

# Exhibit C

#### WA State Department of Ecology Public Participation Plan for Environmental Cleanup Work at the

#### Grain Handling Facility at Freeman Site Facility Site ID No. 77319379 Cleanup Site ID No. 12540



The site is generally located at 14603 Highway 27 in Freeman, Spokane County, Washington Looking Southeast at the site

To request **ADA** accommodations or materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Mike Hibbler 509/329-3568, Relay Service at 711, or TTY 877-833-6341.

#### **Table of Contents**

Introduction: Getting Involved in Cleanup at the Grain Handling Facility at Freeman Site

What is a Public Participation Plan?

Overview of the Public Participation Plan and Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)

Public Participation Grants and Technical Assistance

#### Amendments

**Review of Documents and Project Contacts** 

Site Background

Identification of Contamination at the Freeman School District

Actions Taken to Address Contamination in the Freeman School District Well

Cleanup to be Coordinated with Harvest

How are Cleanup Costs Paid?

Contaminants of Concern

The Cleanup Process

Community Background

**Community Overview** 

**Community Concerns** 

Public Participation Activities and Timeline

Answering Questions from the Public

Appendix A Site Map

Appendix B Mailing List

Appendix C Glossary

# Introduction: Getting Involved in Cleanup at the Grain Handling Facility at Freeman Site

Ecology knows that the most successful cleanup projects are those where communities get involved, learn about the issues, provide feedback about the project, and work together to improve the outcome.

We encourage you to learn about and get involved in decision-making opportunities at the Grain Handling Facility at Freeman site. Opportunities are available during specific stages of the investigation and cleanup of contamination at the site. The site is generally located at 14603 Highway 27 in Freeman, Spokane County, Washington. Ecology believes the cleanup actions required at this site are in the public interest.

#### What is a Public Participation Plan?

The Plan provides an overview of the Plan and the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA), which guides the formal cleanup process at sites in Washington State. This document also outlines:

- The purpose of the Plan.
- When public notices will occur.
- The amount of time the public has to comment.
- Where the potentially affected area is located.
- Ways the public may get involved in providing feedback.
- The site background, a community profile, and community concerns.

#### Purpose of the Plan

The Public Participation Plan has three main purposes:

- To promote public understanding of the Washington Department of Ecology's (Ecology) responsibilities, planning, and cleanup activities at the site.
- To serve as a way of gathering information from the public. This information will assist Ecology and the potentially liable persons (PLPs) to conduct the investigation and plan for cleanup in a way that is protective of human health and the environment.
- To inform the community living near the site, as well as the general public, about cleanup activities and how to contribute to the decision-making process.

The participation needs are assessed at each site according to the level of public interest and degree of risk posed by contaminants. Individuals who live near the site, community groups, businesses, government, other organizations and interested parties are provided an opportunity to become involved in commenting on the cleanup process.

# Overview of the Public Participation Plan and Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)

The Plan is required under authority of the Model Toxics Control Act. MTCA is a "citizen-mandated" law that became effective in 1989 to provide guidelines for the cleanup of contaminated sites in Washington State. This law sets standards to make sure the cleanup of sites is protective of human health and the environment. A glossary of MTCA terms is included as Appendix C of this Plan.

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program investigates reports of contamination that may threaten human health and the environment. If contaminants are confirmed during an investigation, the site is generally ranked and placed on a Hazardous Sites List (HSL). The Grain Handling Facility at Freeman site ranked a [ ] on the Hazardous Sites List. A rank of one represents the highest level of concern and five the lowest.

Current and former owners or operators, as well as any other potentially liable persons (PLPs) of a site, may be held responsible for cleanup of contamination based on MTCA. Ecology identified Cenex Harvest States (CHS) and Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPPR) as the PLPs for this site. Public participation is an important part of cleanup under the MTCA process. The participation needs are assessed at each site according to the level of public interest and degree of risk posed by contaminants. Individuals who live near the site, community groups, businesses, government, other organizations and interested parties are provided an opportunity to become involved in commenting on the cleanup process.

The Plan includes requirements for public notice such as:

- Identifying reports about the site.
- The repositories where reports may be read.
- Providing public comment periods.
- Holding public meetings or hearings.

