

Heraldo Residence



Public comment sought on proposal to remove site from state's Hazardous Sites List

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has prepared this fact sheet pursuant to the Model Toxics Control Act, Chapter 70.105D RCW, to provide you with information about its proposal to remove the Herald Property site from its list of high-priority contaminated sites (known as the Hazardous Sites List).

The Herald Property is ranked "2" on the Hazardous Sites List. A rank of "1" represents the highest level of concern compared to other sites on the list and a rank of "5" the lowest. You are welcome and encouraged to comment on this proposal through June 10, 2003.

The Hazardous Sites List

This is a list of sites that Ecology has determined require remedial action.

Remedial action means any action or expenditure consistent with the purposes of the Model Toxics Control Act to identify, eliminate, or minimize any threat posed by hazardous substances to human health or the environment.

Sites on the list have been assessed and ranked using the Washington Ranking Method.

When ranking a site, the primary exposure routes that could pose a risk to the public and the environment are taken into consideration. These are air, surface water, and ground water.

Site location

The Herald Property site is a residential property located in the White Center neighborhood of Seattle, at 8856 16th Avenue Southwest.

Site background

The backyard of the property was used by a tenant from 1996 to 1997 to recycle heating oil tanks and automobile engines. In the process, spills occurred and the soil became contaminated with petroleum hydrocarbons. In addition, a small area of subsurface soil was contaminated with chromium and lead.

The spills were reported to the Seattle King County Department of Public Health, which led to the eventual ranking and listing of the site on the Hazardous Sites List in 1998.

The cleanup

At the request of the former homeowner, Rudy Herald, an environmental cleanup was initiated to excavate, transport, and treat the contaminated soil.

The depth of excavation in the petroleum-contaminated soil area was approximately 1½ feet with a localized area that ranged up to 3 feet. A total of 27 tons of contaminated soil was taken to a facility for thermal treatment.

The depth of excavation in the small area with chromium and lead contamination was 6 inches. That soil was placed in a 55-gallon drum (approximately 500 pounds) and taken to a facility for treatment by stabilization.

May 2003

Public Comment Period

May 13 through
June 10, 2003

Comments should be directed to:

Steve Bremer, Site Manager
Department of Ecology
Toxics Cleanup Program
Northwest Regional Office
3190 160th Ave. SE
Bellevue WA 98009
(425) 649-7136
stbr461@ecy.wa.gov

Information Repository

Department of Ecology
3190 160th Ave. SE
Bellevue WA 98009
Attn: Sally Perkins @ (425) 649-7190

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Confirmation samples were collected after all contaminated soil was removed.

Sampling results

The analytical results showed that petroleum hydrocarbons, lead, and chromium in soil were below state Method A cleanup standards.

Method A is a cleanup standard established by Ecology that is used at sites where the cleanup is routine and the hazardous substances are few.

Why delist the site

Based on a review of cleanup reports and sampling results, Ecology has determined the site is not a threat to human health or the environment and is recommending removing the site from the Hazardous Sites List.

Your role in removing the site from the Hazardous Sites List

You now have an opportunity to review the cleanup reports and comment on Ecology's proposal to remove the site from the Hazardous Sites List. Through June 10, 2003, your comments will be accepted in writing by Steve Bremer, Site Manager, at the Department of Ecology, Northwest Regional Office, 3190 160th Ave. SE, Bellevue WA 98009, (425) 649-7136, e-mail stbr461@ecy.wa.gov.

If substantive comments are received, further investigation or cleanup may occur at the site.

What is thermal treatment?

It is an innovative treatment technology that treats contaminated soils by heating them to temperatures of 200-1,000°F so that contaminants with low boiling points will vaporize (turn into gas) and, consequently, separate from the soil. The vaporized contaminants are collected and treated, typically by an air emissions treatment system.

What is stabilization treatment?

It refers to a process that changes the chemicals so they become less harmful or less mobile. For example, soil contaminated with metals can be mixed with lime or cement--which makes the metals less mobile. Stabilization does not get rid of the chemicals, but rather traps them in place. The soil can then be returned to the site or placed in a landfill.
