



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Public Participation Plan

Univar Solutions USA Inc.

8201 S 212th St. Kent, WA 98032

Facility Site ID: 13862483

Cleanup Site ID: 969

August 2020

Publication 20-04-040

Publication and Contact Information

This plan is available on Ecology's [Univar Solutions USA Inc. website](https://ecology.wa.gov/Univar).¹

For more information contact:

Washington State Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office
3190 160th Ave. SE
Bellevue, WA 98008

Additional Ecology Locations:

- Headquarters, Olympia:
360-407-6000
- Southwest Regional Office,
Olympia: 360-407-6300
- Central Regional Office, Union
Gap: 509-575-2490
- Eastern Regional Office, Spokane:
509-329-3400

Español

El Departamento de Ecología está anunciando el período de comentarios públicos relacionado a la limpieza ambiental del sitio Univar Solutions USA Inc. Para obtener este documento, o más información sobre este sitio en español, favor de comunicarse con Gretchen Newman al (360)407-6097 o preguntas@ecy.wa.gov.

ADA Accessibility

The Department of Ecology is committed to providing people with disabilities access to information and services by meeting or exceeding the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Washington State Policy #188.

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6700 or email at hwtrpubs@ecy.wa.gov. For Washington Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341. Visit [Ecology's website](https://ecology.wa.gov)² for more information.

¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Univar>

² <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Accountability-transparency/Our-website/Accessibility>

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Site Contacts

To be included in the site record, comments must be submitted during comment periods. Questions and informal comments or information about the site's history are welcome anytime.

Ecology

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Union Gap, WA 98903-0009
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Univar

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614-477-6376

Public Involvement in Contamination Cleanup

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) developed this Public Participation Plan (PPP) to renew a dangerous waste permit for Univar Solutions USA Inc. (Univar). The purpose of the plan is to encourage community involvement during the permit renewal process.

The plan describes how we inform the community about the permit renewal process so you can know about decision-making opportunities. It outlines how and when you can get involved during the permit renewal process for Univar.

Public participation grants

Grants may be given to neighborhood committees, non-profits, and other groups interested in the site. For contaminated sites, these funds can be used to:

- Hire an expert to help explain technical information.³
- Conduct activities that increase your understanding of, and participation in, the cleanup process.

For more information about public participation grants, please contact Lynn Gooding by phone at 360-407-6062 or email at lynn.gooding@ecy.wa.gov. You may also visit the [Public Participation Grant website](#).⁴

State and Federal Cleanup Laws

In Washington State, Ecology uses the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) and other regulations for cleanup activities on properties that treated, stored, or disposed hazardous chemicals. These cleanups, called “corrective actions,” are required under the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for maintaining and enforcing environmental standards across the United States. EPA allows Ecology to follow MTCA, not RCRA, for cleanup activities in Washington State.

This public participation plan is required under MTCA. MTCA provides guidelines for contaminated site cleanup in Washington State and sets standards to ensure the cleanup protects human health and the environment.

Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)

MTCA began as a grassroots citizen’s initiative in 1988. Ecology started using it to clean up contaminated sites in Washington in 1989. Under MTCA, a current or past property owner or operator may need to pay to clean up contamination on or coming from their property, until levels are safe for human health and the environment.

Under MTCA, Ecology oversees cleanups in the state and issues [regulations and guidance](#)⁵ for them. Ecology investigates reports of property contamination. If the contamination is a threat to human health or the environment, the property is placed on the Hazardous Sites List and the cleanup process begins.

³ Ecology currently does not have a citizen technical advisor to provide citizens with technical assistance on issues related to site investigation and cleanup.

⁴ <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/How-we-operate/Grants-loans/Find-a-grant-or-loan/Public-participation-grants>

⁵ <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/publications/9406.pdf>

Public participation is an important part of the MTCA process. Participation needs are determined for each cleanup site by the level of public interest and the risk posed by the contamination. People who live near the site, community groups, businesses, government, and other interested parties can comment on the cleanup process.

Under MTCA, the cleanup process happens in phases. Many phases have time for the public to review and comment on cleanup documents. See Figure 1, Washington's Formal Cleanup Process, on page 4 for more information.

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)

There are federal and state rules about hazardous wastes. Congress passed the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) in 1976 to ensure hazardous waste is managed and disposed of safely. RCRA has been updated several times to expand the scope and requirements.

