EFR HQ IVES Cleanup Site



Eastside Fire & Rescue Headquarters property, part of the EFR HQ IVES cleanup site

Comments accepted

October 20, 12:00 a.m. –
December 22, 11:59 p.m., 2025

Submit comments

Online:
www.go.ecology.wa.gov/EFR-HQ-IVES-Comments

By mail or email:
Vance Atkins, Site Manager
WA Department of Ecology
PO Box 330316
Shoreline, WA 98133-9716
Vance.Atkins@ecy.wa.gov
425-324-1438

Document review

www.go.ecology.wa.gov/EFR-HQ-IVES

Issaquah Public Library
10 W Sunset Way
Issaquah, WA 98027
425-392-5430

For document review assistance, please contact:

Kristen Forkeutis,
Outreach Specialist
Kristen.Forkeutis@ecy.wa.gov
425-240-4353

Site info

Facility Site ID: 87761647
Site Cleanup ID: 16581

Documents ready for public review and comment

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) invites you to comment on documents for a cleanup at the Eastside Fire & Rescue Headquarters property, which is part of the EFR HQ IVES cleanup site in Issaquah. Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) were released to the soil and groundwater from firefighting foam, formerly used at the site during lawful training activities. The Potentially Liable Persons (PLPs) for the cleanup site include the City of Issaquah (City) and Eastside Fire & Rescue (EF&R). The following documents are available for review:

- **Interim Action Work Plan:** Describes the planned cleanup work of contaminated soil and groundwater associated with the EF&R Headquarters property.
- **State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) – Determination of Non-Significance:** Ecology's determination that the cleanup work is not likely to harm the environment.

Join our open house: in-person or online!

Drop in during a two-hour open house to learn more about this cleanup site and speak with staff from the City, EF&R, and Ecology. No formal presentation is planned.

Wednesday, November 5, 2025
5:00–7:00 p.m.

In-person open house:
Eastside Fire & Rescue
175 Newport Way NW, Issaquah

Online open house: Zoom virtual meeting
Register: www.go.ecology.wa.gov/EFR-HQ-IVES

Scan for more info

Language services information – see page 7

Español | 中文

Interim Action Work Plan

Interim actions are early partial cleanups. They help address immediate contamination problems and prepare for other cleanup work in the future. Completion of an interim action at the EF&R Headquarters property will address the largest mass of PFAS in the soil and groundwater (see Figure 1). The following actions will occur:

- **Soil excavation and stabilization:** PFAS-contaminated soil will be excavated and mixed with activated carbon amendments to reduce the mobility of PFAS and limit its transport by groundwater. This treated soil will remain on-site. Some contaminated soil will also be taken to a permitted landfill.
- **Permeable Reactive Barrier (PRB) expansion**: PRB treatment injects colloidal activated carbon into the ground. As groundwater flows through the barrier, the carbon captures PFAS, reducing the amount of PFAS leaving the area. This work will expand upon the pilot test PRB installed in 2021.
- **Groundwater monitoring:** Groundwater will be sampled to confirm the interim action is reducing PFAS in groundwater and protecting human health and the environment.

