

Washington State University Wenatchee Tree Fruit Research & Extension Center Chelan County



Removal of WSU Wenatchee Tree Fruit Research & Extension Center from the Hazardous Sites List

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) is proposing to remove the WSU Wenatchee Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center (WTFREC) Test Plot Site, located at 1100 North Western Avenue, in Wenatchee, from its Hazardous Sites List. The site is currently ranked a "3" on the list. Sites can be ranked from "1" to "5." A rank of "1" is the highest level of environmental concern compared to other sites on the list, and a rank of "5" is the lowest.

Site Background

The Test Plot Area of the WTRFEC (or site) was used as an agricultural research and testing facility. The site was first used by the U.S. Public Health Service and later by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Both agencies used the site to test the effectiveness of pesticide disposal methods. Testing reportedly began in 1966 and continued until the early 1980s. The disposal experiments focused on organochlorine, organophosphate, and other pesticides. In the mid-1980s the property was transferred to Washington State University.

Independent Cleanup

In 1997, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), along with WSU,

EPA, and Ecology, investigated the contamination present at the site.

Cleanup of the WTFREC Test Plot Area was conducted. The USACE first focused efforts on removal of the bags of pesticides. Then a larger removal of pesticide contaminated soil was conducted with the assistance of an on-site laboratory. Pesticides and pesticide-contaminated soil were disposed of properly. The site is now in a usable condition. A total of 45.74 tons of material was excavated during the first removal and 330 tons during the subsequent larger removal. The excavation area measured approximately 33 feet by 85 feet and ranged from 1 to 5 feet in depth.

Request for Public Comments

A copy of the Final Report and all supporting documentation is available for public review. Based upon our review of the Final Report, Ecology has determined the site is no longer a threat to human health and the environment and has recommended removing the site from the Hazardous Sites List. A public comment period will run from January 26, 2007 through February 26, 2007. Ecology welcomes your comments.

January 2007

Ecology is Accepting Comments

January 26, 2007 through
February 26, 2007

Review Documents at
WA Department of Ecology
Central Regional Office
15 W Yakima Avenue, Suite 200
Yakima, WA 98902
Roger Johnson, Public Disclosure
(509) 454-7658

WSU WTFREC
1100 North Western Avenue
Wenatchee WA 98801

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Web Site
http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/ws_u_wen_hp/ws_u_wen_hp.htm

Submit Comments or Technical Questions to

Tom Mackie
WA Department of Ecology
Toxics Cleanup Program
15 W Yakima Avenue, Suite 200
Yakima WA 98902
(509) 454-7834
tmac461@ecy.wa.gov

Direct All Other Questions to Frosti Smith

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