

## Ecology Proposes Further Investigation of Cement Kiln Dust at Site

The Washington State Department of Ecology proposes to enter into an Agreed Order with Holcim (US), Inc., and the City of Spokane Valley. The Order requires these two property owners to conduct a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study at the site known as Holcim, Inc. The Remedial Investigation will provide more information about cement kiln dust and other contaminants at the site, where it is located and how much is present. The Feasibility Study will identify and evaluate cleanup options.

The site is located at 12207 East Empire Avenue in the city of Spokane Valley, Spokane County, Washington (see Figure 1).



Looking in a southeast direction toward the site

### You are Invited to Comment

- **Review** the Agreed Order, Scope of Work, and Public Participation Plan. The Scope of Work outlines details of work to be completed. The Public Participation Plan outlines ways Ecology, Holcim and the City of Spokane Valley will involve and inform the public about cleanup at the site.
- **Send** your comments to Ecology for consideration. Comments will be accepted **July 21 through August 19, 2011**. See the shaded box at the right for details about where to review documents and submit comments.
- If you want your **name removed from this site mailing list**, please contact Carol Bergin at the number in the box on the right.

### Site Overview

Property owners identified as potentially liable persons (PLPs) are responsible for contributing toward the cost of cleanup at a site.

### Comments Accepted

**July 21 through August 19, 2011**

#### Para asistencia en Español

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#### Если вам нужно помощь по русскому, звоните

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#### Comments and Technical Questions

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#### Public Involvement Questions

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#### Document Review Locations

##### Argonne Branch

##### Spokane County Library

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Phone: 509/893-8260

##### WA Department of Ecology

Kari Johnson, Public Disclosure

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Call for an appointment

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#### Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Website

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/>

Sitepage.aspx?csid=4580

**Facility Site ID No.** 52126416

**Cleanup Site ID No.** 4580

Holcim (US), Inc., and the City of Spokane Valley have been identified as PLPs for this site. Holcim (US), Inc., and its predecessor companies operated a cement manufacturing plant on the property from 1910 to 1967. During that time cement kiln dust (CKD) was generated and deposited on the site. Some of the CKD also was deposited on an adjacent property currently owned by the City of Spokane Valley.

CKD is still found on the Holcim property on the north plateau portion of the land. This portion of the property is approximately 10 acres. A smaller deposit about 1 acre in size is located to the north on property owned by the City of Spokane Valley. Both deposits of the CKD have a minimal cover over them and show evidence of erosion onto neighboring properties.

Washington State dangerous waste rules did not exist when the CKD material was deposited at the site. Currently, anything with a pH>12.5 is considered dangerous waste. In this circumstance, this applies to the CKD if it is disturbed.

In 2007 and 2008 Holcim conducted an analysis of the CKD and groundwater under and adjacent to the site. Some of the CKD was very alkaline with a pH>12.5 which means it was very corrosive and considered a dangerous waste if disturbed. CKD also contained arsenic, cadmium, and lead. Past studies found arsenic and lead in groundwater at levels that exceeded state standards.

In 2009 Ecology conducted an assessment of the site and ranked it a 1. A rank of 1 represents the greatest threat to human health and the environment and a rank of 5 the least threat. The site's close proximity to the river and aquifer contributed to the high site ranking. Additionally, a drinking water well operated by the Irvin Water District is southwest of the site. Regular monitoring of that well has not shown any impacts to the drinking water. Groundwater at the site flows away from the Spokane River.

Based on current knowledge, there is not an immediate threat to human health and the environment from the site. Fences have been installed surrounding both deposits as a protective measure. However, more details are needed about where and how much contamination is present at the site in order to proceed with cleanup.

## **The Cleanup Process**

The following is a general outline of how the cleanup process works. There may be variables at a site that require additional steps. Sometimes steps are combined, if appropriate, to move the cleanup forward more quickly.

This fact sheet focuses on the Agreed Order to conduct a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study. This begins the formal phase of cleanup and the first 30-day comment period. Ecology will answer comments and modify the documents if necessary.

Next, reports from the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study are made available for a 30-day comment period. After the documents become final, if no interim actions are necessary to protect the public and environment, a draft Cleanup Action Plan (DCAP) is prepared and put out for public comment. The DCAP gives details about how cleanup will be implemented.

Environmental impacts of the project also are considered and a State Environmental Policy Act determination is made available for public review along with the DCAP.

