

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

Ecology is proposing to remove the Prosser Gold Mine Facility (Site) from the Hazardous Sites List. The Hazardous Sites List is a statewide list of contaminated properties. The Site is currently ranked a "4" on the List. Sites can be ranked from "1" to "5". 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.

Public Comment Invited

Ecology is asking for your written comments on the proposed removal of the Site from the Hazardous Sites List. The Prosser Gold Mine Site is located in Prosser. You are invited to:

- **Review** the Final Cleanup report and No Further Action letter.
- **Send** your written comments to the Ecology Site Manager for consideration. Comments will be accepted from *March 19, 2010, through April 19, 2010.*

See the box at the right for details about where to review documents and submit comments.

Site Background

The Site is located about 1/2 mile southeast of Prosser off Highway 221. There is currently one building on-site and it was thought to have been built in the early 1980s. The Site formerly conducted gold ore processing with a mercury amalgam. Some of the mercury compound came to be located close to and outside the building. Soil sampling was conducted during the mid 1990s by Ecology and the Benton-Franklin Health Department. Mercury was found at very high concentrations, well above the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) cleanup levels.

Cleanup Action

The potentially liable party hired a private consultant to investigate and cleanup the property. In October 2009, site soils were extensively sampled by the consultant for mercury. Based on these soil analyses, an excavation plan was developed and implemented. Confirmation

Comments Accepted

March 19, 2010 through
April 19, 2010

Submit Comments and Technical Questions to:

Dick Bassett - Site Manager
WA Department of Ecology
Toxics Cleanup Program
15 W Yakima Avenue, Ste 200
Yakima, WA 98902-3452
Phone: (509) 454-7839
E-mail: rbas461@ecy.wa.gov

DOCUMENT REVIEW LOCATIONS

Prosser City Library

902 7th Street
Prosser WA 99350
Phone: (509) 786-2533
Hours: Monday-Wednesday 11-11
Thursday-Saturday 11-5
Saturday 9-1
Sunday closed

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/prosserGoldMine/prosserGoldMine_hp.html

Facility Site ID #: 93936478

samples taken after the excavation showed the mercury in the soils was successfully removed. The contaminated soils were hauled to the Rabanco Regional Disposal Landfill at Roosevelt, Washington. Groundwater is extremely deep at the Site and was never a factor.

Why Issue a Decision of No Further Action?

Based on the completed cleanup and the recent confirmation sampling results, Ecology has determined the Site no longer poses a threat to human health or the environment. Therefore, Ecology has issued a determination of No Further Action and proposes to remove the Site from the Hazardous Sites List.

What Happens Next?

After the public comment period ends, Ecology will review comments received during the comment period. If no changes are necessary, the Site will be removed from the Hazardous Sites List.

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 in this document.
3. Write down your comments and questions. Send them to the Department of Ecology at the address provided in this document.

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

Help with other languages and formats?

Para asistencia en Espanol: 509-575-2490

To ask about the availability of this document in a version for the visually impaired call the Toxics Cleanup Program at 509-454-7841. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.