

CASCADE TIMBER 3 US OIL



Public comment sought on proposal to remove cleaned-up site from state's Hazardous Sites List

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has prepared this fact sheet pursuant to the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) Chapter 70.105D to provide you with information about its proposal to remove the Cascade Timber 3 US Oil site from the state's Hazardous Sites List. The site is one of several that make up the Commencement Bay Superfund site. You are welcome and encouraged to comment on this proposal through February 4, 2002.

Definitions

An **Agreed Order** is a legal document issued by Ecology under which the Potentially Liable Person (in this case, US Oil & Refining) receiving the order agrees to comply. It may be used to require or approve a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, a cleanup, or other action.

A **Potentially Liable Person** is any person whom Ecology finds, based on credible evidence, to be liable for cleanup costs.

A **Remedial Investigation** is a study to define the nature, extent, magnitude, and source of the problems at a site.

A **Feasibility Study** uses information gathered in the Remedial Investigation to determine alternative methods to clean up the site.

Site background

The Cascade Timber 3 US Oil site is located in the 1800 block of Port of Tacoma Road in the tideflats of Tacoma, Pierce County.

The site is roughly nine acres in size. It was once part of the 18.5-acre, Cascade Timber Log Sort Yard site. That site, however, was separated and today is comprised of two sites: Cascade Timber 3 US Oil and Cascade Timber 3 POT. [Cascade Timber 3 POT was contaminated with ASARCO slag and is in the operation and maintenance phase of cleanup.]

On January 6, 1991, a break in an oil transmission pipeline resulted in a 600,000-gallon release of crude oil on to the northeast portion of the log sort yard – what is now Cascade Timber 3 US Oil.

Floating free product and 3,000 cubic yards of oil-contaminated bark, grass, and soil were immediately removed.

Just for comparison, an Olympic-sized pool holds between 700,000 and 850,000 gallons of water.

January 2002

Public Comment Period:

January 7 – February 4, 2002

Comments should be directed to:

Marv Coleman, Site Manager
Department of Ecology
Toxics Cleanup Program
Southwest Regional Office
PO Box 47775
Olympia WA 98504-7775
(360) 407-6259
mcol461@ecy.wa.gov

Information Repositories

Cleanup and ground water monitoring reports may be reviewed at the following locations:

Tacoma Library – Downtown Branch
1102 Tacoma Avenue South
Tacoma, WA
(253) 591-5666
Monday through Thursday: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Friday & Saturday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Department of Ecology
Southwest Regional Office
300 Desmond Drive
Lacey, WA
(360) 407-6365 (by appointment)
Monday through Friday: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Citizens for a Healthy Bay
917 Pacific Ave., Tacoma
(253) 383-2429

The Department of Ecology is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Employer. If you have special accommodate needs, please call (360) 407-7200 or (360) 407-6006 (TDD).

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In late 1991, Ecology and US Oil & Refining entered into an Agreed Order to conduct a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study of the site. In 1993, the Order was amended so that remaining contaminated soil could be removed quickly to lessen its impact to ground water. The interim action/cleanup occurred simultaneously with the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study.

The Interim Action

The interim action involved:

- Removing and treating 5,700 cubic yards of contaminated soil using thermal desorption;
- Installing ground water monitoring wells;
- Sampling ground water quarterly and eventually semi-annually.

Cleanup results

It would take some time to tell if the interim action worked and the soil excavation had a positive impact on ground water. After eight years, soil samples showed it did work.

Only a small area at the northeastern edge of the site had petroleum contamination above state cleanup standards. That soil was capped with clean soil and left in-place.

Ground water sampling has been ongoing since 1993. A March 2001 report showed contamination was below cleanup standards at all but one sampling location – a well

downgradient of the site. It is suspected this contamination is the result of a separate release, known as the “1920 Port of Tacoma Road site.”

Why remove the site from the Hazardous Sites List?

Based on a review of cleanup and ground water monitoring reports, Ecology has determined the site is no longer a threat to human health and the environment and has recommended removing the site from the Hazardous Sites List.

The public’s role in removing the site from the Hazardous Sites List

You now have an opportunity to review the cleanup and ground water monitoring reports and comment on Ecology’s decision to remove the site from the Hazardous Sites List. Through February 4, 2002, your comments will be accepted in writing by Marv Coleman, at the Department of Ecology-TCP, P.O. Box 47775, Olympia WA 98504-7775, phone (360) 407-6259 or e-mail mcol461@ecy.wa.gov.

If substantive comments are received, further site investigation or cleanup may occur.

What is thermal desorption?

Thermal desorption is an innovative treatment technology that treats contaminated soils by heating them to temperatures of 200-1,000°F so that contaminants with low boiling points will vaporize (turn into gas) and, consequently, separate from the soil. The vaporized contaminants are collected and treated, typically by an air emissions treatment system.