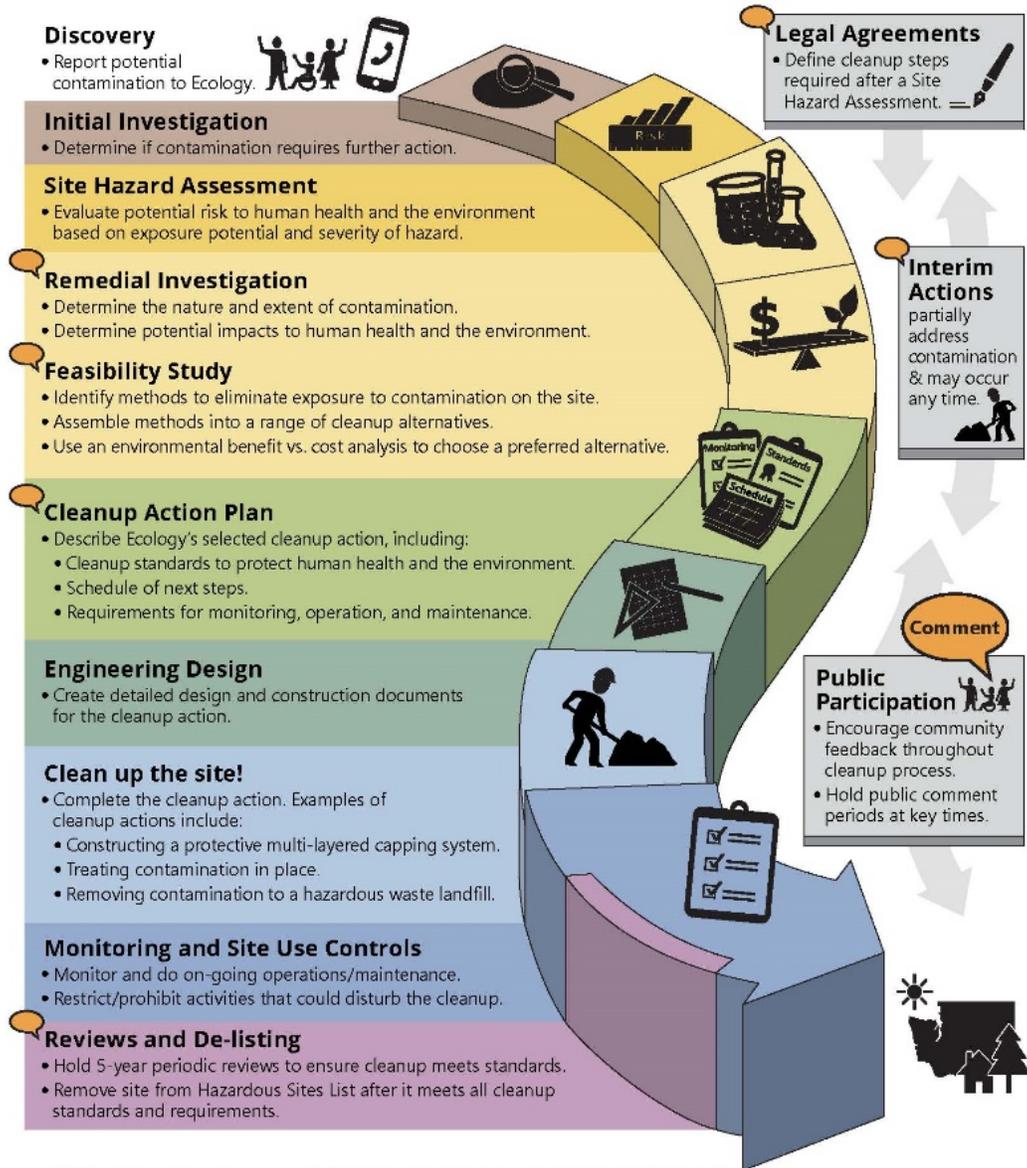
RCRA's goals are to:

- Protect human health and the environment.
- Reduce waste, and conserve energy and natural resources.
- Reduce or stop hazardous waste generation.

Treatment, storage, and disposal (TSD) facilities must apply for a permit to design, operate, maintain, or close their site. RCRA also requires facilities to clean up contamination from past and present practices. These cleanup activities are known as "corrective action."

Federal RCRA and state dangerous waste regulations require public participation opportunities during the stages of waste management facility permitting and cleanup.

Washington's Formal Cleanup Process



Washington's Cleanup Law
Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)

MTCA defines the cleanup process. This public initiated environmental law directs upland cleanups (on land or in groundwater) and sediment cleanups (in freshwater or marine environments). Ecology enacts MTCA and regulates the cleanup process.

September 2019
Ecology Publication 19-09-166

Figure 1: [Washington's Formal Cleanup Process Infographic](#)⁶

[Read a Plain Text version of Figure 1](#)⁷

⁶ <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/1909166.html>

⁷ <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/parts/1909166part2.pdf>

State Environmental Policy Act

Ecology follows the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) while cleanup plans are conducted. SEPA's purpose is to identify and evaluate large, negative environmental impacts likely to result from a proposed environmental action. For permit renewals, there is no SEPA determination because permit renewals are administrative processes.

