
Manhole 34 Yakima County



Draft Agreement Reached

The Washington Department of Ecology is proposing to issue a Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA, Chapter 70.105D RCW) Consent Decree resolving the liability issues related to the release of hazardous substances at the Manhole 34 Site in Sunnyside at the corner of 6th Street and Yakima Valley Highway. This draft agreement was reached with the Manhole 34 Potentially Liable Persons Group.

Background

Petroleum products were released into the environment at this site from several leaking underground storage tank systems in the area. Initial reports of a possible petroleum release were received by Ecology in March 1989. Follow-up investigation conducted by Ecology revealed liquid petroleum product and petroleum vapors in the city storm drain at Manhole 34; these were removed to eliminate the immediate threat to safety.

Cleanup: Natural Attenuation

The Consent Decree requires the continued cleanup and monitoring of the Manhole 34 Site. A significant part of the Manhole 34 cleanup relies upon the natural degradation of petroleum hydrocarbons called "natural attenuation". After removing the floating petroleum from the groundwater table, the cleanup will rely on nature to break down the petroleum remaining in the soil and groundwater.

Active site remediation includes two recovery trenches and several wells to collect floating product. Site monitoring will be conducted to ensure that natural attenuation is achieving cleanup goals and the contamination remains contained on site.

Specific Consent Decree Provisions

The Consent Decree specifically provides for the reimbursement of all Ecology expenses for managing the site cleanup. Additionally, Atlantic Richfield, ChevronTexaco, and Time Oil have agreed to provide \$10,000 in college scholarship funds to Sunnyside High School.

How Can I Be Involved?

You are invited to comment on the Consent Decree from **January 2 through January 31, 2003**. Written comments should be sent to Norm Hepner at Ecology. The box to the right lists Ecology's address and provides information on where to review the consent decree and get answers to your questions.

FACT SHEET January 2003

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 2, 2003 to
January 31, 2003

Documents are available for public review at:

Ecology Central Regional Office
address listed above

Sunnyside Library
621 Grant Avenue
Sunnyside, WA 98944

Para asistencia bilingüe, favor de hablar a:

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