remedial investigation;
- feasibility study;
- cleanup action plan; and

- cleanup.

Interim cleanup steps also may be taken during investigation of a site to reduce or eliminate the negative effects of contamination. Interim actions frequently result in a level of cleanup that meets MTCA standards for the protection of human health and the environment.

3.3 MTCA and Public Participation

MTCA regulations emphasize the importance of public participation throughout the cleanup process. Under MTCA, interested parties, such as neighboring residents and businesses, are given the opportunity to influence decisions regarding cleanup. This is important because public awareness and involvement are instrumental to the success of any cleanup project.

Public participation grants may be available to groups living near contaminated sites. Grant funds may be used to provide additional public involvement or to receive additional technical assistance, and enhance the public's understanding of complex issues involved in a cleanup. Public participation grants are available through Ecology's Solid Waste and Financial Assistance Program. Information can also be found at Ecology's web site at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/grants.html> or by contacting Kathy Seel at ksee461@ecy.wa.gov or (360) 407-6061.

4.0 Public Participation Activities & Responsibilities

The purpose of this Plan is to promote public understanding and participation in the MTCA cleanup planned for the Wolfe & Parks site. This section of the plan addresses how Chevron Texaco, Jan's Lost and Found Thrift Store, Dana and Diana Wolfe, Cowlitz River Valley Historical Society and Ecology will share information and receive public comment and community input regarding the cleanup. Ecology, working closely with Chevron Texaco, Jan's Lost and Found Thrift Store, Dana and Diana Wolfe, Cowlitz River Valley Historical Society, will retain lead responsibility for public participation activities. Chevron Texaco, Jan's Lost and Found Thrift Store, Dana and Diana Wolfe, Cowlitz River Valley Historical Society may prepare its own materials about site-related activities and will give Ecology three workdays to review information

prior to dissemination. Ecology will also give Chevron Texaco, Jan's Lost and Found Thrift Store, Dana and Diana Wolfe, Cowlitz River Valley Historical Society three workdays to review materials prior to dissemination.

4.1 Public Participation Tools

Ecology uses a wide variety of tools to support public participation in the planning and cleanup of MTCA sites. Ecology incorporates the community's input into cleanup decisions and activities whenever possible.

Below is a list of public participation tools Ecology uses, their purposes, and descriptions of when and how they will be used during the Wolfe & Parks site cleanup.

(a) Formal Public Comment Period

Comment periods are the primary method Ecology uses to get feedback from the public on proposed cleanup decisions. Comment periods usually last 30 days and are required at key points during the cleanup process before final decisions are made. During a comment period, the public can comment in writing, or if a public hearing is held, oral comments can be given.

The comment period for the Wolfe & Parks site will be 30 days. If state or federal holidays occur during the comment period, the end date of the comment period will be extended one day for every day of holiday. Public comment will be solicited at key points during the cleanup process.

(b) Public Meeting, Open House or Hearing

Public meetings may be held at key points during the investigation and cleanup process. Ecology also may offer a public meeting for actions expected to be of particular interest to the community. These meetings may be held in an open house format and would be held at a location convenient to the community. Also, if ten or more people request a public hearing during a public comment period, Ecology will hold a public hearing for the purpose of taking oral comments on documents and decisions.

A public meeting, open house or hearing is not currently scheduled for the Wolfe & Parks. A meeting, open house or hearing may be scheduled if it would enhance communication between Ecology and the community regarding cleanup activities.

(c) Responsiveness Summaries

After every public comment period, Ecology reviews and may respond to all comments received, both oral and written, in a responsiveness summary. Ecology considers changes or revisions based on the input from the public. If significant changes are recommended, then a second comment period is held. If no significant changes are recommended, then the draft documents are finalized.

A responsiveness summary for the Wolfe & Parks may be created if public comments warrant it. The summary would then be made available with other documents at the Information Repositories listed below.

(d) Information Repositories

Information repositories are libraries or other convenient locations where the public can easily access documents and other site materials. Printed materials are placed at each repository during comment periods and remain at the repositories for the duration of the cleanup process. Ecology's Central Files also can make copies of documents for a fee.

For the Wolfe & Parks site, the Information Repositories are:

*Centralia College East
701 Airport Way
Morton, WA 98595
(360) 496-5022, ext. 0*

*WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
SW Regional Office - Toxics Cleanup Program
300 Desmond Drive
Olympia, Washington 98504-7775*

(360) 407-6365

*Site information and documents will be posted on the Ecology website at
http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/wolfe_and_parks/wolfe_and_parks.html*

(e) Site Register and Public Events Calendar

Ecology's Toxic Cleanup Program uses its bimonthly *Site Register* and web-based *Public Events Calendar* to announce all of its public meetings and comment periods as well as many other activities.

Public comment periods for the Wolfe & Parks will be announced in the Site Register. To receive a copy of the Site Register, please contact Linda Thompson at 360-407-6069 or ltho461@ecy.wa.gov.

*Copies are also available on the Ecology web site at:
http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/site_reg.html*

Public comment period and meeting announcements may also be found on Ecology's Public Events Calendar at: <http://www.ecy.gov>

(f) Mailing List

Ecology compiles a mailing list for each site that includes neighboring property owners, public agencies, elected officials, tribes, schools, libraries, individuals that have requested mailings and other known interested parties. Each mailing list is maintained by Ecology and updated as needed.

Ecology's Southwest Regional Office has created a mailing list specific to the Wolfe & Parks site. Please contact Guy Barrett or gbar461@ecy.wa.gov to be added to or removed from the mailing list.

(g) Fact Sheets

Ecology creates facts sheets and distributes them to persons and organizations interested in the cleanup of a particular site. The fact sheets are designed to inform the public of comment opportunities, meetings and important cleanup activities.

Fact Sheets for the Wolfe & Parks site will be displayed at the repositories listed under (d), mailed to the list described under (f), and made available on the Ecology website at: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/wolfe_and_parks/_hp.htm

(h) Notice/Display Ads/Legal Ad

Notice of proposed actions and their related comment periods are published in the newspaper of largest circulation in the city or county of the proposed action.

A legal ad announcing any public comment period or meeting for the Wolfe & Parks site will be placed in The Centralia Chronicle. The ad will run for three days at the beginning of any comment period or meeting and include information about the proposed action, a request for public comment, and the dates of the public comment period.

4.2 Plan Updates

This public participation plan is meant to be a dynamic guide for informing and involving the community in the decision-making process for the site. This plan may be updated as the project proceeds. If a substantial update is necessary, then the revised plan will be submitted to the public for comment.

4.3 Public Points of Contact

For project-related questions, contact Ecology's site manager for Wolfe & Parks:

Guy Barrett
Toxics Cleanup Program
PO Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775
Phone: 360-407-7115
E-mail: gbar461@ecy.wa.gov

For public participation questions, contact Ecology's public involvement coordinator for Wolfe & Parks, Guy Barrett, at (360) 407-7115 or gbar461@ecy.wa.gov.