

Update on Cleanup Progress

In 2007, the Department of Ecology (Ecology) entered into a legal agreement with potentially liable persons (PLPs) to investigate and clean up contamination at the Milton's Dry Cleaners site. The site is located at 6721 NE Fourth Plain Boulevard in Vancouver.

Site Investigation and Cleanup

A dry cleaners operated on the property from 1969 to 2001. It is no longer in operation. During that time, a chemical used in the dry cleaning operation, tetrachloroethylene, also known as PCE, was released to the environment.

An investigation to determine the nature and extent of contamination is underway. Soil and groundwater sampling have shown that PCE and some of its breakdown products are present above state cleanup levels at several locations on and surrounding the property.

Ecology is also requiring the PLPs to conduct a vapor intrusion investigation. Vapor intrusion is contamination moving from soil and groundwater into the air in buildings (see box on page 2). The goal of this investigation is to determine if there are any health risks to people using buildings on and near the property.

Fort Vancouver High School Investigation

One of the buildings tested for possible vapor intrusion was Fort Vancouver High School. The Washington Department of Health (DOH) evaluated the soil gas (vapor) and indoor and outdoor air data collected at the high school. DOH concluded that the contaminated soil gas found below the high school does not appear to pose a health threat. This is because it does not appear to be moving up through the foundation and entering indoor air.

To prevent soil gas from entering indoor air in the future, Ecology is working with the PLPs and the Vancouver School District to:

- Continue testing soil gas under the school to make sure levels of contaminants do not increase.
- Monitor air pressure to ensure it remains slightly higher inside the school than under the school. This will help keep soil gas from moving into the indoor air.

For More Information

Site Investigation

Steve Teel, Site Manager
WA Department of Ecology
PO Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775
Phone: (360) 407-6247
Steve.Teel@ecy.wa.gov

Public Involvement

Diana Smith
Public Involvement Coordinator
Phone: (360) 407-6255
Diana.Smith@ecy.wa.gov

Health Information

Barbara Trejo, Health Assessor
WA Department of Health
243 Israel Road SE
Tumwater, WA 98501
Phone: (360) 236-3373
Barbara.Trejo@doh.wa.gov

Site Document Locations

Ecology's Cleanup Web site

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=1834>

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

Facility Site ID #: 19779

- Seal cracks and gaps in the concrete slab foundation under the school. The school district recently completed this work.

The school district recently shared the results of this testing with high school staff and students through the school newsletter and staff meetings.

Indoor Air Testing

Vapor intrusion investigations are in progress at several other buildings. The PLPs have also tested the former Milton's Dry Cleaners building, the Social Security Administration building, and the former Rodeo Bingo building. The PLPs will test First Friends Church this summer.

Ecology will be working with DOH to analyze the results of these tests. Ecology required testing at these buildings because, based on available data, they were most at risk for vapor intrusion.

Ecology will review these test results with soil and groundwater data and the building use survey done last year. Ecology will use this information to determine if more buildings appear to be vulnerable to vapor intrusion. If a building appears vulnerable, Ecology will immediately contact building owners and occupants to set up air testing.

For more information about the site and indoor air testing, visit Ecology's Web site or contact Diana Smith (see box on page 1) for older fact sheets.

Why Cleanup Matters

Ecology is concerned about any contamination that potentially impacts human health and the environment. At the Milton's site, the contamination primarily poses a potential threat to indoor air at nearby buildings and to drinking water.

PCE is a volatile chemical, which means it readily evaporates. PCE can pose a hazard to human health. The effects of PCE will vary depending on amount and length of exposure.

WHAT IS VAPOR INTRUSION?

Volatile chemicals, like PCE (tetrachloro-ethylene) and TCE (trichloroethylene), can evaporate from the soil and groundwater and move as a gas through spaces in the soil. It can enter buildings through cracks and other openings in the foundation. This is vapor intrusion.

Indoor air can be tested to see if soil gas has entered a building. You can find fact sheets about vapor intrusion and indoor air testing on Ecology's Web site (see box on page 1).

What Happens Next?

The investigation to determine the nature and extent of contamination should be finished this year.

The PLPs will :

- Install more wells this spring to investigate groundwater contamination.
- Issue a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Report. This report will summarize their findings and assess the feasibility of options for cleanup.

The PLPs will also design and carry out cleanup measures. When they are available, Ecology will hold public comment periods for the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Report, draft Cleanup Action Plan and legal agreement to implement the final remedial action.

