



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

*Northwest Regional Office • 3190 160th Avenue SE • Bellevue, Washington 98008-5452 • (425) 649-7000
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December 11, 2017

Mr. Christ Thomsen
Plantation Rifle Range
5102 Samish Way
Bellingham, WA 98226

Re: Dangerous Waste Compliance Inspection on November 13, 2017 at Plantation Rifle Range, RCRA Site ID: N/A

Dear Mr. Thomsen:

Ecology's Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program recently conducted a Dangerous Waste compliance inspection at your facility. The Dangerous Waste Regulations¹ establish a safe and responsible system to manage dangerous waste. I have listed the violations at Plantation Rifle Range in the included Notice to Comply. You must complete the actions needed to correct these violations. Complete and return the included **Compliance Certificate** within 30 days of receipt of this letter.

Failure to comply with these requirements within 30 days could result in an administrative order and a penalty of up to \$10,000 per day for each violation.

This report is a summary of observations and information gathered from the facility at the time of the inspection. Specific deficiencies, potential violations, or issues not discussed do not relieve your facility from complying with all applicable regulations.

If you have any questions or need clarification of the information in these documents, please contact me at (360) 255-4383 or minc461@ecy.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Mindy Collins
Hazardous Waste Compliance Inspector
Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program

Sent by email: Christ Thomsen, cthomsen@co.whatcom.wa.us
ecc: Jerry Warren, jwarren@co.whatcom.wa.us

¹ Authority: [Chapter 173-303 WAC](#) and RCW 70.105.080

Washington State Department of Ecology Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program

RCRA Site ID: N/A	Facility Name: Plantation Rifle Range	Inspection Date: November 13, 2017
Generator Status: SQG	Facility Address: 5102 Samish Way, Bellingham, WA 98226	Date Report Sent: December 11, 2017

NOTICE TO COMPLY

Site Contact Name and Title: Christ Thomsen, Parks Operations Supervisor	Inspector Name: Mindy Collins
Site Phone Number: (360) 676-9770	Inspector Phone Number: (360) 255-4383
Site Contact Email Address: cthomsen@co.whatcom.wa.us	Inspector Email Address: Minc461@ecy.wa.gov
Site Website: http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/1931/Plantation-Rifle-Range	Back-up Inspector Name: Marietta Sharp

Notes:

1. A re-inspection can occur at any time to verify the correction of the violations listed below.
2. Ecology may take formal enforcement action even if the violations are corrected.

Violation Code: WAC 173-303- Summary of Violations & Observations	Actions Needed
<p>WAC 173-303-070(8)(b)(i): Small quantity generators will not be subject to the dangerous waste regulations if they designate their waste in accordance with WAC 173-303-070.</p> <p>Designation has not been completed on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HVAC filters (intake and exhaust) are currently being bagged and thrown in the on-site dumpster. 2. Used personal protective equipment (PPE, such as respirator filters and suits) worn by employees is added to the HVAC filters and thrown in the dumpster. 3. Accumulated gravel containing clay target fragments were in the parking lot. It is unknown whether the clay targets contain polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. 4. The contaminated shop towels were being taken home for laundering and not being managed according to best management practices (BMPs) that allow shop towels to be excluded from the dangerous waste regulations. 	<p>When you return the enclosed Compliance Certificate, provide documentation that designation of the solid wastes listed (1-3) has occurred. This documentation shall include, but not be limited to, copies of the analytical results of designation testing and justification for any determinations that are based on generator knowledge as defined in WAC 173-303-040. Refer to the following additional information provided for clarification:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Per Site Contacts, contaminated shop towels will be added to uniforms currently laundered by Aramark. No further action needed.

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<p>WAC 173-303-070(8)(b)(ii): Small quantity generators will not be subject to the dangerous waste regulations if they manage their waste in a way that does not pose a potential threat to human health or the environment.</p> <p>Accumulated lead waste in sand berms and along the back walls of outdoor ranges is not being managed according to best management practices that allow this waste to be excluded from the regulations. No plan is in place for routinely mining and recycling the lead.</p>	<p>Manage wastes so that human health and/or the environment are no longer threatened. When you return the Compliance Certificate, include a written plan describing how lead contaminated debris will be routinely mined and recycled.</p> <p>See <i>Concerns and Suggestions</i> below, for clarification of specific actions required.</p>
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Concerns and Suggestions

According to the following document, endorsed by Ecology, lead shot that is discarded (i.e. abandoned) is considered a solid waste unless it is recovered or reclaimed on a regular basis.

