

KENT HIGHLANDS LANDFILL



Ecology Reviews Site Cleanup Performance: Report Available for Public Review and Comment

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has prepared this fact sheet to provide you with information about the second 5-year periodic review of the effectiveness of closure actions at the Kent Highlands Landfill site. You are welcome and encouraged to comment on the report describing this review through September 4, 2003.

Site location and background

The Kent Highlands Landfill is located at 23076 Military Road South, near the intersection of Interstate 5 and State Highway 516 (Kent-Des Moines Road), in Kent, Washington.

The City of Seattle used the landfill for municipal waste from 1968 to 1986. In 1990, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) placed the landfill on the National Priorities List, also known as the Superfund list. Kent Highlands is designated a "State lead" Superfund site. The City of Seattle is addressing environmental conditions at the landfill under a legal agreement (a Consent Order) with Ecology.

In April 1993, after receiving public comment, the City of Seattle and Ecology finalized the Cleanup Action Plan for closing the landfill. A fence was constructed around the site, the site was graded, and an engineered cover to prevent rain infiltration was constructed over the landfill. In addition, the surface water and gas collection systems were upgraded. Construction for closure actions was completed in July 1995.

Since 1993, monitoring has been conducted to assess the effectiveness of the closure actions in protecting human health and the environment:

- Wells around the landfill monitor gas generated by the waste.
- Water that has come into contact with the waste, called leachate, is collected from the landfill and piped to one of King County's treatment plants.
- Spring water, collected from the north slope of the ravine in which the landfill was placed, is combined with storm water and discharged to the Green River; this discharge is monitored at the storm water pond discharge gate.
- Ground water which flows off site is monitored at several wells at the site to protect off-site ground water and the Green River.

Results of the first 5-year review

Reviews are conducted every five years to assess the effectiveness of the landfill closure actions in protecting human health and the environment as the waste decays.

EPA conducted the first 5-year review in 1998. EPA concluded that the closure and remedial actions at the landfill were functioning as designed and remained protective of human health and the environment. EPA, after discussion with the City of Seattle, determined that some additional review of the gas generated by the landfill was needed. That review was done by the

August 2003

**Public Comment Period:
August 6–September 4, 2003**

Send Comments to:

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Document can be reviewed at the following locations:

WA Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office
3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98008
(425) 649-7190
(Call for an appointment)

Kent Public Library
212 2nd Avenue N., Kent

Des Moines Public Library
21620 11th Avenue S.,
Des Moines

Ecology's web site:
[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/
tcp/sites/sites_information.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/sites_information.html)

City of Seattle and Ecology, and the issues were addressed at that time.

Results of the second 5-year review

Ecology is conducting the second 5-year review at the landfill. Ecology's review found that the closure actions addressed most of the environmental hazards of the landfill, but some issues have arisen which need to be addressed.

Landfill gas is being controlled as required, and the quality of the leachate flowing to King County's treatment plant is within permit limits.

Ground water monitoring indicates that vinyl chloride and manganese exceed standards established for the landfill in selected compliance monitoring wells. The levels of vinyl chloride and manganese do **not** constitute an emergency condition.

The combined storm water and spring water discharge to the Green River may need some additional treatment measures to bring the water quality into full compliance with state standards. Specifically, the dissolved oxygen concentration in the water may need to be increased and the ammonia concentration may need to be decreased. Again, these are **not** emergency conditions.

The City of Seattle has indicated to Ecology that they are not in agreement with these findings.

Public comment on the 5-year periodic review report and next steps

Ecology is holding a public comment period from August 6 through September 4, 2003, during which you may

comment on the draft *Second Periodic Review for the Kent Highlands Landfill*. This document is available at the information repositories listed in the box on page one. A public meeting is not planned at this time. However, a meeting will be held if 10 or more people request one.

Once the public comment period ends, Ecology will review all comments received and will make appropriate changes to the document, if any. The *Second Periodic Review for the Kent Highlands Landfill* will then be considered final. Ecology and the City of Seattle will then confer to resolve any issues regarding the findings of the review. This is anticipated to take between two and four months. Further actions will depend upon the outcome of that resolution.

Ecology would like your input!

You have an opportunity to review and comment on the *Second Periodic Review for the Kent Highlands Landfill*. Please send your comments by September 4, 2003, to Ecology's Site Manager, David L. South, at the address in the box on the first page of this fact sheet. Comments may be sent by mail or e-mail. Please mark "Kent Highlands Landfill Comment" on the envelope or in the subject line of your e-mail.



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