

# ALEXANDER FARMS

## Benton County



### Status of Herbicide Cleanup

Cleanup work at the Alexander Farms site, 179101 King Tull Road, Benton County, it winding up its second year. At the end of December, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) completed its work treating and removing soil contaminated with the herbicide Dinoseb.

Ecology became aware of the contamination in 1998 when responding to a complaint about yellow water coming from a domestic well at a home at the Alexander Farms site. Since the spring of 1998 WSI has been investigating the groundwater contamination at the site.

In May 1998 the Washington State Department of Ecology ordered the investigation and cleanup of Dinoseb contaminated soil and groundwater at the Alexander Farms site after two drinking-water wells in the area showed contamination from the herbicide, which was banned in 1986.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Alexander of Bainbridge Island, Washington, owners of the property, hired White Shield, Inc. of Grandview (WSI) to investigate and clean up the property. In the fall of 1998 Ecology requested the assistance of the U.S. EPA in excavating and treating the contaminated soil.

#### Soil Cleanup

Under the authority of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, also known as Superfund, the EPA investigated the site and conducted a soil cleanup. Between October 1998 and January 1999 the EPA excavated more than 12,000 tons of Dinoseb-contaminated soil from the site. Some 9,300 tons of Dinoseb contaminated soil were hauled directly to the Waste Management facility in Arlington, Oregon, for disposal. The remaining 3,400 tons were thermally treated on site before being disposed of at Arlington.

Excavation stopped at the groundwater table, approximately 14 feet below the ground surface, to protect the underlying aquifers.

#### Groundwater Investigation

The groundwater beneath the site remains contaminated at levels exceeding the maximum contaminant level set by the EPA of 7 micrograms per liter (ug/L). Work continues under the oversight of the Washington State Department of Ecology to monitor and characterize groundwater contamination to the site and its surrounding areas.

WSI has installed a total of twenty-four (24) groundwater monitoring wells at and surrounding the site to characterize the groundwater contamination. Groundwater contamination extends to the south-southwest of the site, south of the SVID canal, for an undetermined distance. Levels of Dinoseb as high as 3000 micrograms per liter have been detected in ground water at the site. Traces of Dinoseb have been found in the southern most monitoring wells, located adjacent to the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railroad tracks.

WSI has summarized its investigation of the groundwater contamination in a report titled "Groundwater Sampling and Characterization Report - Alexander Farms Site," dated May 27, 1999. Copies of this report are available for viewing at the public libraries in Prosser and Grandview.

#### Long-Term Action

A Remedial Action/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Work Plan has been submitted by WSI, on behalf of the owner. The purpose of the RI/FS is to determine the extent of Dinoseb contamination that remains at the site and to propose possible remedies for treating the groundwater contamination.

The final RI/FS report is due July 31, 2000. The RI/FS Work Plan is also available for public review at the public libraries in Prosser and Grandview.

#### How Can You Be Involved?

Ecology is committed to providing the community the best possible information. As the environmental investigations provide Ecology with additional information, Ecology will

### FACT SHEET March 2000

**For Technical Questions,  
Please contact:**

**Tom Mackie**  
Toxics Cleanup Program  
Ecology, Central Regional Office  
15 West Yakima Ave. Suite 200  
Yakima, WA 98902  
(509) 454-7834  
tmac461@ecy.wa.gov

**For other questions or to be placed on  
the site mailing list, Please contact:**

**Mark Peterschmidt**  
Toxics Cleanup Program  
Ecology, Central Regional Office  
15 West Yakima Ave. Suite 200  
Yakima, WA 98902  
(509) 454-7840  
mape461@ecy.wa.gov

#### Public Comment Period

**Documents are available for public  
review at:**

Grandview Library  
311 Division  
Grandview, WA 98930

Prosser Library  
902 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Prosser, WA 99350

**Para asistencia bilingue, favor de  
hablar a:**

**Gregory Bohn**  
Ecology, Central Regional Office  
15 West Yakima Ave., Suite 200  
Yakima, WA 98902  
(509) 454-4174  
gboh461@ecy.wa.gov

*Ecology is an Equal Opportunity and  
Affirmative Action Employer*

**Ecology Publication 00-09-0013**

provide information to the community. Please contact Mark Peterschmidt at the address listed in the box above if you are interested in receiving informational updates as they are published. Also contact Mark Peterschmidt if you are interested in Ecology sponsoring a community meeting when additional information is available.