

## Cleanup Plan Available for Public Comment

Department of Ecology is planning to clean up the Most Western Laundry site at 16th and B streets in Hoquiam. The cleanup depends on funding in the state's next budget cycle, starting July 2011. Work may not begin for several years. However, to plan ahead for possible funding, Ecology would like your comments on the proposed cleanup plan.

Two documents are available for review and comment:

- **Draft Cleanup Action Plan**—Describes the proposed cleanup method and how it will protect human health and the environment. Ecology looked at several cleanup options.
- **Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study**—Describes the type of contamination and where it is found on the site, and evaluates possible cleanup options.

Documents are available at the locations listed to the right. Please submit comments by **November 30, 2010**.

### Innovative Proposed Cleanup Method

Soil and groundwater at Most Western Laundry are contaminated with a dry cleaning solvent called perchloroethylene (perc or PCE) and several related chemicals. This type of contamination is difficult to clean up because it is deep underground in dense soil and in groundwater. Ecology proposes using a cleanup method called Electrical Resistance Heating (ERH). This method



#### **This is a Clean Sites Initiative cleanup!**

Some contaminated sites are orphaned or abandoned, with no one to clean them up. The **Clean Sites Initiative** is a fund set aside by the state of Washington for Ecology to get the cleanup done. Funds come from a state tax on hazardous substances.

### **Comments Accepted**

October 28 to November 30, 2010

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

Guy Barrett, Site Manager  
Toxics Cleanup Program, SWRO  
P.O. Box 47775  
Olympia, WA 98504-7775  
Phone: (360) 407-7115  
E-mail: Guy.Barrett@ecy.wa.gov

#### **Public Involvement Questions:**

Hannah Aoyagi  
Phone: (360) 407-6790  
E-mail: Hannah.Aoyagi@ecy.wa.gov

### **DOCUMENT REVIEW LOCATIONS**

#### **Hoquiam City Hall**

609—8th Street  
Hoquiam, WA 98550  
(360) 532-5700

#### **Hoquiam Timberland Library**

420 7th Street  
Hoquiam, WA 98550  
(360) 532-1710

#### **WA Department of Ecology Southwest Regional Office**

300 Desmond Drive SE  
Lacey, WA 98503

By appointment only:

Contact Debbie Nelson,  
Debbie.Nelson@ecy.wa.gov or  
(360) 407-6365

#### **Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Web site**

[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/most\\_western\\_laundry/most\\_western.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/most_western_laundry/most_western.html)

Facility Site ID #: 1117

## Most Western Laundry

uses electrical current to heat the soil and groundwater and evaporate the contaminants (see the diagram below). The soil will be heated to 190-205° F.

Because ERH uses electrical currents and produces heat, Ecology will take several **safety measures to protect the public**:

1. The contractor and city will work together to prevent the electrical current from damaging nearby underground utility lines. The gas line will be moved.
2. The property will be fenced during cleanup.
3. Ecology will monitor the air to make sure contaminated gases are not escaping. This will protect workers at the site as well as the surrounding neighborhood.

## What Happens Next?

Ecology will finalize the Cleanup Action Plan after considering public comments. The agency must then wait for the next state budget to see if funding is available to do the cleanup. Work would not begin until after July 1, 2011.

