



Boise White Paper L.L.C. Vancouver Converting Mill Cleanup

Proposed Agreed Order

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) proposes to issue an Agreed Order to Boise White Paper, LLC (Boise). The Order lists tasks Boise must perform to explore and define the extent of oil contamination on its property (site) in Vancouver, Washington. Ecology invites you to read and comment on the proposed Agreed Order by the close of business April 17, 2006. The box at the right shows where we sent copies of the Agreed Order, as well as where to send comments.

The Order requires Boise to determine whether on-site activities or off-site sources caused the contamination.

- Boise must submit a plan to Ecology that plots the points where Boise will collect a series of soil and water samples from the site's northeast boundary to test for oil contamination.
- Based on the sampling test results, Boise will map the breadth and depth of contamination at the site and will place water monitoring wells at the boundary.

Boise must complete the work defined by the Agreed Order within two months of the date the Order takes effect.

Import of the Order

The Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA, Chapter 70.105D RCW), governs all aspects of site pollution investigation and cleanup. Under MTCA, the owner is presumed to be responsible for the contamination

of the site, and must pay the costs of removing or containing the pollution to minimize risks of human exposure and to prevent further environmental damage.

After Boise fulfills its duty under the Agreed Order, and pays the costs of cleanup defined by Ecology's CAP, Boise will be excused from an obligation to deal with suspected oil contamination discovered at the site later.

If the work Boise performs under the Order shows that the contamination came from on-site operations, Boise or previous site owners will have to pay investigation and cleanup costs. If the contamination at the northwest boundary came from a source off-site, the owners of that source must pay the costs to conduct cleanup activities defined by our state's Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA, Chapter 70.105D RCW) using procedures published in the Washington Administrative Code.

Site Use Background

The site was developed for industrial use (as a saw mill and lumber finishing plant) by at least 1911. By 1928, it became the Columbia River Paper Company, making pulp and paper products. The Boise Cascade Corporation assumed ownership of the facility in the 1960's.

Boise Cascade ceased making pulp at the site in 1970. And in 1996 it also stopped making paper from

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March 2006

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

March 17, 2006 through April 17, 2006

PUBLIC MEETING

April 4, 2006 - 7:00 o'clock

Foster Auditorium
Hanna Hall, Clark College
Off I-5 via Exit 1C
Vancouver, WA

SEND WRITTEN COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT AGREED ORDER TO:

Paul Skillingstad
Department of Ecology
PO Box 47706
Olympia, WA 98504-7706
(360) 407-6949

E-mail: psky461@ecy.wa.gov

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES


Read the proposed Agreed Order at the following locations:

Industrial Section
Department of Ecology
300 Desmond Drive
Lacey, WA
(360) 407-6949

Vancouver Field Office
Department of Ecology
2108 Grand Boulevard
Vancouver, WA
(360) 696-8085

Fort Vancouver Main Library
1007 East Mill Plain
Vancouver, WA
(360) 695-1566

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purchased pulp. From 1996 to 2006, its operations included: paper converting (cutting and coating paper for a specific end-user); limited printing services; and rolled paper packaging, storage, and distribution. The mill performs no other operations at the site.

In October 2004, Boise Cascade Corporation sold the Vancouver facility to Boise White Paper, LLC.

Recent Investigation and Cleanup

A Phase I – Environmental Assessment completed in July 2004 identified seven areas for potential study at the site. Using the Phase I study as guidance, a Phase II – Site Investigation completed in May 2005, identified fifteen areas of interest (AOI) for more detailed investigation. After soil and water sampling, eleven of the fifteen AOI were deemed safe by MTCA Method A or Method B cleanup standards. Four AOIs needed further investigation:

- AOI 1 - Chemical Warehouse Fire Area - lead was detected in a soil boring,
- AOI 4 - Parts Washing and Former Fuel Tank - heavy range hydrocarbons in soil and groundwater, and diesel in groundwater in soil borings,
- AOI 5 - Paper Storage Area - diesel and heavy oil range hydrocarbons in soil borings, and
- AOI 15 - Upgradient Sources - diesel and heavy oil hydrocarbons at ground water level (25' below the surface) in one soil boring (SB 127). No contamination was found near the surface.

Work Performed at Four Areas of Interest

Boise Cascade took actions to address those areas during the summer and fall of 2005:

At AOI 1 soil sampling indicated raised lead levels (residue from a fire). Further sampling isolated the high lead area; the lead contaminated soils were removed as prescribed by MTCA Method B.

At AOI 4 additional soil sampling showed hydrocarbons concentrations. Further investigation discovered a former under-ground storage tank had leaked high concentrations of heavy oil. Contamination ranged from below detection limits to greater than 6% hydrocarbons. Three storage structures were discovered during the cleanup excavation – two large underground heating oil tanks and a concrete vault. Each structure contained an oil/water mixture; the structures were removed and

taken to a specially permitted waste facility for disposal. Excavation also uncovered an underground oil transfer pipeline and impacted soils. The pipe and contaminated soil were removed to a special facility.

After the excavations, the holes were backfilled with clean soil. Then Boise conducted sampling and confirmed that the AOI 1 and AOI 4 soils meet cleanup standards.

At AOI 5 additional soil borings collected from the same depth as the contaminated soil samples showed lesser hydrocarbon concentrations (below the cleanup standard). No further work was needed.

At AOI 15, for the northwestern property boundary, further sampling was proposed.

What Happens Next

Ecology will weigh the merits of all comments received on or before April 17. If persuaded by those comments, Ecology will modify the proposed Agreed Order and issue the final version. Ecology expects Boise to complete the work required by the Agreed Order within two months of the Order's effective date.

When Ecology proposes a Cleanup Action Plan (CAP) for the site, we will again request public review and formal comment on that plan.

Ecology Wants Your Comments

Please visit one of the three places (repositories) listed on the lower half of the text box on page 1. There you will find the proposed Agreed Order, a Fact Sheet, and tips for preparing your formal comments. We must receive your comments by the close of business on Monday, April 17, 2006.

If you want to see the files that contain detailed background (the reasons behind) this proposed Order, call project manager Paul Skillingstad at Ecology's Lacey building (360) 407-6949. You may also attend the public meeting scheduled on Tuesday evening, April 4, at Foster Auditorium on the Clark College campus in Vancouver, Washington. Attend to learn about cleanup that has already occurred and about what work is still needed. You may also voice any concerns about the proposed Order.

Ecology will send updates of Boise site activities to anyone who submits comments or who asks to be placed on the site mailing list.