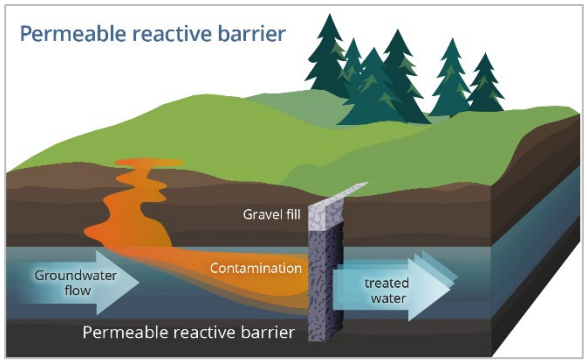


Illustration of a Permeable Reactive Barrier

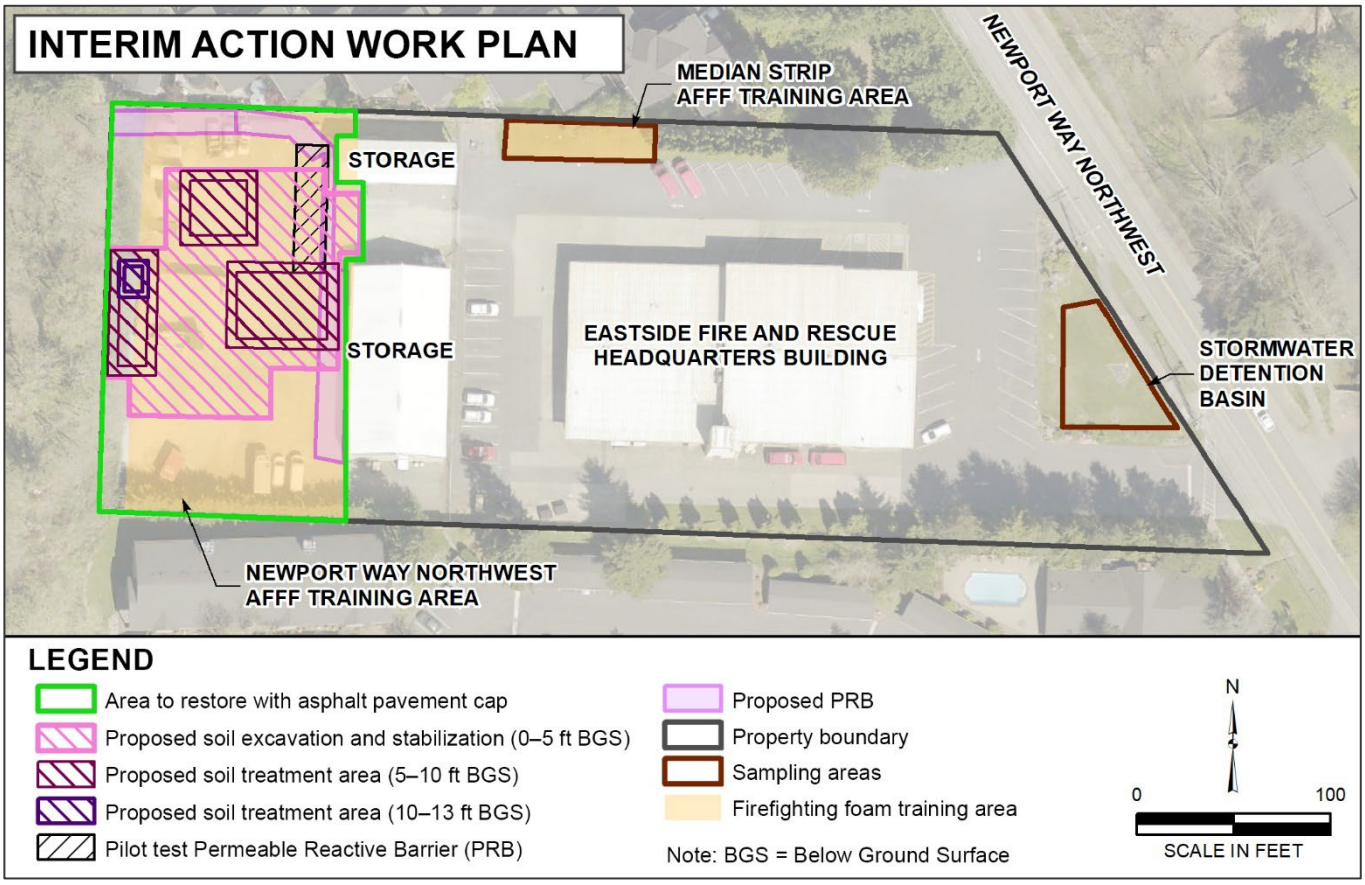


Figure 1: Interim action work plan to address PFAS in the soil and groundwater at the Eastside Fire & Rescue Headquarters property

What happens next?

