

Caton Limited Purpose Landfill



Caton Limited Purpose Landfill – Photo courtesy of Luke LeMond

Submit Your Questions

Online at:

<https://go.ecology.gov/MeetingQuestions>

Or by mail to:

Luke LeMond, Site Manager
1250 W. Alder Street
Union Gap, WA 98903
509-379-3961
Luke.LeMond@ecy.wa.gov

Site Information

Facility Site ID: 4504
Cleanup Site ID: 11536

Document Review

Online:

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/11536>

If you are having difficulty viewing the online documents, call 509-575-2490

We Want You to Join Us!

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) is holding a public meeting in response to more than 10 requests from the public to hold one received during the comment period held from May 18, 2026 through July 31, 2026.

The public comment period requested input and comments on the Draft Agreed Order and Draft Public Participation Plan for the Caton Limited Purpose Landfill Site, located at 1500 Naches Wenas Road in Selah.

Review the documents:

- Draft Agreed Order
- Public Participation Plan

Public Meeting

Join us for a public meeting either in-person or online.* We will provide information about the site and an opportunity to have your questions answered.

Thursday, August 27, 2026 – 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

In-person: Washington State Department of Ecology
1250 W. Alder Street, Union Gap

Online*: Zoom. See Registration information below.

***Online Registration:** To attend virtually, register for the Zoom meeting. Visit: <https://go.ecology.wa.gov/ZoomRegistration>

Questions: Please submit questions in advance. The form is open now. Visit: <https://go.ecology.wa.gov/MeetingQuestions>

Site Background

The Caton Landfill was first permitted in 1997 as a construction and demolition debris landfill. This facility was originally permitted under Chapter 173-304 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) by the Yakima Health District (YHD). In 2008, following promulgation of Chapter 173-350 WAC, the facility obtained a permit from YHD for the operation of a Limited Purpose Landfill (LPL). The landfill is unlined. The Caton Landfill ceased accepting waste on April 14, 2025. The Caton Landfill does not have a solid waste handling permit.

Fire History

In November 2022, a fire broke out within the waste. It was first reported based on visible smoke emissions. Later open flames broke through the surface on the east flank of the landfill.

The Caton Landfill placed soil on waste over the fire to smother the fire. In March 2023, the Caton Landfill determined that the fire was extinguished. However, visual observations by Ecology staff as recently as February 2026 and recent measurements by Caton Landfill personnel indicate that a fire is still smoldering within the landfill.

Waste Characterization and Placement

Ecology staff observed disposal practices that may have resulted in the release of hazardous materials to the environment at the Caton Landfill, including disposal of vehicles, campers, boats, and tires. In addition, Ecology believes that waste was disposed in areas that were never permitted for waste handling or disposal.

Investigation and Cleanup

Ecology has determined that the apparent ongoing fire in the subsurface along with past disposal practices presents a threat of a release of hazardous substances to the environment. In April 2026, Ecology negotiated an agreed order for a remedial investigation to be performed by Caton Landfill and Recycling, LLC. An Agreed Order is a legal agreement between Ecology and the Potentially Liable Person (PLP) outlining the expectations, process, and schedule for site cleanup. The order requires delineation and characterization of subsurface fire and hazardous compounds originating in the waste.

What Happens Next?

Ecology is preparing responses to previously submitted comments. Ecology will publish responses to public comments by September 30, 2026.



Luke LeMond
Luke.LeMond@ecy.wa.gov
509-379-3961



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