

Ecology Seeks Comments on Legal Document that will Guide Cleanup at Site

The Washington State Department of Ecology and Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation (now DCO Management) propose to enter into a Consent Decree that will guide cleanup at the Heglar Kronquist site. The site is 10 miles northeast of downtown Spokane in a rural area and covers nearly four acres. It is located near the intersection of Heglar and Kronquist Roads near Mead, Spokane County, Washington.



Looking in a westerly direction at the site

The Consent Decree is a legal document which formalizes the agreement between Ecology and DCO Management. The Consent Decree is used to implement work described in the Cleanup Action Plan which previously went through public comment. The Decree assures work is conducted in a timely manner, in accordance with state cleanup regulations, and all other applicable laws and regulations.

You are invited to:

- **Review** the draft Consent Decree, which includes a Scope of Work, Schedule, and Public Participation Plan, at the document review locations listed in the box on the right. The Scope of Work provides an outline of work to be completed, and the Schedule provides further details about when the work will be accomplished. The Public Participation Plan outlines ways Ecology will continue to involve and inform the public about cleanup at the site.
- **Send** your comments to Teresita Bala at the Ecology address in the box at the right from **April 2 through May 2, 2013**.

Site Background

The site was used as a gravel pit until it was closed in 1969. Gemini Management, Inc. then began operating the site as a disposal area. From 1969 until 1974, Gemini Management, Inc. transported aluminum black dross from the Trentwood plant in the Spokane Valley to the disposal site.

Comments Accepted

April 3 through May 2, 2013

For **ADA** accommodations or documents in an alternate format call Carol Bergin 509/329-3546, 711 (relay service), or 877-833-6341 (TTY).

Para asistencia en Español

Gregory Bohn 509/454-4174

Если вам нужна помощь на русском, звоните

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Site Manager

Teresita Bala

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509/329-3543 or tbal461@ecy.wa.gov

Public Involvement

Carol Bergin

See Ecology Address Above

509/329-3546 or cabe461@ecy.wa.gov

Document Review Locations

WA Department of Ecology

Kari Johnson

Public Disclosure

See Ecology Address Above

Call for an appointment 509/329-3415

North Spokane Public Library

Hawthorne Branch

44 E. Hawthorne Rd

Spokane, WA 99218

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Website

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=1135>

Facility Site ID No. 645

Cleanup Site ID No. 1135

Black dross is a potential source for groundwater and air contamination. It is a by-product from processing aluminum materials. Black dross is present in the landfill as deep as 50 feet.

According to Kaiser's data, the black dross was composed of 39% sodium chloride, 35% aluminum oxide, 19% potassium chloride, 4% free aluminum, 2% cryolite, and 1% carbides and nitrides. Nearly 55,000 cubic yards of black dross were disposed of at the site. This amount could be compared to a football field filled with black dross that was 30 feet deep.

Disposal of dross was stopped in 1974 because high levels of chloride were found in a shallow water supply well and a spring down gradient of the site. Air sampling conducted at the site in 1979 showed elevated levels of several organic compounds. Ammonia was also detected at levels higher than current state standards.

In 1984 a protective cover called a "cap" was put over the landfill to prevent dross constituents from leaching into groundwater.

A Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study were completed at the site, and reports of the findings were put out for public comment in 2012. Results of the Remedial Investigation showed some leaching is still occurring. The investigation also showed chloride and nitrate concentrations in shallow groundwater and the drainage ditch surface water did not meet state standards. The Feasibility Study Report evaluated cleanup alternatives for the contaminants at the site.

Draft Cleanup Action Plan

Ecology prepared a Draft Cleanup Action Plan (DCAP) for public comment in September 2012 and it was finalized in October 2012. The DCAP was based on information from the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study reports completed by DCO Management's consultant. Ecology evaluated the cleanup alternatives outlined in the Feasibility Study and selected Alternative 2 as the best action for the site.

State environmental regulations known as the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) provide that if two or more alternatives are equal in benefits, Ecology shall select the least costly alternative providing all minimum requirements for cleanup actions are met as part of that alternative.

Alternative 2 meets these criteria and includes additional protection after the cleanup through use of periodic reviews to evaluate the success of the remedies. It also includes financial assurance from DCO Management to address potential cleanup improvements, if necessary.

Details of Alternative 2 may be found in the Cleanup Action Plan. The following are some of the cleanup actions proposed under this alternative.

The existing landfill cap, along with drainages would be improved and additional layers would be added to the cap.

The vent system will be repaired if it can be accomplished without damage to the existing cap. Ten pine trees will be removed along the southern boundary of the landfill to prevent future root system damage to the landfill. This alternative would cost approximately \$1,887,167.00 which includes a 25 percent contingency for unanticipated issues.

The cap will be filled with soil from the soil pile on the eastern end of the landfill, clean fill from offsite, and regraded. Surface water will be rerouted by regrading and relocating the ditches and swales at the site.

