



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

## **Response to Comments**

### **Agreed Order and Public Participation Plan**

#### **Chevron 97502 Site Sedro-Woolley, WA**

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*Facility Site ID: 61112475*  
*Cleanup Site ID: 6368*

August 2020

## Publication and Contact Information

This document is available on the Department of Ecology's Chevron 97502 website at:  
<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=6368>

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# **Response to Comments**

## **Agreed Order and Public Participation Plan**

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**Chevron 97502 Site  
Sedro-Woolley, WA**

*Facility Site ID: 61112475*

*Cleanup Site ID: 6368*

Washington State Department of Ecology

Northwest Regional Office

Toxics Cleanup Program

Bellevue, Washington

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## Public Outreach Summary

From June 22 to July 21, 2020, the Department of Ecology (Ecology) solicited public comments on an Agreed Order (legal agreement) and Public Participation Plan for the Chevron 97502 cleanup site (Site) in downtown Sedro-Woolley, WA.

Our public involvement activities related to this 30-day comment period included:

- **Fact Sheet:**
  - US mail distribution of a fact sheet providing information about the cleanup documents and the public comment period to approximately 3,280 people including neighboring businesses and other interested parties.
  - Email distribution of the postcard to approximately 120 people, including interested individuals, local/county/state/federal agencies, local farmers market, and interested community groups.
- **Legal Notice:**
  - Publication of one paid legal ad in *The Skagit Valley Herald*, dated Tuesday, June 16, 2020. (Skagit Publishing distributed *The Skagit Valley Herald* to the Sedro-Woolley *Courier Times* subscribers during this week.)
- **Site Register:**
  - Publication of 4 notices in Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Site Register:
    - Comment Period Notice:
      - June 18, 2020
      - July 1, 2020
      - July 16, 2020
    - Response Summary Notice:
      - September 10, 2020
    - Visit [Ecology's Site Register website](#)<sup>1</sup> to download PDFs.
- **Media Coverage:**
  - Ecology sent a media notice on Thursday, June 18, 2020, to *The Skagit Valley Herald*, *Cascadia Weekly*, and KSVR 91.7 FM.
  - *The Skagit Valley Herald* ran a [story online](#)<sup>2</sup> and in print Sunday, June 21, 2020.
- **Social Media:**
  - **Twitter:** Ecology – Northwest Region @ecyseattle posted a [tweet on Thursday, June 18, 2020](#)<sup>3</sup> connecting readers to the comment period including the cleanup site webpage, a virtual tour, the online public meeting, and how to submit comments.

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<sup>1</sup><https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/UIPages/PublicationList.aspx?IndexTypeName=Program&NameValue=Toxics+Cleanup&DocumentTypeName=Newsletter>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.goskagit.com/coronavirus/state-taking-comment-on-eventual-hammer-heritage-cleanup/article\\_93a50ba7-89ff-5313-9c42-da275e3b3ae5.html](https://www.goskagit.com/coronavirus/state-taking-comment-on-eventual-hammer-heritage-cleanup/article_93a50ba7-89ff-5313-9c42-da275e3b3ae5.html)

<sup>3</sup> <https://twitter.com/ecyseattle/status/1273686978366599168?s=20>

- **Websites:**
  - Announcement of the public comment period and posting of the fact sheet and associated documents for review on [Ecology's Chevron 97502 website](#)<sup>4</sup> and Ecology's [Public Inputs & Events webpage](#)<sup>5</sup>.
- **Online Public Meeting:**
  - In consideration of public health and safety, Ecology held an [online public meeting](#)<sup>6</sup> on Tuesday, June 30, 2020 at 6 p.m. Approximately three public attendees joined online along with the presentation team.
  - Ecology, City of Sedro-Woolley and Chevron USA, Inc. consultant, Arcadis, presented about the Site beginning Washington State's formal cleanup process, discussed previous cleanup work, and answered questions throughout the presentation.
- **Document Repositories:**
  - In consideration of public health and safety, Ecology could not offer in-person review options during the 30-day comment period. Outreach materials and websites directed the public to contact Ian Fawley, Outreach Specialist, for document review assistance.

