

Lower Issaquah Valley PFAS Cleanup Sites



Two PFAS cleanup sites in the Lower Issaquah Valley

Public comment period

April 22 – June 6, 2024

Submit comments

Online:

[Ecology's eComment System](#)¹

By mail or email:

Brett Carp, Aquatics Unit Supv.
 WA Department of Ecology
 PO Box 330316
 Shoreline, WA 98133-9716
Brett.Carp@ecy.wa.gov
 206-594-0094

Review documents

Online: [Ecology's webpage](#)²

Issaquah Public Library

10 W Sunset Way
 Issaquah, WA 98027

For assistance, contact:

Kristen Forkeutis

Outreach Specialist

Kristen.Forkeutis@ecy.wa.gov
 425-240-4353

Español (página 7)

中文信息 (第 7 页)

हिन्दी (पृष्ठ 7 देखें)

Documents ready for public review

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) invites you to comment on documents related to two cleanup sites in the Lower Issaquah Valley in King County.

1. EFR HQ IVES (Eastside Fire & Rescue Headquarters and Issaquah Valley Elementary School)
2. Rainier Trail & Memorial Field

These sites were identified due to releases of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) to soil and groundwater. Investigations determined the likely source of PFAS is firefighting foam formerly used at the sites during lawful training activities. The potentially liable persons (PLPs) for the releases include the [City of Issaquah](#)³ (City) and [Eastside Fire & Rescue](#)⁴ (EF&R).

The site documents available for review and comment include:

- **An Agreed Order (legal agreement) for each site:** legal document that requires the City and EF&R to investigate environmental conditions, complete a Remedial Investigation, Feasibility Study, and a draft Cleanup Action Plan.
- **A combined Public Participation Plan for both sites:** describes how Ecology will inform the community about site activities and ways to become involved.

Public participation options

Ecology encourages the public to review documents, submit comments, and attend either or both public meetings being offered. See page two for details about the public meetings.

¹ <https://bit.ly/ecology-liv-comments>

² <https://ecology.wa.gov/liv>

³ <https://www.issaquahwa.gov/PFAS>

⁴ <https://www.eastsidefire-rescue.org>

Public meeting options



Online Meeting

Wednesday, May 1

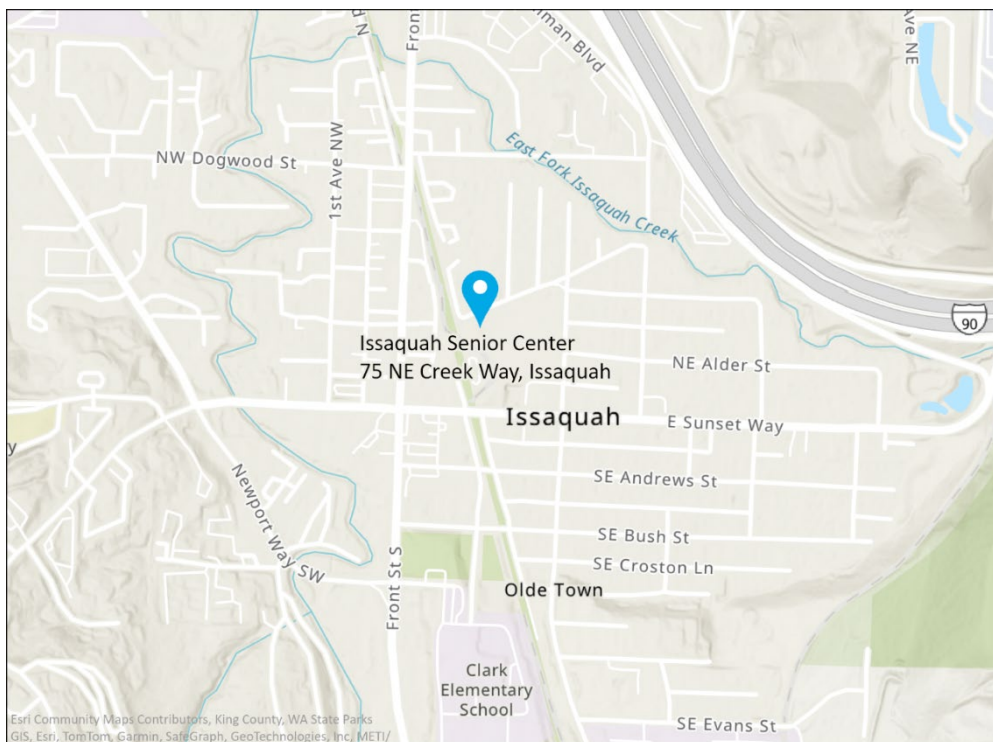
- Presentation starting at 6:30 p.m., Q&A to follow as needed
- Interpretation available in Spanish, Chinese, and Hindi via Zoom application
- [Register via Zoom](#)⁵



