

Update on Cleanup Progress

As part of a legal agreement with Department of Ecology (Ecology), Whitney's Chevrolet is investigating the extent of petroleum contamination at 123 West Pioneer in Montesano. Ecology discovered contamination at this cleanup site in 2005 as part of a larger area wide study of groundwater contamination in downtown Montesano.

Site Investigation and Cleanup

The investigation to determine the nature and extent of contamination is underway. Whitney's has collected groundwater and soil samples both on and off the property. Ecology is now requiring that more groundwater samples be taken north of the Whitney's property to determine the site boundary.

In addition to soil and groundwater sampling, Whitney's completed an indoor air investigation in 2009. The goal of this study was to determine if there were any immediate health risks to people using buildings on and near the property. The investigation focused on the potential for vapor intrusion - contamination moving from soil and groundwater into the air in buildings (see box on page 2).

The Washington Department of Health (DOH) evaluated the indoor air data from Whitney's and three other buildings where it appeared vapor intrusion was likely. DOH was unable to conclude whether breathing the air in these buildings posed or would pose a health threat. Additional investigation is necessary for DOH to reach a conclusion about these four buildings or any other buildings. However, based on the available indoor air data from tested buildings at the site, it appears that the health threat to these building occupants and customers is low.

Other Cleanups in the Downtown Area

In 2006, Ecology's area wide groundwater investigation resulted in three formal cleanup sites - Whitney's Chevrolet, Tony's Shortstop and Brumfield Twidwell (map on page 3). Work to investigate and clean up contamination from soil and groundwater is underway at these sites.

► **Tony's Shortstop:**

Tony's is currently working on a Remedial Investigation work plan, which includes an indoor air investigation. Ecology will approve this work plan in the next couple months. Tony's will then complete a feasibility study to evaluate possible cleanup actions.

Need more information?

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Site Document Locations

W.H. Abel Library

125 Main Street South
Montesano, WA 98563
(360) 249-4211

Montesano City Hall

112 North Main Street
Montesano, WA 98563
(360) 249-3021

WA Department of Ecology

Southwest Regional Office
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503

By appointment only: Contact Debbie Nelson at Debbie.Nelson@ecy.wa.gov or (360) 407-6365

Ecology Web Site

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/whitneys/whitneys_hp.htm



► Brumfield Twidwell:

Groundwater monitoring is in progress to determine if Interim (partial cleanup) Actions taken to remove contamination from the site were effective. Soil and underground storage tanks were removed in 2006.

The Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study are nearly finished. Next steps at this site may include writing a draft Cleanup Action Plan. This plan would summarize the steps taken to reduce contamination and any additional cleanup work, if necessary.

Background

In 2004, The Department of Ecology began an area-wide investigation to examine known and suspected areas of contamination in downtown Montesano. The investigation led to the discovery of soil and groundwater contamination caused by historical and current activities.

Underground storage tanks used by former and current gas stations have leaked petroleum products and created a large area of contamination. Ecology also detected chlorinated solvents in the groundwater at some locations downtown.

Ecology continued investigating the site in 2005. As a result, Ecology identified several contaminated properties and entered into legal agreements with liable parties to begin the formal cleanup process.

Why this Cleanup Matters

Removing the underground tanks at Whitney's property will eliminate the only remaining known source of contamination. This action will protect the groundwater from additional pollution and reduce the amount of contamination at the site.

Petroleum-related chemicals can pose a human health risk if people come into contact with them. Ecology and Whitney's are working to protect human health and the environment by investigating and cleaning up areas of downtown Montesano.

WHAT IS VAPOR INTRUSION?

Volatile chemicals, such as benzene and other solvents, can evaporate from the soil and groundwater and move through spaces in the soil as a gas. It can enter buildings through cracks and other openings in the foundation. **This is vapor intrusion.**

Whitney's tested indoor air at the Veterans of Foreign War Hall, Sterling Savings Bank, Charlie's Tavern and the building on their property. Ecology required testing at these buildings because, based on available data, they were most at risk for vapor intrusion.

Next Steps

1. Whitney's will:

- Complete the Remedial Investigation and begin the Feasibility Study to evaluate cleanup options.
- Conduct an Interim (partial cleanup) Action to remove several underground storage tanks that may be a source of some of the contamination.

2. Ecology will hold a 30 day public comment period for the work plan to remove leaking underground tanks.

3. Tony's will:

- Complete the Remedial Investigation work plan.
- Begin the investigation after Ecology approves the final plan.
- Issue a Remedial Investigation Report to summarize their findings.

Cleanup sites in downtown Montesano



Whitney's Chevrolet Montesano, WA

Update on Site Investigation

Facility Site ID #: 36813164

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WHAT'S IN THIS FACT SHEET?

- An update on the Whitney's Chevrolet site investigation
- Information about where to locate and read investigation reports
- Status, next steps and a map of other cleanup sites in downtown Montesano