

Spokane International Airport PFAS cleanup site

 Public input opportunity

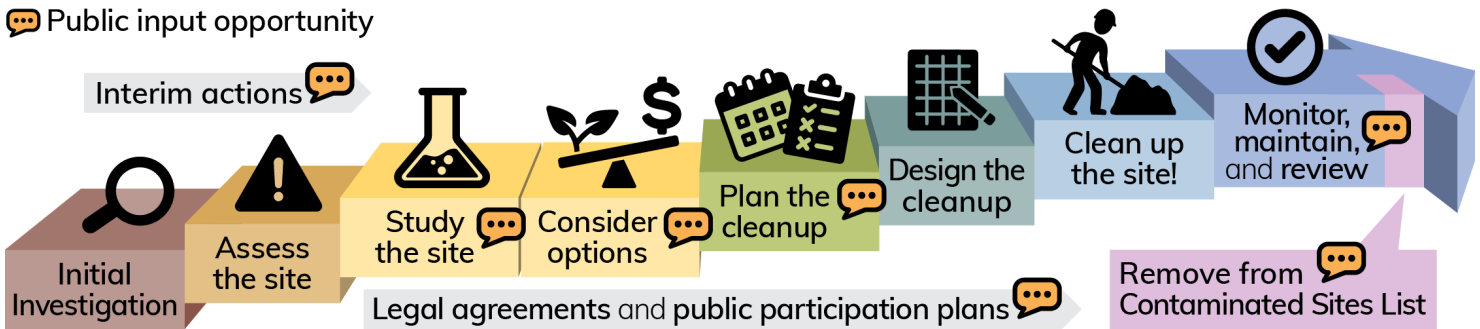


Figure 1. The steps in Washington's environmental cleanup process.

Comments accepted:

March 29 – May 27, 2024

Submit comments

Online:

<https://bit.ly/comment-SIA-PFAS>

Mail:

Jeremy Schmidt, site manager
4601 N. Monroe St.
Spokane, WA 99205

Email:

Jeremy.Schmidt@ecy.wa.gov

Questions: 509-724-1164

Review documents

Online:

<https://bit.ly/EcologySIA-PFAS>

In print:

Please contact Erika Beresovoy at Erika.Beresovoy@ecy.wa.gov or 509-385-2290.

Site info

Spokane International Airport
9000 W. Airport Dr.
Spokane, WA 99224

Facility Site ID: 6332493
Cleanup Site ID: 16774

Documents ready for public review and comment

You are invited to review and comment on the following documents for the Spokane International Airport PFAS cleanup site:

- Enforcement Order, which requires Spokane International Airport (SIA) to complete a remedial investigation and feasibility study (yellow steps in Figure 1). The remedial investigation will determine the full extent of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and other contamination in soil and groundwater, and the feasibility study will evaluate cleanup options. The order includes a scope of work and schedule for completing the investigation and study. This order went into effect on March 29, the day we issued it. Any public input about the investigation, such as personal knowledge of the site's history or places you believe should be investigated, can be used as we develop the remedial investigation work plan. We planned a 60-day comment period to allow for at least 30 more days after people receive the notice in the mail.
- Public Participation Plan, which describes how you can be involved during the cleanup process.

SIA is responsible for investigation, cleanup, and public-involvement related costs.

Public meeting, 6:30 p.m. on May 6

Please join Ecology for a public meeting where we will discuss the documents, answer your questions, and accept written comments.

- 6:30 p.m., Monday, May 6, 2024
- The Hub, 12703 W 14th Avenue, Airway Heights

How the site was discovered

In October 2017, SIA hired an environmental consultant to drill two new groundwater monitoring wells in the northeast part of the airport property. In November, these wells and an existing well were sampled to determine if PFAS were in groundwater. Sample results for all three wells had levels of PFAS above Washington's state action levels (SALs).¹

PFAS had been identified in wells in and around the nearby Fairchild Air Force Base earlier in 2017. PFAS, a known human health hazard, are in firefighting foam used to control petroleum fires at airports and military installations.

In March 2019, SIA hired another consultant to sample groundwater monitoring wells for PFAS in an area that had been used for fire training drills in the southwest portion of the airport property. Sample results for three wells had levels of PFAS above Washington's SALs.

In early 2023, Ecology received the 2017 and 2019 groundwater sampling results, which can be viewed in the Documents section of our SIA PFAS cleanup site webpage,² from a third party who got them through a public records request. We completed an initial investigation, and then added the airport to the Contaminated Sites List.

Next steps

Ecology will consider and respond to all comments we receive during this public comment period. We will post our response to comments document on our SIA PFAS cleanup site webpage² and send the document to people who submitted comments.

Figure 1 shows the stages of cleanup and what remains in the process following the investigation.

¹ <https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2023-02/334-473-PFAS-StateActionLevelFactsheet.pdf>

² <https://bit.ly/EcologySIA-PFAS>

Stay informed

You received this notice because you live within the postal mailing list area we chose for this site. It includes addresses in an area around the airport that includes almost 40 square miles and 17,643 people according to U.S. Census data. The area includes properties within one mile of the airport boundary to the south and west, more than four miles to the north, and almost three miles to the east. Based on public input, we extended the mailing list area north.

Spokane County's parcel data also provides us mailing addresses for property owners who do not receive mail at their physical address and may live elsewhere. If renters are at the physical address, the owner and renter should both get notices in the mail.

We will add anyone to the mailing list upon request. Please contact Erika Beresovoy at 509-385-2290 or Erika.Beresovoy@ecy.wa.gov.

Join the West Plains PFAS updates email list for more information

Ecology maintains the West Plains PFAS updates email list to inform people about this site and other PFAS-related topics. If you would like to be added to the West Plains PFAS updates email list, please subscribe online at <https://bit.ly/EcologyWestPlainsPFASupdates>, or contact Erika Beresovoy at Erika.Beresovoy@ecy.wa.gov or 509-385-2290.

Ecology's cleanup process

The Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) is Washington's environmental cleanup law. It provides requirements for contaminated site cleanup and sets standards that protect people and the environment. Ecology implements the MTCA cleanup process³ (Figure 1).

³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Cleanup-process>



Toxics Cleanup Program
4601 N. Monroe St.
Spokane, WA 99205

Investigating PFAS contamination at Spokane International Airport Draft documents for public review and comment



You are invited to review and comment on the Enforcement Order and Public Participation Plan for the Spokane International Airport PFAS site. The order requires Spokane International Airport to investigate per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and other contamination in soil and groundwater and evaluate cleanup options. PFAS, a known human health hazard, are in firefighting foam used to control petroleum fires at airports and military installations.

Public Comment Period

March 29 – May 27, 2024

<https://bit.ly/EcologySIA-PFAS>

Public Meeting

May 6, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

The Hub, 12703 W 14th Ave, Airway Heights

ADA accessibility

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6831 or email at ecyadacoordinator@ecy.wa.gov, or visit ecology.wa.gov/Accessibility. For Relay Service or TTY, call 711 or 877-833-6341.