



August 28, 2020

Responsiveness Summary

Comment Period: June 15, 2020 through July 15, 2020

- **Site Name:** Gold Knob Prospects aka Saddle Rock Park
- **Site Address:** 1200 Circle Street, Wenatchee
- **Facility Site ID:** 22496
- **Cleanup Site ID:** 11610

Document for Review and Comment:

Interim Remedial Action Report

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) received three (3) comments during the public comment period for the Gold Knob Prospects aka Saddle Rock Park Site.

Comment 1: **Laurie Kutrich:** In my humble opinion this is a waste of money and resources. People are hiking and riding on the road. If the dirt is problematic, fence it off. Disturbing toxic materials just exposes people to those materials, and trucking it off to another site just moves the problem somewhere else. Before we spend all this money show us that it's really causing harm. Where is the evidence?

Response: Thank you for your comments. A Feasibility Study was prepared in 2013, which examined alternatives to address the contamination concern. The alternatives were reviewed based on various measures defined in the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA), including protectiveness, permanence, and cost. Removal of the contaminated waste rock was selected as the preferred alternative. Cleanup was determined to be needed because the contamination was above MTCA cleanup levels and is considered a threat to both human health and the environment.

Comment 2: **Anonymous:** I've gone hiking there 4 times, never imagined it had waste rock. I recently learned mining companies just left their waste for others to cleanup. I was wondering if the silver could get extracted and sold to pay for the cleanup; instead of just disposing waste rocks at the Wenatchee Regional Landfill.

Response: Thank you for your comment. Unfortunately, insufficient amounts of silver are present in the waste rock to be considered economically recoverable.

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Comment 3: **Shawn Hammons:** Many people, including myself have spent much time in this area with no health problems. Given the Ecology report my question is, in what manner are these contaminants passed to people (and/or animals) when walking, running, etc, these lands? By breathing dust, trans dermal, eating dirt, etc.? Thank you.

Response: Thank you for your comment. Exposure pathways are the manner in which humans or animals may be exposed to contamination. Various exposure pathways have been evaluated in the development of Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) cleanup levels. These cleanup levels determine site cleanup needs. Exposure pathways include human health pathways and ecological (environmental) pathways. Human health pathways include breathing (inhalation) of dust and incidental eating (ingestion) of soil contamination. Aside from small children, who may eat soil in a process referred to as “pica” incidental ingestion of soil can more likely take place by occasional hand to mouth contact, as opposed to direct eating of soil. Ecological (environmental) pathways include both vegetation and wildlife.

Exposure concerns from contamination are generally considered chronic (long-term) rather than acute (short-term) and can include an increased risk of cancer. We do not expect that exposures to the waste rock by hikers in the past would result in identifiable health impacts. Rather, the cleanup actions are intended to reduce future risks to both humans and the environment.

Ecology Responses by:

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