A geosynthetic liner will be placed over the landfill and then a drainage layer placed on top of the liner. The multi-layer liner will be covered with 18 inches of top soil and natural grasses planted on top. These added layers are expected to reduce infiltration through the cap by approximately 90-99 percent. To further help prevent stormwater infiltration, the geosynthetic liner will extend 5-10 feet beyond the current dross fill boundary on the north, east and south edges of the landfill. On the west edge the liner and drain system will extend 50-75 feet beyond the dross fill boundary.

Institutional controls will be placed on the property to protect the improvements. Intuitional controls include fencing, signage, restrictions on how the land may be used, maintenance and monitoring. A restrictive covenant will also be placed on the property describing land use restrictions. Surface and groundwater monitoring will be conducted until water quality standards are met. The “conceptual” design presented in the CAP may be modified during final design, but will meet the criteria described in Section 8 of the Cleanup Action Plan.

What Happens Next?

Ecology will respond to comments **submitted by May 2, 2013**. A Responsiveness Summary will be sent to all commenters and placed in the document review locations listed in the box on page 1. Ecology will make modifications to the Consent Decree based on public comment, if appropriate. If no changes are made, the Consent Decree becomes final, and the cleanup moves forward.

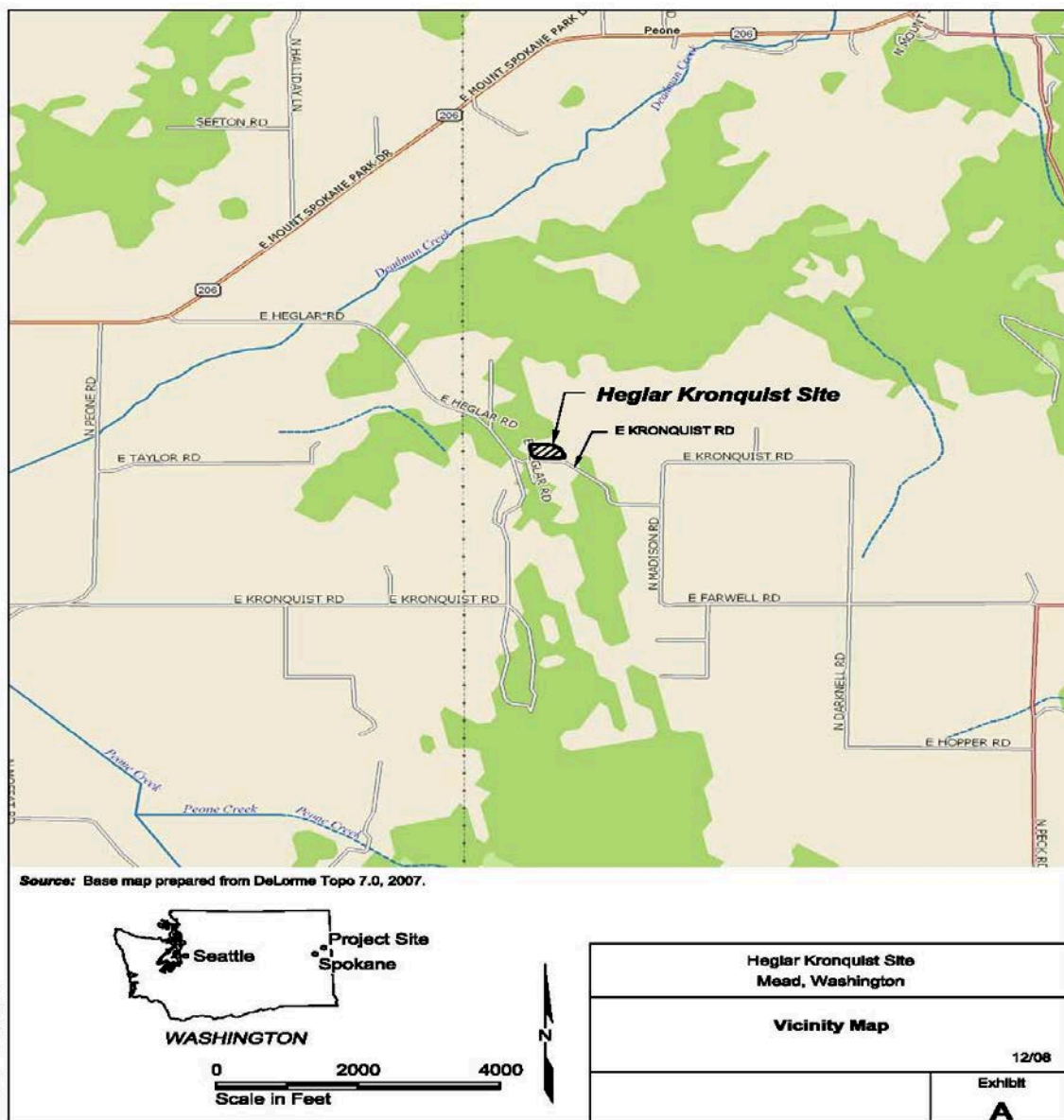


Figure 1 Site Location