

MICA LANDFILL SITE



DRAFT CONSENT DECREE TO IMPLEMENT CLEANUP ACTION PLAN

The Washington State Department of Ecology is proposing to enter into a Consent Decree with Spokane County to implement the Cleanup Action Plan (CAP) at Mica Landfill. The Site is a former municipal waste landfill located just east of State Highway 27, approximately 11 miles southeast of the City of Spokane, Spokane County, Washington (see Figure 1).

The Consent Decree is a legal document which formalizes the agreement between Ecology and Spokane County and is entered and approved by a court. Included as appendices to the Consent Decree are a Scope of Work, Schedule, Restrictive Covenants and amended Public Participation Plan. The Scope of Work outlines the documents to be submitted by the County that describe in detail how the DCAP will be implemented. The Schedule provides a timeline for submission of these documents.

The proposed Consent Decree is being issued under the authority of the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA), Chapter 70.105D RCW and ensures the cleanup will proceed in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

Ecology invites the public to review and submit comments on the Draft Consent Decree **December 19, 2002 through January 20, 2003.**

The shaded box on the right indicates where documents may be reviewed, comments sent and additional information obtained.

SITE BACKGROUND

Landfill operations began in 1972 covering an area of approximately 161 acres. An estimated average of 65,000 tons per year of mixed municipal wastes, industrial wastes, and sludges were disposed of at the site from 1972 to 1991. In 1985, the Landfill was placed on the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) list of cleanup sites. Spokane County closed the Landfill to the public in December 1991 following startup of the Spokane Waste to Energy Plant.

REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION

The Remedial Investigation (RI) was completed in September 1992. The RI was conducted to characterize the extent of contamination at the Landfill and evaluate existing and potential

FACT SHEET - December 2002

COMMENTS ACCEPTED:
December 19, 2002 through January 20, 2003.

REPOSITORIES :
(for document review)

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Eastern Regional Office
4601 N. Monroe
Spokane, WA 99205-1295
Ms. Johnnie Harris (509) 329-3415

Spokane Public Library
906 W. Main Ave.
Spokane, WA 99201
(509) 444-5300

Spokane County Public Library
12004 E. Main Ave.
Spokane, WA 99206-5193
(509) 926-6283

Spokane County Utilities Division
1026 W. Broadway Ave.
Spokane, WA 99260-0180
(509) 477-3604

Technical questions or submission of written comments, contact:

Sandra Treccani
WA Department of Ecology
Toxics Cleanup Program
4601 N. Monroe
Spokane, WA 99205-1295
(509) 329-3412 or 1-800-826-7716
E-mail: satr461@ecy.wa.gov

Mailing list or request a public hearing, contact:

Ms. Carol Bergin
WA Department of Ecology
1-800-826-7716 or (509) 329-3546
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risks to human health and the environment.

The RI confirmed that organic and inorganic pollutants found in leachate at the Landfill had impacted ground water. Leachate is water that becomes chemically altered because of contact with landfill wastes. Landfill gas, created by the biological decomposition or volatilization of wastes, is also present at the Landfill. The investigation concluded that leachate contamination was generally restricted to prominent drainages within the boundaries of the Landfill. No water supply wells or off-site properties in the area had been significantly affected by contaminants or landfill gas.

INTERIM ACTION

Ecology and Spokane County determined quick construction of a cover system was technically appropriate to reduce potential risks to human health and the environment outside the boundaries of the Landfill. The interim action included the following components:

- Waste was covered with a multimedia cover system;
- Leachate was controlled through collection blankets, trenches, and holding ponds; and
- Landfill gas was controlled through collection trenches and wells manifolded to a series of passive flare units where gas is ignited.

In addition, the interim action provided the opportunity to collect five years' of monitoring data to help determine the effectiveness of the action and if additional work would be needed.

DRAFT CLEANUP ACTION PLAN

The Draft Cleanup Action Plan (DCAP) is a document that reviews site information and selects an appropriate cleanup action based on the available information. Monitoring data from 1988 through the present were reviewed to determine the effectiveness of the interim action. The interim action appears to be achieving the intended goals of containing and isolating wastes, capturing and flaring landfill gases, protecting off-site surface waters, and reducing the generation and movement of contaminated groundwater.

