

Red Shirt Mill Okanogan County



Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Available for Public Comment

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is providing an opportunity for the public to comment on the draft Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for the Red Shirt Mill Site near Twisp.

Site History

The Red Shirt Mill Site is located on Airport Road near 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 parts per million (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.

Ecology Welcomes Your Comments!

Please address any written comments or questions you may have on the draft RI/FS 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 September 26 to October 28, 2002.

Ecology will incorporate appropriate comments into the final RI/FS. If ten or more persons request a public meeting on the draft RI/FS, Ecology shall hold a public meeting for the purpose of receiving comments.

FACT SHEET September 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:

**September 26, 2002 to
October 28, 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.