

Agreed Order for Cleanup Activities Ready for Public Review and Comment

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) proposes to enter into an Agreed Order with former owners to continue work at the New City Cleaners cleanup site in Richland. An Agreed Order is a legal agreement with Ecology to make sure the cleanup meets the standards of Washington State's cleanup law, the Model Toxics Control Act.

Public Comment Invited

Ecology is asking for your comments on the Agreed Order. You are invited to:

- **Review** the Agreed Order.
Send your comments to Ecology for consideration. Comments will be accepted *April 22, 2009 through May 22, 2009*.

See the box at the right for details.

Site Background

New City Cleaners (Site) is located at 747 Stevens Drive in Richland. The Site has been operating as a dry cleaner since approximately 1950. PCE, a common chemical used in the dry cleaning process, was discovered in groundwater on an adjacent property to the south.

At this site, use of PCE began in 1974. The PCE was delivered to the site and stored in 55-gallon drums located outside. In 1975, the drums were relocated indoors after an incident caused a release.

After the discovery of PCE in groundwater, four underground storage tanks (some containing petroleum products, some containing dry cleaning fluids) were removed from the site in 1992. During the tank excavation, some soil was also removed and stored on the New City Cleaners property.

Site Ranking

A site hazard assessment was completed by Ecology in 1993. A site hazard assessment assigns a site a numerical value in terms of risk. Sites can be ranked from "1" to "5." A rank of "1" is the highest level of environmental concern compared to other sites on the list, and a rank of "5" is the lowest. New City Cleaners is currently ranked a "1."

Comments Accepted

April 22, 2009 through May 22, 2009

Submit Comments and Technical Questions to:

Valerie Bound - Site Manager
WA Department of Ecology
Toxics Cleanup Program
15 W Yakima Avenue, Ste 200
Yakima, WA 98902-3452
Phone: (509) 454-7886
E-mail: vdre461@ecy.wa.gov

DOCUMENT REVIEW LOCATIONS

Richland Public Library

955 Northgate Drive
Richland WA 99352
Phone: (509) 942-7457
Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 9:30 – 9:00
Friday – Saturday: 9:30 – 5:00
Sunday: 1:00 – 5:00

WA Department of Ecology Central Regional Office

15 W Yakima Avenue, Ste 200
Yakima WA 98902

By appointment only:
Contact Roger Johnson,
rjoh461@ecy.wa.gov or
(509) 454-7658

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Website

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/newCityCleaners/newCityCleaners_hp.html

Facility Site ID #: 327

What Has Been Done?

In 2000, approximately 5,000 tons of contaminated soil was excavated and transported offsite. This was intended to control the source of groundwater contamination. Associated structures (wood storage sheds, landscaping, fences, and asphalt) were also removed, and the excavation was backfilled and compacted with clean fill. Soil was not excavated if it was below the water table or if excavation would threaten the structural integrity of the building or two utility poles.

Samples collected since 2000 indicate high levels of PCE and TCE in groundwater remain on both the New City Cleaners property and on other nearby properties.

PCE was measured at levels up to 454 parts per billion (ppb) in groundwater on the New City Cleaners property and at levels up to 48 ppb on nearby properties. The state cleanup level for PCE is 5 ppb.

TCE was measured at levels up to 133 ppb in groundwater on the New City Cleaners property and at levels up to 22 ppb on nearby properties. The state cleanup level for TCE also is 5 ppb.

What are PCE and TCE?

Tetrachloroethene (PCE) is a common solvent used for dry cleaning. It is also called perchloroethylene, tetrachloroethylene, and "perc." Trichloroethene (TCE) is a common industrial solvent used for metal degreasing.

Long-term exposure to PCE or TCE is suspected to cause an increased risk of developing cancer. This risk, while small, is above and beyond the normal risks people have of developing cancer due to other causes.

Health effects from these chemicals depend on many factors, such as:

- How much you are exposed to
- How long you are exposed
- Age
- Exposure to certain other chemicals, and
- Personal health conditions

What does the Agreed Order require?

This agreement requires the former owners to complete:

- A Remedial Investigation (RI) to determine how much and where the contamination exists
- A Feasibility Study (FS) to examine potential cleanup options
- A report describing results of the RI and FS
- A draft Cleanup Action Plan (CAP) to select a cleanup and bring the site into compliance with state cleanup standards within a reasonable timeframe

What Happens Next?

When the comment period ends, Ecology will review all comments that have been received. Ecology may change the documents based on the comments. If significant changes are made, there will be another comment period. You will be notified of future comment periods.

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>

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