New City Cleaners

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Comments accepted:

March 23, 2020 – April 22, 2020

Submit comments:

Online at:

http://tcp.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=h8cY6

Or by mail to:

Kyle Parker, Site Manger
WA Department of Ecology
Central Regional Office
1250 West Alder Street
Union Gap, WA 98903

Phone: 509-454-7833

Email: Kyle.Parker@ecy.wa.gov

Site info:

https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=4894

Facility Site ID: 327
Site Cleanup ID: 4894

Document review:

Due to unforeseen circumstances, our standard physical locations are all closed; documents are currently available electronically only.

Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study Available for Review and Comment

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is providing an opportunity for the public to comment on the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for the New City Cleaners site, located at 747 Stevens Drive in Richland. The RI/FS is required under the existing Agreed Order. A Remedial Investigation uses data collected to determine how far the contamination has spread, and the Feasibility Study outlines options and costs for cleaning up the site. An Agreed Order is a legal agreement between Ecology and the Potentially Liable Persons (PLPs) outlining the expectations, process, and schedule for site cleanup.

Ecology is asking for your comments on the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study.

You are invited to:

- Review the *"Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Report New City Cleaners,"* dated December 20, 2019
- Send your comments to Ecology for consideration. Comments will be accepted March 23, 2020, through April 22, 2020

Site Background

The site has been operating as a dry cleaner continuously since the late 1940s. Stoddard solvent, a flammable petroleum mixture stored in two underground storage tanks (USTs), was used until 1974 when the use of PCE began. PCE, a common chemical used in the dry cleaning process, was delivered in 55-gallon drums and stored on a rack outside onsite.

In 1975, the drums and rack were relocated indoors after an incident caused a release. Because of this incident and other releases, PCE has caused contamination in both soil and groundwater. Contaminated groundwater has also migrated to some surrounding properties.

PCE is no longer used and has been replaced with an alternative safety solvent.

What Has Been Done?

After the discovery of PCE in groundwater, four underground storage tanks (some containing petroleum products, some containing dry cleaning fluids) were removed from the site in 1992. During the tank excavation, some soil was also removed.

In 2000, approximately 5,000 tons of contaminated soil was excavated and transported offsite. This was intended to control the source of groundwater contamination. Associated structures (wood storage sheds, landscaping, fences, and asphalt) were also removed and the excavated area was backfilled and compacted with clean fill dirt. Soil was not excavated if it was below the water table or if excavation would threaten the structural integrity of the building or two utility poles.

A pilot study was conducted to determine the effectiveness of bioremediation. Bioremediation commonly uses oxygen to create conditions in the groundwater to help microorganisms that breakdown PCE to grow.

Groundwater samples continue to show that PCE and TCE remain a concern at both the New City Cleaners property and other nearby properties.

Why This Matters?

Tetrachloroethene (PCE) is a common solvent used for dry cleaning. It is also known as perchloroethylene, tetrachloroethylene, and "PERC." Trichloroethene (TCE) is a common industrial solvent used to remove grease from metal.

Long-term exposure to PCE or TCE is suspected to cause an increased risk of developing cancer. This risk, while small, is above and beyond the normal risks people have of developing cancer due to other causes.

What Happens Next?

After the public comment period ends, Ecology will review and respond to comments received during the comment period. Ecology will hold a public meeting if requested by 10 or more people. A Cleanup Action Plan (CAP) will be developed to implement the cleanup. This cleanup will help reduce or eliminate actual and potential threats posed by the contaminants to human health and the environment.

For information about other opportunities for public involvement, such as meetings, hearings, open houses and workshops, please visit Ecology's Public Involvement Calendar at https://ecology.wa.gov/Events/Search/Listing.