

# Moses Lake Wellfield Contamination Superfund Site

**Draft Consent Decree Available for Public Review and Comment**



The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is inviting public comment on a draft Consent Decree for the Moses Lake Wellfield Contamination Superfund site in Grant County, Washington.

Ecology and the City of Moses Lake (City) have negotiated this draft Consent Decree to recover Ecology's cost for oversight to the cleanup process at Moses Lake. The City has agreed to reimburse Ecology's past costs.

## Consent Decree

The Consent Decree is a legal document that formalizes the cost recovery agreement between Ecology and the City. The decree is intended to be entered and approved by a court and will provide funding for Ecology to review the proposed cleanup plan and ensure cleanup of the site will proceed in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

## Location

The area of the site covered under this Consent Decree is located in Grant County, about three miles northwest of the city of Moses Lake Washington.

## Site Background

The Moses Lake Wellfield Contamination Superfund site is an area of about 12 square miles located in Grant County, about three miles northwest of the city of Moses Lake, Washington. The area around the site is residential, agricultural and commercial.

The site includes at least one plume of trichloroethylene (TCE) contaminated groundwater that underlies and extends south from the former Larson Air Force Base. The plume area is about a mile wide, three miles long, and 100 to 310 feet deep.

## October 2006

**The public comment period is:  
October 3, 2006 to November 3, 2006**

**Site documents can be reviewed at the  
following location:**

### Big Bend Community College Library

7662 Chanute Street NE  
Moses Lake, WA 98837  
Tim Fuhrman (509) 793-2350  
Hours: Mon-Thurs: 7:30 am – 9:00 pm;  
Fri: 8 am – 6:00 pm; Sat & Sun 12 pm – 6 pm

### Toxics Cleanup Program – Headquarters

Washington State Department of Ecology  
300 Desmond Drive  
Lacey, WA 98503-7600  
By appointment only: Contact Carol Dorn,  
[cdor461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:cdor461@ecy.wa.gov) or (360) 407-7224

**Send comments or questions concerning  
Ecology's Consent Decree to:**

### Barry Rogowski, Site Manager

WA Department of Ecology  
Toxics Cleanup Program  
300 Desmond Drive  
Lacey, WA 98504-7600  
(360) 407-7236  
E-mail: [brog461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:brog461@ecy.wa.gov)

**To add your name to the mailing list:**

### Sandra Caldwell, Environmental Specialist

WA Department of Ecology  
Toxics Cleanup Program  
300 Desmond Drive  
Lacey, WA 98504-7600  
(360) 407-7236  
E-mail: [saca461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:saca461@ecy.wa.gov)

**Ecology web site:**

[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/moses\\_lake\\_wellfield/moses\\_lake\\_wellfield\\_hp.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/moses_lake_wellfield/moses_lake_wellfield_hp.htm)

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The U.S. Air Force used the base from 1942 until the mid 1960s, when it was decommissioned and sold. Currently, the Port of Moses Lake owns most of the land, operating part of it as Grant County International Airport. Some of the land is leased to commercial enterprises. Most investigations into potential sources of TCE have centered on the former base, because of its long history of TCE use for cleaning parts and aircraft.

Sampling results provided by the Washington Department of Health in 1988 and 1989 show elevated TCE levels in some of the Moses Lake municipal wells at the former base and in the two Skyline water systems wells. The City protected municipal water systems users by closing the contaminated municipal wells or sealing off the shallow contaminated basalt aquifers. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) protected Skyline water system users by constructing and then deepening a groundwater well serving about 100 homes.

TCE is not detected everywhere on the site. The deeper groundwater sources have yielded clean water for thousands of people. The current difficulty is managing groundwater where TCE remains above the drinking water standard of 5.0 parts per billion.

EPA is the lead regulatory Agency working on the site with the USACE. EPA and the USACE have completed a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) on the cleanup options for the site and are developing a proposed cleanup plan. For more information regarding the cleanup at the Moses Lake Wellfield Superfund site please see EPA's website at <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/moses>.

### Public Comment on the draft Consent Decree

Ecology is holding a public comment period on the draft Consent Decree from October 3 to November, 2006. This document is available at the information repositories listed on the first page of this fact sheet.

Ecology will review all comments received and recommend changes to the Consent Decree as

appropriate. If no significant changes are made, the Consent Decree will be finalized.

A public hearing is not planned for this public comment period. However, one will be held by request of 10 or more people.

### Ecology would like your input

This is your opportunity to review and provide comments on the draft Consent Decree for the Moses Lake Wellfield Superfund site. Please send your comments by November 3 to Ecology's Site Manager, Barry Rogowski at the address in the box on the first page of this fact sheet. Comments may be sent by mail or e-mail and should include "Moses Lake Wellfield Superfund site" in the subject line.

For information about other Ecology public comment periods, meetings, hearings, workshops, and open houses, please visit Ecology's public events calendar at:

<http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/pubcalendar/calendar.asp>.

To learn more about the public comment process you may read *Frequently Asked Questions about Effective Public Commenting*. If you require this document in Spanish please contact Sandra Caldwell at the address in the box on the first page of this fact sheet.

#### How can you be involved?

**You can provide valuable local input and knowledge that will be helpful as the cleanup plan is developed and implemented. We encourage you to stay informed and involved by:**

- **Signing up for the mailing list for this site (see contact information for Sandra Caldwell, Environmental Specialist, on page one)**



**Department of Ecology  
Toxics Cleanup Program  
300 Desmond Drive  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600**

**PUBLIC COMMENT REQUESTED**

We use several mailing lists. If you receive a duplicate, please pass it on.

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