

CHS Auburn Site



Public Comment sought on: Drafts of Agreed Order, Public Participation Plan, and Work Plan

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) invites public comment on three documents: Proposed Agreed Order, draft Public Participation Plan, and draft Work Plan for the CHS Auburn site located at 238 8th Street SE Auburn, Washington.

You are welcome and encouraged to review and comment on these documents between **May 10 and June 8, 2007**.

Agreed Order to Investigate and Cleanup Petroleum Contamination

Ecology and CHS, Inc. (CHS) have completed negotiations and are now proposing to enter into a legal agreement called an Agreed Order that will require CHS to conduct an extensive environmental investigation at the CHS Auburn site.

Contamination, primarily petroleum related products, was confirmed in soil and groundwater at the site in 1994. Emergency actions were taken to clean up the site; but in order to fully characterize the contamination, this additional study is required.

The investigation called a Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study (RI/FS) will determine the extent of remaining contamination and evaluate possible methods to cleanup the site.

The Agreed Order also contains a work plan which details the tasks to be conducted during this phase of the cleanup.

Under the Agreed Order, CHS will complete the following tasks:

- Conduct a Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study that includes a Health and Safety Plan and a Sampling Analysis Plan.
- Continue to operate and maintain existing air sparging (AS) systems that were installed during the 1994 emergency cleanup actions. The air sparging systems contain and remove petroleum from groundwater in the vicinity of the site.
- Enter data into Ecology's Environmental Information System.

If adequate data is collected during the investigation, cleanup actions can then be selected and designed. However, if significant data gaps are identified, more work may be needed in order to select a final cleanup action plan.

Public Participation Plan

Ecology has prepared a Public Participation Plan for this site. The plan is designed to promote meaningful community involvement during the investigation, and cleanup at the site.

The plan outlines and describes the tools that Ecology will use to inform the public about site activities, and it identifies opportunities for the community to become involved in this process.

May 2007

**Public Comment Period:
May 10 – June 8, 2007**

**Documents can be reviewed
at the following locations:**

Auburn Public Library
1102 Auburn Way South,
Auburn, WA 98002

WA Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office
3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98008
(425) 649-7190
(Call for an appointment)

Ecology's Web Site:
http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/sites_information.html

**Technical questions and
written comments:**

Brian Sato, Site Manager
WA Department of Ecology
3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98008
(425) 649-7265
Email: bsat461@ecy.wa.gov

For more information contact:

Justine Asohmbom
Public Involvement Coordinator
(425) 649-7135
Email: juas461@ecy.wa.gov

Facility Site ID #: 2487

Ecology would like your input

Ecology is holding a public comment period from **May 10** through **June 8, 2007**. You have an opportunity to review and provide comments on the proposed documents for the CHS Auburn site. These documents are available for review at the information repositories listed on the first page of this fact sheet.

Please send your comments before **June 8, 2007**, to Ecology's Site Manager, Brian Sato, at the address in the box on the first page of this fact sheet. Comments may be sent by mail or e-mail and should include "CHS Auburn Site" in the subject line.

A public meeting is not planned for this comment period. However, Ecology will hold a public meeting if 10 or more people submit a request to Ecology by the end of the comment period

What Happens Next?

Once the public comment period ends, Ecology will review all comments received and will make recommendations for any suggested changes. If no significant changes are made, the Agreed Order will be considered final and work will continue to the next phase.

If significant changes are made to the proposed Agreed Order, an additional public comment period will be held. You will have future opportunities to review and comment on draft cleanup options, and any cleanup plans for the site.

Site Background

From approximately 1920 to 1985, the Valley Supply Co-op operated a gasoline distribution business at this site. Cenex (CHS's predecessor) purchased the facility from Valley Supply in 1985. At the time of purchase, Cenex did not investigate the site for contamination. Cenex and later CHS continued business operations at the site, including bulk and retail sales and operation of above- and under-ground bulk and retail petroleum storage tanks.

In May 1994, a small crack in a gasoline pipe was discovered adjacent to the aboveground tanks at the CHS facility. The pipe was repaired and tests were conducted that indicated that a gasoline release occurred (with traces of diesel) and that soil and groundwater were contaminated. Contamination was also found in soil and groundwater on City of Auburn property and on several

other properties in the immediate area, extending from the CHS property approximately 0.5 miles to the northeast.

The amount and duration of the gasoline release at the Cenex property are not known. Cenex's low estimate was 400 gallons, based on inventory control analysis. Ecology's high estimate at the time was over 12,000 gallons, based on the amount of gasoline floating on the groundwater and on mathematical models that assume certain soil conditions that may not apply at the site.

CHS believes that -- based on historic gasoline supply industry practices -- some contamination likely was present when the company purchased the property. Other potential sources of contamination are also known to have existed in the vicinity of the site in the past.