Ecology will consider all the comments received during this public comment period and may make changes to the documents. If the documents require significant changes, we will hold another public comment period. If no significant changes are made, Ecology will finalize the documents. The interim action project is expected to take place from 2026 to 2027.

The PLPs will also complete a remedial investigation, feasibility study, and cleanup action plan for the site. Each of these documents will be available for public review and comment at a later time.

Cost and funding

Ecology is working with the City and EF&R to use state grant funds to clean up the EFR HQ IVES site. Funding for the interim action at the EF&R Headquarters property and ongoing site investigation was included in both the 2023-2025, and 2025-2027 biennial legislative budgets.

Site background and contamination

The EFR HQ IVES (Eastside Fire & Rescue Headquarters and Issaquah Valley Elementary School) cleanup site is situated in the Lower Issaquah Valley located northwest of downtown Issaquah. It includes two areas of PFAS contamination in soil and groundwater:

1) EF&R Headquarters at 175 Newport Way NW, Issaquah
2) Issaquah Valley Elementary School and Dodd Fields Park at 555 NW Holly Street, Issaquah

In the past, these two areas were used for lawful firefighting training activities conducted by the City and EF&R. A firefighting suppressant called aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) was used during training. EF&R transitioned to using PFAS-free AFFF in 2017.

The Issaquah Valley Elementary School and Dodd Fields Park area is being investigated separately. It is not part of this interim action project for the EF&R Headquarters property.



EFR HQ IVES cleanup site with two areas of PFAS contamination: 1) EF&R Headquarters and 2) Issaquah Valley Elementary School and Dodd Fields Park

Groundwater contamination

AFFF is considered a potential source of PFAS contamination in groundwater that supplies local drinking water wells. This has affected two water service areas that supply drinking water to the City of Issaquah and part of the City of Sammamish.

The City of Issaquah Water Service Area[1] supplies water from three drinking water wells located throughout the valley and from a regional source (see Figure 2 on page six). In October 2015 the City became aware of PFAS in one well. Issaquah ensured that the well was either turned off or pumping at a reduced rate. A granular activated carbon (GAC) filtration 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 drinking water wells operated by Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer District (SP Water).[2] See Figure 2 on page six. 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 working to design and build a water treatment facility to remove PFAS from its impacted wells.

PFAS contamination

What are PFAS?

PFAS stands for per-and poly-fluoroalkyl substances. PFAS are 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 readily degrade or break down naturally in the environment and can accumulate over time. For this reason, PFAS are sometimes called “forever chemicals.” Some types of PFAS can build up in our bodies when we’re exposed, for an extended period of time. Studies show that higher levels of PFAS chemicals in our bodies could increase our risk for negative health impacts. To learn more about PFAS health concerns visit the Washington State Department of Health’s PFAS webpage.[3]

Are PFAS regulated?

The Washington State Department of Ecology and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are taking action to address PFAS. To learn more, visit Ecology’s PFAS webpage[4] and EPA’s PFAS webpage.[5]

Are PFAS regulated in drinking water?

The Washington State Board of Health[6] requires over 2,400 public drinking water systems to test for PFAS by December 2025. If test results show PFAS levels above the State Action Levels (SALs) for any of

[1] https://www.issaquahwa.gov/478/Water
[2] https://letstalkaboutourwater.org/
[3] https://doh.wa.gov/pfas
[4] https://ecology.wa.gov/pfas
[5] https://www.epa.gov/pfas
[6] https://sboh.wa.gov

five regulated PFAS chemicals, the water system must notify the public within 30 days. The SALs are established for individual PFAS chemicals in drinking water at levels determined to be safe for all customers, based on the best available science at the time.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)[7] has national drinking water standards to protect communities from exposure to PFAS. Federal Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) are legal limits on how much of a contaminant is allowed in public drinking water systems. The MCLs for PFAS are stricter than almost all of Washington's SALs for PFAS.

