

Updated Dangerous Waste Permit for Univar Solutions USA Inc., Kent, WA



Comments accepted:

June 22, 2020 – August 5, 2020

Submit comments:

Online:

<https://bit.ly/UnivarComments>

By mail:

Tom Mackie, Site Manager
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Union Gap, WA 98903
(509) 575-2803
thomas.mackie@ecy.wa.gov

Site info:

Webpage:

<https://ecology.wa.gov/Univar>

Facility Site ID: 13862483

Site Cleanup ID: 969

See inside for document review locations.

A virtual hearing will be held if at least 10 people request one.

We want to hear from you!

Ecology invites you to review and comment on a draft permit and draft public participation plan for the Univar Solutions facility in Kent, WA.

The permit, called a Dangerous Waste Corrective Action Permit, allows environmental cleanup activities at this site to continue. The permit meets requirements of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the federal law that outlines how to properly manage hazardous waste. Univar's RCRA permit is up for renewal at this time.

The purpose of the Public Participation Plan (PPP) is to encourage community involvement during the permit renewal process. The plan describes how we inform the community about the permit renewal process so they can know about decision-making opportunities. It outlines how and when people can get involved during the permit renewal process for Univar.

Ecology will consider all comments and may amend the documents based on them. The permit and public participation plan will become effective following the public comment period. We will hold a virtual public meeting if 10 or more people request one.

Univar Documents Available for Public Comment

- **Univar Draft Permit Renewal:** Univar no longer stores dangerous waste at this facility. However, federal regulations require facilities to have a hazardous waste permit until all waste-related activities are complete. This permit must be renewed every 10 years. Read more at <https://bit.ly/UnivarPermit>.
- **Univar Public Participation Plan:** View the Public Participation Plan at <https://bit.ly/UnivarPPP>.

Washington State's coronavirus response

We are not hosting in-person public meetings or supporting physical document repositories. Documents for review are available online only. If a hearing is requested, we will determine the appropriate response under Washington's Stay Home, Stay Healthy order. If you need access to a hard copy document or have other questions, please contact Janelle Anderson at 425-301-6454 or janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov.

Public Meetings

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

Site Background

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

Since 1974 Univar has stored, packaged, and distributed various chemical products from its Kent facility. The facility 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. But it was not subject to RCRA permitting requirements until 1980, when the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) hazardous waste regulations became effective.

On October 31, 2007, Ecology conditionally accepted certification for clean closure of the above-ground portions of the Dangerous Waste Management Units (DWMUs), and indicated its intention to address the below-ground contamination through a corrective action only RCRA permit.

Past Contamination and Cleanup at the Site

Beginning in 1994, Ecology investigated site contamination from waste storage and accidental chemical releases. 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 spaces around 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.

Ecology issued an agreed order (a legal agreement) requiring Univar to plan and implement a site cleanup. In 2009, Ecology selected the preferred cleanup activities from the Feasibility Study.

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

- **Groundwater treatment:** To clean polluted groundwater at the site, Ecology approved "enhanced reductive dechlorination." This includes injection of nutrients, food source for bacteria, and 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.

Document Review Locations

In person document review is not currently available. You may review documents online at:

- Ecology's Univar website: <https://ecology.wa.gov/Univar>.
- Univar Kent Permit Lite 2020 DRAFT document: <https://bit.ly/UnivarDraft>
- Univar DRAFT Public Participation Plan: <https://bit.ly/UnivarPPP>

Once the Stay Home, Stay Healthy executive order ends, and these locations open to the public, you can view documents in person at:

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

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

Questions about accessing information?

Contact Janelle Anderson:
425-301-6454

janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov

To submit your comments, questions, or concerns regarding any of these documents, visit the Ecology eComments page: <http://hwtr.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=E3Ha5>.

What Happens Next?

Once the public comment period ends, Ecology will review and consider all received comments. The draft documents may be modified based on your comments. As future documents on the site are developed, you will be notified of additional public comment periods.

Borrador del Plan de Acción para la Limpieza

Una limpieza ambiental se está llevando a cabo en Univar Solutions USA Inc. en Kent, WA. El borrador del Plan de Acción para la Limpieza está disponible para comentario público. Este plan describe como la limpieza protegerá a las personas y el medio ambiente de la contaminación en el sitio.

Hazardous Waste & Toxics Reduction Program
3190 160th Ave. SE
Bellevue, WA, 98008

Join the Discussion!

Draft permit renewal

Ecology seeks public comment on a draft permit renewal and draft public participation plan for Univar Solutions USA Inc. in Kent, WA.

Public comment period

June 22, 2020 – August 5, 2020

<https://bit.ly/UnivarComments>

Public meeting and hearing

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

Información en Español incluida: 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.

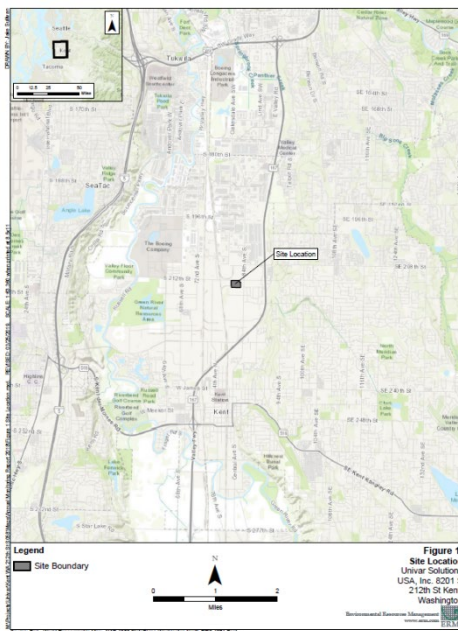


Figure 1: Univar Site Map

ADA Accessibility: To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6700, email hwtrpubs@ecy.wa.gov, or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.