Site Information

Basic information

Univar is a global company that stores, packages, and distributes a variety of chemical products. The Univar facility in Kent has a warehouse, office, dock, and parking areas on an 11-acre site. It is surrounded by other commercial and industrial properties.



Figure 2: Topographic Map of Univar Facility Boundary

Site history

Since 1974, Univar has stored, packaged, and distributed various chemical products from its facility in Kent. It has operated under four other corporate names:

- Van Waters and Rogers, Inc. (VWR, 1974-2001)
- Vopak USA, Inc. (2001-2002)
- Univar USA, Inc. (2002-2019)
- Univar Solutions USA Inc. (2019 to the present)

These were name changes only and did not reflect changes in ownership.

From 1974 to 2007, Univar was considered an active Dangerous Waste Management Facility. However, it was not subject to RCRA permitting requirements until EPA hazardous waste regulations became effective in 1980.

On October 31, 2007:

- Ecology conditionally accepted certification for clean closure of the above-ground portions of the Dangerous Waste Management Units (DWMUs).
- Ecology agreed to address below-ground contamination under a corrective action-only RCRA permit.

On August 5, 2020, Univar renewed their corrective action hazardous waste permit.

Site contamination

In October 1991, EPA's consultant completed a RCRA Facility Assessment (RFA) and identified areas at the facility where releases of hazardous substances may have occurred or were occurring.

Following EPA's assessment, the facility's RCRA Part B permit became effective on November 4, 1991.

Beginning in 1994, Ecology investigated contamination from waste disposal and accidental chemical releases at this site. Studies showed that soil in two areas of the eastern portion of the site were contaminated with solvents and chlorinated compounds. Groundwater was also contaminated. Groundwater is the water found underground in the cracks and spaces in soil, sand, and rock.

Most of the groundwater contamination is located beneath the property, but some contaminants in the deeper groundwater flowed north under 212th Street and beneath an adjacent industrial property. No drinking water wells are present in or near the areas of contamination.

Past cleanups

Tank farms

From 1974 to 1982, Univar operated one 1,500-gallon dangerous waste aboveground storage tank (AST) and one 6,000-gallon dangerous waste AST. There were no known releases from either AST during their operating history. The Univar site map below shows the tank farm locations.

