

COWLITZ BP

WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF
E C O L O G Y

Agreed Orders for Cleanup Proposed

The Washington Department of Ecology proposes separate agreed orders with Texaco, Inc., Bob and Sheri Smith, and Charles Vineyard to clean up petroleum-contaminated groundwater at the Cowlitz BP site. An agreed order is a legal document formalizing an agreement between Ecology and potentially liable persons (PLPs), to ensure that proposed site investigation and cleanup activities are conducted in a timely fashion, in accordance with the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) and other applicable laws and regulations.

Your comments on the proposed agreed orders and cleanup action plan are welcome through May 18, 2001. The box to the right provides information about where to review the documents, as well as where to submit comments.

Site Background

The Cowlitz BP site consists of the Cowlitz BP property (an operating gas station/mini-mart) and an inactive gasoline service station, located across the street from the active facility. The site is on the east side of I-5 at the Vader-Ryderwood exit (exit 59) in Lewis County, at 101 Mulford Road in Toledo. The two service stations were combined into one site because of common property ownership

and evidence that groundwater contamination from the sites may be commingled. Both properties are now owned by Charles Vineyard of Renton, Washington. Frank Vineyard (deceased) purchased both properties as part of one tax lot in early 1947 and farmed for eight years. In 1955, the property was divided into separate lots and leased.

The location of the inactive station was originally leased to General Petroleum Corporation in May 1955. In 1978, the property was leased by Olson Brothers Garage, Inc., and was occupied until 1984 by a Mobil service station and a small restaurant. After 1984, the station ceased operation and was subsequently destroyed. This property has been redeveloped as a sales lot for manufactured homes.

The Cowlitz BP property was initially leased in 1955 to Texas Oil Company (Texaco), who constructed the building and installed the original underground storage tanks and piping. A leak in the product delivery line was repaired by Texaco in April 1977. This leak lost about 2300 gallons of gasoline. The ownership interests in the improvements passed from Texaco to Olson Brothers in 1980, then to West Coast Oil Company in 1985. Bob and Sheri Smith, current operators, purchased the site improvements from West Coast Oil in 1986. At that time, four underground storage tanks (USTs) were in

April 2001

FACT SHEET

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PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON AGREED ORDERS AND CLEANUP ACTION PLAN:

April 17, 2001 to May 18, 2001

Comments and requests for updates should be directed to Martha Maggi, Site Manager, at the Ecology address listed above or at (360) 407-6248.

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

The agreed order and cleanup action plan can be reviewed at the following locations:

Ecology Southwest Regional Office
address listed above

Toledo City Hall
130 North Second
Toledo, WA 98591
(360) 864-4564

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If you have special accommodation needs, please call (360) 407-6300 or (360) 407-6306 (TDD).

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use at the site (three 6000-gallon tanks and one 4000-gallon tank). In March 1990, the four USTs and their associated piping were removed and replaced with new fiberglass tanks and piping. During this process, contamination associated with the 4000-gallon tank was discovered.

Approximately 1000 cubic yards (100 dump truck loads) of gasoline-contaminated soil were excavated and treated on-site. Soil samples collected from the excavation sidewalls indicated that some contaminated soil remained.

In February 1991, Frank Vineyard's consultant investigated the remaining contamination at the Cowlitz BP station. Four monitoring wells were installed outside the limits of the previously-excavated area. Although all soil samples collected were below MTCA Method A cleanup levels for total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH), benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene (BTEX), the presence of groundwater contamination was confirmed for total petroleum hydrocarbons gasoline (TPH-G) and benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylenes (BTEX).

In April 1991, an enforcement order requiring a remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) for both properties was issued to Frank Vineyard. The order specified that USTs at the inactive property be removed as part of the RI/FS work. Field work for the RI/FS began in January 1992 when two 6000-gallon gasoline USTs and one 300-gallon used oil tank were removed at the inactive station. About 300 cubic yards (30 dump truck loads) of petroleum-contaminated soil were excavated from the tank hole and stockpiled on-site. Soil samples collected from the pit after tank excavation revealed that soil contamination in excess of MTCA Method A cleanup levels remained. At the Cowlitz BP property, four soil borings drilled between the limits

of the previous tank excavation and the areas investigated earlier showed that remaining soils did not exceed Method A cleanup levels.

Nine monitoring wells were installed and sampled to assess groundwater contamination found at both properties. The monitoring well downgradient from the inactive station exhibited the highest levels of contamination.

A site cleanup action plan was proposed and underwent public comment in April 1994, with implementation to begin within six months. Because Ecology granted Frank Vineyard extra time to investigate additional potentially liable persons (PLPs), the implementation did not occur. Texaco and the Smiths were named as PLPs in October 1994. During a September 1994 site visit, Ecology discovered that a new business had been located in the area of the former station. This activity had not been authorized by Ecology. Monitoring wells installed in this area as part of the RI/FS could not be found. Therefore, Ecology was concerned that the site cleanup action plan may not be appropriate because no recent groundwater monitoring data existed and the monitoring wells had been jeopardized. Since a considerable amount of time had passed since the completion of both the RI/FS and the previous cleanup action plan, additional groundwater monitoring data were necessary to verify site conditions.

Ecology, Texaco, Bob and Sheri Smith, and Frank Vineyard agreed to a May 1995 order to take interim actions at the site. This work included: mapping the locations of all monitoring wells; replacing any wells which had been damaged; installing additional monitoring wells; sampling groundwater; re-evaluating the site cleanup action plan; monitoring groundwater quarterly.

