

Smith Kem Ellensburg Inc.



Smith Kem Ellensburg Inc. site. Photo courtesy of the RI/FS Report by Floyd Snider

Comments accepted:

Dec. 17, 2021 – Jan. 17, 2022

Submit comments:

Online at:

<https://tcp.ecology.wa.gov/commentinput.com/?id=8MZNd>

Or by mail to:

John Mefford, Site Manager
 1250 W. Alder Street
 Union Gap, WA 98903
 (509) 731-9613
John.Mefford@ecy.wa.gov

Site info:

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=4257>

Facility Site ID: 12832256
 Site Cleanup ID: 4257

Document review locations:

Ellensburg Public Library
 209 N. Ruby Street
 Ellensburg, WA 98926
 (509) 962-7250
 M-F 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
 Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Department of Ecology
 1250 W. Alder Street
 Union Gap, WA 98903
 509-575-2490
 M-F 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
RecordsOfficer@ecy.wa.gov

Draft Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Report Available for Review and Comment

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is providing an opportunity for the public to review and comment on the Draft Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Report for the Smith Kem Ellensburg Inc. (Smith Kem) site located at 200 South Railroad Avenue in Ellensburg.

Ecology is asking for your comments on the Smith Kem Draft Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Report.

You are invited to:

- Review the Draft Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Report, dated October 1, 2021
- Send your comments to Ecology for consideration. Comments will be accepted December 17, 2021 through January 17, 2022

Site Background

Shell Oil Company (Shell) operated a bulk fuel facility on this property from approximately 1923 until the early 1970s. From 1948 until February 1973, Shell leased a portion of the property to Smith Kem, which operated a dealership of Shell-branded agricultural products. The agricultural products consisted of chemicals that included anhydrous ammonia, fertilizers, pesticides, and petroleum. These chemicals were handled, stored, and distributed by Smith Kem.

Site investigations began in 2007 and continued in 2013-2020. Sampling results showed groundwater contaminants included petroleum hydrocarbons, nitrates, ammonia, chlorinated pesticides, and herbicides.

In February 2016, Ecology entered into an Agreed Order with two of the potentially liable persons (PLPs). A PLP is any person who Ecology finds, based on credible evidence, is liable under State cleanup laws. An Agreed Order is a legal agreement between Ecology and PLPs outlining the expectations, process, and schedule for site cleanup.

The Agreed Order requires the completion of an RI/FS. A Remedial Investigation (RI) uses data on what contamination is present and how far it has spread. A Feasibility Study (FS) outlines options, costs, and how long it will take to clean up the contamination.

Why This Investigation Matters?

The organic chemicals known to be present at the site include petroleum hydrocarbons, herbicides, and pesticides. Petroleum hydrocarbons contain many chemicals that are harmful to human health and the environment. Herbicides and pesticides are persistent organic pollutants and a release of these chemicals pose a risk to human health and the environment.

What Happens Next?

After the public comment period ends, Ecology will review and respond to comments received during the comment period. Ecology will hold a public meeting if 10 or more people request one. If no significant changes are necessary, the Draft RI/FS will become final.

For information about other opportunities for public involvement, such as meetings, hearings, open houses, and workshops, please visit Ecology's Public Involvement Calendar at <https://ecology.wa.gov/Events/Search/Listing>.