



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

**Response to Comments
Stubblefield Salvage Yard
Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
and Public Participation Plan**

June 1 – 30, 2020

Facility Site ID: 1367331

Cleanup Site ID: 4121

July 2020

Publication and Contact Information

This document is available in the Department of Ecology's [Stubblefield Salvage Yard document repository](#).¹

Contacts

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¹ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/CleanupSiteDocuments.aspx?csid=4121>

Toxics Cleanup in Washington State

Accidental spills of dangerous materials and past business practices have contaminated land and water throughout the state. The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) Toxics Cleanup Program works to remedy these situations, which range from cleaning up contamination from leaking underground storage tanks, to large, complex projects requiring engineered solutions.

Contaminated sites in Washington State are cleaned up under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA, [Chapter 173-340 Washington Administrative Code](#)), a citizen-mandated law passed in 1989. This law sets standards to ensure toxics cleanup protects human health and the environment and includes opportunities for public input.

Public comment period summary

Ecology held a comment period from June 1 through June 30, 2020, for the draft Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) and Public Participation Plan for the Stubblefield Salvage Yard cleanup site. The RI documents the extent and locations of contaminated soil at the site. The FS evaluates cleanup options. The Public Participation Plan describes ways Ecology will inform and engage the public about contamination investigations and cleanup options throughout the cleanup process.

We received one set of comments from the City of Walla Walla, which we address in the Response to Comments section. After considering the comments, Ecology has made the draft report final without further changes.

Response to comments

The comment letter is printed verbatim followed by Ecology's responses.

Brian Morgenroth, City of Walla Walla, submitted online June 30

Comment #1 - I am requesting that Ecology conducts an online public meeting for public participation to discuss the three proposed remediation plans.

Comment #2 - At the public meeting, the City of Walla Walla would be interested in hearing from Ecology and their hired consultants on the potential impacts to stormwater runoff and stormwater infiltration on this site if the site is developed for use in the future. This site is adjacent to Mill Creek (an impaired water body) and bounded by Myra Road to the west where stormwater runoff is infiltrated and treated thanks to bio-infiltration swales. If future development on the site is allowed to infiltrate

*Stubblefield Salvage Yard Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study and Public Participation Plan
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stormwater, what impacts will the preferred option for cleanup have on the water quality of Mill Creek and groundwater in this area?

Ecology's response:

Comment #1 - Thank you for your interest in the remedial options. Since you were the only person to request a public meeting, we are reaching out to you to discuss the options and Comment #2, in addition to publishing this response. We require 10 requests to justify the costs associated with planning and holding a meeting. If public interest increases, we may plan a public meeting during the draft Cleanup Action Plan comment period. We are open to your feedback on this.

Comment #2 - Ecology anticipates the remedial option chosen for the site will be designed in conjunction with the site owner's development plans. This will allow for a design that will minimize the potential for stormwater runoff or infiltration to come into contact with site contaminants. In addition, we anticipate the City of Walla Walla will review the development plans and SEPA checklist for the site and require changes to the proposed plans if necessary. Based on our anticipated course of action, Ecology does not anticipate any negative impacts to the water quality of Mill Creek or area groundwater.