In-person Meeting

Thursday, May 2

- Pre-meeting Open House from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- Presentation starting at 6:30 pm, Q&A to follow as needed
- Interpretation available in Spanish, Chinese, and Hindi during the meeting via the Zoom application with a smartphone and headphones. Ecology will have limited number of smartphones and headphones to borrow.
- Location: [Issaquah Senior Center](#)⁶
75 NE Creek Way, Issaquah, WA
425-392-2381



⁵ <https://ecology.wa.gov/liv>

⁶ <https://www.issaquahwa.gov/seniors>

Background

The Lower Issaquah Valley is located east of Seattle. The valley extends from the south end of Lake Sammamish approximately 2.5 miles southeast and ranges in elevation from 40 to 160 feet above mean sea level. Issaquah Creek generally runs north through the valley and discharges to Lake Sammamish. The City of Issaquah is in the northern portion of the valley. [The City of Issaquah Water Service Area](#)⁷ supply is derived from 4 production wells located throughout the valley and from a regional supply.

The City of Issaquah became aware of PFAS in one water supply well in October 2015. The City ensured that the well was either turned off or pumping at a reduced rate. A granular activated carbon filtration (GAC) system was then installed, and the well was returned to regular service. The GAC system reduces PFAS concentrations to levels that are undetectable by state and federal compliance sampling methods. The City of Issaquah Water Service Area continues to meet safe drinking water levels.

PFAS has also been detected in some water supply wells operated by [Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer District \(SP Water\)](#).⁸ Wells with the highest PFAS levels were removed from service in 2017 and SP Water continues to meet safe drinking water levels. SP Water is advancing efforts to design and build a water treatment facility to remove PFAS from its impacted wells.

A source of PFAS contamination to soil and groundwater can be residual firefighting foam. Investigation of some of the potential sources identified four training areas where firefighting foam was used/deployed. PFAS has been detected in soil and groundwater at these sites. PFAS is transported via groundwater flow. Data collected to date indicate that it's safe for people and pets to touch the soil.

Two Cleanup Sites

The following cleanup sites are listed by Ecology under the [Model Toxics Control Act \(MTCA\)](#).⁹

1. [EFR HQ IVES \(Eastside Fire & Rescue Headquarters and Issaquah Valley Elementary School\) site](#)¹⁰
Facility Site ID: 83936264 | Cleanup Site ID: 16581
This site includes two source areas based on known firefighting training activities.
 - a. Eastside Fire & Rescue Headquarters, 175 Newport Way NW, Issaquah, WA
 - b. Issaquah Valley Elementary School & Dodd Fields Park, 555 NW Holly Street, Issaquah, WA
2. [Rainier Trail & Memorial Field site](#)¹¹
Facility Site ID: 57044 | Cleanup Site ID: 16582
This site includes two source areas based on known firefighting training activities.
 - a. Rainier Trail, 135 E Sunset Way, Issaquah, WA
 - b. Memorial Field, 105 2nd Ave NE, Issaquah, WA

