

Gilbert and Robertson Elementary Schools Yakima, Washington



Interim Remedial Action and SEPA Determination of Non-Significance

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is providing an opportunity for the public to comment on the Interim Remedial Action Plan and the issuance of a Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) for the soil cleanups at two elementary schools in Yakima, Washington. Gilbert Elementary School is located at 4400 Douglas Drive and Robertson Elementary School is located at 2807 West Lincoln Avenue.

Site History

Soil beneath the grass on the playgrounds at the two elementary schools contains lead and arsenic. The lead and arsenic likely comes from the use of these chemicals as orchard pest sprays in the early and mid 20th century.

Sampling

Sampling and analysis indicate that concentrations exceed state cleanup levels for lead and arsenic. Ecology has considered several alternatives for cleanup.

Cleanup Action

The alternative preferred by Ecology at both schools consists primarily of excavating and hauling some soil away for disposal at a permitted landfill, mixing remaining soil to reduce peak lead and arsenic levels, placing clean soil on top of

the existing soil, and establishing new grass in this clean soil. Ecology has determined that this alternative will provide the necessary barrier to prevent human exposure to lead and arsenic. At each school, the plan includes installation of an irrigation system to maintain the turf grass cover.

Determination of Non-Significance

After reviewing the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) environmental checklist, Ecology has determined that the cleanup action will not have a probable adverse impact on the environment and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required. The checklist may be reviewed at the location listed in the information box on the right.

Ecology Welcomes Your Comments!

Please address any written comments or questions you may have on the soil cleanup or the DNS to Bob Swackhamer at the address listed in the information box on the right. The comment period will run from June 28, 2006 through July 28, 2006.

FACT SHEET June 2006

For technical questions,
please contact:

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For other questions or to be
placed on the site mailing list,
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Public Comment Period:

June 28, 2006 through
July 28, 2006

Documents are available for
public review at:

Ecology Central Regional Office
address listed above

Yakima Valley Regional Library
102 N 3rd St., Yakima, WA

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup
Website:
http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/gil_rob_schools/gil_rob_hp.htm

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