

Why is Ecology Conducting Cleanup Actions at the Colville Post and Poles Site?

The site is located at 396 Highway 395 North near Colville, in Stevens County Washington (see Figure 1 Site Map). The site was used as a wood treating facility by Colville Post & Poles, Inc. and other previous owners. The site covers nearly 23 acres.

The Washington State Department of Ecology plans to conduct what are called Interim Actions at the site. The Interim Actions will identify any immediate actions that need to be taken at the site to protect human health and the environment. This includes reducing remaining sources of contamination that may impact surface water.

Some of the reasons for the cleanup work include:

- ◆ Cleanup will protect human health and the environment.
- ◆ In 1989 an above-ground storage tank containing pentachlorophenol (PCP) ruptured and released 10,000 gallons of chemicals to the ground.
- ◆ Some contamination remains at the site at levels higher than what the state standards allow.
- ◆ Chemicals used to treat the wood may be harmful to humans, wildlife and the environment.

The Interim Actions will provide information that will be used in preparation for a Remedial Investigation (RI) and Feasibility Study (FS). The RI will gather additional information about the nature and extent of chemicals in soil and groundwater at the site. The FS will evaluate additional cleanup options for site-related contaminants.

You are Invited to Review Documents and Attend a Public Meeting

- ◆ **Attend the public meeting at 7:00 p.m., February 18** at the Colville High School Auditorium, 154 Highway 20 East, Colville, Washington to learn more about Ecology's proposed work and have your questions answered.
- ◆ **Review** the Work Plan, Sampling and Analysis Plan, and Public Participation Plan. The Work Plan and Sampling and Analysis Plan outline the Interim Action work. The Public Participation Plan outlines ways Ecology will involve and inform the public about cleanup at the site.
- ◆ **Send** comments to Jeremy Schmidt at Ecology February 6 through March 9, 2015. His contact information is in the box on the right along with locations for reviewing documents.

Comments Accepted

February 6 through March 9, 2015

To request **ADA** accommodations or materials in a format for the visually impaired call Carol Bergin 509/329-3546, Relay Service at 711, or TTY 877-833-6341.

Если вам нужно помощь по русский, звоните Larissa Braaten 509/710-7552

Para asistencia en Español:

Greg Bohn 509/454-4174

Comments and Technical Questions

Jeremy Schmidt, P.E., Site Manager
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Toxics Cleanup Program
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Public Involvement Questions

Carol Bergin, Public Involvement
Coordinator
See Ecology address as above
509/329-3546 carol.bergin@ecy.wa.gov

Document Review Locations

Colville Public Library
195 South Oak Street
Colville, WA 99114
509/684-6620

WA Department of Ecology

Kari Johnson, Public Disclosure
4601 N. Monroe
Spokane, WA 99205-1295
Call for an appointment 509/329-3415

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Website

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=46>

Facility Site ID No. 765

Cleanup Site ID No. 46

Background

Several investigations and cleanup actions were conducted mainly by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and EPA's consultants. The Department of Ecology's Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program provided some early assessments and worked with the owner on compliance issues. Heavy oils and PCP were confirmed in soil and groundwater at the site.

EPA conducted two removal actions called Phase I and Phase II. The purpose of these actions was to remove any immediate threat to human health from site-related contaminants. Investigations were conducted and as a result of the findings, the buildings where wood was treated and chemicals were stored had to be torn down. Some contaminated soils also were removed.

Contaminants of Concern

The primary contaminants of concern focus on chemicals used in treating wood products. The contaminants include:

- Semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) which include PCP and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)
- Diesel-range petroleum hydrocarbons (DRPH)
- Metals which include arsenic, cadmium, and mercury
- Dioxins

Proposed Interim Actions

The following are some highlights of the work Ecology proposes to complete:

- Obtain all necessary permits to do the work.
- Remove debris in and around surface water and concrete footings in the Process Area. Temporarily stockpile debris as necessary.
- Conduct soil and groundwater assessments.
- Prepare a report outlining the findings and work conducted during the Interim Actions.

State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)

The State Environmental Policy Act, known as SEPA, requires government agencies to consider potential environmental impacts of a project before beginning the cleanup. A Determination of Non-Significance indicates the proposed actions will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment.

- After review of the environmental checklist and other site-specific information, Ecology determined the actions to address contaminants in soil and groundwater will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment.
- The cleanup action will benefit the environment by reducing contaminants in groundwater and reducing possible exposure pathways for humans and wildlife.
- Therefore, Ecology has issued a Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) for the cleanup action.

Is the Drinking Water in Residential Wells Safe?

Based on the data Ecology has reviewed, residents who are using wells for drinking water should not have any impacts from site-related groundwater. One exception is a resident living west of the site who had detections of site-related contaminants in their water in the past. The resident would not let EPA or Ecology sample their water. We don't know about the safety of that well-water. Ecology will try to get permission to sample their water again soon.

Groundwater in the area generally moves in a west, south-west direction. Ecology will be conducting surface and groundwater sampling and immediate action will be taken if there is any evidence that residential wells are contaminated.

Will the Work Impact Residents?

It is anticipated the work will begin late summer 2015 when water flows are low in the wetland

areas. There should be minimal impacts to the local residents and community. People might see drilling equipment, backhoes, and some trucks moving debris or materials at the site.

Permits will be obtained; dust, noise, and vehicle travel will be minimized to the extent possible. If there is a concern during the work, people are encouraged to contact Jeremy Schmidt at Ecology.

How are Cleanup Costs Paid?

Property owners identified as potentially liable persons (PLPs) are responsible for contributing toward the cost of cleanup at a site. Ecology identified the Colville Post & Poles site as an orphan site. This means in general that PLPs are either financially unable, or unavailable, to conduct remedial actions in an adequate or timely manner at this site. The legislature has allocated monies specifically for the Interim Actions at this site. A lien may be placed on the property once the cleanup work is done to recover some of the costs.

Why this Work Matters

This work is important for the following reasons:

- It provides greater protection for humans, wildlife, and the environment.
- Remaining contamination will be cleaned up to meet Washington State standards under the Model Toxics Control Act.
- Cleanup will result in clean land and water that may be used for other purposes.

The Cleanup Process

The following is a general outline the cleanup process. There may be variables at a site that require additional steps. Sometimes steps are combined, if appropriate, to move the cleanup forward more quickly. The legislature has provided monies at this time only for the Interim Actions and Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study at the site. Ecology will seek additional monies depending on the outcome of the investigation and cleanup options.

This fact sheet focuses on Interim Actions that will be conducted in preparation for a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study. This begins the formal phase of cleanup and the first 30-day comment period. Ecology will answer comments received by the public and modify the documents, if necessary.

Next, reports from the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study will be made available for a 30-day comment period. After the documents become final, a draft Cleanup Action Plan (DCAP) is prepared and sent out for public comment. The DCAP gives details about how cleanup will be implemented.

Environmental impacts of the project also are considered and a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) determination is made available for public review along with the DCAP. A SEPA is also conducted if there are Interim Actions at a site.

Next, a Consent Decree is developed. It is a legal agreement between Ecology and the PLPs that ensures all applicable laws and regulations will be followed during the cleanup. It also is made available for public comment.

After the Consent Decree is finalized engineering design plans are completed and the cleanup is implemented.

What Happens Now?

You may review the Work Plan for the Interim Action, Sampling and Analysis Plan, and the Public Participation Plan. **Send your comments to Jeremy Schmidt at Ecology by March 9, 2015.** Ecology will review the comments and modify the documents if warranted.

Figure 1
Colville Post & Poles Site

