

## **Interim Remedial Action Plan and SEPA Determination of Non-Significance Available for Review and Comment**

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is providing an opportunity for the public to comment on the Interim Remedial Action Plan and the issuance of a Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) for the soil cleanup at the Garfield Elementary School located at 612 N 6th Avenue in Yakima, Washington.

### **Public Comment Invited**

Ecology is asking for your comments on the Interim Remedial Action Plan and SEPA documents. You are invited to:

- Review the site documents.
- Send your comments to Ecology for consideration. Comments will be accepted *May 7, 2010 through June 7, 2010*.

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

### **Site History**

Soil beneath the grass of the playground at the elementary school contains lead and arsenic. The lead and arsenic likely comes from the use of these chemicals as orchard pest sprays in the early and mid 20th century.

### **Sampling**

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

### **Cleanup Action**

The alternative preferred by Ecology consists primarily of placing clean soil on top of the existing soil and establishing new grass in this clean soil. Some contaminated soil may be excavated and hauled away for disposal at a permitted landfill. Ecology has determined that this alternative will provide the necessary barrier to prevent human exposure to lead and arsenic. The plan includes modification of the existing irrigation system to maintain the turf grass cover.

### **Comments Accepted**

May 7, 2010 through June 7, 2010

#### **Submit Comments and Technical Questions to:**

Mark Dunbar - Site Manager  
WA Department of Ecology  
Toxics Cleanup Program  
15 W Yakima Avenue, Ste 200  
Yakima, WA 98902-3452  
Phone: (509) 454-7836  
E-mail: mdun461@ecy.wa.gov

#### **DOCUMENT REVIEW LOCATIONS**

##### **Yakima School District**

104 N 4th Avenue  
Yakima WA 98902

##### **Yakima Valley Regional Library**

102 N 3rd Street  
Yakima WA 98901  
Phone: (509) 452-8541  
Hours:

Monday-Wednesday 9-9

Thursday-Friday 9-6

Saturday 10-6

Sunday 12-4

##### **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/garfieldES/garfieldES\\_hp.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/garfieldES/garfieldES_hp.html)

**Facility/Site ID #: 1308202**

## Determination of Non-Significance

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.

## 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 Remedial 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.

### 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.