We’d like to hear from you

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) invites you to review and comment on a remedial investigation (RI) report and a public participation plan for the Fuel Processors, Inc., site (site). The site is located at 701 Bozarth Avenue in Woodland, Washington.

The RI report describes the type of contamination and where it’s located. You can view it at the following links:

- Remedial Investigation Part One
- Remedial Investigation Part Two

The public participation plan describes how we inform the community about cleanup at the site. The plan encourages community involvement in cleanup decisions.

The comment period is from March 28 to April 26, 2022.

The blue box on the left shows how to submit your comment online or U.S. mail. If you need help or want to learn how to write an effective comment, please visit our submit comments webpage for tips and instructions.

Ecology’s role in cleanup at the Fuel Processors site

A past owner planned to use the site to process solvents. They submitted the required documentation to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a dangerous waste permit (permit). A permit is required for any company wanting to treat, store, or dispose of dangerous waste, or stop receiving waste. In 1985, EPA and Fuel Processors Inc. (Fuel Processors) agreed to close the permit. When a permit is closed, contamination from past and present practices must be cleaned up.

In the case of the Fuel Processors site, Ecology is overseeing all cleanup activities. The potentially liable parties (PLPs), who are the people responsible for cleanup, must pay for cleanup and meet state cleanup standards under the Model Toxics Control Act, which is more protective than federal standards.

Site background

Fuel Processors, Oil Re-Refining Co. (ORRCO), and Shell Oil Company (Shell) are the PLPs at the Fuel Processors site. Their past practices resulted in the release of petroleum products and solvents that contaminated soil and groundwater. Table 1 summarizes site ownership and use between the 1930s and present day.

3 https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2204010.html
4 https://ecology.wa.gov/Footer/Public-input-events/Commenting-tips
Fuel Processors started clean up in 1985 after oil was spilled at the site. They removed and disposed of contaminated soil, and covered the area with a concrete cap to protect people and animals from coming into contact with leftover contamination.

In 2008, Ecology issued an agreed order (AO) to Fuel Processors and ORRCO to draft cleanup documents for the site, which included an RI, a feasibility study, and a cleanup action plan. In 2018, Ecology amended the AO (Agreed Order No. DE 5054) to include Shell as a PLP.

**Remedial investigation findings**

In 2019, the PLPs completed the RI. It showed that soil and groundwater contain the following substances that may be harmful to human health and the environment:

- Weathered gasoline.
- Diesel fuel.
- Used oil products.
- Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from petroleum.
- Chlorinated solvents (commonly used as degreasers) such as trichloroethylene (TCE).
- Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and metals like lead and arsenic (that cause cancer).

The extent of soil and groundwater contamination is mostly limited to the property under the former tank farm, a loading rack canopy, and a warehouse building. Some contamination goes beyond the property boundary to the northwest under the Bozarth Avenue right-of-way (see Figures 1 and 2).

**Possible pathways of exposure**

**Domestic wells**

Based on the direction and movement of the contamination, it’s unlikely water in nearby domestic wells will be affected. There are six wells within a one-mile radius of the site. If you own a private well, you’re responsible for testing your own water.  

Public drinking water supplied to the site and surrounding area by the City of Woodland is safe to drink. The Washington State Department of Health monitors municipal drinking water to make sure it meets state standards.

**Groundwater**

People and animals will not be in contact with groundwater. The water table is located between 5 and 14.5 feet below the ground.

**Soil**

People and animals at the site could be exposed to contaminants by touching contaminated soil or accidentally eating it from dirty hands or paws. City officials will be notified in the event that work is being done in the right-of-way.

**Vapor intrusion**

When soil or groundwater is contaminated, vapors can migrate into buildings and can cause unhealthy levels of hazardous substances in indoor air. A recent assessment by Shell shows that buildings outside the property boundary aren’t affected by soil vapor.

**Next steps**

Ecology will consider all comments received during the comment period. If there are no changes, we’ll approve and finalize the RI report. The PLPs will then prepare a draft feasibility study that identifies remedies for contamination and evaluates cost estimates for cleanup. This will also be available for public comment. Learn about other cleanup sites in your neighborhood on our [What’s In My Neighborhood webpage](https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/neighborhood/).  

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5 Shell states there were other property owners between 1969 and 1979, although we haven’t verified it. We have no evidence that a release occurred at this time.


7 [https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/neighborhood/](https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/neighborhood/)
Figure 1: Site location and surrounding land use.

Figure 2: Map showing extent of contamination, monitoring locations, and site features.
Fuel Processors Inc., Site Cleanup Report Results

**Public comment period**
March 28–April 26, 2022

Comment online at:

Find out more about the site and view the report:
https://ecology.wa.gov/fuelprocessors

Facility Site ID: 810, Site Cleanup ID: 76

**Información en Español incluida**

**ADA Accessibility:** To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6700 or email at hwtrpubs@ecy.wa.gov, or visit ecology.wa.gov/accessibility. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.

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Accesibilidad ADA: El Departamento de Ecología se compromete a proporcionar a las personas con discapacidades acceso a información y servicios al cumplir o exceder los requisitos de la Ley para Estadounidenses con Discapacidades (ADA), Secciones 504 y 508 del Acto de Rehabilitación, y la Política del Estado de Washington #188. Para solicitar acomodación ADA, comuníquese con Ecología por teléfono al 360-407-6700 o por correo electrónico al hwtrpubs@ecy.wa.gov. Para Servicio de Retransmisión de Washington o TTY llame al 711 o 877-833-6341. Visite el sitio web de Ecología (en inglés) para más información.