
Briggs Nursery: Uplands of Areas 1 & 2

Conclusion of Remedial Investigation, Feasibility Study & Interim Remedial Cleanup Actions



Please comment on the study and clean up of the uplands part of Areas 1 and 2 (west of Henderson Blvd.). Study and clean up should be completed September 1, 2005, then construction on the uplands may begin. You are invited to send written comments to Ecology and attend a public meeting on August 24, 2005.

In August 2004, the Washington Department of Ecology, Briggs Nursery, Inc., and Gary E. Briggs agreed to a Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA, Chapter 70.105D RCW) order. The order requires Briggs Nursery and Gary E. Briggs to conduct a remedial investigation, feasibility study and risk assessment of soil, sediment, groundwater, and surface water. The investigation, study and risk assessment will evaluate the Briggs Nursery site for pesticides, metals, PCBs, and dioxins/furans and appropriate clean up alternatives. Since signing of the agreed order, study of the contaminated soil has been ongoing in accordance with approved work plans. Study of the uplands portion of Areas 1 and 2 located west of Henderson Blvd., excluding the kettles, is complete.

Under the agreed order and MTCA, interim remedial cleanup actions may occur on part of a site, prior to completion of studies addressing the whole site. Cleanup actions are nearly complete for the uplands part of Areas 1 and 2 west of Henderson Blvd. Cleanup actions include removal of contaminated soil to a landfill and to property owned by Briggs in Porter (Grays Harbor County). The soil remaining at the Henderson Blvd. location must meet the state's residential soil cleanup standard, the highest standard of safety under MTCA.

Ecology is asking for public comment on the study and cleanup of the uplands portion of Areas 1 and 2 west of Henderson Blvd. The study and cleanup of the uplands portion should be completed September 1, 2005. Once complete, Ecology proposes to issue a letter to City of Olympia stating the uplands portion of the site meets state residential cleanup standards. The City will then allow construction to begin on the uplands part of the site.

The public comment period is **August 22 through September 21, 2005**. Please join us for a public meeting from **6:30 to 8:00 p.m., on August 24, at Olympia High School, Room 101**. The box to the right provides details regarding where to submit your comments, the public meeting, and locations to view documents.

Site Background

The 120-acre Briggs Nursery, located at 4407 Henderson Boulevard SE, is a semi-active wholesale nursery owned and operated by Briggs Nursery, Inc. Gary E. Briggs owns property that is located at the intersection of Yelm Highway and Henderson Boulevard SE. Ward Lake borders Briggs Nursery on the east and the nursery consists of undeveloped land, cleared land, an office building and a laboratory.

August 2005 FACT SHEET

Public Comment Period:
Aug. 22 through Sept. 21

Public Meeting:
Wednesday, August 24
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Olympia High School
1302 North Street SE
Room 101

**Questions and comments
may be directed to:**

Lisa Pearson, Site Manager
WA State Department of Ecology
Toxics Cleanup Program
300 Desmond Dr.
PO Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775
(360) 407-6261
Lpea461@ecy.wa.gov

**Locations where you may
view documents:**

WA Dept. of Ecology
SW Regional Office
300 Desmond Drive
Olympia, WA 98504-7775
(360) 407-6365

Olympia Timberland Library
313 8th Avenue SE
Olympia, WA 98501-9300
(360) 352-0595

Elma Timberland Library
118 North 1st
Elma, WA 98541
(360) 482-3737

Web Sites:
www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/site/s/briggs/briggs_hp.htm

www.ecy.wa.gov, then click on
"Public Events Calendar"

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Ecology Publication Number 05-09-078

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Buildings related to plant growing operations such as greenhouses, a warehouse, shop, and chemical storage trailers have been demolished or moved off site. The land is scheduled for development as the Briggs Urban Village.

Investigations conducted in 1996 and 2000 identified pesticides, metals, PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls), and dioxin/furans on the site. A 1998 study discovered two underground storage tanks, several septic systems, and chemical mixing areas with evidence of spillage.

In 2004, Briggs Nursery, Inc. and Gary E. Briggs signed an agreed order with Ecology to conduct a remedial investigation and feasibility study, and risk assessment under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA, Chapter 70.105D RCW).

The purpose of the investigation is to identify and characterize the type and extent of soil, sediment, groundwater, and surface water contamination on the site. The purpose of the feasibility study is to review and select clean up alternatives that cost-effectively protect human health and the environment. The remedial investigation and feasibility study for the remainder of the site (exclusive of the uplands) should be finished in 2007.

Cleanup actions for the whole site include removing approximately 18,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil from the site.

Cleanup actions addressing soil contamination include removing PCB-contaminated soil to a landfill, and dieldrin-contaminated soil to property owned by Briggs in Porter (Grays Harbor County). Soil taken to Porter is mixed with clean soil and will be treated with vegetation (phytoremediation) to reduce the level of contamination. Treatment will continue until the level of contamination meets state residential cleanup standards. The soil remaining at the Henderson Blvd. location also must meet the state's residential cleanup standard.

Study and Cleanup Actions for the Uplands of Areas 1 & 2

The study and soil cleanup actions described in the work plans for Areas 1 and 2 (uplands) will soon be complete.

In May 2005, contractors mistakenly took approximately 100 yards of PCB-contaminated soil to the Porter property. Correction of this mistake and other actions will occur prior to the release of the uplands for

development. Briggs Nursery is required to complete the following actions:

- Remove the remainder of dieldrin-contaminated soils from Henderson Blvd. site and test the soil to confirm contamination is removed.
- Properly characterize PCB-contaminated soils at Henderson Blvd. site.
- Excavate and dispose of all PCB-contaminated soils.
- Prepare and submit a remedial investigation and feasibility study report summarizing work done to date for Ecology's review and approval.
- Prepare and submit draft and final interim remedial action summary reports for Ecology's review and approval.

The cleanup actions on the upland portions of Areas 1 & 2 and the actions listed above should be completed September 1, 2005. Once these actions are complete, Ecology will issue a letter to the City of Olympia stating the uplands portion of the site meets state residential cleanup standards. The City of Olympia will then allow construction to begin on the uplands. Study and clean up of the rest of the site will still need to be completed.

Ecology Wants Your Comments!

Ecology invites you to review and comment on the study and clean up of the uplands portion of the Briggs Nursery site. Public comments will be accepted August 22 through September 21, 2005. Citizens are encouraged to submit comments early in the comment period as Ecology may issue a letter to the City of Olympia on September 1, 2005, if all the required actions described above are complete.

If you received this fact sheet directly from Ecology, you are already on the site mailing list. Please contact Cedar Bouta, public involvement coordinator, at (360) 407-6245 or cebo461@ecy.wa.gov to be added to or removed from the mailing list.

Public Meeting

**Wednesday, August 24
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.**

**Olympia High School
1302 North Street SE
Room 101**