⁷ <https://www.issaquahwa.gov/478/Water>

⁸ <https://letstalkaboutourwater.org/>

⁹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/mtca>

¹⁰ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/16581>

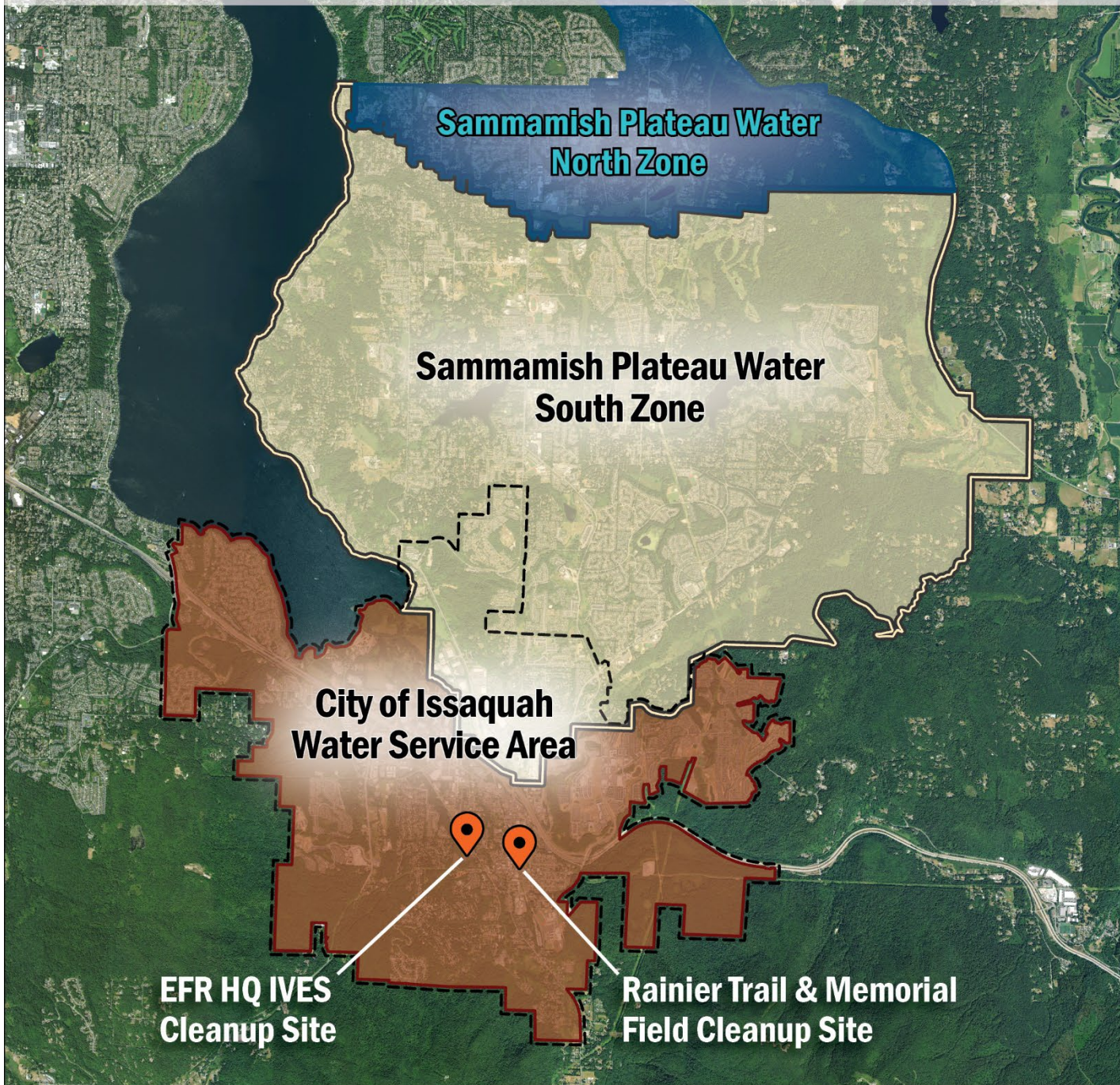
¹¹ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/16582>

Lower Issaquah Valley PFAS Cleanup Sites





The EFR HQ IVES cleanup site is comprised of two source areas: 1) Eastside Fire & Rescue Headquarters and 2) Issaquah Valley Elementary School. The Rainier Trail & Memorial Field cleanup site is comprised of two source areas: 1) A segment of the Rainier Trail and 2) Memorial Field.