Other forms of participation may be interviews, citizen advisory groups, questionnaires, or workshops.

### **Public Participation Grants and Technical Assistance**

Additionally, citizen groups living near contaminated sites may apply for public participation grants (during open application periods). These grants help citizens receive technical assistance in understanding the cleanup process and create additional public participation avenues. **NOTE:** Ecology currently does not have a citizen technical advisor for providing technical assistance to citizens on issues related to the investigation and cleanup of the site.

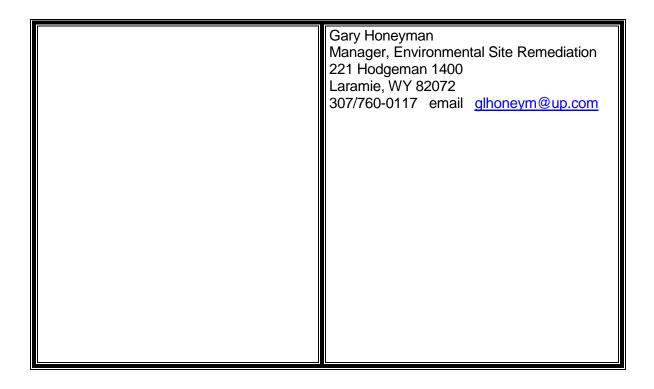
#### Amendments

The Plan was developed by Ecology and complies with the Model Toxics Control Act regulations (Chapter 173-340-600 WAC). It will be reviewed as cleanup progresses and may be amended if necessary. Amendments may be submitted to Ecology's site manager, Patrick Cabbage, for review and consideration. Ecology will determine final approval of the Plan as well as any amendments.

#### **Review of Documents and Project Contacts**

Documents relating to the cleanup may be reviewed at the repositories listed on page 11 of this Plan. If individuals are interested in knowing more about the site or have comments regarding the Plan, please contact one of the individuals listed below.

WA Department of Ecology Contacts	Para asistencia Español
Patrick Cabbage, LG	Greg Bohn
WA State Department of Ecology	WA State Department of Ecology
Eastern Regional Office	Central Regional Office
Toxics Cleanup Program	Toxics Cleanup Program
4601 N. Monroe	Greg Bohn (509) 454-4174
Spokane, WA 99205	
509/329-3543 e-	Если вам нужна помощь на русском,
mail patrick.cabbage@ecy.wa.gov	звоните Larissa Braaten 509/710-7552
Kari Johnson, Public Disclosure WA State Department of Ecology Eastern Regional Office 4601 N. Monroe Spokane, WA 99205 509/329-3415 e-mail <u>kajo461@ecy.wa.gov</u>	Cenex Harvest States (CHS) Contact Clark J. Davis Davis Law Office, PLLC 7525 Pioneer Way, Suite 101 Gig Harbor, WA 98335 253/858-9423 email <u>cdavis@cjd-law.com</u> Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPPR) Contact



#### Site Background

The site is generally located at 14603 Highway 27 in Freeman, Spokane County, Washington. Ecology believes the actions required by this Order are in the public interest.

The Washington State Department of Ecology plans to issue an Enforcement Order to Cenex Harvest States (CHS) and Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR). The Order requires CHS and UPRR, the potentially liable persons (PLPs) to conduct a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study at the Grain Handling Facility at Freeman site. The investigation will provide answers about the *carbon tetrachloride and chloroform* contamination in soil and groundwater, determine sources of the carbon tetrachloride and any other contaminants, and define where contamination is located. The Feasibility Study will identify and evaluate the best methods to clean up the contamination.

### Identification of Contamination at the Freeman School District

The Freeman School District routinely samples the well that supplies drinking and irrigation water for the elementary, middle, and high schools. A chemical called carbon tetrachloride was detected at very low levels in the well water in January 2001. These low levels did not exceed the state drinking water standards.

Testing continued and detections of the chemical were sporadic. In 2008 carbon tetrachloride levels exceeded drinking water standards and actions needed to be taken to address the contamination.

