

# MICA LANDFILL

## DRAFT CLEANUP ACTION PLAN AND SEPA DNS



The Washington State Department of Ecology has completed the Draft Cleanup Action Plan (DCAP) and State Environmental Policy Act Determination of Non-Significance (SEPA DNS) for the Mica Landfill Site (Site). Mica Landfill is a former municipal waste landfill located 1½ miles north of Mica, WA in Spokane County.

The purpose of the DCAP is to select cleanup actions and specify the standards and other requirements for the cleanup action under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) (Chapter 173-340 WAC). Spokane County, the Potentially Liable Person (PLP) at the Site will be responsible for carrying out the cleanup actions specified in the DCAP.

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA, Chapter 197-11 WAC) Rules require that proponents of a project with a potential adverse affect on the environment complete a checklist. The checklist requires details of the project and ways the environment will be impacted and protected. Ecology has determined that the proposed actions for this project do not have a significant adverse impact on the environment; therefore, a Determination of Non-Significance has been issued.

Ecology invites the public to review and comment on the DCAP and SEPA DNS **November 27, 2001 through December 27, 2001**. The

shaded box on the right indicates where documents may be reviewed, comments sent and additional information obtained.

### SITE BACKGROUND

The Landfill is located just east of state Highway 27, approximately 11 miles southeast of the City of Spokane (see Site Vicinity Map, Figure 1). In 1985, the Landfill was placed on the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) list of cleanup sites. Landfill operations began in 1972 covering an area of approximately 161 acres. An estimated average of 65,000 tons per year of mixed municipal wastes, industrial wastes, and sludges were disposed of at the facility from 1972 to 1991. The County closed the Landfill to the public in December 1991 following startup of the Spokane Waste to Energy Plant

### REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION

The Remedial Investigation (RI) was completed in September 1992. The RI was conducted to characterize the extent of contamination at the Landfill and evaluate existing and potential risks to human health and the environment.

The RI confirmed that organic and inorganic pollutants found in leachate at the Landfill had impacted ground water. Leachate is

**FACT SHEET:**  
NOVEMBER 2001

**COMMENTS ACCEPTED:**  
November 27 through December 27, 2001

### **REPOSITORIES**

Department of Ecology  
Eastern Regional Office  
4601 N. Monroe  
Spokane, WA 99205-1295

Spokane Public Library  
906 West Main Ave.  
Spokane, WA 99201

Spokane County Public Library  
12004 East Main Ave.  
Spokane, WA 99206-5193

Spokane County Utilities Div.  
1026 West Broadway Ave.  
Spokane, WA 99260-0180

### **Technical Questions Contact:**

Ms. Sandra Treccani  
Department of Ecology  
Toxics Cleanup Program  
4601 North Monroe  
Spokane, WA 99205-1295  
E-mail: [satr461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:satr461@ecy.wa.gov)  
(509) 456-2740 or  
1-800-826-7716

### **Mailing List Contact:**

Carol Bergin at Ecology  
outside Spokane call  
toll free 1-800-826-7716 or  
Spokane at (509) 456-6360  
E-mail [cabe461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:cabe461@ecy.wa.gov)

water that becomes chemically altered because of contact with landfill wastes. Landfill gas, created by the biological decomposition or volatilization of wastes, is also present at the Landfill. At least twenty volatile and semivolatile organic compound contaminants and several metals have been detected in ground water or leachate on-site. The investigation concluded that leachate contamination was generally restricted to prominent drainages within the boundaries of the Landfill. No water supply wells or off-site properties in the area had been significantly affected by contaminants or landfill gas.

## **INTERIM ACTION**

Ecology and the County determined quick construction of a cover system was technically appropriate to reduce potential risks to human health and the environment outside the boundaries of the Landfill. A final cover system was rapidly achieved under the framework of an interim action. The interim action included the following components:

- Waste was covered with a multimedia cover system made of either a geosynthetic clay liner and 50-millimeter thickness high density polyethylene (HDPE) geomembrane, or two layers of 50-millimeter HDPE;
- Leachate was controlled through installation of collection blankets and trenches with continued use of an existing collection trench and holding pond system; and
- Landfill gas was controlled through collection trenches and

wells manifolded to a series of passive flare units where gas is ignited.

In addition, the interim action provided the opportunity to collect five years of monitoring data to help determine the effectiveness of the action and if additional work would be needed.

## **DRAFT CLEANUP ACTION PLAN**

The Draft Cleanup Action Plan (DCAP) is a document that reviews site information and selects an appropriate cleanup action based on the available information. Monitoring data from 1988 through the present was reviewed to determine the effectiveness of the interim action. The interim action appears to be achieving the intended goals of containing and isolating wastes, capturing and flaring landfill gases, protecting off-site surface waters, and reducing the generation and movement of contaminated groundwater.

Along with reviewing monitoring data, the DCAP presents alternatives for cleaning up the Site. For Mica Landfill, two alternatives were discussed: the interim action alone, and the interim action plus additional groundwater treatment.

The interim action alone was chosen as the preferred cleanup action. In addition to the cover system and the gas and leachate control systems, groundwater monitoring and institutional controls will be required. Monitoring will take place at certain wells for a specific list of contaminants that are considered indicators in groundwater at the Site. Institutional controls will include

maintenance of existing fences and signs and restrictive covenants to ensure the cleanup action is not disrupted. Five-year reviews will also take place to ensure that the cleanup action is performing as expected. If at any time Ecology determines the selected cleanup action is not meeting expected goals further work may be required.

## **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

After the 30-day public comment period, the DCAP and SEPA DNS will become final. Any written comments received during the comment period will be answered in a Responsiveness Summary. If appropriate, Ecology will revise the DCAP and SEPA DNS based on written comments received.

## **HOW YOU MAY BE INVOLVED:**

- **Review the DCAP and SEPA DNS.** To review documents at Ecology, contact Johnnie Harris at (509) 456-2751 to schedule an appointment. Reviews may be scheduled for Monday through Thursday, 8-5 p.m. by appointment.
- **Send in your written comments November 27 through December 27, 2001 to:** Sandra Treccani at Ecology (see box on page one for details).
- **Share this information** with any individuals or groups you think should be informed about the Site.