

# Bear Mart Auto Sales



Bear Mart Auto Sales – Photo courtesy of Google Street View

## Comments accepted:

December 1 – December 31, 2023

## Submit comments:

### Online:

<https://tcp.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=cgU5k8HW3>

### By Mail:

Rhonda Luke  
 Public Involvement Coordinator  
 1250 W. Alder Street  
 Union Gap, WA 98903  
 509-406-6931  
 Rhonda.Luke@ecy.wa.gov

## Site info:

**Facility Site ID:** 6411794

**Site Cleanup ID:** 7700

## Document Review:

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/7700>

Keewaydin Park Library  
 405 S Dayton Street  
 Kennewick, WA 99336  
 509-586-3156

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

## Proposed Removal from the Hazardous Sites List Available for Review and Comment

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is proposing to remove the Bear Mart Auto Sales site from its Hazardous Sites List (HSL). The site is located at 1 East 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue in Kennewick.

The Hazardous Sites List is a list of sites Ecology reviewed for their potential threat to human health and the environment. This review is based on how much contamination is present, how toxic it is, and how easily it can come in contact with people and the environment. Sites must go through cleanup and meet state standards before Ecology can remove them from the list.

You are invited to:

- Review the No Further Action Letter, dated July 25, 2019

Send your comments to Ecology for consideration. Comments will be accepted from December 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

## Site Background

The site began operating as an auto sales lot in 1961 until 1974. Over the years, the site has had both auto sales and bodywork operations. In 1987, the site operated as Bear Mart Auto Sales until 2012. It is now J&R Auto Sales.

In 1992, the City of Kennewick discovered a 300-gallon underground storage tank (UST) behind the building while doing repair work in the nearby alley.

## What Has Been Done?

During the removal of the UST, soil samples were collected and sent to an accredited lab for analysis. The results revealed petroleum contamination above state cleanup levels. The contaminated soil was excavated and aerated onsite before disposal off-site.

In 2018, Ecology funded site investigations at this site through the Model Remedies Grant Program. This money was targeted at leaking underground storage tank sites. Site investigations are the process of gathering data about the site and are used to help develop and implement cleanup plans. The Bear Mart Auto Sales site was selected to receive a portion of the funds.

In 2019, an engineering company, GeoEngineers, performed site investigations and field testing of the soil. Samples were also sent to an accredited lab. The results confirmed that there was no contamination above state cleanup levels remained at the site.

## 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. If no changes are necessary, the site will be removed from the Hazardous Sites List.

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>.



**Rhonda Luke**  
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**506-406-6931**



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