

# Grain Handling Facility at Freeman Cleanup



*An interim cleanup is proposed to slow groundwater plume movement while the full cleanup is planned.*

**Comments accepted:**

February 12 – March 13, 2020

**Submit comments:**

Online at:

<http://cs.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=DfAmF>

Or by mail or email to:

Sandra Treccani, Site Manager  
 4601 North Monroe Street  
 Spokane, WA 99205  
[sandra.treccani@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:sandra.treccani@ecy.wa.gov)

**Document review locations:**

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=12540>

Freeman School District Office  
 15001 S. Jackson Rd., Rockford  
 Phone: 509-291-3695  
 Hours: M–F, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.,  
 except holidays

Spokane Valley Public Library  
 12004 E. Main Ave., Spokane Valley  
 Phone: 509-893-8400

Hours: M–Th. 10 a.m. – 9 p.m., F–  
 Sat. 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Sun. 1–5 p.m.

Washington Dept. of Ecology  
 4601 North Monroe Street  
 Spokane, WA 99205  
 Phone: 509-329-3415  
 Hours: M–F, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. (by  
 appointment)

**Public invited to comment on draft interim action work plan and State Environmental Policy Act documents to capture groundwater contamination**

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) seeks your input on the following draft documents for the Grain Handling Facility at Freeman (site) February 12 through March 13, 2020:

- Interim action work plan — Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) and CHS, the parties responsible for cleanup, propose to pump-and-treat groundwater contaminated with carbon tetrachloride to reduce the contaminant mass, slow groundwater plume movement, and start progress toward achieving cleanup goals
- State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) documents — Ecology has reviewed the proposed interim cleanup actions using the SEPA checklist, and decided they won’t adversely affect people or the environment

**Ecology is holding a public meeting** at 6:30 p.m. on March 4, 2020, in the Freeman School District K-8 Multipurpose Room. We will explain the proposed interim cleanup and answer your questions. You may also submit written comments at the meeting.

**Proposed work**

CHS and UP requested an additional year to further investigate the contamination, so Ecology asked them to complete an interim cleanup action to address ongoing risks while they took more time to investigate.

In response, CHS and UP proposed to drill a new well on the Freeman School District property to pump out contaminated groundwater downgradient from the plume (see map, page 3). The contaminated water would be treated on the grain handling facility property using granular activated carbon or an air stripper.

## Toxics Cleanup Program

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Finally, the clean, treated water would return back underground using four new wells upgradient of the contaminated groundwater.

This cleanup work would achieve multiple goals:

- Capture contamination, slow groundwater plume movement, and start progress toward achieving cleanup goals
- Test various parameters that will help design the final remediation plan for the site
- Learn the rate at which the aquifer can accept, or be recharged with, treated, clean groundwater

### **Deadline to develop final cleanup options extended**

CHS and UP prepared a draft remedial investigation (RI) report, which defines the boundaries of carbon tetrachloride contamination coming from the site, and a feasibility study (FS), which presents a range of final cleanup options. Ecology received the draft RI/FS on December 13, 2019. After we review and comment on it and CHS and UP respond, the draft report will be available for public comment.

We are requiring CHS and UP to complete this interim cleanup action because of the extra time needed to evaluate the best ways to clean it up.

### **Ensuring safe drinking water**

The Grain Handling Facility at Freeman leached carbon tetrachloride into soil and groundwater. Carbon tetrachloride is a man-made chemical that does not break down quickly in the environment. It was widely used as an agricultural pesticide and fumigant to kill insects and rodents in grain storage facilities and was likely used by Rockford Grain Growers, a former operator at the Freeman facility.

Unsafe levels of carbon tetrachloride are in some residential water wells. CHS and UP have provided treatment systems to people who are using contaminated wells, and are testing the drinking water routinely to ensure it is safe.

The drinking water well that serves the Freeman School District is also contaminated. The school's water system was fitted with a treatment system in 2013, and the water is regularly monitored and safe for drinking.