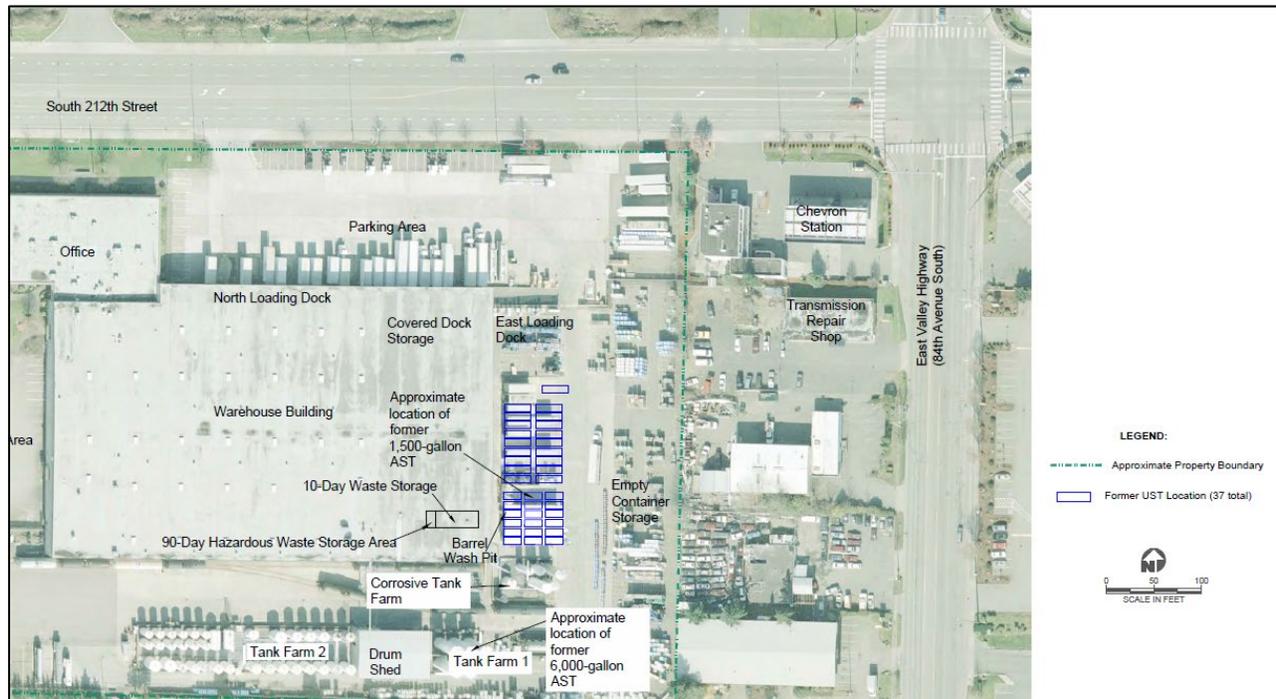


Figure 3: Map showing tank farm locations at Univar (RCRA Corrective Action Permit Renewal Application: Part A and B).

Agreed Order

On November 20, 2008, Ecology issued an Agreed Order (AO) requiring Univar to plan and implement a site cleanup. In 2009, Ecology selected cleanup activities from the Feasibility Study report.

Since then, Univar has been implementing the Cleanup Action Plan, which includes:

- **Groundwater treatment:** To clean polluted groundwater at the site, Ecology approved a process called “enhanced reductive dechlorination.” This injects special bacteria underground into polluted groundwater so the engineered bacteria ‘eat’ the contaminants.

- **Monitoring the groundwater:** The groundwater at the site is tested regularly to see if the pollutants are breaking down into less harmful chemicals. This is called “monitored natural attenuation.”
- **Ongoing treatment and groundwater sampling:** Univar will continue to test and treat the groundwater pollution at this site. This ongoing testing will help Ecology know if the treatment is effective and if any changes are needed.

A combined, revised Remedial Investigation (RI), Focused Feasibility Study (FFS) addendum, and draft Cleanup Action Plan (CAP) were developed in 2009. The [Univar Kent RI FFS and CAP](#)⁸ and [Fact Sheet for Univar-Kent Draft RI/FS/CAP](#)⁹ are in the [Univar Document Repository](#)¹⁰ on Ecology’s website.

Area Community

Geography

Kent is located in King County, Washington, United States. It has a total area of 33.7 square miles and is the sixth largest city in the state. Kent is the second oldest incorporated city after Seattle. It is in the heart of the Seattle–Tacoma metropolitan area, located 19 miles south of Seattle and 19 miles northeast of Tacoma.

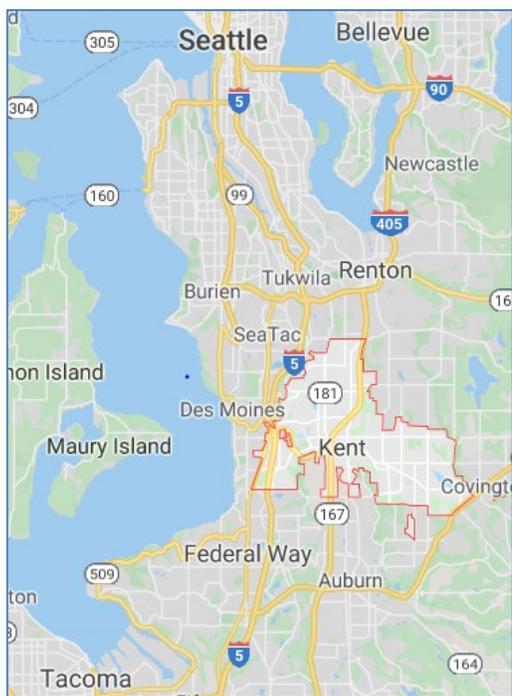


Figure 4: Google map showing location of Kent, WA.

⁸ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/DocViewer.aspx?did=24033>

⁹ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/DocViewer.aspx?did=55932>

¹⁰ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/CleanupSiteDocuments.aspx?csid=969>

The 11-acre Univar Facility is located approximately three miles east of Interstate 5, and two miles north of downtown Kent, Washington.



Figure 5: Google map showing Univar’s location in Kent, WA.

Kent is generally divided into 3 sections:

- West Hill: Located along Interstate 5. This area is zoned for residential and commercial use.
- The Valley: Commercial and industrial area with some medium density residential areas. Significant parkland along the Green River is used for outdoor recreational activities such as walking, hiking, and fishing.
- East Hill: Mostly residential with some retail businesses.

Univar is located in the industrial and commercial part of Kent known locally as the Valley.

