

Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corporation Trentwood Facility



Ecology proposes to evaluate new technologies for treating groundwater contamination from the Kaiser Trentwood facility.

Comments accepted:

February 24 – March 24, 2020

Submit comments:

Online at:

<http://cs.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=aTuF8>

Or by mail or email to:

Jeremy Schmidt, Site Manager
 4601 North Monroe Street
 Spokane, WA 99205
jeremy.schmidt@ecy.wa.gov

Document review locations:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=7093>

Spokane Valley Public Library
 12004 East Main Avenue
 Spokane Valley, WA 99206
 Phone: 509-893-8400
 Hours: M-Th. 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Fri. – Sat. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun. 1–5 p.m.

Washington Dept. of Ecology
 4601 North Monroe Street
 Spokane, WA 99205
 Phone: 509-329-3415
 Hours: Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. (by appointment)

Facility Site ID: 53481373
 Site Cleanup ID: 7093

Public invited to comment on draft amended legal agreement and State Environmental Policy Act documents to test groundwater treatment options

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) seeks your input on the following draft documents for the Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corporation (site) February 24 through March 24, 2020:

- Amendment to Agreed Order No. 2692 — updated legal agreement requiring the parties responsible for cleanup to evaluate new technologies for treating polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in groundwater
- State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) documents — we have reviewed the interim actions using the SEPA checklist, and decided they won't adversely affect people or the environment

Site history

The Kaiser Trentwood facility produces aluminum sheet, plate, and coil for aerospace and general engineering applications.

The federal government built the facility during World War II, and it first produced aluminum sheet in 1943. After the war ended, the facility was sold to private interests and has processed aluminum since.

Materials used in past aluminum production included PCB oil, petroleum fuels, solvents, and chromium. Wastes generated as a result of past or present operations are wastewaters, chrome sludge, paint and solvent wastes, and black dross. Kaiser is responsible for cleanup.

Cleanup completed thus far

Kaiser has completed many interim cleanup actions, including removing petroleum on groundwater and excavating or capping contaminated soil.

Toxics Cleanup Program

PCB contamination in groundwater is the primary remaining issue. A pilot pump-and-treat system was tested to remove PCBs from groundwater. The system filters groundwater through crushed walnut shells to capture the contaminants.

Proposed work

Based on the pump-and-treat test results, PCBs can be removed from groundwater using a walnut-shell filtration system, and this system could be expanded into a full-scale treatment system.

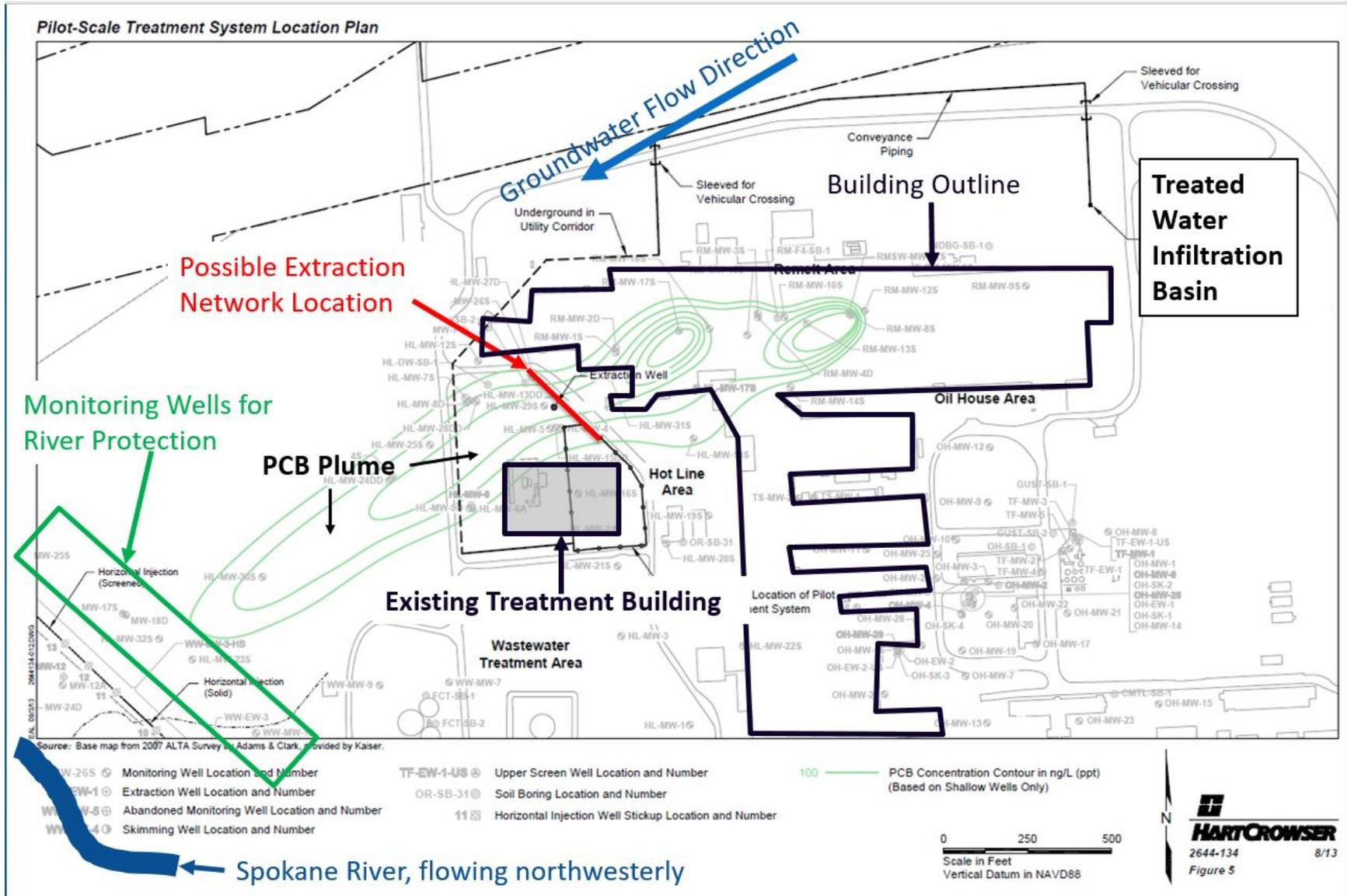
However, new technologies to remove PCBs from groundwater have been identified since the agreed order was first amended to include testing a walnut-shell filtration system. Research shows these new technologies could be more effective and result in a shorter cleanup timeframe, so additional testing is proposed. The testing will help us select the most appropriate cleanup technology for removing PCBs from groundwater at the site. Kaiser will then be required to implement a full-scale treatment system using the most appropriate cleanup technology.

Next steps

Ecology will respond to all the comments we receive by March 24 and publish our responses. We will hold a public meeting on this proposal if 10 people request it. If public comments result in substantial changes to our proposal, we will hold another comment period.

Otherwise, we will make the amended agreed order and SEPA documents final, and Kaiser will begin testing new technologies for treating PCBs in groundwater. The agreed order amendment includes a detailed scope of work and schedule for completing the testing and implementing a full-scale treatment system, so the cleanup process will remain on track.

Kaiser Trentwood site map



Toxics Cleanup Program
4601 North Monroe Street
Spokane, WA 99205

Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corporation Trentwood Facility



Public comment period

February 24 – March 24, 2020

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