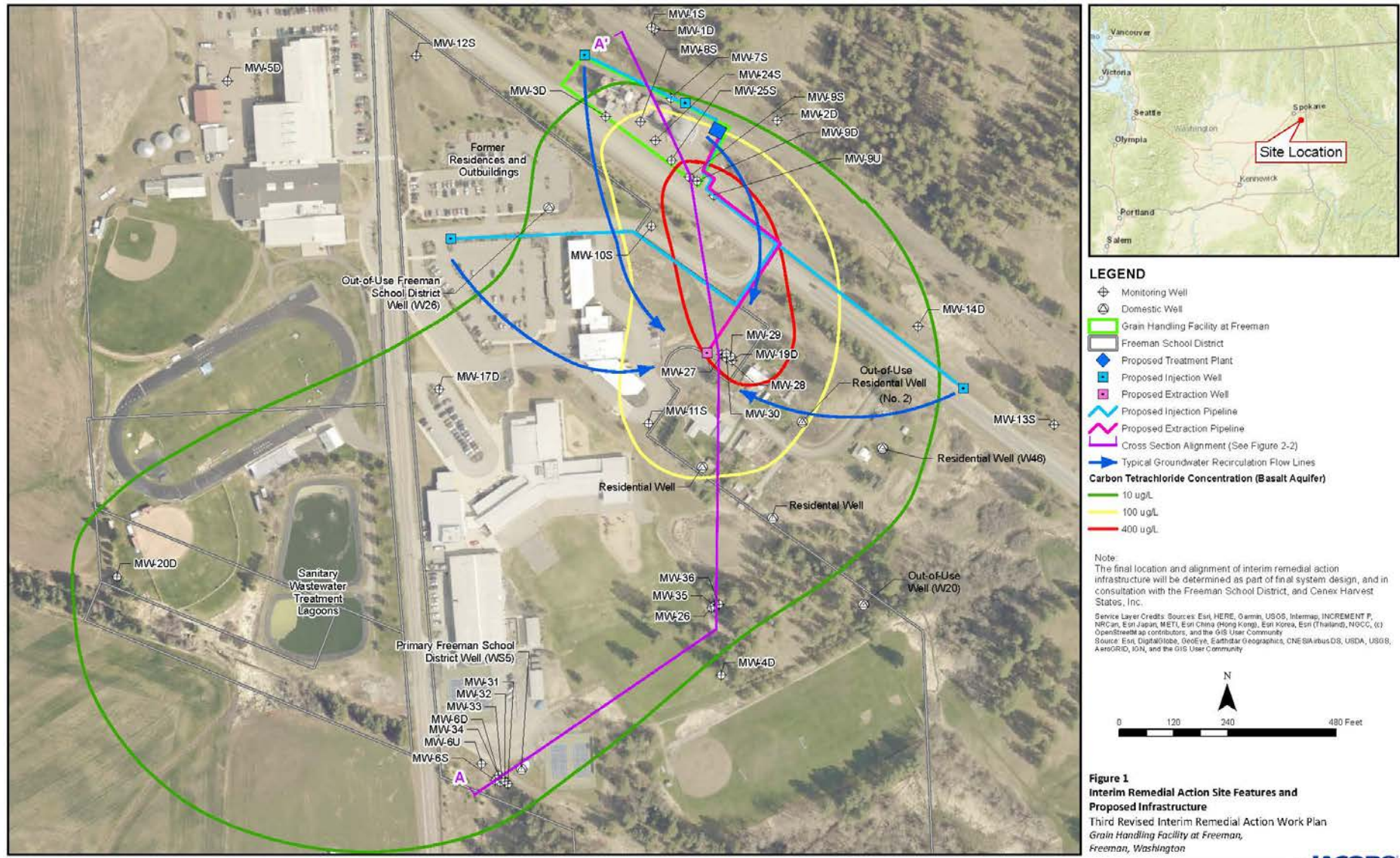
### **Next steps**

Ecology will respond to all the comments we receive by March 13 and publish our responses. If public comments result in substantial changes to our proposal, we will hold another comment period.

Otherwise, we will make the draft interim action work plan and SEPA documents final, and CHS and UP will begin the proposed cleanup work.



### Grain Handling Facility at Freeman site map



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Toxics Cleanup Program  
4601 North Monroe Street  
Spokane, WA 99205

## Grain Handling Facility at Freeman Cleanup



### Public comment period

February 12 – March 13, 2020

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=12540>

### Public meeting

6:30 p.m., March 4, 2020

Freeman School District K-8 Multipurpose Room  
15001 S. Jackson Rd., Rockford

**Facility Site ID:** 77319379

**Site Cleanup ID:** 12540

**Accommodation Requests:** To request Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodation, or printed materials in a format for the visually impaired, contact the Ecology ADA Coordinator at 360-407-6831 or [ecyadaordinator@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:ecyadaordinator@ecy.wa.gov), or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.