# Actions Taken to Address Contamination in the Freeman School District Well

The Freeman School District obtained a residential property, known as the Marlow property, as part of the district expansion which was unrelated to the contamination issue. A water supply well on that property was tested in the hopes it could be a substitute well for the district. However, it also showed carbon tetrachloride at levels too high to consider as an alternate source of water.

The school district applied for and received grant dollars from the WA Department of Health to further investigate the problem. In August 2013 an air stripper treatment system was installed to remove (and strip) volatile organic compounds such as carbon tetrachloride from the drinking water. The water treatment continues to be successful. The District continues to monitor drinking water each month and sampling has met all state and federal drinking water requirements for the past 18 months. The system continues to work effectively.

### **Cleanup to be Coordinated with Harvest**

Ecology plans to move forward with the investigation and make every effort to take harvest activities into consideration. A schedule of the investigation will be more clearly defined as additional information is obtained. Ecology will work with the Grain Handling Facility and local farmers/organizations regarding schedules.

#### How are Cleanup Costs Paid?

Under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA), which guides cleanup of contaminated sites in the State of Washington, past and present property owners and operators are responsible to pay for investigation and cleanup of contaminants. Cenex Harvest States and Union Pacific Railroad Company are identified as potentially liable persons (PLPs) responsible for contributing toward the cost of investigation and cleanup at this site.

#### **Contaminants of Concern**

Currently, we know carbon tetrachloride and chloroform have been found in soil and groundwater at levels that exceed the standards for the State of Washington. The Remedial Investigation will identify where contamination is located and the Feasibility Study will identify and evaluate options to clean up the contamination.

#### What is Carbon Tetrachloride?

It is a man-made chemical that does not break down quickly in the environment. It was widely used as an agricultural pesticide and fumigant to kill insects and rodents in grain storage facilities. It was also used to make refrigerants and propellants for aerosol cans, metal degreasing, as a dry cleaning agent and other uses. In 1985 the EPA banned the use of carbon tetrachloride for agricultural and other uses except some industrial applications.

#### Why is Chloroform found at the Site?

Chloroform is a byproduct of the breakdown of carbon tetrachloride. Chloroform is used to make other chemicals and can also be formed in small amounts when chlorine is added to water.

#### The Cleanup Process

The following is a general outline of the cleanup process. 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 Public Participation Plan is part of the Enforcement Order for the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study and associated documents. This begins the formal phase of cleanup and a 30-day comment period will be held to gather feedback about the Plan, Enforcement Order, and Scope of Work. Ecology will respond to comments received and modify the documents if necessary.

Next, reports from the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study will be made available for a 30-day comment period. Public comment is considered, and then if no changes are made, the documents become final. 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 by Ecology and sent out for public comment. The DCAP identifies and evaluates the cleanup alternative(s) Ecology selected. Environmental impacts of the project also are considered and a State Environmental Policy Act checklist and determination is made available for public review along with the DCAP. After the Draft Cleanup Action Plan becomes final, the parties will enter into a legal agreement to implement the cleanup. Once the cleanup is completed there is generally long-term monitoring and every five years a periodic review is conducted to determine the continued effectiveness of the cleanup.

#### **Community Background**

#### **Community Overview**

The site is located Spokane County in the rolling hills of the Palouse farming area of Eastern Washington. The area is often cited by photographers as one of the most beautiful areas for stunning photos of wildflowers, seasonal changes of crops, wildlife, and general farming scenery. Many in the community rely on farming as their sole source of income.

The area is also filled with a rich history and books have been written about early explorers, legends of the area, geology, and other topics. There is a sense of community pride, hard work, and an expectation of honesty in business and community relationships.

The population is primarily made up of English-speaking Caucasians, with slightly more males than females, and the median age is 44. Younger individuals and families are moving into the area as it is growing and beginning to change the make-up of the area.

The site is located near the Freeman School District which serves approximately 900 students and is the hub of community activity and information. The site is in an area where three communities converge; Freeman, Rockford, and Valleyford. Mica and Fairfield are also located near the site. The community is made up of three active legislative districts, generally conservative in nature.

