



Upriver Dam PCBs Sediments Site Engineering Design Report Available for Review and Comment

The WA Department of Ecology invites you to review and comment on the draft Engineering Design Report for the Spokane River Upriver Dam PCBs Sediments site. The site is made up of two projects located between Upriver Dam and the Centennial Trail Footbridge. Deposit 1 is immediately behind the dam in the city of Spokane, and Deposit 2 is near Donkey Island in an unincorporated area. Both projects are in Spokane County, Washington (Fig. 1).

The Engineering Design Report provides necessary engineering construction details to clean up polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in sediments. PCBs are a group of manufactured chemicals historically used as insulating fluids or coolants and lubricants in transformers, capacitors or other electrical equipment. Heavy metals and organic materials co-mingled with PCBs will also be cleaned up.

Avista Development, Inc., will conduct the work with oversight from Ecology. It is anticipated the work will be completed approximately two months after construction begins. Cleanup will comply with all applicable state and federal laws as well as essential permit requirements.

Comments on the Engineering Design Report will be accepted June 30, 2006 through July 31, 2006.

The box on page two provides details about where to review documents and submit comments. The report will be finalized after the public provides comments and modifications are made, if appropriate.

Background

Avista Development, Inc., is leading the cleanup with partial funding coming from Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation as a result of an earlier settlement. Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District and Inland Empire Paper Company are also identified as potentially liable parties, but have chosen not to participate in the cleanup.

PCBs continue to enter the river from other sources, including entities with wastewater discharge permits. The discharge permits are granted under provisions of the federal Clean Water Act. Ecology is working with dischargers to further reduce PCBs contamination by developing water quality cleanup plans, also called total maximum daily loads (TMDLs). The water quality cleanup plan for PCBs is currently out for public review (see Ecology's website http://www.ecy.wa.gov/geographic/spokane/spokane_river_basin.htm.)

People may be exposed to PCBs by eating fish caught in certain locations of the Spokane River. Exposure may also result from swallowing sediments containing PCBs or from skin contact with contaminated sediments. The box on page two provides a web link with details about PCBs, Spokane River fish and sediment advisories.

Why Cleanup Matters

- PCBs build up in the fatty tissues of humans, fish and animals and may cause harmful health effects.
- Capping Deposit 1 and removing contaminated sediments at Deposit 2 will eliminate exposure risks associated with PCBs and other contaminants found in site-related sediments.
- The cleanup will provide a safer environment for children, adults and wildlife who may use these areas.

Staging Areas and Access Routes

Staging areas will be created to store materials and equipment used in the cleanup at Deposits 1 and 2. Staging areas and access routes were chosen based on minimizing impacts to neighborhoods, habitat and the Centennial Trail.

Deposit 1: Capping Sediments Begins Fall 2006

Deposit 1 is located approximately 150 feet directly behind Upriver Dam and covers 3.6 acres moving in

an easterly direction (Fig. 1 and photo on page 1). Cleanup focuses on placing a protective cap on top of sediments containing PCBs. The cap is made of three layers:

- The first layer is coal that will be placed on top of the contaminated sediments to confine the PCBs.
- The second layer is sand that will go on top of the coal to act as a buffer between the bottom and top layers.
- The third layer is a gravel armor that will be placed on top of the sand to protect against erosion.

The construction staging area will be on the south side of the river on the western half of a vacant lot owned by the city of Spokane. The lot is just west of the Gonzaga Crew Facility and north of Felts Field (Fig. 2).

Delivery trucks and construction equipment will enter the site from Trent Avenue to North Waterworks Street, driving around the Police Academy to the staging area. A barge will be placed in the Spokane River, just off the south shore behind the dam. Materials will be loaded onto the barge by conveyor belt, or a similar method, then placed onto the sediments by a derrick, likely using a clamshell bucket.

Long-term sampling, monitoring, institutional controls and a five-year review will be used to determine effectiveness of the cap.

Deposit 2: Removing Sediments Begins Fall 2006

Deposit 2 is a small 0.25-acre area near Donkey Island (see photo below). This cleanup region is found in a wetland area in the backwater channels on the north bank of the river. Cleanup focuses on removing PCBs in sediments in two locations and restoring those areas with clean sand. Precautions will be taken to minimize impacts to the neighborhood, wetlands, and Centennial Trail.



Two staging areas will be used for Deposit 2 (Fig. 3). They will be located on Washington State Department of Parks and Recreation property. One staging area will contain clean sand that will be used as backfill to restore areas that have been cleaned up. The other staging location will temporarily store contaminated sediments removed from Deposit 2. The contaminated sediments will be temporarily placed in a contained and lined enclosure. Water drained from the sediments will be filtered before being returned to the site. The dewatered sediments will be shipped to an approved disposal facility.

Delivery trucks and construction equipment will travel south from North Raymond Road across a field owned by Centennial Properties, Inc., to the staging areas. This route is intended to minimize impacts to neighborhoods, habitat and the Centennial Trail. Flaggers will be on the Centennial Trail as needed during construction to ensure public safety.

