

Whitten Oil 1 Cleanup Site



Whitty's Chevron at 370 W. 5th in Colville. Photo: Tetra Tech.

Comments accepted:

12:00 a.m. November 18 –
11:59 p.m. December 17, 2024

Submit comments

Online:

[https://go.ecology.wa.gov/
CommentWhittenOil](https://go.ecology.wa.gov/CommentWhittenOil)

Mail:

Ted Uecker, Site Manager
4601 N. Monroe St.
Spokane, WA 99205

Email: Ted.Uecker@ecy.wa.gov

Questions: 509-342-5564

Review documents

Online:

[https://go.ecology.wa.gov/
WhittenOil](https://go.ecology.wa.gov/WhittenOil)

In print:

Please contact Erika Beresovoy
at Erika.Beresovoy@ecy.wa.gov
or 509-385-2290 if you need
print documents.

Site info

Address: 370 W. 5th
Colville, Stevens County

Facility Site ID: 49354234
Cleanup Site ID: 9440

Draft legal agreement and public participation plan ready for public review and comment

You are invited to review and comment on the draft Agreed Order and Public Participation Plan for the Whitten Oil 1 cleanup site. The order requires Whitten Oil, Inc. and Whitty's LLC to complete a remedial investigation and feasibility study. The remedial investigation will determine the full extent of petroleum and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) contamination in air, soil, and groundwater, and the feasibility study will evaluate cleanup options. The plan describes how you will be informed and can comment during the cleanup process.

Whitten Oil, Inc. and Whitty's LLC are responsible for investigation and cleanup costs, as former and current operators of the site.

Site history

The site has been used to distribute petroleum products since the late 1930s (Figure 3, page 3). Whitten Oil began operating there in 1973. In 1989, workers removed six underground storage tanks and surrounding contaminated soil. A seventh underground storage tank was closed in place under the former gas station building at that time. Further investigation found more soil and groundwater contamination.

Since 2017, groundwater has been sampled twice a year. In 2018, petroleum and VOCs in groundwater began to increase. In 2023, Ecology decided a new investigation and further cleanup are necessary because the extent of contamination is unknown and may be threatening nearby residences.

Drinking water is safe

Businesses and homes within the City of Colville get drinking water from the city. This water is regularly tested under the Washington Department of Health's regulations and is safe for drinking.

Toxics Cleanup Program

However, if contamination spreads under nearby buildings, it can cause harmful vapors to build up inside them. This is called vapor intrusion (Figure 1).

Ecology is requiring the investigation and cleanup to assess the potential for vapor intrusion and to prevent the contamination spreading further.

Next steps

Ecology will consider all comments received during this public comment period, which may cause changes to the draft Agreed Order and Public Participation Plan.

If the documents change significantly, we will hold another public comment period. We will hold a public meeting if 10 or more people request it.

If no significant changes are made, Ecology will finalize the order, and Whitten Oil, Inc. and Whitty's LLC will begin the remedial investigation. Figure 2 shows the stages of cleanup and what remains in the process.

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 process. Whitten Oil 1 is in the "Study the site" (remedial investigation) and "Consider options" (feasibility study) steps.

 Public input opportunity

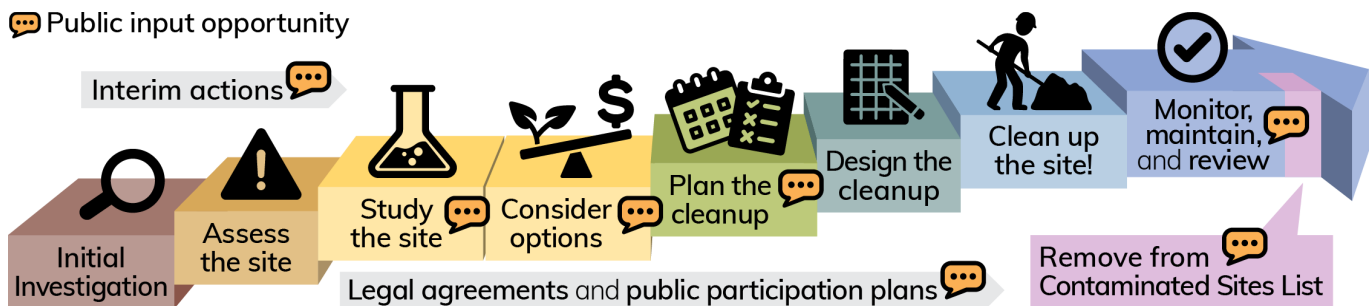


Figure 2. The steps in Washington's formal cleanup process.