### **Community Concerns**

Ecology began conducting community interviews in April of 2015 to understand community concerns about the site. Anyone who is interested may participate in an interview. Based on the interviews completed to date and feedback from the public meeting held on April 22, 2015, the following are some of the main concerns:

- How has Ecology determined that the grain elevators are the source of the carbon tetrachloride and chloroform contamination?
- How widespread is the contamination?
- Will the investigation spread into other communities and other properties that have grain elevators?
- What are the health impacts and should we be concerned about our wells?
- Will the proposed investigation and cleanup work negatively impact property values?
- Why is it necessary to list the site on the Environmental Protection Agency's National Priorities List (Superfund Site)?
- Will the investigation and cleanup disrupt farming or interactions with the grain elevators?
- Concerns were expressed that the operators of the Grain elevators followed legal, best practices in the past and are now liable for cleanup. Will farmers who are using best practices for chemical applications be penalized and become liable in the future?
- Will cleanup result in long-term clean water for the school and less expense to the school?
- Does Ecology have experience in cleaning up this type of contamination?

You may review more questions and Ecology's answers by going to Ecology's website for the Grain Handling Facility at Freeman

at <u>https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=12540</u> and reviewing "Questions and Answers from the public meeting" which was held April 22, 2015.

#### **Public Participation Activities and Timeline**

The following are public participation efforts that have occurred and will continue until the cleanup actions are completed:

- A mailing list has been developed for people who live near the site. It also includes businesses, organizations, and other individuals who have expressed interest in the cleanup process for the site. People on the mailing list will receive copies of fact sheets developed regarding the cleanup process via first class mail. Additionally, individuals, organizations, local, state and federal governments, and any other interested parties will be added to the mailing list upon request. Other people who are interested may request to be added to the mailing list by contacting Patrick Cabbage at the Department of Ecology (see Page 4 of this Plan for Patrick's contact information).
- Public Repositories have been established and documents may be reviewed at the following offices:

Washington State Department of Ecology Eastern Regional Office 4601 North Monroe Spokane, WA 99205-1295 Contact: Kari Johnson 509/329-3515 E-mail: <u>kari.johnson@ecy.wa.gov</u>

Ecology's website: <u>https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=12540</u>

Fairfield Library 305 East Main St. Fairfield, WA 99012 (509) 893-8320

Spokane Valley Library 12004 E. Main Avenue Spokane, WA 99206 509/893-8400 Moran Prairie Library 6004 S. Regal Street Spokane, WA 99223 509/893-8340

During each stage of the cleanup process, fact sheets are created by Ecology, reviewed by Cenex Harvest States and Union Pacific Railroad Company, and distributed to individuals on the mailing list. These fact sheets explain the current status of the cleanup process, give a brief background, and ask for comments from the public. A 30-day comment period allows the public time to comment at specific stages during the cleanup process.

**Display ads or legal notices** are published in the **Spokesman Review** to inform the general public. These notices correlate with the 30-day comment period and associated stage of the

cleanup process. They are also used to announce public meetings, workshops, open houses, or hearings. Notices will also be provided through the Freeman Focus Newsletter published by the Freeman School District.

Public meetings, workshops, open houses and public hearings are held based upon the level of community interest. If ten or more persons request a public meeting or hearing based on the subject of the public notice, Ecology will hold a meeting or hearing and gather comments. Public meetings must be held in a facility that meets the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

A public meeting was held at the Freeman School District, K-8 Multipurpose Room on April 22 in Freeman, Spokane County, Washington. The date, time and locations of future hearings, meetings, workshops, or open houses will be announced in a legal notice in the newspaper, fact sheets, or display ads in accordance with the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA).