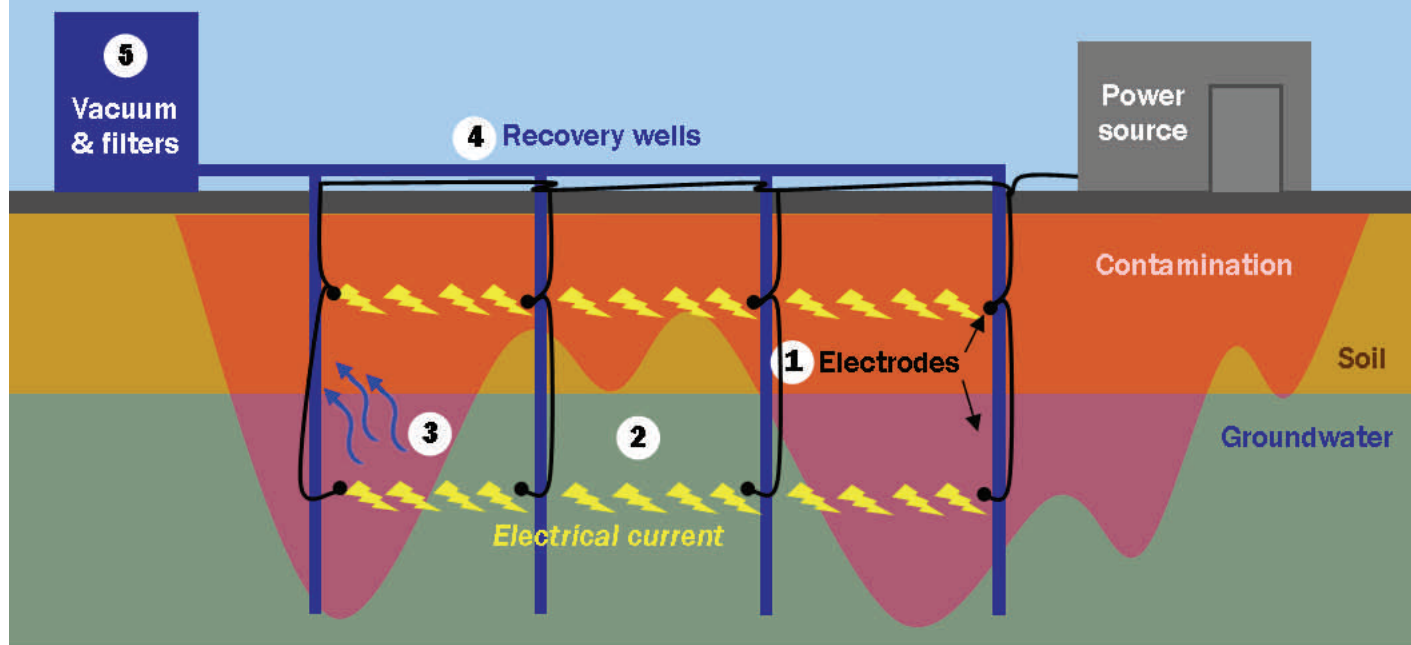
**Ecology will notify the community before any work begins.** Expect to receive an update in the mail next spring or summer. Ecology will give a timeline for the project and a description of what you can expect to see happening on the site.

## Site Contamination History

The Most Western Laundry facility was an industrial and commercial laundry and dry cleaner for about 85 years. Most Western Laundry and

### Electrical Resistance Heating Cleanup Method

1. Electrical current runs between the electrodes, through the contaminated area.
2. Soil resists the flow of electrical current, so this will heat the soil and groundwater.
3. Heat causes the contaminants and water to evaporate, creating steam and vapor.
4. A vacuum brings vapors, steam and contaminants to the surface through recovery wells.
5. Filters treat the contamination at the surface.



## Most Western Laundry

Dry Cleaners, Inc. bought the property in 1964. The facility used perc for many years, ending in 1984. Perc is a toxic chemical that can harm human health and the environment.

Over time, spills from the laundry contaminated the ground and moved through the storm sewer, and eventually into the Hoquiam River. In 1987, Most Western Laundry found that soil samples from the property had perc and petroleum chemicals above state cleanup levels. It removed a small amount of contaminated soil in 1988, but much of the perc remained.