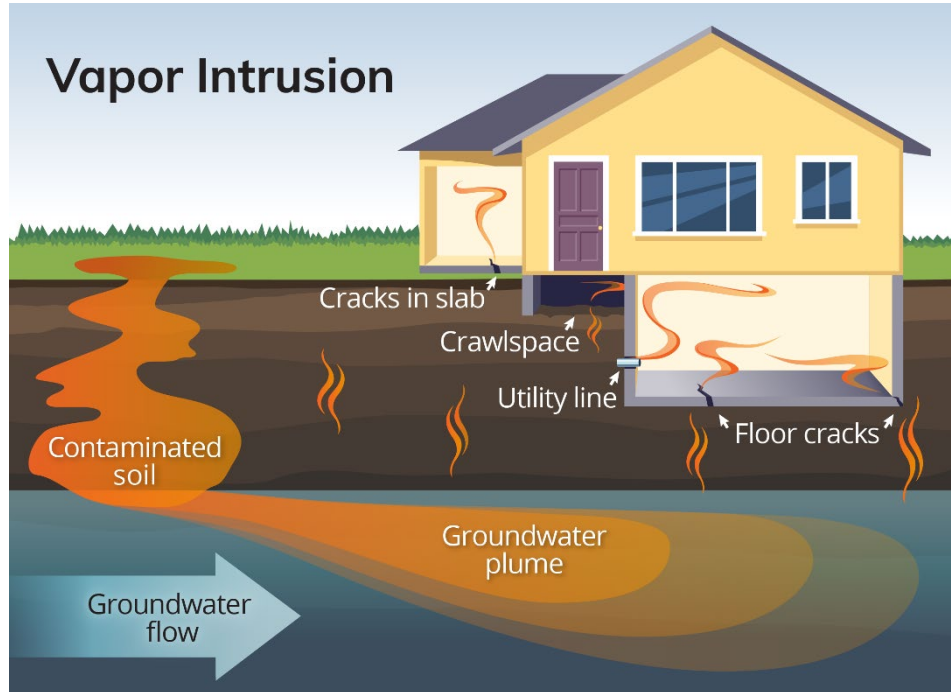


Figure 1. Vapor intrusion can occur when contamination spreads under buildings.

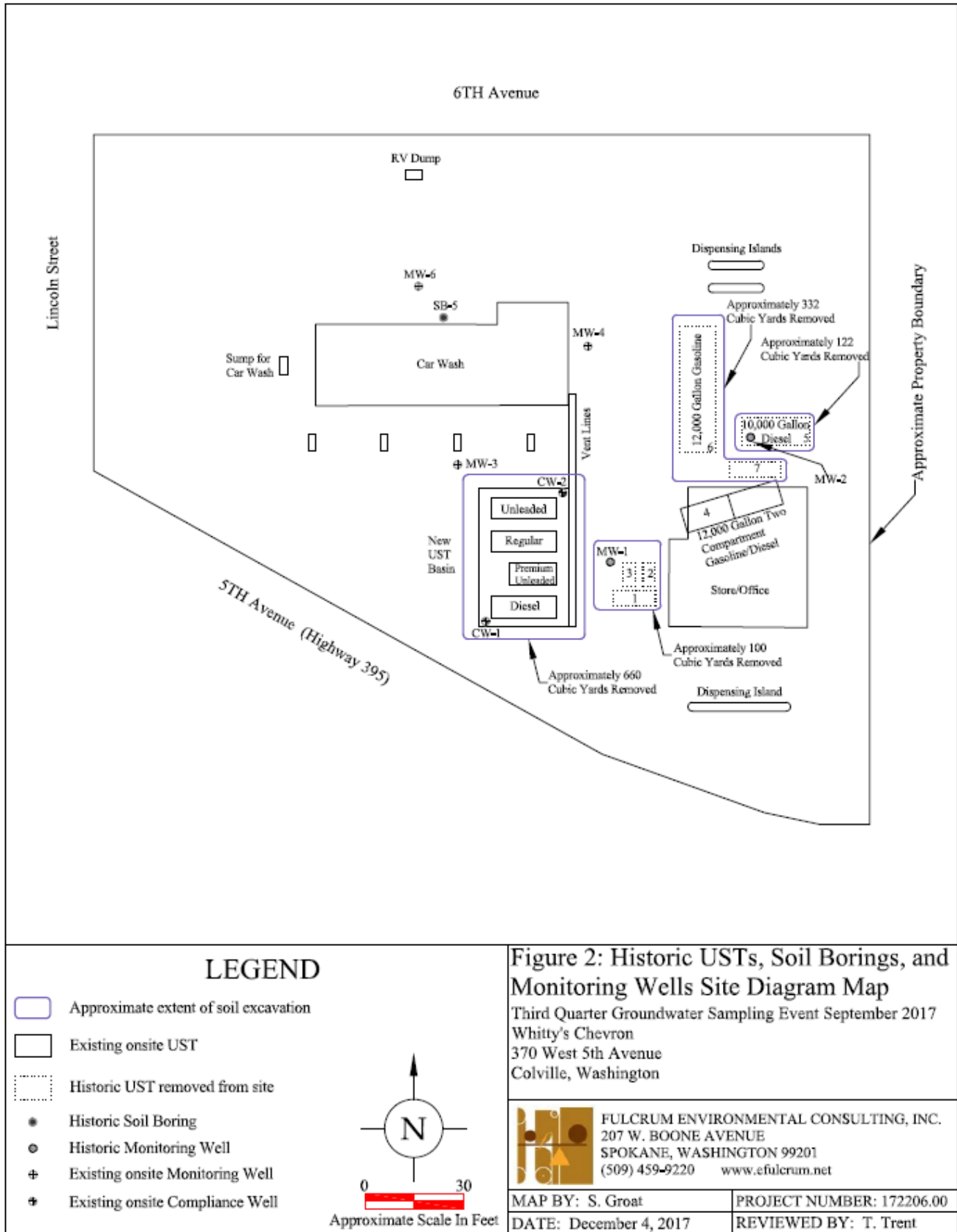


Figure 3. Site map (Fulcrum Environmental Consulting, Inc., 2017).

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

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You are invited to review and comment on the draft Agreed Order and Public Participation Plan for the Whitten Oil 1 cleanup site at 370 W 5th in Colville. The order requires Whitten Oil, Inc. and Whitty's LLC, the former and current site owners, to investigate petroleum and volatile organic compounds contamination in air, soil, and groundwater, and evaluate cleanup options.

Public Comment Period

12:00 a.m. November 18 – 11:59 p.m. December 17, 2024

<https://go.ecology.wa.gov/WhittenOil>

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.