## Comment Summary

Ecology received three comments during the 30-day comment period: June 22 – July 21, 2020.

**Table 1: List of Commenters**

	First Name	Last Name	Agency/Organization/Business	Submitted By
1	Lila	Smith		Individual
2	Elisabeth	Waldron		Individual
3	Tracy	Manno		Individual

## Next Steps

Ecology will execute the Agreed Order and finalize the Public Participation Plan informed by these public comments. Work will then begin as outlined in the Agreed Order Scope of Work and Schedule of Deliverables.

## Comments and Responses

Ecology has reviewed and considered all comments received on the Agreed Order and Public Participation Plan. Based on Ecology's evaluation of the comments, no changes were made to the documents, and they are being finalized.

<sup>4</sup> <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=6368>

<sup>5</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Events/Search/Listing>

<sup>6</sup> <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/DocViewer.ashx?did=93088>



The comments are presented below, along with Ecology's responses. Appendix A, on page 5, contains the comments in their original format.

## **Comment from: Lila Smith**

When this space is cleaned up will it return to a community space or be devey into something else?

### **Response:**

The Site cleanup work will not preclude the continued use of the property as a community space. The future use of the City owned property will ultimately be determine by the City.

## **Comment from: Elisabeth Waldron**

Hi I have a question, will this clean up require that the entire site be demolished and contaminated dirt be dug up? This Is a very nice community site with a gazebo and public restrooms. It's a great spot for the farmers market. It needs to be LEFT ALONE! The site is fine the way it is. It's not hurting anyone's health. It is not necessary to destroy the whole thing. It is completely ridiculous to do this clean up. The site is fine, LEAVE IT ALONE! Many Sedro-Woolley residents would be extremely disappointed if you dig this site up. It's not Necessary!

Thank you!

Elisabeth

### **Response:**

Washington State's cleanup rule, the [Model Toxics Control Act](#)<sup>7</sup>, Chapter 173-340 WAC, establishes a [process](#)<sup>8</sup> to identify, investigate and clean up releases of toxic substances to protect human health and the environment. The cleanup action for this Site has not yet been determined. Once the Site has been characterized, a number of cleanup alternatives will be evaluated and Ecology will select the final cleanup. Ecology's selected cleanup action for the Site will be presented to the public for review and comment at a later date. The Site cleanup work will not preclude the continued use of the property as a community space. The future use of the City owned property will ultimately be determine by the City.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Rules-directing-our-cleanup-work/Model-Toxics-Control-Act>

<sup>8</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Cleanup-process>

## **Comment from: Tracy Manno**

As a taxpayer of this City my first concern of course is the damage and clean up process and what the cost will be. However, how did this go un-noticed? Everyone in this community is aware that that there was a gas station. Why wasn't this looked at when they decided to build the Heritage Square? It wasn't so long ago that it shouldn't have gone un-noticed! Unbelievable!

### **Response:**

Based on the property's well-known historical use as a gas station, environmental investigations and cleanup actions have been previously conducted at the site, including the removal of contaminated soil and groundwater. The purpose of this Agreed Order is to investigate and address potential remaining contamination at the site.

As a successor to the former gas station owner/operator, Chevron was identified by Ecology as a potentially liable party along with the City of Sedro-Woolley, the current property owner. Chevron has accepted financial responsibility for this cleanup effort. Findings of the Remedial Investigation (RI) will be documented in an RI report and used to inform the Feasibility Study (FS) which will also be documented in a FS report. The FS will evaluate a number of different cleanup alternatives and the cost of each cleanup alternative will be further evaluated in a disproportionate cost analysis. The combined draft RI/FS reports, including descriptions of the cleanup alternatives evaluated and disproportionate cost analyses, will be presented to the public for review and comment at a later date .

## **Appendices**

Appendix A. Public Comments in Original Format

# Lila Smith

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# Elisabeth Waldron

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