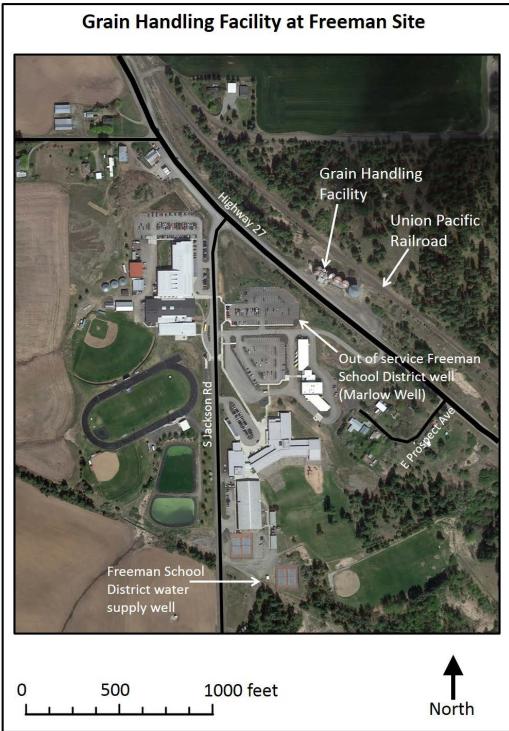
Written comments which are received during the 30-day comment periods may be responded to in a **Responsiveness Summary**. The Responsiveness Summary may be sent to those who make written comments and will be available for public review at the Repositories listed on page 8 of this Public Participation Plan.

## **Public Participation Time Line**

Document or Activity	Date
Began conducting community interviews to understand community concerns about the site.	April 2015
Public Meeting to discuss current knowledge about the site, the proposed investigation, and Ecology's role as the lead agency.	April 22, 2015 at the Freeman School District K-8 Multipurpose Room
Ecology entered into negotiations with Cenex Harvest States and Union Pacific Railroad Company for an Agreed Order requiring a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study at the site.	June 25, 2015
Ecology proposed to issue an Enforcement Order to Cenex Harvest States and Union Pacific Railroad Company requiring a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study at the site.	October 1, 2015
Ecology issued an Enforcement Order to Cenex Harvest States and Union Pacific Railroad Company requiring a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study at the site.	November 12, 2015

#### Answering Questions from the Public

Individuals may want to ask questions about the site, the cleanup process and how to get involved. A list of contacts is provided on page 4 of this Plan.



Appendix A Site Map

Appendix B Mailing List (Made available upon request)

#### APPENDIX C GLOSSARY

- **Agreed Order:** A legal document issued by Ecology which formalizes an agreement between the department and potentially liable persons (PLPs) for the actions needed at a site. An agreed order is subject to public comment. If an order is substantially changed, an additional comment period is provided.
- **Applicable State and Federal Law:** All legally applicable requirements and those requirements that Ecology determines are relevant and appropriate requirements.
- Area Background: The concentrations of hazardous substances that are consistently present in the environment in the vicinity of a site which are the result of human activities unrelated to releases from that site.
- Carcinogen: Any substance or agent that produces or tends to produce cancer in humans.
- **Chronic Toxicity:** The ability of a hazardous substance to cause injury or death to an organism resulting from repeated or constant exposure to the hazardous substance over an extended period of time.
- **Cleanup:** The implementation of a cleanup action or interim action.
- **Cleanup Action:** Any remedial action, except interim actions, taken at a site to eliminate, render less toxic, stabilize, contain, immobilize, isolate, treat, destroy, or remove a hazardous substance that complies with cleanup levels; utilizes permanent solutions to the maximum extent practicable; and includes adequate monitoring to ensure the effectiveness of the cleanup action.
- **Cleanup Action Plan:** A document which identifies the cleanup action and specifies cleanup standards and other requirements for a particular site. After completion of a comment period on a Draft Cleanup Action Plan, Ecology will issue a final Cleanup Action Plan.
- **Cleanup Level:** The concentration of a hazardous substance in soil, water, air or sediment that is determined to be protective of human health and the environment under specified exposure conditions.
- **Cleanup Process:** The process for identifying, investigating, and cleaning up hazardous waste sites.
- **Consent Decree:** A legal document approved and issued by a court which formalizes an agreement reached between the state and potentially liable persons (PLPs) on the actions needed at a site. A decree is subject to public comment. If a decree is substantially changed, an additional comment period is provided.
- **Containment:** A container, vessel, barrier, or structure, whether natural or constructed, which confines a hazardous substance within a defined boundary and prevents or minimizes its release into the environment.

