

Cleanup Complete; Restrictive Environmental Covenant Filed

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is providing an update on the cleanup performed at the North Omak Elementary School (Site) located at 615 Oak Street in Omak.

Site Background

As a former old orchard, the Site was subjected to historical pesticide applications. Lead arsenate was widely used to control the codling moth prior to 1950. Unfortunately, this resulted in lead and arsenic contamination at many former orchards throughout central Washington.

In 2005, Ecology staff tested the soil at the Site and found lead and arsenic contamination exceeding state cleanup levels. During the summer of 2006, Ecology staff managed a cleanup at the Site designed to reduce or eliminate the lead and arsenic contamination.

It involved three major steps: 1) excavation of contaminated soil for disposal at a permitted landfill, 2) placement of geotextile fabric, and 3) import of clean topsoil. New seed or sod was placed down to establish grass.

Ecology staff verified through confirmational sampling that the contamination had been either removed or covered with a layer of clean topsoil.

Following cleanup, an environmental covenant was recorded for the property with the Okanogan County Auditor. The purpose of the environmental covenant is to provide a permanent legal record of the contamination that remains on the property, and to prevent activities at the site that might disturb or damage the soil cap.

Now Ecology proposes removing the Site from Confirmed and Suspected Contaminated Sites List. It no longer poses a threat to human health and the environment.

Comments Accepted

May 7, 2008 – June 6, 2008

Submit Comments and Technical Questions to:

Jeff Newschwander - Site Manager
WA Department of Ecology
Toxics Cleanup Program
15 W Yakima Avenue, Ste 200
Yakima, WA 98502-3452
Phone: (509) 454-7842
E-mail: jene461@ecy.wa.gov

DOCUMENT REVIEW LOCATIONS

Omak School District
Administration Building
619 W Bartlett
Omak, WA 98841

**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/nOmakElem/nOmakElem_hp.htm

Facility Site ID #: 5833572

Public Comment Invited

Ecology is asking for your comments on the completed cleanup and removal of this site from the Confirmed and Suspected Contaminated Sites List.

The North Omak Elementary School site is located at 615 Oak Street, Omak.

You are invited to:

- **Review** the Interim Action Report and Restrictive Environmental Covenant.
- **Send** your comments to Ecology for consideration. Comments will be accepted *May 7, 2008 through June 6, 2008.*

See the box on the front for details.

For information about other opportunities for public involvement such as meetings, hearings, open houses and workshops, please visit Ecology's Public Involvement Calendar at <http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/pubcalendar/calendar.asp>.

While you are at the calendar page, you may click on the link for Frequently Asked Questions about Effective Public Commenting and learn more about the public comment process.

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 back page.
3. Write down your comments and questions. Send them to the Department of Ecology at the address shown on the back page.

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

If you need this publication in an alternative format, call Frosti Smith, 509/454-7841. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with speech disability call 877-833-6341.