The Washington State Board of Health has adopted the MCLs and is proposing the SALs match the MCLs. Once the MCLs take effect, they will replace the SALs for public water systems covered under federal rules—while the SALs will still apply to some non-community water systems that are determined to be at risk. Water systems that serve the same people on a regular basis must meet the MCL by April of 2029 or face enforcement.

Where can I learn more about PFAS?

Additional resources are listed below.

- What Are PFAS Factsheet[8]
- Washington State Department of Health PFAS in Drinking Water[9]
- Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) – How PFAS Impacts Your Health[10]
- National Ground Water Association | Groundwater and PFAS[11]

[7] https://www.epa.gov/pfas
[8] https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2025-08/334-585.pdf
[9] https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/drinking-water/contaminants/pfas-drinking-water
[10] https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/about/health-effects.html?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/health-effects/index.html
[11] https://www.ngwa.org/what-is-groundwater/groundwater-issues/Groundwater-and-PFAS

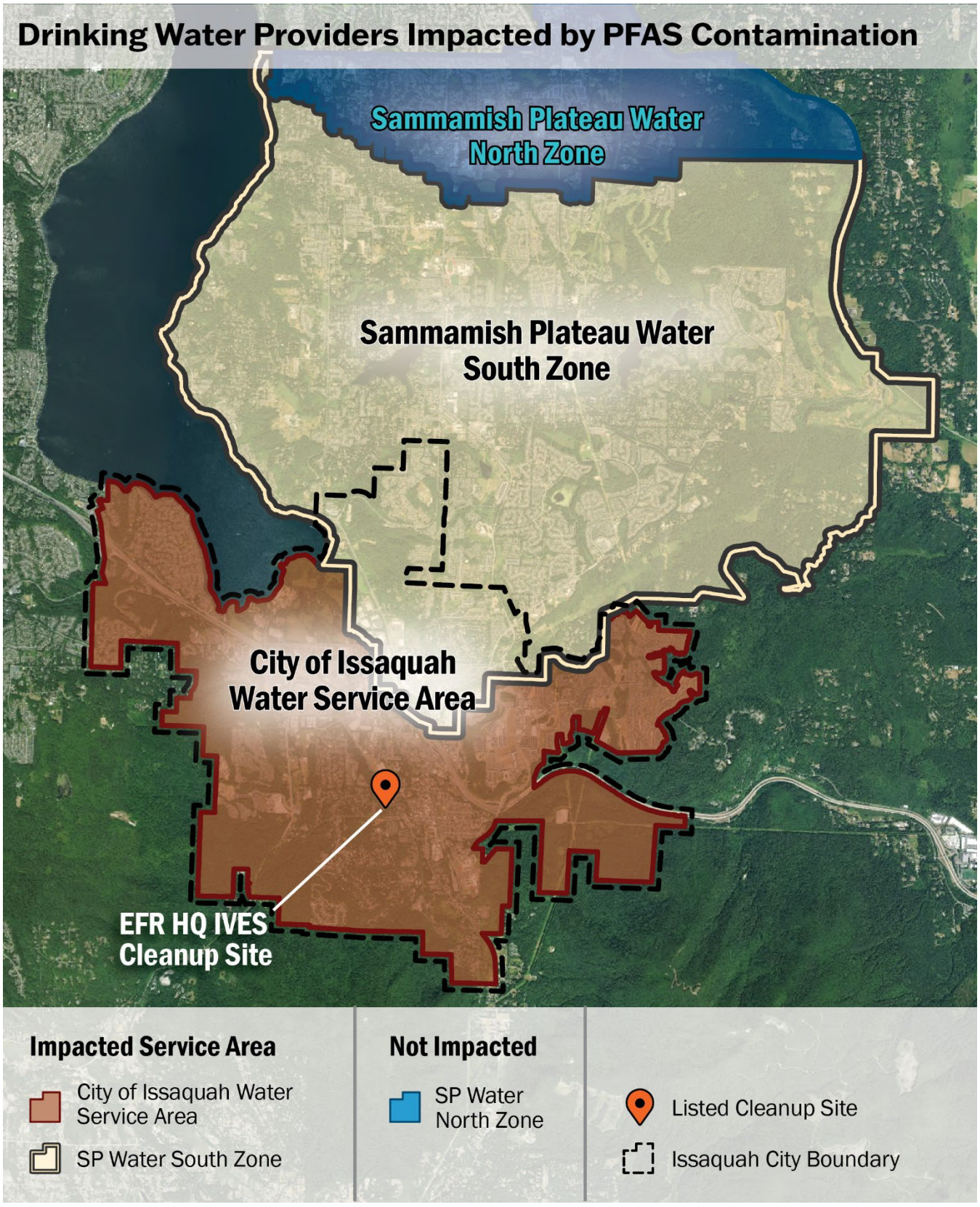


Figure 2: The City of Issaquah Water Service Area and Sammamish Plateau Water South Zone have drinking water supply wells impacted by PFAS contamination. Both water providers are meeting safe drinking water levels.

Ecology's cleanup process

The Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)[12] is Washington's environmental cleanup law. It provides requirements for contaminated site cleanup and sets standards that protect human health and the environment. Ecology is responsible for administering MTCA, including the oversight or management of cleanups. The MTCA cleanup process[13] is completed in steps (see Figure 3, below) over a variable timeline. The EFR HQ IVES cleanup site is currently in the "study the site" step of the process. This interim action is also occurring during this step. Both are outlined in red below.

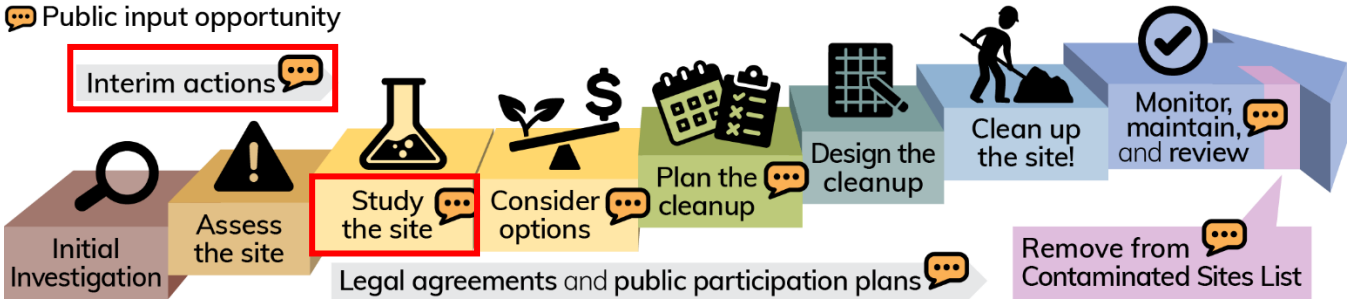


Figure 3: Washington's formal cleanup process

Automatic site updates

You can subscribe from the site webpage.[14] You'll receive a weekly email if we change the site's status, add documents to the site's webpage, or open a comment period.

Language Services

We offer translation and interpretation services at no cost. To request them, email Kristen.Forkeutis@ecy.wa.gov or call 425-240-4353. If you call, ask for an interpreter to be connected with one.

Español: Este material está disponible en español. Para ver una copia, visite www.go.ecology.wa.gov/EFR-HQ-IVES.

한국어 : 이 자료는 한국어로 제공됩니다. 사본을 보려면 www.go.ecology.wa.gov/EFR-HQ-IVES 를 방문하세요.

[12] https://ecology.wa.gov/mtca
[13] https://ecology.wa.gov/mtca-process
[14] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/16581

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

EFR HQ IVES Cleanup Site

Eastside Fire & Rescue Headquarters Property

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See page one for details.

Review the documents:

www.go.ecology.wa.gov/EFR-HQ-IVES

Scan for info and subscribe



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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.