Issaquah Valley and Vicinity Map





Impacted Service Area


 City of Issaquah Water Service Area

 SP Water South Zone

Not Impacted

 SP Water North Zone

 Listed Cleanup Site

 Issaquah City Boundary

PFAS Contamination

What are PFAS?

PFAS stands for per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances. PFAS is a family of manufactured chemicals which have been used since the 1940s and are in many industrial and consumer products because of their unique and useful chemical properties. They are used in firefighting foam and a wide range of consumer products including carpets, clothing, cookware, paper, and packaging.

Why are we concerned about PFAS?

Due to their unique and useful chemical properties, PFAS do not degrade or break down naturally in the environment and can accumulate over time. For this reason, PFAS are sometimes called “forever chemicals.” Some PFAS are toxic to laboratory animals and have the potential to impact people’s health. The [Washington State Department of Health](#)¹² (DOH) are the experts on drinking water and public health. You can learn more about PFAS health concerns at doh.wa.gov/pfas.

Are PFAS regulated?

In 2021, Washington State implemented state action levels (SALs) for five PFAS chemicals. The SALs are recommended state limits for individual PFAS chemicals in the drinking water. The SALs were set by the [Washington State Board of Health](#)¹³ with support from the DOH. The SALs require Group A public water systems to test their drinking water by the end of 2025. Group A public water systems generally include at least 15 connections or serve at least 25 people a day for at least 60 days per year. If testing indicates drinking water levels exceed the SALs, the public water systems must inform their customers.

[The Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#)¹⁴ is also developing federal PFAS regulations.

Where can I learn more about PFAS?

Additional links about PFAS are listed below.

- [Washington State Department of Ecology PFAS](#)¹⁵
- [Washington State Department of Health Frequently Asked PFAS Questions](#)¹⁶
- [Washington State Department of Health SALs Monitoring Requirements](#)¹⁷
- [Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry \(ATSDR\) – Health Effects of PFAS](#)¹⁸
- [National Groundwater Association, PFAS and Private Well Owners Fact Sheet](#)¹⁹

¹² <https://doh.wa.gov>

¹³ <https://sboh.wa.gov>

¹⁴ <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>

¹⁵ <https://ecology.wa.gov/pfas>

¹⁶ <https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/contaminants/pfas>

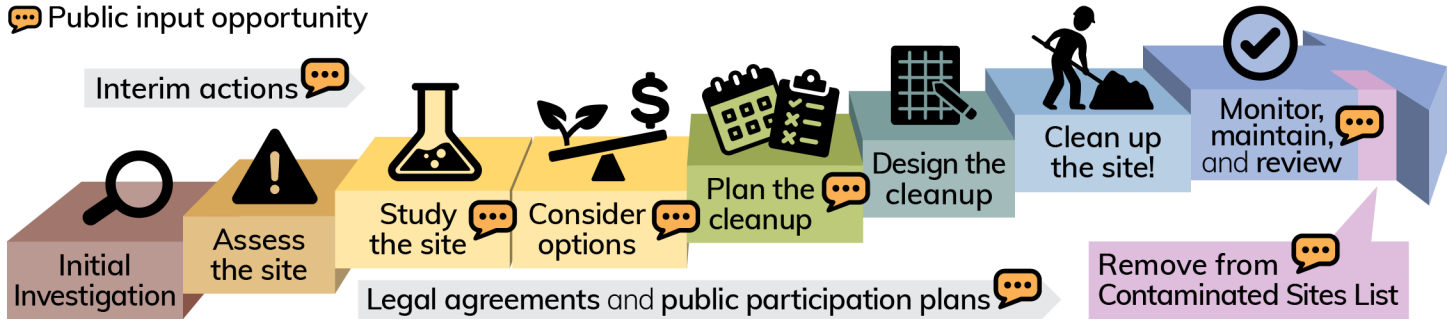
¹⁷ <https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/drinking-water/contaminants/pfas-drinking-water>

¹⁸ <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/health-effects/index.html>

¹⁹ https://www.ngwa.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/pfas/pfas-and-private-well-owners-what-you-need-to-know.pdf?sfvrsn=e54b7602_2

What happens next?

