

Red Shirt Mill Okanogan County



Draft Sampling and Analysis Plan, SEPA Early Scoping Notice

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is providing an opportunity for the public to comment on the draft Sampling and Analysis Plan to be implemented as part of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for the Red Shirt Mill Site in Twisp. In addition, Ecology would like to provide the public an opportunity to participate in the SEPA (State Environmental Policy Act) early scoping process to help identify environmental issues that need to be evaluated at the site.

Site History

The Red Shirt Mill Site is located on Airport Road in Twisp and borders the Methow River. The Red Shirt Mill was in operation during the 1930s and 1940s. The mill processed ore from the Red Shirt Gold Mine. Tailings, crushed rock left over from the mill process after the ore was extracted, were deposited onsite and remain onsite. The main tailings pile is approximately 1.5 acres in size and may be up to 5 feet deep in places. Samples from the tailings show levels of arsenic and lead in excess of Ecology Method A cleanup levels, which are 20 ppm for arsenic and 250 ppm for lead.

The Okanogan County Health Department and Ecology conducted a site hazard assessment (SHA) to estimate the relative potential risk posed by the site to human health and the environment. The site was assigned a hazard ranking of 1, which is the highest ranking possible on Ecology's Hazardous Sites List.

What is a RI/FS?

The purpose of the Remedial Investigation (RI) is to determine the nature and extent of the release of hazardous substances at the site, to characterize potential risk to human health and to terrestrial and aquatic organisms from contaminants associated with the site, and to gather necessary data to support the Feasibility Study. The purpose of a Feasibility Study is to develop and evaluate cleanup action alternatives for the site. Ecology will use the completed RI/FS to develop a Cleanup Action Plan. The Sampling and Analysis Plan will be implemented as part of the RI for the site.

Ecology Welcomes Your Comments!

Please address any written comments or questions you may have on the draft Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP), the scope of the RI/FS, or any environmental issues that may need to be evaluated at the site, to Rachel Caron at the address listed in the information box on the right. Documents can be reviewed at the locations listed at right from January 9 to February 8, 2002.

Ecology will incorporate appropriate comments into the final Sampling and Analysis plan, in addition to addressing other comments and questions concerning the scope of the RI/FS and environmental issues that may need to be evaluated at the site. If ten or more persons request a public meeting on the draft SAP, the scope of the RI/FS, or environmental issues that may need to be addressed at the site, Ecology shall hold a public meeting for the purpose of receiving comments.

FACT SHEET January 2002

**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:

**January 9, 2002 to
February 8, 2002**

**Documents are available for
public review at:**

Ecology Central Regional Office
address listed above

Twisp Public Library
201 N Methow Valley Hwy
Twisp, WA 98856-0237

**Para asistencia bilingüe, favor
de hablar a:**

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If you have special accommodation needs or require this document in an alternative format please call Antonio Valero, (509) 454-7840 (voice) or (509) 454-7673 (TDD only). Para asistencia bilingüe, favor llamar al Antonio Valero, tel: (509) 454-7840.