What Is Being Done?

The proposed agreed orders require implementation of the new cleanup action plan, which is based on results of the RI/FS. The cleanup action plan specifies the selected cleanup action and site cleanup goals for groundwater. The agreed orders require Texaco, Inc., Bob and Sheri Smith, and Charles Vineyard to take the following actions:

- ▶ destroy pollutants in place using existing microorganisms and increasing dissolved oxygen in groundwater (*biodegradation*);
- ▶ monitor groundwater quarterly to evaluate the cleanup effectiveness.

Groundwater monitoring is expected to continue for about two to four years, or until cleanup standards are met. Ecology will oversee implementation of the agreed orders to ensure that all parts of the agreed orders are fulfilled.

What Happens Next?

Public comment on the proposed agreed orders will be considered and the agreed orders may be modified, if necessary, based on the comments received.

Ecology Wants Your Comments!

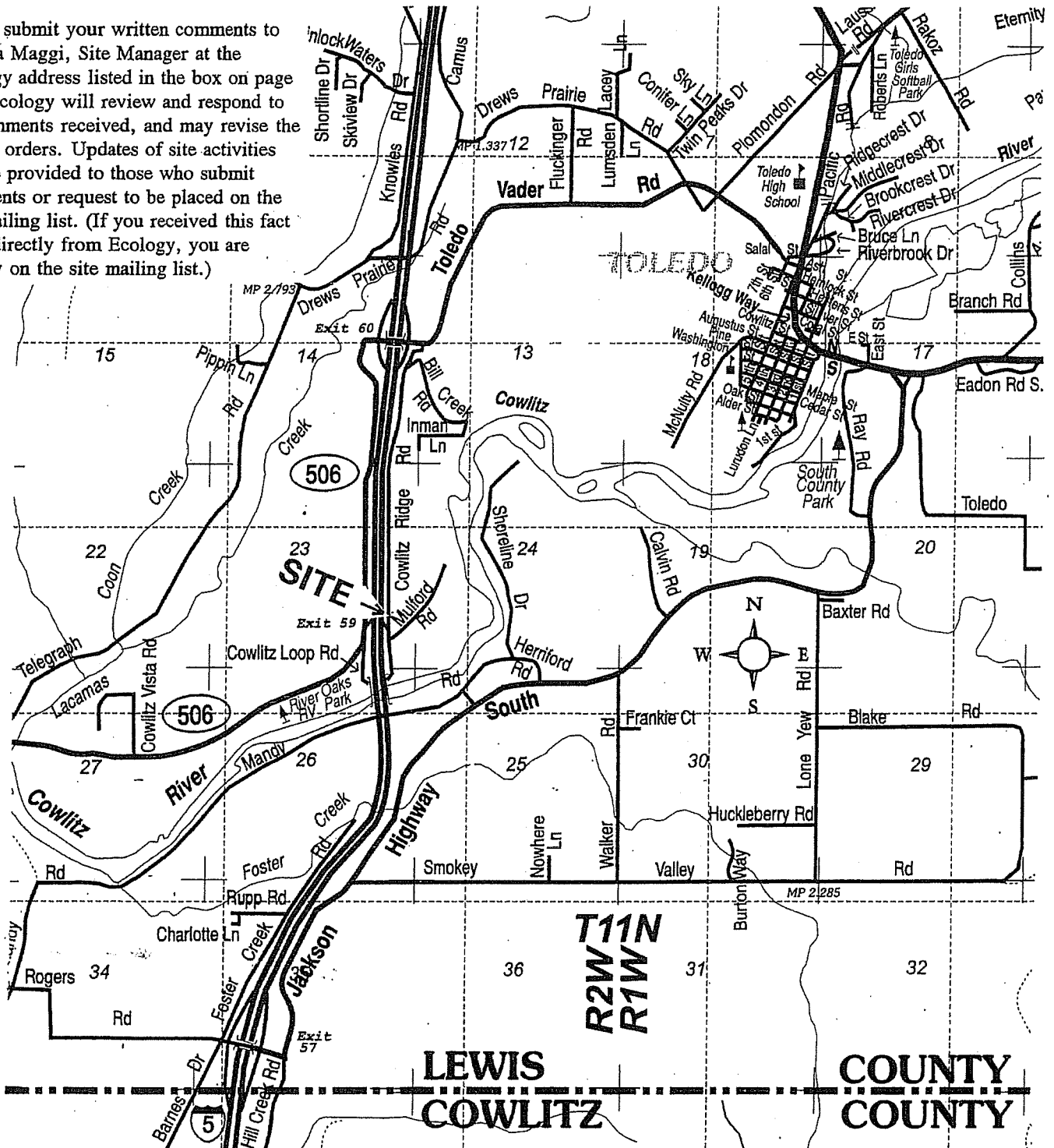
You are invited to review and comment on the proposed agreed orders and cleanup action plan through **May 18, 2001**. The public comment period presents an opportunity to have your ideas and comments heard by Ecology. Information repositories, which include the agreed orders and cleanup action plan, have been set up at the locations listed in the box on page one. To review more detailed site documents than those in the information

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repositories, contact Ecology's Southwest Regional Office records center at (360) 407-6365 to schedule an appointment.

Please submit your written comments to Martha Maggi, Site Manager at the Ecology address listed in the box on page one. Ecology will review and respond to all comments received, and may revise the agreed orders. Updates of site activities will be provided to those who submit comments or request to be placed on the site mailing list. (If you received this fact sheet directly from Ecology, you are already on the site mailing list.)



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