

# RAMCO Disposal Site Port of Klickitat Industrial Park



## Plan Proposed to Clean Up Site

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is providing the opportunity for the public to comment on its plans to clean up buried aluminum waste at the Port of Klickitat Industrial Park. The Industrial Park is located approximately two miles east of Dallesport, Washington. The site of the proposed cleanup is about 400 feet southwest of Spearfish Lake and about 1000 feet north of Lake Celilo, the name of the portion of the Columbia River that is backed up behind The Dalles Dam.

The two documents prepared for public comment are listed below:

- Interim Remedial Action Plan
- Determination of Non-Significance (DNS)

### Site History

From approximately 1982 until 1993, the Recycled Aluminum Metals Company (RAMCO) took in material from aluminum smelters. RAMCO then extracted residual aluminum from this material. The extraction process resulted in wastes being generated. One solid waste was called salt cake. A second type of solid waste consisted of captured airborne waste and was called bag house dust.

From approximately 1982 to 1989, these wastes were buried in the unlined disposal site. This is the area Ecology proposes to clean up. In the final years RAMCO extracted aluminum, the wastes produced were shipped off-site, initially to North Wasco County Landfill and then to Roosevelt Regional Landfill.

### Sampling

Ecology conducted groundwater sampling in the area proposed for cleanup. Sampling results show levels of major salt-forming chemical elements (sodium, calcium, potassium) are greater than levels of these elements found in seawater. This indicates salts from the salt cake waste have found their way into nearby groundwater. Ecology is also concerned that metals contamination from the aluminum waste could be a concern, but groundwater monitoring so far has not confirmed that.

The waste material, when disposed, produced ammonia gas when wet. The odor of ammonia was detected during groundwater sampling events.

*Continued on page 2*

## FACT SHEET October 2006

### Public Comment Period:

October 18, 2006 through November 20, 2006

### Documents are available for public review at:

Ecology Central Regional Office  
15 W Yakima Ave., Suite 200  
Yakima, WA 98902

Port of Klickitat  
154 E. Bingen Pt. Way # A  
Bingen, WA 98605

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Website:  
[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/ramco/ramco\\_hp.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/ramco/ramco_hp.htm)

### Technical questions and written comments contact:

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### Other questions or to be placed on the site mailing list:

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## **Proposed Interim Action**

Ecology has considered several options for cleanup. The option preferred by Ecology is excavating the waste and hauling it by truck or rail transportation to a landfill for disposal.

The excavation would be accomplished by front-end loader, hydraulic excavator, bulldozer, or similar mobile equipment. Some of the excavated material may need to be crushed before being transported to the landfill. Depending on the availability of funding, the project could be completed in one year or it may take two or more phases extending over several years.

## **Determination of Non-Significance**

After reviewing a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) environmental checklist, Ecology has made a decision that the cleanup will not have a significant negative impact on the environment.

Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required. The checklist is part of the documents available for public comment. It can be reviewed at the locations listed in the information box on the right side of the front page.

## **Ecology Welcomes Your Comments!**

Please address any written comments or questions you may have on the cleanup or the DNS to Bob Swackhamer at the address listed in the box on the first page. The comment period will run from October 18, 2006, through November 20, 2006.