

New City Cleaners



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Comments Accepted:

September 1 – October 2, 2023

Submit Comments:

Online at:

<https://tcp.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=RkHrGBPQd>

By mail to:

Rachel Caron, Site Manager
 1250 W. Alder Street
 Union Gap, WA 98903
 509-907-1353
 Rachel.Caron@ecy.wa.gov

Site Info:

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/4894>

Facility Site ID: 327

Site Cleanup ID: 4894

Document Review

Locations:

Richland Public Library
 955 Northgate Drive
 Richland, WA 99352
 509-942-7454

WA Dept of Ecology
 1250 W. Alder Street
 Union Gap, WA 98903
 509-575-2490

Draft Cleanup Action Plan Available for Review and Comment

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is providing an opportunity for the public to comment on the Draft Cleanup Action Plan (DCAP) for the New City Cleaners site, located at 747 Stevens Drive in Richland. The DCAP is required as part of an Agreed Order. An Agreed Order is a legal agreement between Ecology and the Potentially Liable Persons (PLPs) outlining the expectations, process, and schedule for site cleanup. The DCAP was developed to implement site cleanup.

Ecology is asking for your comments on the Draft Cleanup Action Plan.

You are invited to:

- Review the “Draft Cleanup Action Plan, New City Cleaners,” dated December 21, 2020.
- Send your comments to Ecology for consideration. Comments will be accepted from September 1 through October 2, 2023.

Site Background

The site has been operating as a dry cleaner continuously since the late 1940s. Stoddard solvent, a flammable petroleum mixture stored in two underground storage tanks (USTs), was used until 1974 when the use of PCE began. PCE, a common chemical used in the dry cleaning process, was delivered in 55-gallon drums and stored on a rack outside onsite.

In 1975, the drums and rack were relocated indoors after an incident resulted in a release. Because of this incident and other releases, PCE has caused contamination in both soil and groundwater. Contaminated groundwater has also migrated to some surrounding properties. PCE is no longer used and has been replaced with an alternative safety solvent.

What Has Been Done?

After the discovery of PCE in groundwater, four underground storage tanks (some containing petroleum products, some containing dry cleaning fluids) were removed from the site in 1992. During the tank excavation, some soil was also removed.

In 2000, approximately 5,000 tons of contaminated soil was excavated and transported offsite. This was intended to control the source of groundwater contamination. Associated structures (wood storage sheds, landscaping, fences, and asphalt) were also removed and the excavated area was backfilled and compacted with clean fill dirt. Soil was not excavated if it was below the water table or if excavation would threaten the structural integrity of the building or two utility poles.

A pilot study was conducted to determine the effectiveness of bioremediation. Bioremediation commonly uses organic carbon sources such as sugars and oils to feed and stimulate the microorganisms that break down PCE.

Groundwater samples continue to show that PCE and TCE remain a concern at both the New City Cleaners property and other nearby properties.

Why This Matters?

Tetrachloroethene (PCE) is a common solvent used for dry cleaning. It is also known as perchloroethylene, tetrachloroethylene, and "PERC." Trichloroethene (TCE) is a common industrial solvent used to remove grease from metal.

Long-term exposure to PCE or TCE is suspected to cause an increased risk of developing cancer. This risk, while small, is above and beyond the normal risks people have of developing cancer due to other causes.

What Happens Next?

After the public comment period ends, Ecology will review and respond to comments received during the comment period. Ecology will hold a public meeting if requested by 10 or more people.

For information about other opportunities for public involvement, such as meetings, hearings, open houses, and workshops, please visit Ecology's Public Involvement Calendar at <https://ecology.wa.gov/Events/Search/Listing>.



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To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 509-406-6931 or email at Rhonda.Luke@ecy.wa.gov, or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.