[Best Management Practices for Lead at Outdoor Shooting Ranges](#)

Choosing to not recover and recycle lead debris on outdoor ranges subjects your facility to governmental or citizen law suits. It also may necessitate referral to Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program for possible listing on Ecology's Confirmed and Suspected Contaminated Sites (CSCS) List.

Action Required – Ecology may exercise enforcement discretion for ranges that follow Best Management Practices (BMP's) by developing and promoting an active lead management program. Plantation Rifle Range does not currently have such a program, thus making all lead waste accumulated in sand berms and along the back walls of the outdoor range subject to the broader definition of solid waste as found in the WA State Dangerous Waste Regulations. Plantation Rifle Range must either designate all of this solid waste or create a written plan for routine maintenance and recycling of lead contamination in the outdoor ranges, and begin implementing that plan as soon as possible. Submit this plan when you return the enclosed Compliance Certificate.

Contaminated Shop Towels

Used shop towels contaminated with hazardous substances may also designate as dangerous waste under the dangerous waste regulations. If your used shop towels designate you have the option to handle and recycle (i.e. launder) them according to Ecology's best management practices (BMPs).

These BMPs include:

- Properly labeling containers as "contaminated shop towels."
- Keeping the containers closed except when actively adding or removing waste.

If you choose to do this, they are not subject to generator, transporter and permitted treatment, storage and disposal facility requirements of the dangerous waste regulations and do not "count" as dangerous waste.

If you choose to dispose of your contaminated towels you must manage them as dangerous waste if they fail any of the dangerous waste designation criteria. Please see the publication [Focus on Used Shop Towels](#) for more information.

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COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATE

Complete and return this page, within 30 days of the receipt of the letter. Include all supporting documentation such as photos, copies of manifests/disposal records and receipts.

Note: You may request an extension before this Compliance Certificate is due. You must make this request in writing and include the reason for the extension and propose a new date of completion. Send it to:

Mindy Collins
 Washington State Department of Ecology
 Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program
 913 Squalicum Way #101
 Bellingham, WA 98225
 Minc461@ecy.wa.gov

Summary Of Hazardous Waste Violation Compliance Actions Taken				
Violation Code WAC 173-303-	Documentation provided			Notes
	Photo	Paperwork	Statement	
070(8)(b)(i)				
070(8)(b)(ii)				

- I certify that the violations noted on the Notice to Comply page have been corrected.
- I personally examined any attached documentation submitted as proof of compliance and I believe the information to be true, accurate, and complete.
- I am aware:
 - There are significant penalties for submitting false information and/or for non-compliance with regulations.
 - My signature **certifies compliance** with every regulation noted on the Notice to Comply page.
- I declare under penalty of perjury the foregoing certification is true and correct.

Signature:	Printed Name:
Position/Title:	Date:

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INSPECTION NARRATIVE

Background

Plantation Rifle Range (Plantation) has operated at this site since 1971, according to the Whatcom County Parks & Recreation website. Plantation offers shooting and training activities for the public and law enforcement, and has a high power rifle and trap outdoor range, and both indoor and an outdoor pistol and rimfire range. Mr. Jerry Warren, Chief Range and Safety Officer, told us they have one full-time employee, two others who cycle through, and four seasonal employees.

This was Ecology's first hazardous waste compliance evaluation inspection here.

Inspection Summary

We conducted this routine unannounced compliance evaluation inspection to ensure compliance with standards for hazardous waste generators (Chapter 173-303 WAC). Marietta Sharp and I, Mindy Collins, arrived at 12:54 p.m. We asked to speak to the Parks Supervisor and were told by Mr. Jerry Warren, Chief Range Safety Officer, that he and Christ Thomsen, Parks Operations Supervisor, would like to be present for the inspection. Mr. Thomsen was off-site so we waited while until he arrived to begin.

