

## Proposed Removal from the Hazardous Sites List Available for Public Review and Comment

Ecology is proposing to remove the Hicks Road Pit Site, located at Hicks Road and Johnson Road near Prosser, Washington, from its Hazardous Sites List. The Hazardous Sites List is a list of contaminated properties statewide. The sites are ranked according to their level of environmental concern. The site is currently ranked a "2" on the list. 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 site covers approximately 20 acres. It was used as a source of gravel in the 1940s and 1950s. Illegal dumping at the site reportedly occurred in the 1950s and 1960s, and may have occurred as recently as 1983. Allegedly dumped were pesticide containers, paint, and pesticides containing lead and arsenic, as well as the remaining inventory of a hardware store.

Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District (SVID) is the current landowner. Benton County is a past landowner.

### What Has Been Done?

Under an Agreed Order, which is an agreement between Ecology and parties responsible for cleanup, SVID and Benton County conducted a Remedial Investigation (RI). The RI was partially funded by Ecology. The RI included the digging of test pits and the installation and sampling of groundwater monitoring wells at the site.

Material encountered in the test pits included scrap metal, brick, metal pipe, concrete rubble, steel rebar, parts of household appliances and cars, glass bottles such as beer bottles, wood debris, wire, and plastics. The following, which might have indicated the presence of hazardous materials, were **not** found: powders, oily materials, sheens, strange or strong odors, container labels, or containers such as drums, buckets, or cans.

Some samples showed levels of arsenic in groundwater slightly above Ecology's cleanup level. Ecology believes these levels of arsenic are representative of concentrations found in groundwater in this part of Washington and are not related to contamination from the Hicks Road

**Comments Accepted**  
September 10, 2008 through  
October 10, 2008

### Submit Comments and Technical Questions to:

Don Abbott  
WA Department of Ecology  
Toxics Cleanup Program  
15 W Yakima Avenue, Ste 200  
Yakima, WA 98902  
Phone: (509) 454-7838  
E-mail: [dabb461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:dabb461@ecy.wa.gov)

### DOCUMENT REVIEW LOCATIONS

**Bleyhl Community Library**  
311 Division  
Grandview WA 98930  
Phone: (509) 882-

**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](mailto:rjoh461@ecy.wa.gov) or  
(509) 454-7658

**Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Website**  
[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/hicksRd/hicksRd\\_hp.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/hicksRd/hicksRd_hp.html)

Facility/Site ID #: 316

## Hicks Road Pit

site. Arsenic is a naturally occurring element that has been used in the production of pesticides.

Although dieldrin was found in two groundwater samples, the levels were below Ecology's cleanup levels. Dieldrin historically was used as an insecticide and also comes from the breakdown of another insecticide, aldrin. In 1974, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) banned all uses of aldrin and dieldrin other than to control termites. In 1987, EPA banned all uses. Although it is not a naturally occurring chemical, dieldrin now is widespread in the environment at low levels.

Ecology has concluded the site currently is not the cause of a threat to human health and the environment and has recommended removing the site from the Hazardous Sites List.

However, Ecology does not believe groundwater at this site is safe to drink. This is the reason for Ecology approval prior to installation of a drinking water well. That approval would require a variance from the state rule prohibiting wells within 1000 feet of a solid waste landfill. For a variance to be approved documentation must be submitted demonstrating that construction and operation of the well will not further degrade the environment and will not cause a public health risk.

### Environmental Covenant

In response to the arsenic-contaminated groundwater found, the SVID will place an environmental covenant on the property. An environmental covenant restricts future land use and is recorded with the deed of the property. It runs with the land and is binding on succeeding owners, although a process exists for removing an environmental covenant if Ecology agrees. The environmental covenant would require Ecology approval prior to installing a well on the property. It would also prohibit surface soil excavations greater than one foot deep in certain areas of the property without prior approval by Ecology.

These measures are proposed to prevent the release of contamination.

### Public Comment Invited

Ecology is asking for your comments on the proposed removal of the site from the Hazardous Sites List.

You are invited to:

- **Review** the Remedial Investigation Report and Environmental Covenant.
- **Send** your comments to Ecology for consideration. Comments will be accepted September 10, 2008 through October 10, 2008.

See the box on the front page for details.

### What Happens Next?

Once the public comment period ends, Ecology will review and consider all comments that have been received. The Site will be removed from the Hazardous Sites List. A periodic review will be conducted approximately every five years to ensure that the Environmental Covenant remains in place.

#### Help with other languages and formats?

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