Legend

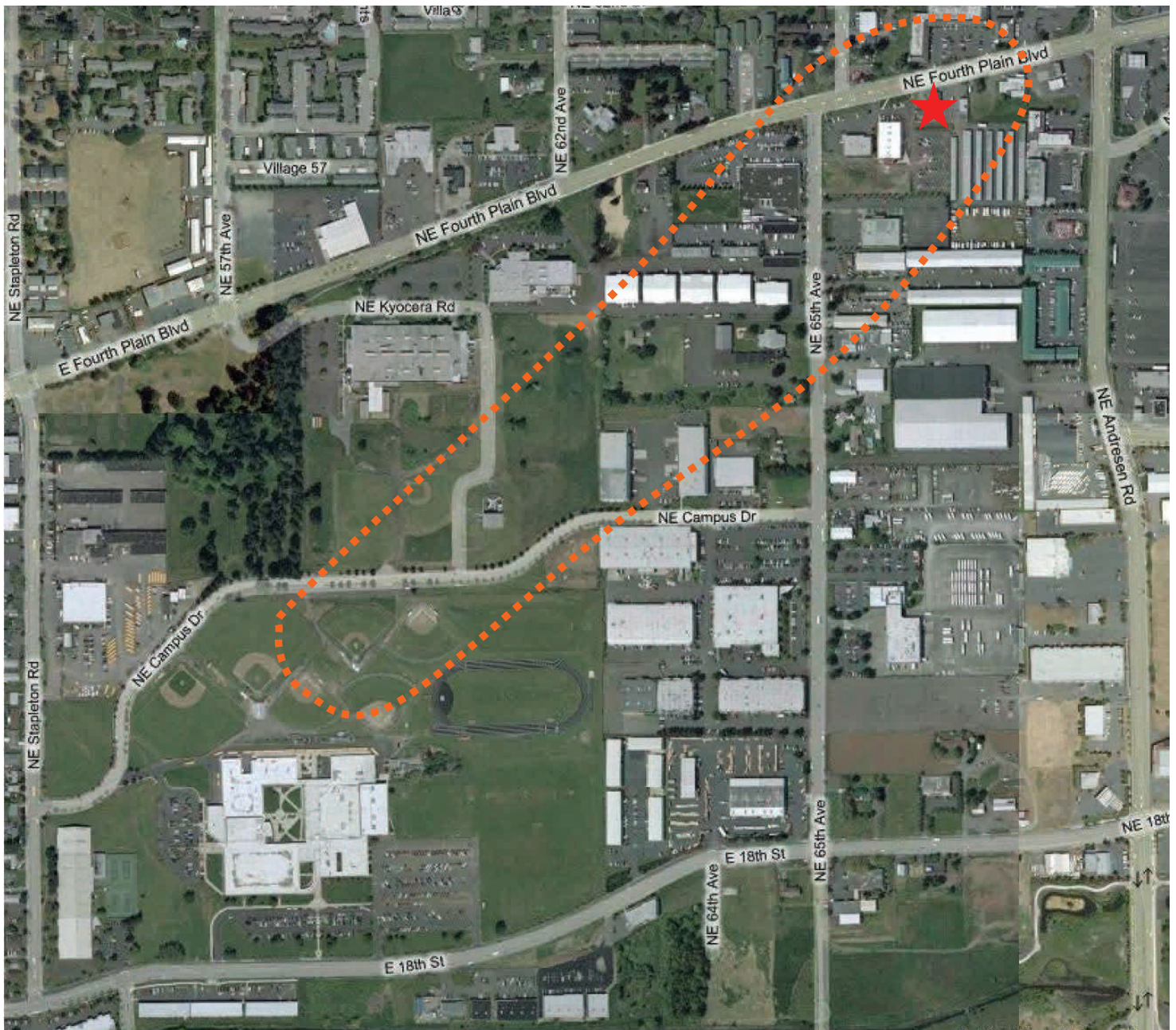


Milton's Dry Cleaners



Milton's Dry Cleaners Site

The site boundary in this figure is approximate and will be changed once the Remedial Investigation is complete and Ecology is able to determine the full extent of contamination.

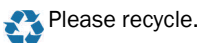




DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

PO Box 47775

Olympia, WA 98504-7775



Milton's Dry Cleaner's Clark County, WA

Update on Site Investigation

Facility Site ID #: 19779

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.

Esta hoja informativa contiene información importante sobre la investigación de la contaminación del Departamento de Ecología en su comunidad. Si necesita esta hoja informativa en español, por favor llame a Diana Smith al (360) 407-6255 o visite el sitio Web de Ecology en <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=1834>.

Эта фактическая справка содержит важную информацию о расследовании загрязнения окружающей среды, которое Департамент экологии проводит в вашем районе. Если вам нужно получить эту фактическую справку на русском языке, пожалуйста, звоните Diana Smith по телефону (360) 407-6255 или смотрите веб-сайт Департамента экологии по адресу: <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=1834>.

La thu nay chua dung nhung tin tuc rat quan trong cua co quan doc hai va o nhiem khong khi dang dieu tra tai noi qui vi cu ngu. Neu can chuyen dich sang tieng Viet, lam on goi Diana Smith so (360) 407-6255 hay vao mang Ecology's tai <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=1834>.