DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Progress Elementary School

Toxics Cleanup Program **January 2009**

Playground Restored, Ecology Proposes Removal from Hazardous Sites List

The Washington State Department of Ecology conducted cleanup actions at the Progress Elementary School to eliminate potential exposure to lead and arsenic on the playground. As a result of work conducted, Ecology plans to remove the school from the Hazardous Site List. The school is located at 710 North Progress Road, Spokane Valley, Washington (see Fig.1).

You are invited to review the associated site documents and comment on the proposed delisting. ***Comments will be accepted January 7, 2009 through February 6, 2009.*** The shaded box at the right has details about where to review documents and submit comments.

Hazardous Sites List
The Hazardous Sites List is a record of contaminated sites throughout the state that are ranked on a scale of one to five. One represents the greatest potential threat to human health and the environment; five represents the least potential threat. The Progress Elementary School site ranked a three because of the contamination in soil in the playground area.

A site may be removed from the Hazardous Sites List after cleanup work is completed and it meets Ecology's criteria. Ecology proposes to remove this site based upon the following information:

- Review of the cleanup reports.
- Supporting documentation.
- State standards for cleanup of lead and arsenic in soil have been sufficiently achieved at the site.

Site Background

Ecology sampled soil from former orchard lands throughout the state as part of Ecology's Area-Wide Soil Contamination Project. Pesticides containing a mixture of lead and arsenic were used on orchard lands from 1905 until the late 1940s. The focus of the project was to identify and clean up lead and arsenic on the orchard lands that were developed into properties with high child use. Lead and arsenic at certain concentrations are harmful to human health, especially to children.

Comments Accepted

January 7, through February 6, 2009

Para asistencia en Español
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Если вам нужно помощь по русский, звоните Tatyana Bistrevsky 509/477-3881

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Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Website

If you need this publication in an alternative format, call Carol Bergin at 509/329-3546. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with speech disability call 877/833-6341.

Facility Site ID No. 1740049

Soil tested at the Progress Elementary School playground showed elevated levels of lead and arsenic in various locations. The amount of contamination in soil was above safe levels allowed by the state.

Selected Cleanup Actions

Ecology evaluated several cleanup alternatives and selected the option of covering contamination with a cap of safe materials designed to reduce potential exposure. The following tasks were part of the cleanup:

- Placed a special man-made geo-textile cover over existing soil or grass to act as a barrier and marker between dirty and clean soils.
- Placed clean topsoil over the entire site at a thickness of 6 inches.
- Placed a topsoil nutrient amendment to areas receiving hydroseed or sod.
- Replaced ground covering with similar materials; for example, grass removed was replaced with new grass.
- Removed and replaced gravel and concrete curbing in play areas.
- Adjusted the existing sprinkler system as necessary.
- A restrictive covenant, now called an environmental covenant, was established on the property to prevent damage to the protective barrier and limit land uses. The restrictive covenant shows the type and location of contamination on the property. It also protects public health ensuring that the cleanup actions will not be damaged by future activities.

Why Cleanup Matters

The cleanup provides three important results:

- The protective cap placed on the playground protects children from coming into contact with contamination and provides greater long term protection. It also requires less maintenance to remain protective.
- The playground is improved in its overall condition.
- State cleanup standards for lead and arsenic have been met and human health and the environment are protected.

What Happens Next?

Ecology will review and consider all comments **received by February 6, 2009.** Ecology may revise its decision to delist the site based on public comment if appropriate. If no significant issues are raised, the site will be removed from the Hazardous Sites List in February 2009.

Figure 1 Site Location