Public input opportunity



Washington's formal [cleanup process](#)²⁰ is shown in the graphic above. Both sites have undergone an initial investigation. Ecology will also assess each site. A general timeline for the remaining steps is provided below.

- **April 22 – June 6, 2024:** Public comment period.
- **Spring – Summer 2024:** Ecology responds to public comments received.
- **2024 through 2025:** Complete studies of the sites (remedial investigations).
- **2025 through 2026:** Initiate potential interim action(s) and consider options for cleanup (feasibility studies) for each site.
- **2027 and beyond:** Plan the cleanup (cleanup action plan), design the cleanup (engineering design), and implement the cleanup. Monitor, maintain, and review the sites.

Legal agreements, interim actions, remedial investigations, feasibility studies, and cleanup action plans will be available for public review and comment as described in the Public Participation Plan.

Cost and Funding

Further investigation activities conducted under the Agreed Orders will be funded by Ecology through an interagency agreement (IAA).

Información en español

Para obtener una traducción de este documento en español, vaya a www.ecology.wa.gov/liv, visite la Biblioteca pública de Issaquah (10 W Sunset Way, Issaquah, WA, 98027) o comuníquese con Kristen Forkeutis llamando al 425-240-4353 y espere a que un intérprete se una a la llamada.

有关清理工作的中文信息

如需获取本文件的中文译文，请访问 www.ecology.wa.gov/liv，访问 Issaquah 公共图书馆 (10 W Sunset Way, Issaquah, WA, 98027)，或致电 425-240-4353 联系 Kristen Forkeutis，等待口译人员上线为您服务。

हिंदी में जानकारी

इस दस्तावेज़ का हिंदी भाषा में अनुवाद प्राप्त करने के लिए, इस्साका पर www.ecology.wa.gov/liv पर जाएँ पब्लिक लाइब्रेरी (10 W Sunset Way, Issaquah, WA, 98027), या 425-240-4353 पर क्रिस्टन फोर्क्यूटिस से संपर्क करें और लाइन में शामिल होने के लिए दुभाषिया की प्रतीक्षा करें।

²⁰ <https://ecology.wa.gov/MTCA-process>

Toxics Cleanup Program
PO Box 330316
Shoreline, WA 98133-9716

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हिन्दी (पृष्ठ 7 देखें)

Public comment period

Monday, April 22 – Thursday, June 6, 2024
www.ecology.wa.gov/liv

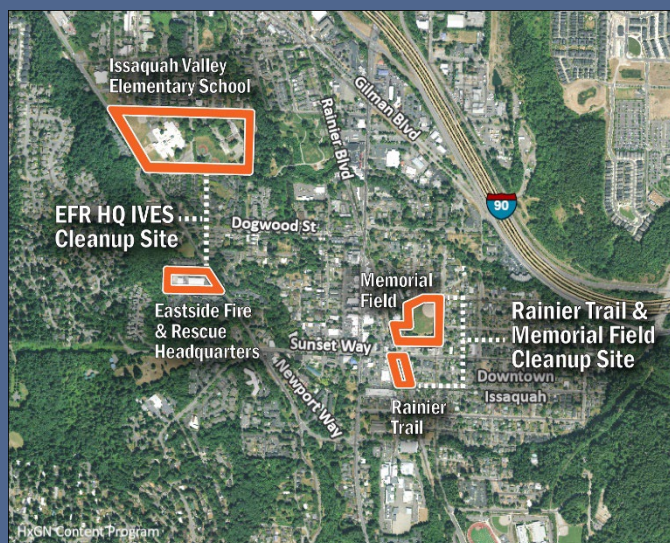
Online & in-person public meetings

Online: Wednesday, May 1, 2024
6:30 pm Public meeting with Q&A as needed

In-Person: Thursday, May 2, 2024
5:30 p.m. Open house
6:30 p.m. Public meeting with Q&A as needed
(see page two for more information)

ADA accessibility

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 425-240-4353 or email at kristen.forkeutis@ecy.wa.gov, or visit ecology.wa.gov/accessibility. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.



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