

# **Soil Removal Interim Action and SEPA Determination for the Ephrata Landfill**

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) prepared this fact sheet to provide you with information about a soil removal interim action at the Ephrata Landfill.

## **Site Location and Background**

The Ephrata Landfill is located about three miles south of Ephrata, on the east side of Highway 28. The landfill site is about 125 acres and is currently owned by Grant County.

The City of Ephrata began operating the Ephrata Landfill in approximately 1942 and owned and operated it until 1974. The U. S. Bureau of Reclamation leased additional property for the landfill to the city. Grant County began operating the landfill in 1972 and was deeded the property in 1994. The landfill operated as an open dump prior to 1962 and it operated continually as an unlined cell until a new lined cell was opened in 2005.

Over 2300 drums of industrial waste were buried at the landfill in August 1975. The site was added to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) list of potential hazardous sites in 1979 and Ecology completed a Phase I site investigation in 1987. In 1990, Ecology ranked the site and put it on the Hazardous Sites List. Sites are ranked relative to each other on a scale of 1 to 5 based on toxicity and potential threat. A score of 1 represents the highest level of concern and 5 the lowest. The Ephrata Landfill ranked as a 5.

Groundwater sampling at the site began in 1988. A 1990 assessment report noted anomalous contaminant concentrations in groundwater in the uppermost aquifer. After discussions with Ecology in 2000, the county installed two extraction wells as part of a voluntary cleanup program. Recent sampling shows that the upper three aquifers are contaminated with metals, solvents, and other chemicals. The formerly buried drums and waste in the old landfill cell contributed to the contamination. Some of the contaminants detected in groundwater at the site are the same chemicals that were in the drums.

## **Comments Invited**

### **Comments Accepted**

October 23 through November 22, 2012

### **Repositories**

Ephrata City Library  
45 Alder Street NW  
Ephrata, WA 98823

Department of Ecology  
Eastern Regional Office  
4601 N. Monroe Street  
Spokane, WA 99105

### **Questions and Comments Contact**

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Waste 2 Resources Program  
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### **Para asistencia en Espanol**

Richelle Perez  
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Larissa Braaten  
Phone: 509/710-7552

### **Website**

[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/ephrata\\_if/ephrata\\_if\\_hp.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/ephrata_if/ephrata_if_hp.htm)

## Ephrata Landfill

Ecology determined that the city and county are “Potentially Liable Persons” (PLPs) at the site. An Agreed Order (AO) between the Department of Ecology, Grant County, and the City of Ephrata was finalized in January 2007. The AO directs the PLPs to perform the following work:

- A Remedial Investigation (RI) to evaluate the nature, magnitude and extent, and extent of releases at the site,
- A Feasibility Study (FS) to examine appropriate cleanup procedures, and
- Interim actions.

The interim actions included the removal of 2300 buried industrial waste drums (2008), capping the original landfill (2008), and extraction of contaminated groundwater (2008 through 2011). The Public Review Draft of the RI was completed in December 2010 and an addendum (Agency Review Draft) was completed in August 2012. An Agency Review Draft of the FS was completed in 2012.

The RI delineated contaminated groundwater plumes and identified an area of contaminated soil in the northwest corner of the landfill.

A Cleanup Action Plan (CAP) will be developed by Ecology and then a legal agreement will be developed with PLPs to continue the cleanup activities. Implementation of the CAP is planned for 2013.

### **Interim Action**

An interim remedial action only partially addresses the cleanup of a site. It corrects a problem that may become worse, cost substantially more to address if the interim action is delayed, or reduces a threat to human health and the environment.

The PLPs decided to clean up some contaminated soils as soon as possible. The Agreed Order was amended to include this additional remedial action.

An Interim Remedial Action Plan (IRAP) for the removal of the contaminated soil is posted on Ecology’s website for the Ephrata Landfill. Associated documents include a Health and Safety Plan and a Sampling and Analysis Plan. Contractors will remove and dispose the contaminated soil under the supervision of licensed engineers or geologists. Field personnel will collect confirmation samples in accordance with Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) procedures.

### **SEPA Determination of Non-Significance**

A State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) checklist, chapter 43.21C RCW, was prepared for the proposed actions. The Department of Ecology determined that the proposed actions will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and issued a Determination of Non-significance (DNS).

### Ecology Wants Your Comments

The public comment period is an opportunity to have Ecology hear your ideas and comments. You may review and comment on the Interim Action and the SEPA DNS during the 30-day period after the document is signed by the PLPs. Please submit written comments before the public comment period to Cole Carter, Site Manager, at the Ecology address listed in the box on page 1. A public hearing on the cleanup activities at the Ephrata Landfill will be held if requested by ten or more people.

#### Special accommodations

If you need this document in a format for the visually impaired, call the Waste 2 Resources Program at (360) 407-6129.

Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.