Fact Sheet June 2006		<i>Publication No. 06-09-024</i>	
Document Review Locations			
WA Dept. of Ecology Eastern Regional Office 4601 North Monroe Spokane, WA 99205-1295 Mrs. Johnnie Landis 509/329-3415 Ecology's Website: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/spo_riv/sppo_riv.htm Argonne County Library 4322 North Argonne Road Spokane, WA 99205-1295 Ms. Judy Luck 509/926-4334	Spokane Valley Library 12004 East Main Spokane Valley, WA 99216 Mr. Dave Barnett 509/926-6283 Spokane Public Library 906 West Main Spokane, WA 99202 Ms. Dana Darylmphe 509/444-5300		
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PCBs details: http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts17.html Spokane River Sediments and Fish Meal Advisories: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/spo_riv/Spokane_River_hp.htm			
<i>If you need this publication in an alternate format, please call Carol Bergin at 509/329-3546. Persons with hearing loss call 711. Persons with a speech disability call 877-833-6341.</i>			
<i>Para asistencia en Espanol: Gretchen Newman 360/407-6097</i> <i>Если вам нужно ПОМОЩЬ по русский, звоните: Tatyana Bistrevsky 509/477-3881</i>			



Fig. 1 Site Overview

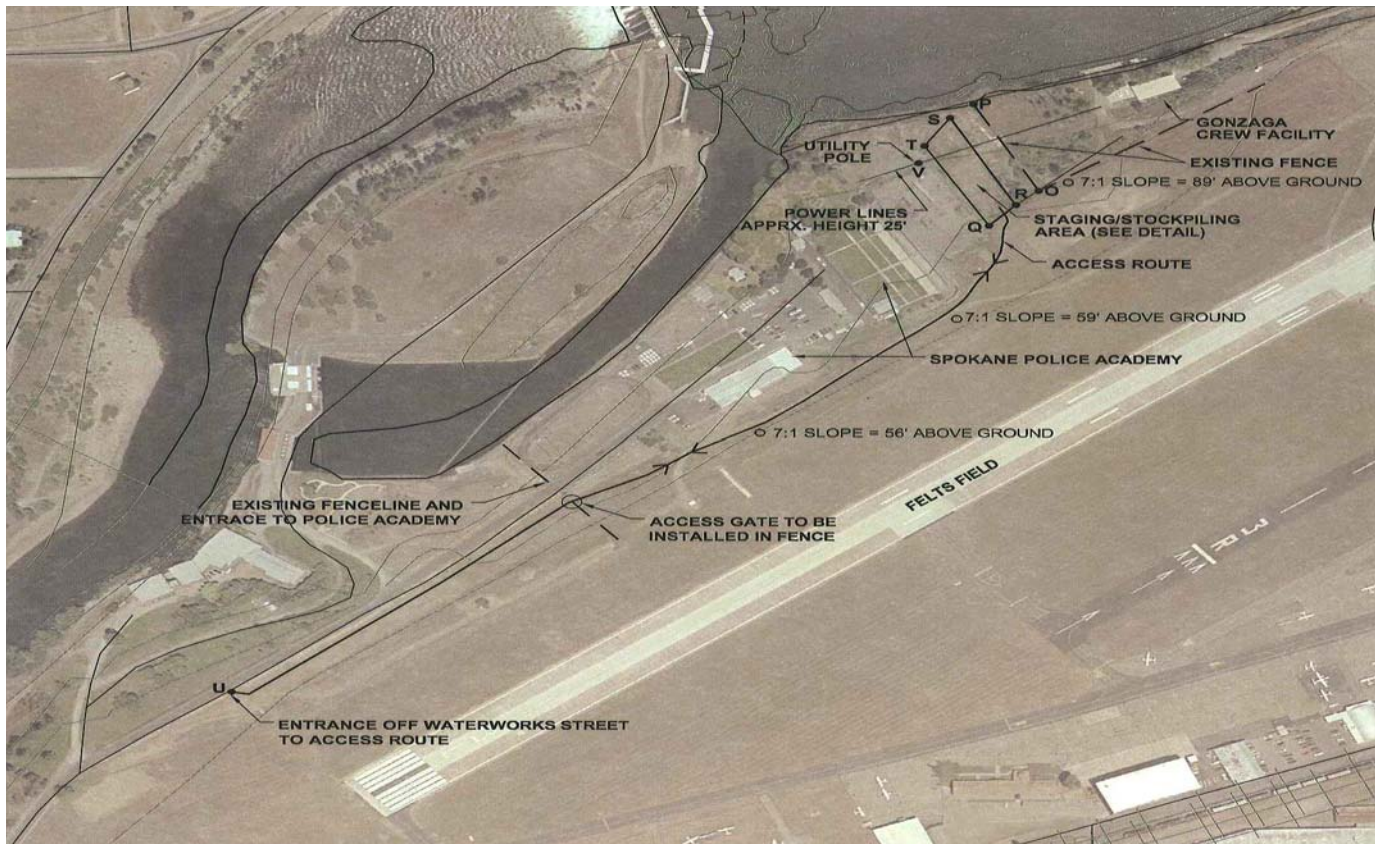


Fig. 2 Staging and Access Routes for Deposit 1



Fig. 3 Staging and Access Routes for Deposit 2