

Alexander Farms

Benton County



Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study Available For Public Comment

The remedial investigation and feasibility study for the Alexander Farms site in Grandview, Washington is available for public review and comment. The Remedial Investigation (RI) was prepared to determine the concentration and horizontal and vertical extent of hazardous materials in the soil and groundwater at the site. In addition to the RI, a Feasibility Study (FS) was prepared to describe the various alternatives for remediating the contaminated soil and groundwater at the site.

Site Background

In 1998, Ecology responded to complaints of yellow water coming from two domestic wells in the vicinity of the Alexander Farms site. Ecology determined that the soil and groundwater at the site was contaminated with Dinoseb, a poisonous herbicide that was banned from use by the USEPA in 1986. In May 1998, Ecology issued an Order requiring the investigation and cleanup of Dinoseb-contaminated soil and groundwater at the Alexander Farms site and surrounding properties affected by the contamination.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Alexander, the owners and operators of the property, have been named as "potentially liable parties" (PLPs) for the Site. In the spring of 1998, the Alexanders hired White Shield, Inc. (WSI) of Grandview, Washington, to investigate and remediate the site. In the

fall of 1998, after the Alexanders failed to meet deadlines in the Order for the characterization and removal of contaminated soil, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) assumed control of the excavation, treatment, and disposal of contaminated soil at the site. WSI has continued the investigation of the remaining soil and groundwater contamination at the site since that time.

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 time-critical soil removal action. Between October 1998 and January 1999, the EPA excavated more than 12,500 tons of Dinoseb-contaminated soil from the site. Approximately 9,300 tons of Dinoseb-contaminated soil were hauled directly to the Columbia Ridge landfill in Arlington, Oregon for disposal. The remaining 3,400 tons were thermally treated on site before being disposed at the Columbia Ridge landfill in Arlington.

According to the Remedial Investigation, approximately 1,600 cubic yards of Dinoseb-contaminated soil remain at the site.

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FACT SHEET February 2002

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Public Comment Period:

February 25, 2002 to
March 27, 2002

Documents are available for public review at:

Ecology Central Regional Office
address listed above

Grandview Library
311 Division
Grandview, WA 98930

Para asistencia bilingüe, favor de hablar a:

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Groundwater Investigation

The groundwater beneath the site remains contaminated at levels exceeding the maximum contaminant level (MCL) set by the EPA of 7 micrograms of Dinoseb per liter of water (7 µg/L). WSI continues to monitor the groundwater contamination at the site under Ecology oversight.

WSI has installed a total of twenty-six (26) groundwater monitoring wells at and surrounding the site to monitor the groundwater contamination. WSI has shown groundwater contamination extending under the Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District (SVID) canal to the south-southwest of the site.

Concentrations of Dinoseb in the groundwater have declined significantly since the winter of 2000-2001, after the SVID installed an impervious liner in the ½ mile section of their main canal that runs through the site. SVID is currently lining an additional length of the main canal north of the site.

Proposed Future Actions

WSI has proposed several alternatives to remediate the remaining contaminated soil and groundwater at the site.

WSI has proposed excavating the remaining 1,600 cubic yards of contaminated soil and using one of the following methods of remediation: (1) Soil Washing; (2) Biological Remediation; and (3) Off-Site Disposal. WSI has also proposed leaving the contaminated soil in place and providing a protective cap over the soil.

WSI has proposed three alternatives for remediating the contaminated groundwater at the site. WSI has proposed: (1) pumping the groundwater and running it through filters containing granular activated carbon; (2) pumping the groundwater and running it through a photoelectric oxidation treatment system; (3) monitoring the groundwater and allowing for natural attenuation until concentrations can be shown to be below the EPA maximum contaminant level at specified locations over a specified period of time.

How Can You Be Involved?

You are invited to review and submit written comments on the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study. The 30-day public comment period will run from February 25, 2002 to March 27, 2002. Ecology will respond in writing to all comments received. The public is encouraged to participate in this process.