Demographics

Study area: Kent, WA (population 126,071)

Demographic Indicators	Value	State Average	Percentile in State
Demographic Index	44%	29%	81
Minority Population	54%	30%	86
Low Income Population	33%	28%	65
Linguistically Isolated Population	9%	4%	85
Population with Less Than High School Education	15%	9%	80
Population Under 5 Years of Age	7%	6%	60
Population Over 64 Years of Age	11%	14%	37

Figure 6: EPA’s Environmental Justice Screen Standard Report

People of color and minority population

Ecology ran a demographic analysis using EPA's Environmental Justice Screen (EJSCREEN) tool for the city of Kent. The standard report suggests a number of indicators for environmental justice considerations, including:

- Minority population
- Linguistically isolated populations
- Populations with less than high school education

Census data from the 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS) indicate the largest racial and ethnic populations are Asian (24,736), Hispanic (19,929), and Black or African American (13,739).

Race and ethnicity in Kent, WA (citywide)

RACE & ETHNICITY: KENT, WA (CITYWIDE)

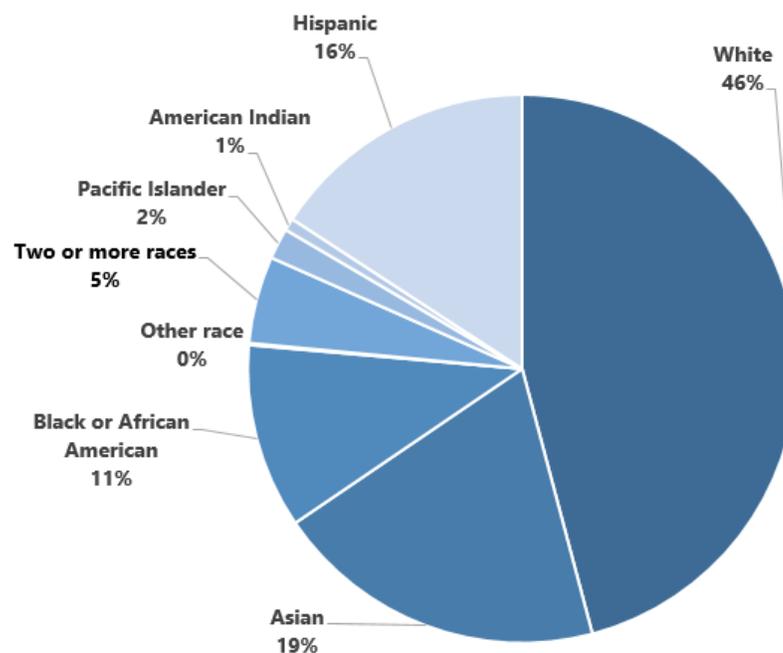


Figure 7: Race and ethnicity profile, Kent, WA; source: [U.S. Census Bureau, ACS](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs).¹¹

¹¹ <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs>

The 2013-2017 ACS estimates (in numbers) the following for Kent, WA:

- Other race: 137
- American Indian: 920
- Pacific Islander: 2,300
- Two or more races: 6,475
- Black or African American: 13,738
- Hispanic: 19,929
- Asian: 24,736
- White: 57,835¹²

¹² <https://ejsscreen.epa.gov/mapper/>

Race and ethnicity in Kent (Univar contaminated site area only)

