

Soil Sampling in South Park, Georgetown and Other Seattle Neighborhoods

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) is conducting a statewide study on dioxins and furans in soils. As part of this study, Ecology is collecting soil samples in both rural and urban areas of Washington.

This spring, Ecology is partnering with the City of Seattle (City) to study dioxins in soil in urban areas of Seattle. During this study, Ecology will collect 120 soil samples from the public road right-of-ways across six Seattle neighborhoods: South Park, Georgetown, Ravenna, Capitol Hill, West Seattle and Ballard neighborhoods.

The specific goal of the study is to determine the range and amount of dioxins in soil in both the Lower Duwamish area and greater Seattle urban areas.

The Washington State Department of Health conducted an evaluation of soil contamination in the South Park, Lower Duwamish area. The full report can be found at the following web site: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/oehas/consults.htm#King>.

What Happens Next?

- An Ecology contractor and the City will collect samples at 20 public right-of-way locations in each neighborhood (120 samples total). See map on page 3. Samples will be collected from the top three inches of soil.
- Sampling will begin the week of March 28.
- Ecology will then analyze samples for dioxins and furans.
- Ecology will share results with neighborhoods through a fact sheet and at neighborhood meetings this summer.

Why is this Study Important?

The study results will provide a better understanding of the range of dioxin/furan concentrations in urban soils. In particular, this study will provide information that will help us compare levels already measured in South Park and other sites in the City of Seattle to other areas in the LDW corridor and Seattle.

Results of the study will help us answer the following questions:

- Are more studies needed to determine contamination levels or sources of contamination in one or more study areas?

For More Information Contact:

Department of Ecology

Dave Bradley

Project Manager
Headquarters Office
Toxics Cleanup Program
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
Phone: (360) 407-6907
E-mail: Dave.Bradley@ecy.wa.gov

Meg Bommarito

Public Involvement Coordinator
Northwest Regional Office
Toxics Cleanup Program
3190 160th Street
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452
Phone: (425) 649-7256
E-mail: Meg.Bommarito@ecy.wa.gov

City of Seattle

Lynn Best
Director, Environmental Affairs
Division
Phone: (206) 386-4586
Email: Lynn.Best@seattle.gov

Department of Health

Len O'Garro

Phone: (360) 236-3376
Email: Lenford.O'Garro@doh.wa.gov

Document Locations

South Park Branch of the Seattle Public Library

8604 Eighth Ave S
Seattle, WA 98108
Phone: (206) 615-1688

WA Department of Ecology

Northwest Regional Office

3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA

By appointment only, call (425) 649-7190

Visit Ecology's Web site to read the sampling plan:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/lower_duwamish/lower_duwamish_hp.html

Seattle Soil Dioxin Study

- Do dioxin concentrations differ in urban soil with different types of historical land use?
- What long-term strategies are needed for areas where we find widespread dioxin levels that are above cleanup levels?

Because the soil sampling is limited, this study will not be able to answer questions about individual sources of contamination or contamination levels on individual properties.

For more information about the Dioxin Study, including the Sampling and Analysis Plan and study area maps, visit Ecology's web site (address on page 1).

What are Dioxins?

Dioxins are a family of chemicals that have similar chemical structures and biological effects. They are by-products of both human activities and natural processes.

Dioxins can be formed during forest fires and industrial processes, such as chlorine bleaching and certain types of chemical manufacturing. Dioxins can also be formed during combustion (burning) and waste incineration. This includes home burn barrels, fireplaces, and wood stoves. They do not break down easily in the environment, and as a result, are found everywhere.

Most people are exposed to very small amounts of dioxins when they breathe air, eat food or drink milk. People are also exposed when skin touches dioxin-contaminated soils or other materials. Being exposed to small amounts of dioxins may increase the risk of certain cancers in people. However, that risk could be as small as zero.

The health effects associated with low level dioxin exposure are still being studied. There can be health effects other than cancer when exposed to dioxin levels many times higher than the background dioxin levels.

You can limit your family's potential exposure to different types of possible soil contamination by:

- Washing your hands with soap and water.
- Removing shoes before entering your home.
- Scrubbing fruits and vegetables from the garden.
- Dusting with a damp cloth and vacuuming regularly.
- Keeping toys and pacifiers clean.
- Bathing and brushing your pets often.

More information about dioxins can be found here: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/TF.asp?id=363&tid=63>



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY

State of Washington

3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98008

Soil Sampling in South Park, Georgetown and Other Seattle Neighborhoods Seattle, WA

Soil Dioxin Study Planned for Spring 2011

If you need this document in a format for the visually impaired, call Toxics Cleanup Program at 425-649-7000. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

What's in this Fact Sheet?

This fact sheet contains information about:

- A soil dioxin study in the South Park, Georgetown and other Seattle neighborhoods.
- Dioxins and how to limit your exposure to them.
- How Ecology will communicate information about the study.
- Maps of the study areas.
- Where to find more information about the study.