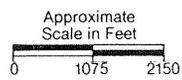
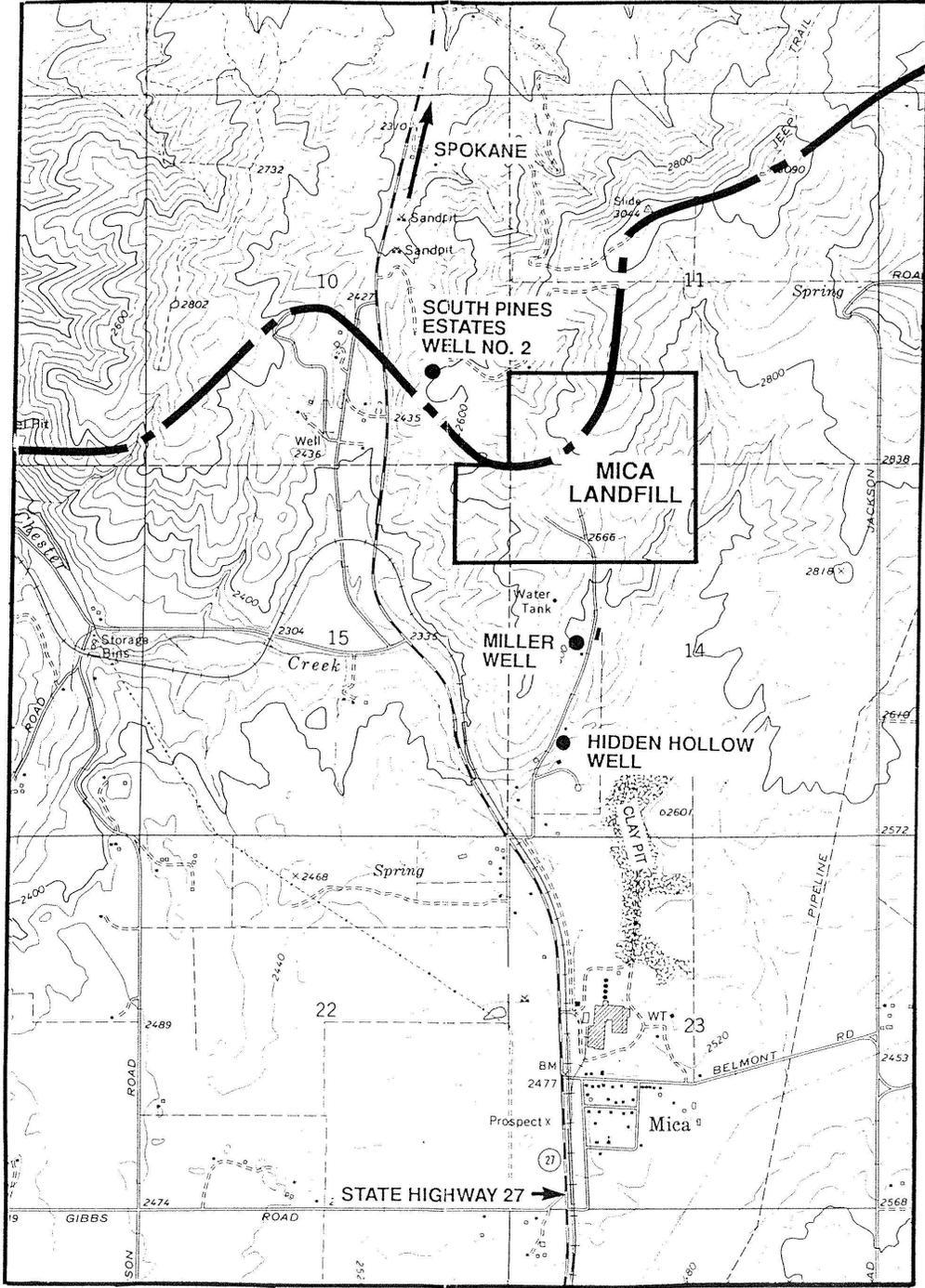
Along with reviewing monitoring data, the DCAP evaluated alternatives and selected the interim action as the preferred cleanup action. In addition to the cover system and the gas and leachate control systems, groundwater monitoring and institutional controls are required. Five-year reviews will also take place to ensure that the cleanup action is performing as expected. If at any time Ecology determines the selected cleanup action is not meeting expected goals, further work may be required.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

After the 30-day public comment period, the Draft Consent Decree will become final. Any written comments received during the comment period will be answered in a Responsiveness Summary. If appropriate, Ecology may revise the Draft Consent Decree based on written comments received.

HOW YOU MAY BE INVOLVED:

- **Review the Draft Consent Decree.** To review documents at Ecology, contact Johnnie Harris at (509) 329-3415 to schedule an appointment. Reviews may be scheduled for Monday through Thursday, 8-5 p.m. by appointment.
- **Send in written comments December 19, 2002 through January 20, 2003 to:** Sandra Treccani at Ecology (see box on page one for details).
- **Share this information** with any individuals or groups you think should be informed about the Site.



SOUTHERN BOUNDARY OF THE
SPOKANE VALLEY-RATHDRUM PRAIRIE
AQUIFER SENSITIVE AREA

Figure 1. Site Map