- **Contaminant:** Any hazardous substance that does not occur naturally or occurs at greater than natural background levels.
- **Enforcement Order:** A legal document, issued by Ecology, requiring remedial action. Failure to comply with an enforcement order may result in substantial liability for costs and penalties. An enforcement order is subject to public comment. If an enforcement order is substantially changed, an additional comment period is provided.
- **Environment:** Any plant, animal, natural resource, surface water (including underlying sediments), ground water, drinking water supply, land surface (including tidelands and shorelands) or subsurface strata, or ambient air within the state of Washington.
- **Exposure:** Subjection of an organism to the action, influence or effect of a hazardous substance (chemical agent) or physical agent.
- **Exposure Pathways:** The path a hazardous substance takes or could take form a source to an exposed organism. An exposure pathway describes the mechanism by which an individual or population is exposed or has the potential to be exposed to hazardous substances at or originating from the site. Each exposure pathway includes an actual or potential source or release from a source, an exposure point, and an exposure route. If the source exposure point differs from the source of the hazardous substance, exposure pathway also includes a transport/exposure medium.
- **Facility:** Any building, structure, installation, equipment, pipe or pipeline (including any pipe into a sewer or publicly-owned treatment works), well, pit, pond, lagoon, impoundment, ditch, landfill, storage container, motor vehicle, rolling stock, vessel, or aircraft; or any site or area where a hazardous substance, other than a consumer product in consumer use, has been deposited, stored, disposed or, placed, or otherwise come to be located.
- **Feasibility Study (FS):** A study to evaluate alternative cleanup actions for a site. A comment period on the draft report is required. Ecology selects the preferred alternative after reviewing those documents.
- **Free Product:** A hazardous substance that is present as a nonaqueous phase liquid (that is, liquid not dissolved in water).
- **Groundwater:** Water found beneath the earth's surface that fills pores between materials such as sand, soil, or gravel. In aquifers, groundwater occurs in sufficient quantities that it can be used for drinking water, irrigation, and other purposes.
- **Hazardous Sites List:** A list of sites identified by Ecology that requires further remedial action. The sites are ranked from 1 to 5 to indicate their relative priority for further action.
- **Hazardous Substance:** Any dangerous or extremely hazardous waste as defined in RCW 70.105.010 (5) (any discarded, useless, unwanted, or abandoned substances including, but not limited to, certain pesticides, or any residues or containers of such substances which are disposed of in such quantity or concentration as to pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health, wildlife, or the environment because such wastes or constituents or combinations of such wastes; (a) have short-lived, toxic properties that may cause death, injury, or illness or have mutagenic, teratogenic, or carcinogenic

properties; or (b) are corrosive, explosive, flammable, or may generate pressure through decomposition or other means,) and (6) (any dangerous waste which (a) will persist in a hazardous form for several years or more at a disposal site and which in its persistent form presents a significant environmental hazard and may affect the genetic makeup of man or wildlife; and is highly toxic to man or wildlife; (b) if disposed of at a disposal site in such quantities as would present an extreme hazard to man or the environment), or any dangerous or extremely dangerous waste as designated by rule under Chapter 70.105 RCW: any hazardous substance as defined in RCW 70.105.010 (14) (any liquid, solid, gas, or sludge, including any material, substance, product, commodity, or waste, regardless of quantity, that exhibits any of the characteristics or criteria of hazardous waste as described in rules adopted under this chapter,) or any hazardous substance as defined by rule under Chapter 70.105 RCW; petroleum products.

- **Hazardous Waste Site:** Any facility where there has been a confirmation of a release or threatened release of a hazardous substance that requires remedial action.
- Independent Cleanup Action: Any remedial action conducted without Ecology oversight or approval, and not under an order or decree.
- **Initial Investigation:** An investigation to determine that a release or threatened release may have occurred that warrants further action.
- Interim Action: Any remedial action that partially addresses the cleanup of a site.
- **Mixed Funding:** Any funding, either in the form of a loan or a contribution, provided to potentially liable persons from the state toxics control account.
- **Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA):** Washington State's law that governs the investigation, evaluation and cleanup of hazardous waste sites. Refers to RCW 70.105D. It was approved by voters at the November 1988 general election and known is as Initiative 97. The implementing regulation is WAC 173-340.
- **Monitoring Wells:** Special wells drilled at specific locations on or off a hazardous waste site where groundwater can be sampled at selected depths and studied to determine the direction of groundwater flow and the types and amounts of contaminants present.
- **Natural Background:** The concentration of hazardous substance consistently present in the environment which has not been influenced by localized human activities.
- National Priorities List (NPL): EPA's list of hazardous waste sites identified for possible longterm remedial response with funding from the federal Superfund trust fund.
- **Owner or Operator:** Any person with any ownership interest in the facility or who exercises any control over the facility; or in the case of an abandoned facility, any person who had owned or operated or exercised control over the facility any time before its abandonment.
- **Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbon (PAH):** A class of organic compounds, some of which are long-lasting and carcinogenic. These compounds are formed from the combustion of organic material and are ubiquitous in the environment. PAHs are commonly formed by forest fires and by the combustion of fossil fuels.