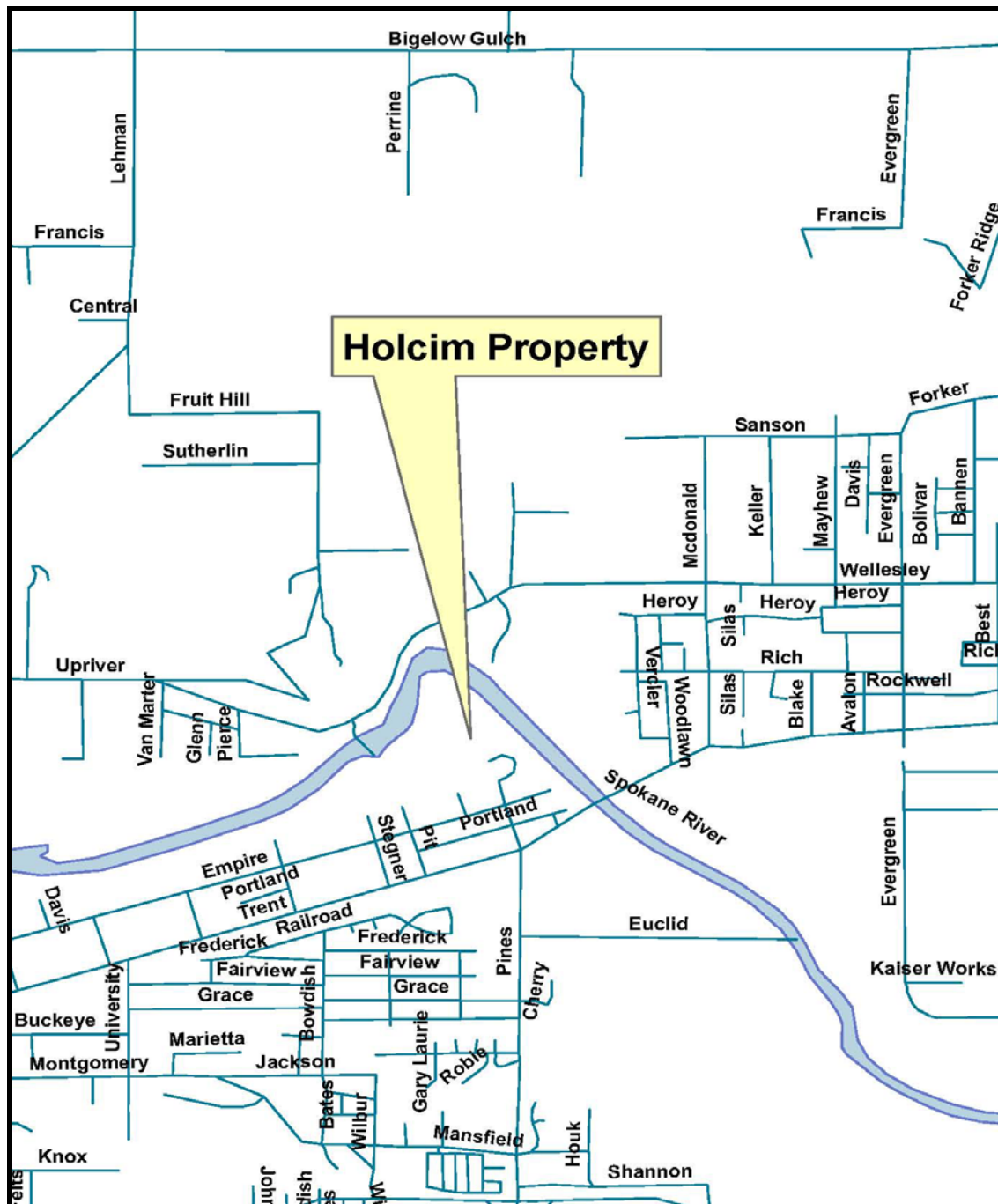
Next, a Consent Decree is developed. It is a legal agreement between Ecology and the PLPs that ensures all applicable laws and regulations will be followed during the cleanup. It also is made available for public comment.

After the Consent Decree is finalized engineering design plans are completed and the cleanup is implemented.



## What Happens Now?

You may review the Agreed Order, Scope of Work, and Public Participation Plan and send your comments to Ecology by **August 19, 2011**. Ecology will review the comments and modify the documents if warranted.



**Figure 1**