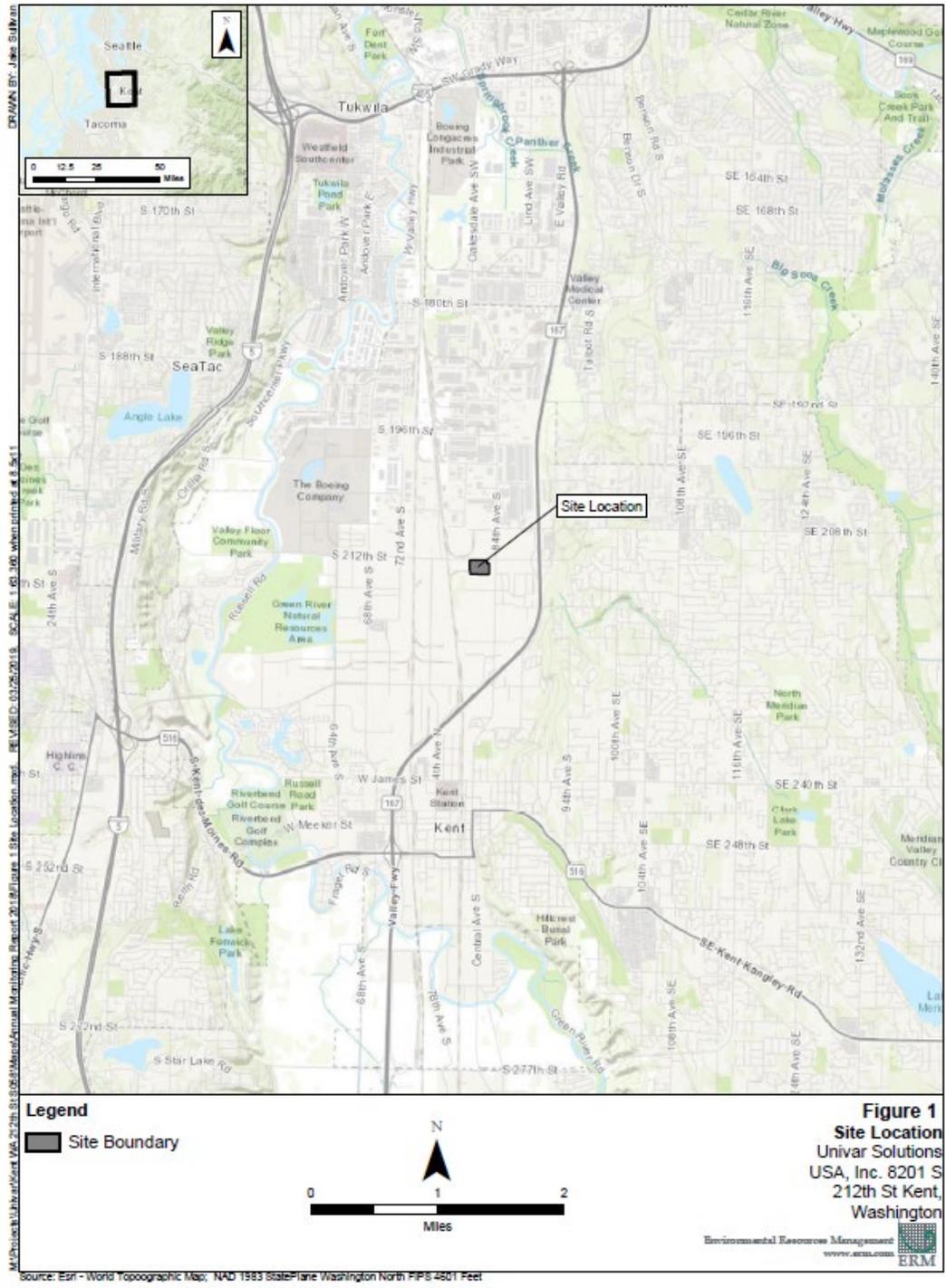


Figure 8: Map of Kent indicating Univar’s location in the city.

**RACE & ETHNICITY:
KENT, WA
(CONTAMINATED AREA ONLY)**

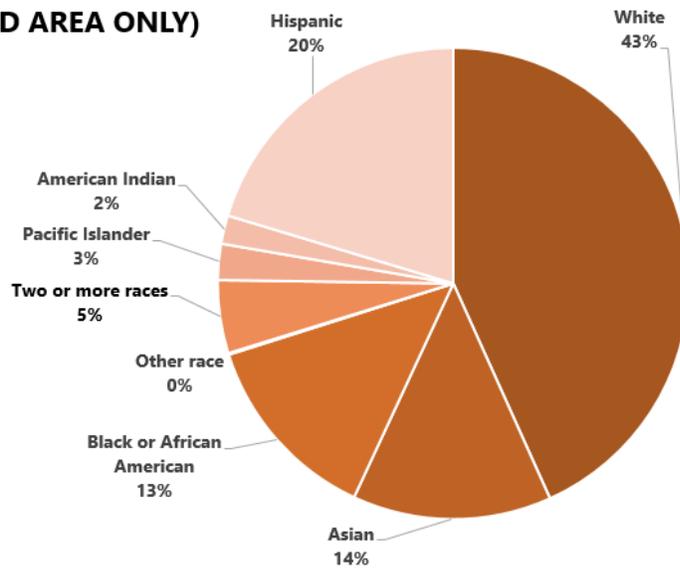


Figure 9: Race and ethnicity profile, Univar Solutions site only; source: [U.S. Census Bureau, ACS](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs).¹³

