

MANHOLE 34

Yakima County



Cleanup to Begin Soon!

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has drafted the Cleanup Action Plan (CAP) for the Manhole 34 Site in Sunnyside. The Washington Department of Ecology is issuing a determination of non-significance (DNS) under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA, Chapter 197-11 WAC) Rules. The Manhole 34 Site, the area around the intersection of North Sixth Street and the Yakima Valley Highway, has soil and groundwater contaminated with petroleum hydrocarbons. Based on your comments, Ecology will be revising the CAP and begin cleaning up the site.

The draft CAP details the cleanup required and the short- and long-term groundwater monitoring to be performed. Cleanup will include removing the petroleum hydrocarbons from the groundwater surface and in the storm water system, monitoring the groundwater and storm water collection system to ensure contamination does not move off site, and warning those working in the vicinity about the contamination. The Sunnyside drinking water supply is not threatened.

Background

Petroleum products were released into the environment at this site from several leaking underground storage tank systems in the area. Initial reports of a possible petroleum release were received by Ecology in March 1989. Follow-up investigation conducted by Ecology revealed liquid petroleum product and

petroleum vapors in the city storm drain at Manhole 34; these were removed to eliminate the immediate threat to safety.

Relying on Nature: Natural Attenuation

A significant part of the Manhole 34 cleanup relies upon the natural degradation of petroleum hydrocarbons called "natural attenuation". After removing the floating petroleum from the groundwater table, the cleanup will rely on nature to break down the petroleum remaining in the soil and groundwater. Site monitoring will be conducted to ensure that nature is capable of treating the groundwater contamination in a reasonable timeframe.

How Can I Be Involved?

You are invited to comment on the CAP from **July 2 through August 1, 2001**. Additionally, an **Open House/Public Hearing will be held at the Sunnyside Law and Justice Center, 401 Homer, in Sunnyside starting at 6:00 pm on July 19, 2001**. Written comments should be sent to Norm Hepner at Ecology. The box to the right lists Ecology's address and provides information on where to review the plan and get answers to your questions. After the draft CAP is approved, and a consent decree negotiated, the cleanup will begin.

FACT SHEET July 2001

For technical questions, please contact:

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For other questions or to be placed on the site mailing list, please contact:

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Public Comment Period:
July 2, 2001 to
August 1, 2001

Documents are available for public review at:

Ecology Central Regional Office
address listed above

Sunnyside Library
621 Grant Avenue
Sunnyside, WA 98944

Para asistencia bilingüe, favor de hablar a:

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