Toxics Cleanup Program

The Washington Department of Ecology is conducting a statewide background study on dioxins and furans in soil. As part of this study, Ecology is collecting samples in both rural and urban areas of Washington.

This spring, Ecology is partnering with the City of Seattle (City) to study dioxins in soil in urban areas of Seattle. Part of this study will involve sampling the soil from right-of-way (ROW) areas in South Park and Georgetown Neighborhoods. The study goal is to determine background levels of dioxins in the Lower Duwamish River area and other urban areas of Washington including Seattle.

Ecology and the City will be sampling from 20 ROW locations in South Park and Georgetown (total of 40 sample locations). Ecology will then analyze the samples for dioxins and furans. Ecology will share the results of this study to South Park and Georgetown residents and other community members this summer with a fact sheet and at neighborhood meetings. Ecology and the City will also be sampling soil in areas of West Seattle.

今年春天，華盛頓州生態署（生態署）將和西雅圖市（西市）共同進行西雅圖市區含戴奧辛土壤的研究工作。研究工作包括從南公園(SouthPark)和喬治鎮(Georgetown)市政府使用權地區採取土壤樣本。本研究目的在決定杜瓦米斯(Duwamish)河下游流域和其它包括西雅圖在內華盛頓州都市區域含戴奧辛土壤背景濃度。

西市將從南公園和喬治鎮區各採取二十個土壤樣本(共四十樣本)。生態署將檢測樣本所含戴奧辛和呋喃(furan)。生態署將在今年夏天經由簡報和社區會議來通知南公園和喬治鎮居民和社區民眾檢測結果。生態署和西市也將從西雅圖西區採取土壤樣本。若需中文消息請跟林昊聯絡。電話: (425)

6497187 電子信箱: hlin461@ecy.wa.gov.

Información Importante acerca de un Estudio de Dioxina en el Suelo por el Departamento de Ecología

El Departamento de Ecología del Estado de Washington está llevando a cabo un estudio de antecedentes a nivel estatal de dioxinas y furanos en el suelo. Como parte de este estudio, Ecología está tomando muestras en áreas rurales y urbanas de Washington.

Esta primavera, Ecología está asociándose con la Ciudad de Seattle (Ciudad) para estudiar dioxinas en el suelo de áreas urbanas de Seattle. Como parte de este estudio se tomarán muestras de suelo en las áreas de derecho-de-vía (ROW por sus siglas en inglés) en los vecindarios de South Park y Georgetown. La meta del estudio es el de determinar niveles de fondo de dioxinas en el área de la Vía Fluvial Baja del Río Duwamish y otras áreas urbanas de Washington incluyendo Seattle.

Ecología y la Ciudad tomarán muestras en 20 ROW localidades en South Park y Georgetown (un total de 40 localidades de muestreo). Después, Ecología analizará las muestras para dioxinas y furanos. Este verano, Ecología compartirá los resultados de este estudio con los residentes de South Park y Georgetown y otros miembros de la comunidad por medio de un boletín informativo y en reuniones públicas en los vecindarios. Ecología y la Ciudad también tomarán muestras de suelo en áreas de West Seattle.

Si necesita más información acerca de este estudio, por favor comuníquese con Richelle Perez al (425) 407-7528 o rdeg461@ecy.wa.gov.

Tin nhắn quan trọng về cuộc Nghiên cứu Dioxin trong đất cát của Bộ Môi Sinh

Bộ Môi Sinh Washington đang tiến hành một cuộc nghiên cứu nền (background) về các hóa chất dioxin và furan hiện đang tích tụ trong đất. Trong cuộc nghiên cứu này, Bộ Môi Sinh sẽ thu thập các mẫu đất từ vùng thành thị đến thôn quê trong khắp tiểu bang Washington.

Trong mùa Xuân năm nay, Bộ Môi Sinh và thành phố Seattle sẽ cùng hợp tác trong cuộc nghiên cứu chất dioxin trong đất tại các khu đô thị của Seattle. Một phần của cuộc nghiên cứu này sẽ bao gồm việc lấy đất mẫu trên lộ giới (right-of-way) ở vùng South Park và khu lán giềng Georgetown. Mục đích là xác định tầm mức nền (background) của chất dioxin ven hạ lưu sông Duwamish và các khu đô thị trong tiểu bang kể cả Seattle.

Nhân viên thành phố Seattle sẽ lấy mẫu thử nghiệm tại 20 địa điểm lộ giới trong vùng South Park và Georgetown (20 của tổng số là 40 địa điểm). Từ đó, Bộ Môi Sinh sẽ phân tích chất dioxin và furan trong các mẫu này và sẽ thông báo kết quả của cuộc thử nghiệm qua một bản tin đến cư dân của vùng South Park, Georgetown và các cộng đồng khác ở các buổi họp trong mùa Hè này. Bộ Môi Sinh và thành phố Seattle cũng sẽ lấy mẫu đất trong các địa phận phía tây của Seattle.

Nếu muốn biết thêm chi tiết, xin vui lòng liên lạc đến Teddy Lê số (360) 407-6948 hay tại tele461@ecy.wa.gov.