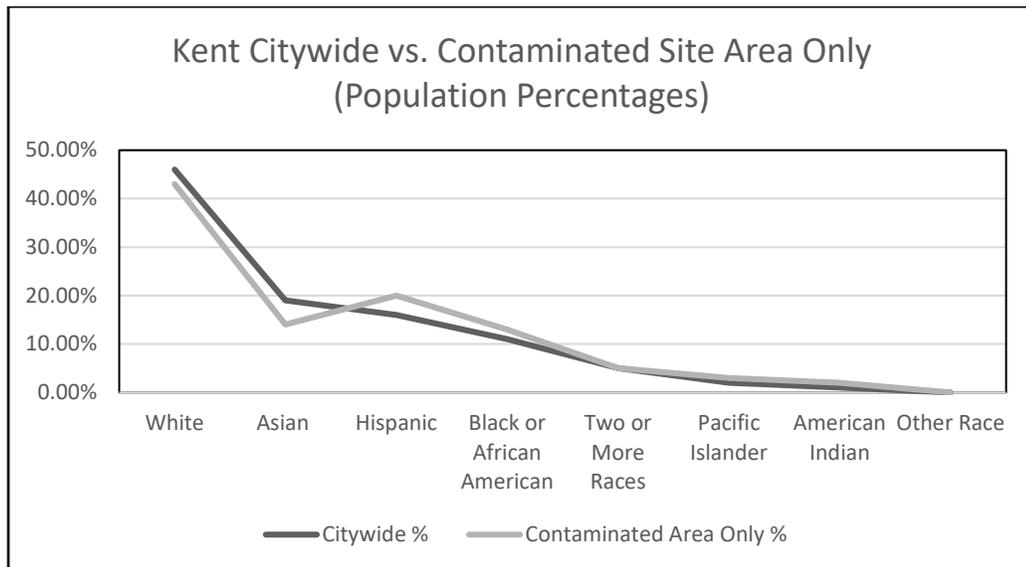


Figure 10: Race and ethnicity population percentages of Kent citywide vs. contaminated site areas.

The above data shows that the contaminated site areas around Univar have a higher percentage of Hispanic, Black or African American, Pacific Islander, and American Indian populations than the citywide percentages.

¹³ <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs>

English language proficiency

According to [Language Data \(Census 2015\)](#) for Kent,¹⁴ the population includes several non-English language groups who speak English less than “very well” and make up more than 5% of the population (or total more than 1,000 people). The top three non-English language groups include Spanish (6,879/5.97%), Vietnamese (1,855/1.6%), and Chinese (1,399/1.2%).

Outreach activities and language access

Based on the demographic analysis, Ecology will include the following outreach activities for this site:

- Reach out to cultural organizations and leaders in these communities.
- Provide contact information to request language services for all intended public materials.
- Provide basic information about this site in Spanish in all outreach materials.
- Translate all documents that are vital or critical to well-being for language groups that are either 5% of the population or more than 1,000 people.

To request translation services, please contact:

Janelle Anderson, *Community Outreach & Environmental Education Specialist*
Washington Department of Ecology, Northwest Regional Office
3190 160th Ave. SE
Bellevue, WA 98008
425-301-6454
janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov

Public Participation Activities

The public may ask questions, submit informal comments, or share site information at any time. People do not have to wait for a formal public comment period to contact us. However, to be included in the formal site record, comments about the site investigation, cleanup alternatives, or cleanups must be submitted during formal comment periods. Additionally, Ecology invites the public to review and comment on site documents before they become final. This is a direct and influential way to learn more about the site and be involved in the cleanup’s decision-making process.

¹⁴ http://teams/sites/EXEC/mitt/LanguageMap/Shared%20Documents/ACS_LanguageData_2015.aspx

How we share information with the community

During the cleanup, we mail notices about public comment periods to addresses surrounding the site. The mailing list area will vary depending on the type of contamination and where it is located, but the list will at least include addresses within a quarter-mile of the site as well as other interested organizations and individuals. These notices provide general information about the site, contact information, how to submit comments, times and locations of public meetings or hearings, or how to request a public meeting or hearing if one is not scheduled.

We may also develop documents outside of comment periods to keep the community updated about the site. These documents will be available online. Printed copies may be mailed to the community if Ecology thinks the message warrants the extra costs.

Comment period notices and other site announcements may also be posted throughout the community (for example, at local businesses, schools, and libraries).

Non-English speakers

Ecology will reach out to cultural community organizations as part of the project and provide information in other languages following federal guidance. We strive to make our public participation efforts as inclusive as possible. We welcome your input about how to best reach your community.

Tribal communication

Potentially contaminated resources near this site are relied on by the federally recognized Muckleshoot Tribe, Puyallup Tribe, Snoqualmie Tribe, Stillaguamish Tribe, Suquamish Tribe, and Tulalip Tribe that reside in King County. Ecology will invite these tribes to engage in decision-making during the process on a government-to-government basis.

Postal mailing list

Ecology maintains a mailing list that includes addresses near the site and relevant local, state, tribal, and federal government contacts. These addresses will receive public notices when draft documents are available for comment.

We will add additional individuals, organizations, and other interested parties to the mailing list when asked. If you would like to be added to the mailing list for this site, please contact Janelle Anderson at 425-301-6454 or by email to janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov.

Site register

Public comment periods, events, and other cleanup notices are published in Ecology's [Site Register](#).¹⁵ To receive the Site Register by email, please contact Sarah Kellington at 360-407-7466 or sarah.kellington@ecy.wa.gov.