Mr. Warren and Mr. Thomsen escorted us to the training room located in the same building (the upper of two facilities) as the indoor range. On our way to the indoor range, we passed a pile of gravel containing pieces of white or beige materials and were told these were clay pigeons (they did not think these would be contaminated with lead). This small pile was pushed up into a corner of the paved parking lot.

Mr. Warren and Mr. Thomsen told us the following about indoor and outdoor ranges:

- A variety of handguns and rifles can be rented at Plantation.
- A gunsmith repairs rental guns at an off-site location.
- Rentals are wiped clean with rags and gun cleaning solvent on site, and those rags are taken home for laundering. Mr. Thomsen stated that from this day forward, all rags will be collected and laundered by the same professional service that launders uniforms (Aramark).

At the indoor range:

- Ammunition can be purchased at Plantation, or provided by customers. Ammunition must be fully encased "total metal jacket" bullets, meaning minimal lead is released when fired, and bullets are still intact when captured by a trap located at the back and below the indoor range. Ammunition provided by customers is checked prior to use.
- The bullet trap at Plantation is a snail style trap, where bullets are directed via a long horizontal steel tube then fall to five-gallon buckets underneath (Mr. Warren showed us a

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picture of the system). Removal of the accumulated bullets is accomplished by employees, dressed in full personal protective clothing and respirators, pouring the contents into 55-gallon drums affixed with a lid and disposal chute, and under negative air (HEPA vacuum hose attached to the lid). Negative air is maintained on the drum for at least five minutes following transfer, to minimize dust escaping from the drum.

- All materials captured by the bullet trap system are taken to Northwest Recycling in Bellingham. Filters from the HEPA vacuum are double bagged and taken to the local moderate risk waste facility in Bellingham for disposal. This occurs every three months, and the estimated weight of the waste is 50 pounds (per Mr. Warren).
- The bullet trap display control unit (DCU) vacuum system has four canister style filters that agitate to drop lead into an attached 55-gallon drum. Lead that collects in this drum is taken to Northwest Recycling. The filters themselves are changed every three to five years, and are taken to the Bellingham moderate risk waste facility for disposal.
- Upstairs, in the indoor range, surfaces are cleaned with another HEPA vacuum that is dedicated to that area, and stored in the corner of the room. This filter is changed once per month, and weighs approximately 30 pounds.
- The indoor range is kept under negative air pressure. Intake and exhaust filters are located on the roof. Mr. Thomsen told us that both intake and exhaust filters are changed when the doors to the area whistle, indicating a loss of negative air pressure (approximately every three months for intake, and every three weeks for exhaust). This indicator is used at the moment as pressure gauges for the HVAC system are no longer working (the entire HVAC system will be replaced when a capital budget is passed and funds are available). Per Mr. Thomsen, Labor and Industries recently inspected the facility and found that lead levels in the air were well below levels of concern.
- Intake and exhaust filters are removed approximately every three months, bagged, rolled up and sealed, then thrown in the dumpster. According to Mr. Thomsen they have not been tested to determine lead content. I expressed concerns about designation of the exhaust filters as they could contain lead and halogenated organics (depending on manufacturer and type).
- Surfaces of shooting stalls are wiped at the end of each day with “D-Lead” wipes. Hand soap in bathrooms also contains D-Lead.

At outdoor ranges:

- Plantation has two outdoor ranges, one with targets from 50 to 300 yards, and the other with targets at 21, 50, or 75 feet, and 50 to 100 yards.
- Ammunition used is not limited to fully encased bullets.
- Debris, such as bullets and fragments, collects either in sand in depressed areas just beyond targets, berms, or the hillside at the back of the 300 yard range.
- According to Mr. Thomsen, grass on the ranges is mowed but traps and sand berms have never been mined to reclaim lead.
- Mr. Thomsen told us that stormwater sheet flows across outdoor ranges, but Whatcom County and the Samish Watershed collected samples in 2012 and did not have any

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concerns (I requested a copy of this report from the County but as of the date of this report have not received it).

- Both ranges are flanked by established forests, however the 300-yard range appears to have steep banks along the southeast side.
- Surfaces of shooting stalls are wiped at the end of each day with “D-Lead” wipes.

We did not review any records during this inspection and as the range was in active use, did not conduct a site tour.

Closing Conference

We thanked Mr. Warren and Mr. Thomsen for their time and left the facility.