

# Boitano Site



## Public comment sought on proposal to remove cleaned-up site from state's Hazardous Sites List

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has prepared this fact sheet pursuant to the Model Toxics Control Act, Chapter 70.105D RCW, to provide you with information about a proposal to remove the Boitano Site from its list of contaminated sites (known as the Hazardous Sites List).

The Boitano Site is ranked "3" on the Hazardous Sites List. A rank of "1" represents the highest level of concern compared to other sites on the list and a rank of "5" the lowest. You are welcome and encouraged to comment on this proposal through August 27, 2002.

If substantive comments are received, further investigation or cleanup may occur at the site.

### Site location

The Boitano Site is located at 2800 Pacific Highway East in the city of Fife, Pierce County. Currently undeveloped, it is 2.5 acres in size and is bounded between Pacific Highway East to the north, Interstate 5 to the south, Extended Stay America Motel to the west, and Best Inn and Suites to the east.

An underground pipeline crosses the site. It is operated by US Oil who uses it to pump jet fuel to the McChord Air Force Base.

### Site background

The Boitano Site was discovered in 1992 during an evaluation of property located to its west (what is now Extended Stay America). Petroleum product and fill material were found at the northeast corner of the site.

The fill material (consisting of soil, concrete, metal, and rags) is likely associated with a temporary ramp that was used to connect Pacific Highway to Interstate 5 (I-5) when I-5 was under construction. The petroleum product is believed to be the result of surplus building materials (contained in drums) that were dumped on the property 20 years ago.

### The cleanup

In 1996, four monitoring wells were installed to collect soil and ground water samples from the northeast corner of the site. The samples confirmed the soil and ground water were contaminated with petroleum product and metals.

Upon further investigation, a white ash-like material was also found, as was more fill material and at least three leaking 55-gallon drums containing a black, oily material. It turned out the ash-like material was concrete.

**July/August 2002**

### Public Comment Period

July 26 through  
August 27, 2002

### Comments should be directed to:

Chuck Cline, Site Manager  
Department of Ecology  
Toxics Cleanup Program  
Southwest Regional Office  
PO Box 47775  
Olympia WA 98504-7775  
(360) 407-6267  
[chcl461@ecv.wa.gov](mailto:chcl461@ecv.wa.gov)

### Information Repositories

*Department of Ecology*  
300 Desmond Drive SE  
Lacey WA 98503  
Attn: Sherri Greenup @ (360) 407-6365

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In 1998, close to 27,000 pounds of contaminated soil and drums were removed and disposed. The drums contained petroleum hydrocarbons, lead, arsenic, and chromium. Subsequently, more drums were found that contained roof tar and heavy oils.

That same year, the Pierce County Health Department conducted an assessment of the site. Based on the presence of contaminated ground water and the potential for more drums to be found, the Department ranked the site a “3,” and Ecology placed it on its Hazardous Sites List in August 1998.

## The cleanup results

### Soil

The soil was excavated extensively throughout the site in search of additional drums. None were found. Because the native soil in areas not excavated is only two to three feet below the surface, there is little reason to suspect there are more drums buried at the site.

### Ground water

The ground water was sampled several times in 2001 and contamination still remained. The last three rounds of sampling (October 2001, January 2002, and April 2002) did not detect contamination or detected contamination below state cleanup standards.

## Source of contamination

It is believed the drums were the source of the contamination. Once the drums and contaminated soil were removed, the contamination dissipated.

## Why delist the site

Based on a review of cleanup reports and sampling results, Ecology has determined the site is not a threat to human health or the environment and has recommended removing the site from the Hazardous Sites List.

## The public’s role in removing the site from the Hazardous Sites List

You now have an opportunity to review the cleanup reports and comment on Ecology’s proposal to remove the site from the Hazardous Sites List. Through August 27, 2002, your comments will be accepted in writing by Chuck Cline, Site Manager, at the Department of Ecology-TCP, P.O. Box 47775, Olympia WA 98504-7775, phone (360) 407-6267, e-mail [chcl461@ecv.wa.gov](mailto:chcl461@ecv.wa.gov).

The “star” indicates the location of the site.

