

# WALNUT GROVE INDUSTRIAL PARK



## 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, Chapter 70.105D RCW, to provide you with information about a proposal to remove the Walnut Grove Industrial Park site from its list of high-priority, contaminated sites (known as the Hazardous Sites List).

The Walnut Grove Industrial Park site is ranked "1" on the Hazardous Sites List. A rank of "1" represents the highest level of concern compared to other sites on the list and a rank of "5" the lowest. You are welcome and encouraged to comment on this proposal through May 23, 2002.

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

### Site background

Walnut Grove Industrial Park is located at 6315 NE 63<sup>rd</sup> Street in Vancouver, Clark County. Much of the 20-acre site is paved and occupied by warehouse buildings with industrial businesses.

A wetland marsh, primarily surrounded by residential homes, is located about 300 feet south of the nearest warehouse building. Several storm drains run from the industrial park paved areas into the

### The investigation

wetland through two storm drain pipes.

### The contamination

In 1994, the Southwest Washington Health Department received a complaint that sewage was being discharged from a broken drain pipe. Upon inspection, the department took several samples and found that metals, petroleum products, and limited volatile organic compounds had contaminated the wetland soils. In 1995, Ecology ranked the site a "1" and placed it on its Hazardous Sites List.

Because the wetland was surrounded by homes, the Department of Health investigated the site in 1997 to determine its risk to human health. The department sampled private drinking water wells, back yard surface soil, and soil beneath broken storm drain pipes located in the industrial park and came up with the following conclusion:

#### Results of 1997 health assessment completed by Department of Health

*"No adverse health effects are expected to occur as a result of exposure to contaminants in residential drinking water or soil. Levels of lead in soil near the broken east drainage pipe are high enough to be of concern if children played frequently in this area. This area is not easily accessible, however, and not expected to be frequented by children."*

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**April 2002**

### Public Comment Period

April 25 through  
May 23, 2002

### Comments should be directed to:

Jennifer Taylor, Site Manager  
Department of Ecology  
Toxics Cleanup Program  
Vancouver Field Office  
2108 Grand Blvd.  
Vancouver WA 98661-4622  
(360) 690-4798  
[jtav461@ecv.wa.gov](mailto:jtav461@ecv.wa.gov)

### Information Repositories

*Department of Ecology*  
2108 Grand Blvd.  
Vancouver WA 98661-4622

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the owner of the industrial park, Grimm Enterprises, to establish better material handling and storage practices to minimize chances of accidental releases and reduce the potential for discharge of hazardous materials to storm water. That same year, Grimm Enterprises hired a consulting firm to sample wetland soils and storm drain runoff. Efforts were aimed at duplicating the sampling techniques and sampling locations used by the Department of Health in 1994.

Results of the independent investigation revealed the following:

- *Petroleum concentrations had fallen to insignificant levels.*
- *Volatile organic compounds were not detected.*
- *High levels of lead were still present in soil and storm drain runoff. A source of the lead contamination was not discovered.*

Working with Ecology, Grimm Enterprises agreed to have the catch basins cleaned and sampled and then sampled again one year later. Ecology also required three wetland soil and water samples be taken and tested for metals, including cadmium (Cadmium was found in samples in 1994).

## **1999 sampling results**

Lead levels were considerably lower than samples taken one year earlier—they were now below state cleanup standards. Cadmium was not detected.

## **Why delist the site**

It is believed the contamination may have been the result of a one-time incident. Based on a review of sampling results, Ecology has determined the site is not a threat to human health or 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 reports and comment on Ecology's proposal to remove the site from the Hazardous Sites List. Through May 23, 2002, your comments will be accepted in writing by Jennifer Taylor, Site Manager, at the Department of Ecology, Vancouver Field Office, 2108 Grand Blvd., Vancouver WA 98661-4622, (360) 407-4798, e-mail [jtay461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:jtay461@ecy.wa.gov).