



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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CERTIFIED MAIL

7008 2810 0001 3939 5545

February 19, 2009

Howard & Diana McCullough
Howard's Cleaners Trustees
4125 23rd Avenue NE
Olympia WA 98516

Dear Mr. & Mrs. McCullough:

RE: Early Notice Letter Regarding the Release of Hazardous Substances at Howard's Cleaners (site name), located at 4224 Pacific Avenue SE, Lacey, Washington 98503.
Facility Site Identification Number: 19341958 (existing site name)

Under Chapter 70.105 Revised Code of Washington (RCW) the Department of Ecology (Ecology) is required to conduct an Initial Investigation, of properties where we have received a report that there has been a release or threatened release of hazardous substance that could pose a threat to human health or the environment.

Ecology maintains a list of sites where an initial investigation has found that further testing and possible cleanup is needed. We call this our "database of Confirmed or Suspected Contaminated Sites". As a result of the initial investigation conducted by Thurston County Health Department, this property has been added to the database as a State Cleanup Site. The Facility Site Identification number assigned to this site is 19341958. Please note that inclusion in this database does not mean Ecology has determined you liable for cleanup of the site, as that is a separate determination under the law.

This site has been added to our database because we received a copy of a report prepared by the adjacent property owners' agent (Lacey Market Square 1&2) documenting contamination from halogenated solvents in excess of MTCA Method A Cleanup levels in both soil and groundwater. The contaminant present is indicative of contamination found on properties operating dry cleaning businesses. Sampling data was collected in 2003 and 2008 from multiple locations on the adjacent property. We recognize that no sampling has been conducted on Howards Cleaners but are aware that the Hazardous Waste Department in Ecology cited Howard's Cleaners in March of 2002 for improper disposal of a corrosive material to the storm drain on site. Based on the findings in the report and Ecology records related to the citation in 2002 we believe it is reasonable to assume contamination is present on the Howard Cleaners site and may have impacted adjacent properties. The purpose of our initial investigation is to confirm or deny contamination on the property.

In the future, Ecology may conduct a more detailed inspection of this property including testing for possible contamination. This inspection is called a "Site Hazard Assessment". At that time, Ecology will assess whether action will be needed and if necessary establish a priority for the work.

Ecology's policy is to work cooperatively with individuals to accomplish prompt and effective cleanups. Your cooperation with Ecology in planning or conducting a remedial action is not an admission of guilt or liability. Please be aware of state laws that must be adhered to if you decide to proceed with cleanup work on your own. The primary law is Chapter 70.105D RCW and the implementing regulations, the Model Toxics Control Act Cleanup Regulation (MTCA or Chapter 173-340 WAC). These laws can be found at Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program website, <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/toxicscleanup/policy>.

If you would like a printed copy of the MTCA regulations or if you have questions call me at (360) 407-6240. These rules and how they impact each site can be confusing and complicated. There are Environmental Consultants that can be employed to assist property owners with the cleanup and site assessment process.

Ecology's Voluntary Cleanup Program is designed to provide technical assistance, for a fee, to cleanup sites that qualify. If you would like additional information regarding this program you can find information on our website at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/vcp/vcpmain.htm> or you can contact Scott Rose at 360-407-6347.

Sincerely,



Kim Cross
Toxics Cleanup Program
Southwest Regional Office

ksc:ENL 21909 Howards Cleaners

cc: Soo K. Chang, Proprietor Howard's Cleaners
Mark Koster, Thurston County Environmental Health Department
Gerald Tousley, Thurston County Environmental Health Department
Cris Matthews, Department of Ecology