- Potentially Liable Person (PLP): Any person whom Ecology finds, based on credible evidence, to be liable under authority of RCW 70.105D.040.
- **Public Notice:** At a minimum, adequate notice mailed to all persons who have made a timely request of Ecology and to persons residing in the potentially affected vicinity of the proposed action; mailed to appropriate news media; published in the local (city or county) newspaper of largest circulation; and opportunity for interested persons to comment.
- **Public Participation Plan:** A plan prepared under the authority of WAC 173-340-600 to encourage coordinated and effective public involvement tailored to the public's needs at a particular site.
- **Recovery By-Products:** Any hazardous substance, water, sludge, or other materials collected in the free product removal process in response to a release from an underground storage tank.
- **Release:** Any intentional or unintentional entry of any hazardous substance into the environment, including, but not limited to, the abandonment or disposal of containers of hazardous substances.
- **Remedial Action:** Any action to identify, eliminate, or minimize any threat posed by hazardous substances to human health or the environment, including any investigative and monitoring activities of any release or threatened release of a hazardous substance and any health assessments or health effects studies.
- **Remedial Investigation (RI):** A study to define the extent of problems at a site. When combined with a study to evaluate alternative cleanup actions it is referred to as a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS). In both cases, a comment period on the draft report is required.
- **Responsiveness Summary:** A compilation of all questions and comments to a document open for public comment and their respective answers/replies by Ecology. The Responsiveness Summary is mailed, at a minimum, to those who provided comments and its availability is published in the Site Register.
- **Risk Assessment:** The determination of the probability that a hazardous substance, when released into the environment, will cause an adverse effect in exposed humans or other living organisms.
- **Sensitive Environment:** An area of particular environmental value, where a release could pose a greater threat than in other areas including: wetlands; critical habitat for endangered or threatened species; national or state wildlife refuge; critical habitat, breeding or feeding area for fish or shellfish; wild or scenic river; rookery; riparian area; big game winter range.
- Site: See Facility.
- **Site Characterization Report:** A written report describing the site and nature of a release from an underground storage tank, as described in WAC 173-340-450 (4) (b).

- Site Hazard Assessment (SHA): An assessment to gather information about a site to confirm whether a release has occurred and to enable Ecology to evaluate the relative potential hazard posed by the release. If further action is needed, an RI/FS is undertaken.
- **Site Register:** Publication issued every two weeks of major activities conducted statewide related to the study and cleanup of hazardous waste sites under the Model Toxics Control Act. To receive this publication, please call (360) 407-7200.
- **Surface Water:** Lakes, rivers, ponds, streams, inland waters, salt waters, and all other surface waters and water courses within the state of Washington or under the jurisdiction of the state of Washington.
- **TCP:** Toxics Cleanup Program at Ecology
- **Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH):** A scientific measure of the sum of all petroleum hydrocarbons in a sample (without distinguishing one hydrocarbon from another). The "petroleum hydrocarbons" include compounds of carbon and hydrogen that are derived from naturally occurring petroleum sources or from manufactured petroleum products (such as refined oil, coal, and asphalt).
- **Toxicity:** The degree to which a substance at a particular concentration is capable of causing harm to living organisms, including people, plants and animals.
- **Underground Storage Tank (UST):** An underground storage tank and connected underground piping as defined in the rules adopted under Chapter 90.76 RCW.
- **Washington Ranking Method (WARM):** Method used to rank sites placed on the hazardous sites list. A report describing this method is available from Ecology.