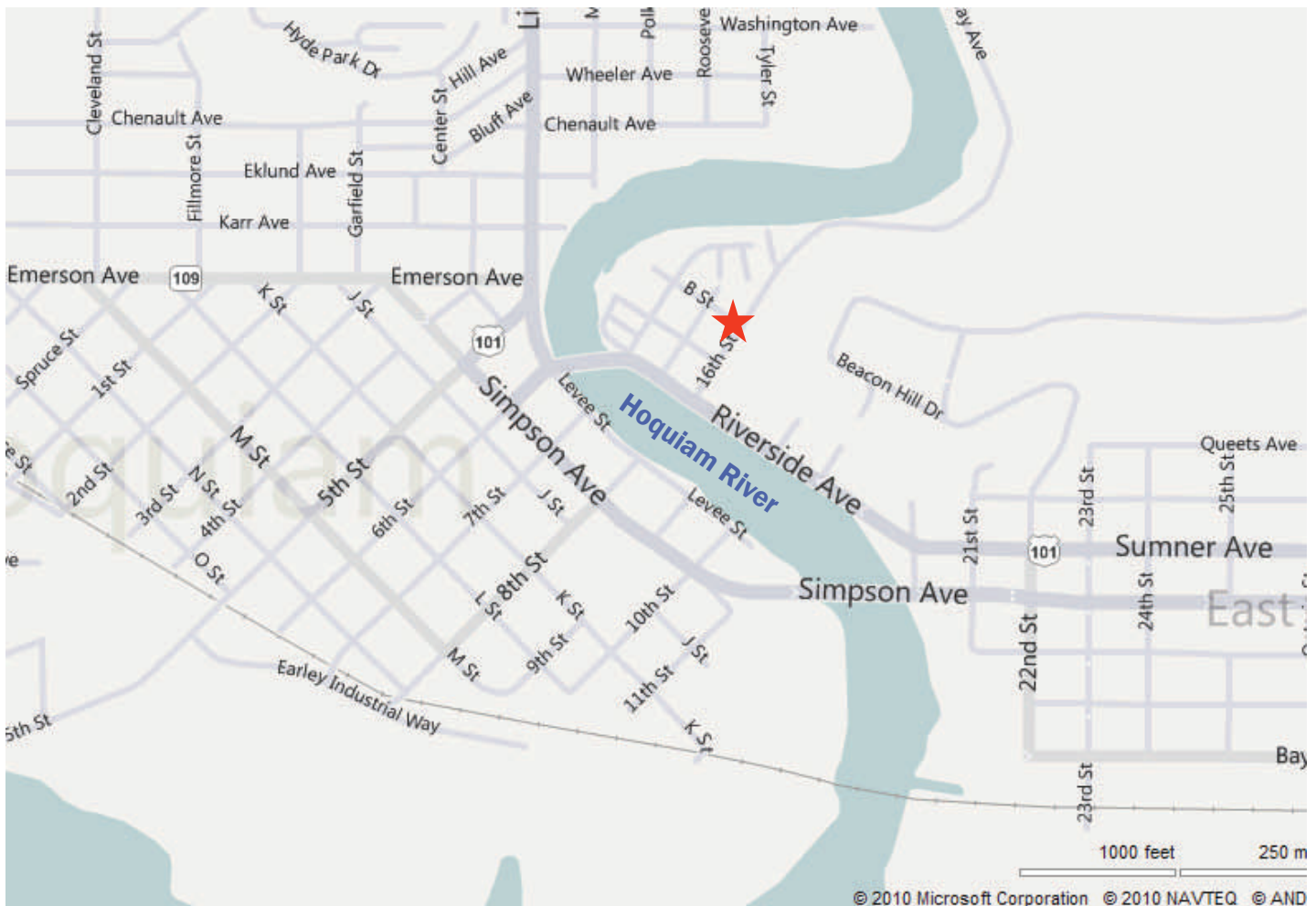
A 1994 fire destroyed the laundry and the property now sits vacant. Ecology took over the cleanup from Most Western Limited, Inc, which had no funds to pay for the work. The state is now paying for cleanup through the Clean Sites Initiative (see box on page 1).

### Why Cleanup Matters

Perchloroethylene (perc), petroleum chemicals, and other contaminants pose a risk to human health and the environment. For more information about perc, visit

[www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp\\_18.html](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp_18.html)

The site is currently a vacant lot. This cleanup will allow it to be redeveloped while protecting any future users of the property. It will also protect the Hoquiam River and the creatures that live there.




Most Western Laundry site, 16th and B Streets, Hoquiam, WA



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

PO Box 47775

Olympia, WA 98504-7775

 Please recycle.

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## **Most Western Laundry Grays Harbor County, WA**

### **Ecology Seeks Public Comment on a Cleanup plan**

Public Comment Period:  
October 28–November 30 2010

#### **Facility Site ID #: 1117**

If you need this publication in an alternative format, call reception at (360) 407-6300. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with speech disability call 877-833-6341

#### **Why did I receive this mailing?**

Ecology is sending this fact sheet to neighbors of the Most Western Laundry cleanup site at 16th and B Streets in Hoquiam. Ecology would like your comments on a plan to clean up contamination from the former dry cleaner. This project will use public funding.

#### **To be removed from the mailing list:**

Contact Hannah Aoyagi, Public Involvement Coordinator at [Hannah.Aoyagi@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Hannah.Aoyagi@ecy.wa.gov) or 360-407-6790.

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