

Interim Remedial Action and SEPA Determination of Non-Significance

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is proposing Interim Remedial Actions at two schools in Wenatchee, Washington. Sunnyslope Elementary School is located at 3109 School Street and Orchard Middle School is located at 1024 Orchard Avenue.

Site Background

Soil beneath the grass on the playgrounds at the two schools is contaminated with lead and arsenic. The contamination likely comes from the use of these chemicals as orchard pest sprays in the early and mid 20th century.

Sampling and analysis indicate that contamination exceeds state cleanup levels for lead and arsenic. Ecology has considered several alternatives for cleanup.

The alternative preferred by Ecology at both schools consists primarily of placing clean soil on top of the existing soil and establishing new grass on this clean soil. Ecology has determined that this alternative will provide the necessary barrier to prevent human exposure to the contaminants. At each school, the plan includes modification of the existing irrigation system to maintain the turf grass cover.

After reviewing the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) environmental checklist, Ecology has determined that the cleanup action will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

Public Comment Invited

Ecology is asking for your comments on the proposed cleanups at these two schools.

You are invited to:

- **Review** the Interim Action Plan; SEPA Checklist; and SEPA Determination of Non-Significance.
- **Send** your comments to Ecology for consideration. Comments will be accepted *April 30, 2008 through May 30, 2008*.

See the box at the right for details.

Comments Accepted

April 30, 2008 – May 30, 2008

Submit Comments and
Technical Questions to:

Jeff Newschwander - Site Manager
WA Department of Ecology
Central Regional Office
15 W Yakima Avenue, Ste 200
Yakima WA 98902-3452
Phone: (509) 454-7842
E-mail: jene461@ecy.wa.gov

DOCUMENT REVIEW LOCATIONS

Sunnyslope Elementary School
3109 School Street
Wenatchee WA 98801

Orchard Middle School
1024 Orchard Avenue
Wenatchee WA 98801

WA Department of Ecology
Central Regional Office
15 W Yakima Avenue, Ste 200
Yakima WA 98902

By appointment only:
Contact Roger Johnson
rjoh461@ecy.wa.gov or
(509) 454-7658

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Website
http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/sunnyslope/sunnyslope_hp.htm

Sunnyslope Facility/Site ID #: 5951907
Orchard Facility/Site ID #: 771247

Why This Cleanup Matters

In 2001, the Washington State Legislature requested that Ecology prepare a statewide strategy to address lead and arsenic soil contamination. The project's main focus was on areas with lead and arsenic contamination that have been developed into residential neighborhoods, schools, daycares, and parks. Long-term exposure to elevated levels of arsenic may cause cancer, whereas long-term exposure to lead may affect and impair the human nervous system and proper brain function. The impacts from lead, in particular, are more pronounced in young children. Due to the increased risk to children, these cleanup actions focus on public schools, with the highest priority placed on elementary schools. Once completed, these actions will drastically reduce the exposure of children to soils containing potentially harmful levels of lead and arsenic.

What Happens Next?

Once the public comment period ends, Ecology will review and consider all comments that have been received. The Interim Action Plan and SEPA documents may be modified based upon your comments.

As future documents on the site are developed, you will be notified of additional public comment periods.

If you need this publication in an alternate format, please call Frosti Smith, 509/454-7841.

Persons with hearing loss call 711. Persons with a speech disability call 877/833-6341.

What can you do?

1. Read about the cleanup in this handout.
2. To get more detailed information, review the supporting documents at the locations listed on the front page.
3. Write down your comments and questions. Send them to the Department of Ecology at the address shown on the front page.

We appreciate your comments and concerns. *Thank you.*

