

## Draft Cleanup Documents Ready for Review and Comment

The Washington Department of Corrections (WA DOC) Washington State Penitentiary (Site) is located at 1313 N. 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Walla Walla, in Walla Walla County, Washington.

The 540-acre penitentiary property opened as a prison in 1887. Various manufacturing and facility support activities have taken place since then, including jute manufacturing, metal fabrication, license plate production, garment production, furniture refinishing and upholstery, welding, vehicle repair and maintenance, medical and dental laboratories, photo processing, dry cleaning, road sign production, and facility power production. Many of these activities involved the use of petroleum products and chemicals. In some cases, hazardous substances were not disposed of properly, leading to environmental contamination.

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) is working with WA DOC to clean up volatile organic compounds and metals in soil and groundwater that are located in and around the now-closed, eight-acre penitentiary landfill and a former dry cleaning facility.

### Public Input Invited

Ecology invites you to review and comment on the following draft documents that will guide Site cleanup:

- Agreed Order
- Cleanup Action Plan
- State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) checklist and determination of non-significance (DNS)
- Amended Public Participation Plan

### Agreed Order

The proposed Agreed Order legally documents that WA DOC will carry out the remedy Ecology selected in the draft Cleanup Action Plan. The purpose of the Agreed Order is to protect human health and the environment by ensuring that cleanup happens in a timely manner and according to Washington State's cleanup law, the Model Toxics Control Act (Washington Administrative Code 173-340, <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-340>).

### Comments Accepted

April 14 through May 16, 2016

#### Step 1. Review the Documents

**Online:**

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=4971>

**For Offenders in Washington Prisons:**

WA DOC Libraries and Legal Libraries

**For the Public:**

Walla Walla Public Library  
238 E. Alder Street, Walla Walla  
(509) 527-4550

Washington Department of Ecology  
4601 N. Monroe St., Spokane  
Please call (509) 329-3400 for an appt.

#### Step 2. Submit Comments via Email or Mail by May 16, 2016, to:

Sandra Treccani, Ecology Site Manager  
[sandra.treccani@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:sandra.treccani@ecy.wa.gov)  
4601 N. Monroe St.  
Spokane, WA 99205  
Technical Questions: (509) 329-3412

**PLEASE NOTE:** Ecology cannot accept collect calls.

**Facility Site ID: 779**  
**Cleanup Site ID: 4971**

## Cleanup Action Plan

Ecology used information from the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/DocViewer.ashx?did=10048>) to identify the proposed cleanup action and a schedule to complete it.

WA DOC presented three cleanup alternatives for Ecology's consideration in the Feasibility Study:

- *Alternative 1:* Monitoring contaminants as they degrade naturally, prohibiting disturbance of contaminated soil through land use controls, improving the existing permeable soil landfill cover, maintaining the gravel cover around the former dry cleaning facility, and decommissioning an unused irrigation well
- *Alternative 2:* All elements of Alternative 1 with the addition of a low permeability landfill cap instead of a soil and gravel cover and an asphalt cap over contaminated soil around the former dry cleaning facility
- *Alternative 3:* Take no action

Because contamination was found in groundwater, Ecology added analyzing groundwater samples four times a year to Alternatives 1 and 2 in the draft plan.

## Ecology proposes new Cleanup Alternative 4

Ecology recommends a fourth cleanup alternative in the draft Cleanup Action Plan. Alternative 4 combines the following elements of Alternatives 1 and 2:

- Analyzing groundwater samples four times a year until contamination is below levels of concern
- Prohibiting disturbance of contaminated soil at the closed landfill and former dry cleaning facility with land use controls
- Improving the existing permeable soil landfill cover
- Installing an asphalt cap over soil around the former dry cleaning facility
- Decommissioning an unused irrigation well

## SEPA Checklist and DNS

SEPA requires government agencies to consider the potential environmental impacts of a cleanup before it starts. A DNS means the proposed actions are unlikely to cause a significant adverse impact on the environment.

After completing the SEPA checklist and reviewing Site-specific information, Ecology determined the cleanup action will benefit the environment by reducing contaminants in groundwater and soil while also reducing exposure pathways for humans and wildlife. Therefore, Ecology selected a DNS for this cleanup action.

## Amended Public Participation Plan

Ecology updated the project contacts, Site background, community background, and public participation activities and timeline sections of the amended Public Participation Plan.

## Take Action

- To get more detailed information, review the documents at the locations on Page 1.
- Call Sandra Treccani at (509) 329-3412 to ask technical questions before you draft comments. (**NOTE:** Ecology cannot accept collect calls.)
- Mail or email comments related to cleanup to Ecology at the addresses on Page 1.

We appreciate your interest and comments. If 10 or more people request a meeting to learn more about the draft documents, Ecology will hold one.

## What Happens Next?

Ecology will review and consider all comments we receive by May 16, 2016. The draft Cleanup Action Plan, Agreed Order, SEPA checklist and DNS, and amended Public Participation Plan may be modified based on your comments. If significant changes are made, we will hold another public comment period.

When these documents are final, Ecology will develop a legally binding Consent Decree with WA DOC to implement the Cleanup Action Plan.



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

Toxics Cleanup Program  
ATTN: Erika Bronson  
4601 N. Monroe St.  
Spokane, WA 99205



Please recycle.

WA DOC Washington State Penitentiary Site  
1313 N. 13<sup>th</sup> Ave., Walla Walla

**Ecology Seeks Public Comment on Draft  
Agreed Order, Cleanup Action Plan, SEPA  
Checklist and Determination**

Public Comment Period: April 14 – May 16, 2016

**Facility Site ID: 779**  
**Cleanup Site ID: 4971**



**Language Assistance**

Para asistencia en Espanol:  
(360) 407-6097, [preguntas@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:preguntas@ecy.wa.gov)

한국어에서 지원에 대 한: (425) 649-7166

Liên hệ bằng tiếng Việt, xin liên lạc:  
(360) 407-6948

若需中文翻譯: (360) 407-6956

**Accommodation Requests**

To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 509-329-3546. Persons with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. Persons with a speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.