

Bay Chemical Yakima County



Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study Available for Public Comment

The remedial investigation and feasibility study for the Bay Chemical site in Yakima, Washington is available for public review and comment. The Remedial Investigation (RI) was prepared to determine the concentration and horizontal and vertical extent of hazardous materials in the soil and groundwater at the site. After determining the horizontal and vertical extent of contamination in soil and groundwater, a Feasibility Study (FS) was prepared to describe the various alternatives for remediating the contaminated soil and groundwater at the site.

Site Background

The Bay Chemical site is composed of a narrow strip of land owned by the Burlington Northern Sante Fe Railroad (BNSF) upon which the Bay Chemical Company conducted operations related to the manufacture of zinc micronutrient fertilizer. From 1963 to 1976, operations at the Bay Chemical Company resulted in releases of hazardous substances to the soil and groundwater at the property. The property measures approximately 200 feet by 1,400 feet and is located immediately south and west of the intersection of Washington Avenue and the BNSF main line in Yakima. The Bay Chemical Company's manufacturing process used flue dust, a steel mill byproduct that is

rich in zinc and other metals. The flue dust was purchased from Bethlehem Steel, Seattle, Washington. The flue dust was reacted with sulfuric acid to extract the zinc. The resultant liquid zinc sulfate was sold for agricultural use. The residual sludge from the process was pumped to an unlined settling pond located at the southern end of the site. The primary contaminants of concern at the site are the metals contained in the flue dust including antimony, arsenic, cadmium chromium, copper, lead, manganese, mercury, and zinc.

Remedial Investigation

The RI has shown that releases of hazardous materials, containing the contaminants of concern, occurred when Bay Chemical was operating at the site. Soil contamination is described in the RI as covering most of the site to a depth of 1.5 to 5 feet below the ground surface. The primary contaminant of concern in the contaminated soil zone was determined to be lead. Samples collected from six groundwater monitoring wells, constructed during the RI, have shown concentrations of contaminants of concern in the groundwater at levels exceeding health based standards. Cadmium is the primary contaminant of concern in the groundwater.

Continued on Page 2

FACT SHEET April 2002

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Public Comment Period:

April 1, 2002 to May 1, 2002

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

Ecology Central Regional Office
address listed above

Yakima Valley Regional Library
102 N 3rd St
Yakima WA 98902

**Para asistencia bilingüe, favor
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Feasibility Study

The FS submitted to Ecology has proposed several alternatives to remediate the contaminated soil and groundwater at the site. The purpose of the FS is to develop cleanup standards and cleanup actions alternatives that are protective of human health and the environment. Five cleanup action alternatives were identified in the FS, ranging from capping the site and monitoring the groundwater, to excavation and off-site disposal of all the contaminated soils.

How Can You Be Involved?

You are invited to review and submit written comments on the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study. The 30-day public comment period will run from April 1, 2002 to May 1, 2002. Ecology will respond in writing to all comments received. The public is encouraged to participate in this process.