Previous Cleanup Work

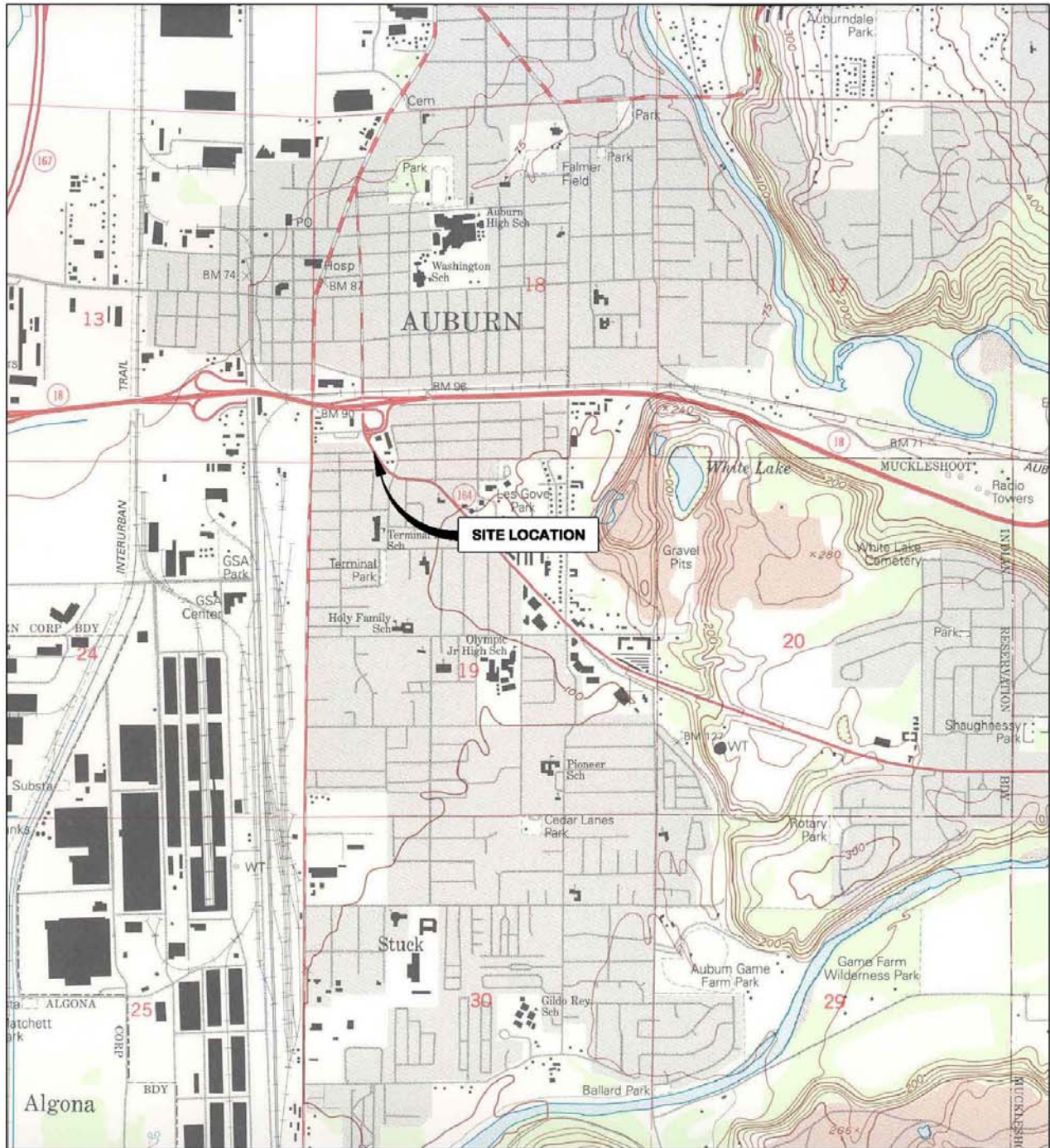
Ecology and Cenex entered into an Emergency Agreed Order on November 7, 1994. In December 1994, Cenex installed a recovery well to remove the gasoline on the groundwater. Approximately 13,500 product -- equivalent gallons of petroleum hydrocarbons have been recovered through a pump-and-treat system and two air sparging and soil and vapor extraction (AS/SVE) systems. No free petroleum has been observed at the site for nearly 5 years. Residual, unsaturated petroleum contamination of soil continues to contaminate groundwater.

In 1997 and 1998, Cenex excavated much of the property in association with building renovation activities. As this work progressed, several leaking underground storage tanks and an abandoned oil-water separator were discovered and removed along with over 8,000 cubic yards of contaminated soils.

Groundwater pump-and-treat and free product recovery ended in 1997. The soil vapor extraction systems operations were phased out in 1999 and the air sparging systems continue to operate. Since 2000-2001, the dissolved phase gasoline plume has greatly diminished and concentrations have continuously decreased.

Need More Information?

For information about other Ecology public comment periods, meetings, hearings, workshops, and open houses, please visit Ecology's public events calendar at: <http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/pubcalendar/calendar.asp>. Read Frequently Asked Questions about Effective Public Commenting at this link to learn more about the public comment process.



REFERENCE: 7.5 MINUTE USGS QUADRANGLE AUBURN, WASHINGTON. DATED 1949 AND PHOTOREVISED 1994



WASHINGTON



FARALLON CONSULTING

320 3rd Ave. NE
Issaquah, WA 98027

FIGURE 1

SITE VICINITY MAP
CHS AUBURN
238 8th STREET SE
AUBURN, WASHINGTON

FARALLON PN: 301-004

Drawn By: DEW

Checked By: ARM

Date: 8/25/06

Disk Reference: 3001004



3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452

CHS Auburn Site

Ecology Seeks Public Comment
on Proposed Agreed Order, Work Plan
and draft Public Participation Plan

Public Comment Period
May 10 – June 8, 2007