Newspaper display ads or legal notices

We announce public comment periods and public events in newspaper display ads or legal notices. For this comment period, we will post an ad in the Kent Reporter newspaper. We will also publish notice on our [Public Input & Events Listing](#).¹⁶

Email lists

Ecology has an email list to update interested people about TSD facilities in the state, including this site. If you would like to be added to that email list, please contact:

Janelle Anderson, *Community Outreach & Environmental Education Specialist*
425-301-6454
janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov.

Ecology and Kent news websites

Ecology maintains a website for the [Univar Solutions USA Inc. Kent site](#).¹⁷ This website provides site information and cleanup documents. Information may also be shared about cleanup sites through [news releases](#),¹⁸ [Ecology's blog](#),¹⁹ and through local, online media channels such as the [Kent Reporter](#),²⁰ [I Love Kent](#),²¹ and [Kent, Washington.gov](#).²²

Document repositories

In response to Washington State's Coronavirus response and Governor Inslee's Stay Home, Stay Healthy Order, in person document review is not currently available. You can review documents at these locations when they re-open to the public.

¹⁵ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Site-Register-lists-and-data>

¹⁶ ecology.wa.gov/Events/Search/Listing

¹⁷ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Univar>

¹⁸ <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Get-to-know-us/News>

¹⁹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/blog>

²⁰ <https://www.kentreporter.com/news/>

²¹ <https://www.ilovekent.net/>

²² <https://www.kentwa.gov/home>

Washington State Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office
3190 160th Ave. SE
Bellevue, WA 98008
Call for appointment
425-649-7190

Kent Public Library
212 2nd Avenue North
Kent, WA 98032
253-859-3330

The current public comment period covers the [Univar Draft Permit Renewal](#)²³ and this Univar Public Participation Plan.

How to Share Information with Us

We may identify public concerns and cleanup goals by meeting with interested community members and organizations. To talk with us about this site, please contact Tom Mackie, Site Manager, by phone at 509-575-2803 or email at thomas.mackie@ecy.wa.gov.

While the Stay Home, Stay Healthy order is in effect, Ecology will not be hosting in-person public meetings or supporting physical document repositories. Documents for review will be available online only. If you need access to a hard copy document or have any other questions, please contact Janelle Anderson at 425-301-6454 or janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov.

Public comment periods

Formal 30-day comment periods allow the public to comment on draft documents, legal agreements, and proposed cleanup actions. If there is enough interest, Ecology can extend the public comment period. When Ecology oversees SEPA determinations, we hold comment periods for at least two weeks. We hold 45-day comment periods when we are issuing or renewing corrective action permits.

After a public comment period, we publish all the input we received and our responses to comments and questions. If the comments result in significant changes, the documents are revised and re-issued for public review. If the comments do not result in significant changes, they become final.

Public events

We hold public meetings, workshops, open houses, and public hearings based on community interest. If we have not scheduled a meeting, we will if 10 or more people request it. We may extend a public comment period so that these meetings can occur during the comment period.

At this time there are no public meetings scheduled for this comment period. To request a public meeting, please call 425-301-6454 or email janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov.

²³ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/DocViewer.ashx?did=91910>

While the Stay Home, Stay Healthy order is in effect, Ecology will not be hosting in-person public meetings. Any online public meetings that are scheduled will meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. Public meetings, workshops, open houses, and hearings are announced in advance in several ways.

Plan Amendments

Ecology developed this plan following MTCA regulations (WAC 173-340-600). We review it as the cleanup progresses and amend it as necessary.

This plan includes information for the public about opportunities for public involvement and comment. The outreach activities in this section are Ecology’s current plans for keeping the public informed and providing ways for the community to share their concerns and questions.

If you believe the planned outreach activities are insufficient or should be modified, we will work to find solutions. New outreach activities or tools can be used with or without amending this plan.

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

Table 1: List of abbreviations and acronyms

Abbreviation or Acronym	Definition
AO	Agreed Order
AST	Aboveground storage tank
CAP	Cleanup action plan
DWMU	Dangerous waste management unit
Ecology	Washington State Department of Ecology
EPA	US Environmental Protection Agency
ERD	Enhanced reductive de-chlorination
Facility	Univar Solutions USA Inc. facility at 8201 South 212th Street, Kent, WA
FFS	Focused feasibility study
MTCA	Model Toxics Control Act
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RFA	RCRA Facility Assessment
RI	Remedial investigation
SEPA	State Environmental Policy Act
Site	Area where hazardous substances at the Facility are currently located
TSD	Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility
Univar	Univar Solutions USA Inc.
VWR	Van Waters and Rogers, Inc.
WAC	Washington Administrative Code