



# ShopTalk

Autumn 1998  
Vol. 8, No.4

A quarterly publication for hazardous waste generators

## Spill Reporting Requirements

Whoops...uh-oh! Spills of hazardous materials happen for all kinds of reasons, including equipment failure, accidents, and mistakes. Good prevention practices such as careful house-keeping, emergency planning, and employee training can help reduce the number and types of spills that occur.

State Dangerous Waste Regulations require the company or person responsible for a spill to report it to Ecology and take immediate steps to control and clean it up (see WAC 173-303-145). Reporting, or "notification," is required when the material spilled is a hazardous substance or

hazardous waste and **both** of the following conditions occur: it gets into the environment (soils, water, groundwater, or air); **and**, it poses a threat to human health or the environment.

A release into the environment occurs when the spilled material gets into water, air or unprotected soil. A spill that enters a sewer or storm drain is considered a release to the environment and is subject to spill reporting requirements.

A threat to human health or the environment may be difficult to determine. A few simple indicators are:

- ✓ surface water, drains or ditches are involved;
- ✓ vegetation is killed or damaged;
- ✓ a vapor or gas cloud is generated and escapes the immediate vicinity of the spill; or
- ✓ a person (including an employee) is injured or sent to a doctor for examination as a result of exposure to the spilled material.

When a spill is cleaned up, the contaminated water, soil, and/or absorbent materials are solid wastes. They may also be hazardous wastes subject to management requirements of the Dangerous Waste Regulations as well.

If a spill happens inside a building or containment structure, several factors determine whether it must be reported to

Ecology. It depends on:  
 ✓ the chemical, physical

and hazardous properties of the material spilled;

- ✓ the amount spilled;
- ✓ the capability of the structure to contain the material; and
- ✓ whether anyone is injured or exposed.

If you have any doubts, please call either the Spill Response staff at your local Ecology Regional Office, or the statewide, toll-free number operated by the Department of Emergency Management at 1-800-258-5990. You can ask for assistance in evaluating threats and get advice on control equipment and practices, clean-up procedures and contractor information. Be prepared to briefly describe your location, the type and quantity of material spilled, what was impacted, and the steps being taken to control and clean up the spill.

For more information on spill reporting requirements, call and ask for a hazardous waste inspector at your local Ecology regional office listed on page four, refer to WAC 173-303-145, or, order Ecology's guide *Spill Reporting and Clean-up in Washington State*, publication #94-187.



The Department of Ecology's Jim Oberlander collects soil samples at the site of a toxic spill.

### Inside

Computers For Kids .....	2
TurboWaste 2.1 .....	2
Case Study: Beacon Cleaners and Laundry, Spokane .....	3
Hazardous Waste Generator Workshops .....	3
Questions & Answers .....	4

---

## Computers 4 Kids, Washington

If you use a computer, you know how nice it is to get a new model. Upgrades improve speed and effectiveness, but what about the worn-out computer left behind? Many places upgrade computers every few years as requirements change and new technologies take over. This leaves a lot of leftover machines.

Ecology employee Doug Jayne in Spokane wanted to find a way to reuse the old surplus computers he saw accumulating at government offices. Jayne saw the computers as the perfect solution to school budget cuts that were leaving many Washington students out of the computer age.

The result of this thinking is the Computers For Kids project that has helped cut masses of red tape to allow students access to important learning tools the school districts cannot afford.

School districts are required to pay fair market value for all surplus government property. Surplus computers were being sold as scrap because the schools could not afford this cost plus the expense of refurbishing the machines. Jayne was disappointed to hear of the wasteful practice and set about finding a way to get the computers to kindergarten through twelfth grade students.

The goal of the project is to allow state agencies to donate surplus computers to schools. The computers are refurbished by Correctional Industries, a part of the Department of Corrections. This allows inmates to learn marketable skills with assistance from the Community Colleges of Spokane Foundation. The computers are then donated to school districts that send them to the classrooms.

From Ecology's perspective, an

important bonus of this program is that the computers are kept out of landfills. They join the paltry 15% of computers now recycled. Used computers are a valuable resource that can help provide our kids with a good education.

If you would like to donate your used computers, please call Computers 4 Kids, Washington at 1 (800) 467-9843. Or you can contact your local school district, the Computer Bank Charity at (206) 365-4657, or the Industrial Materials Exchange at (206) 296-4899.

---

## Northwest Environmental Conference /Trade Show

The Northwest Environmental Business Council invites you to a conference that will highlight information about environmental regulations and tips on how to improve the environmental performance of your business. Topics include hazardous waste management; air and water quality; environmental clean up; data management; pollution prevention; and endangered species, plus an opportunity to attend an 8-hour Hazwoper Refresher course. The conference is being sponsored by: Associated Industries of Oregon, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, and American Electronics Association, in cooperation with the Washington State Department of Ecology.

The conference will be held November 17th and 18th at the Doubletree Hotel, Jantzen Beach, Portland, Oregon. For more information, call Ewe - Me and Company at (503) 644-1222 or visit the website <http://www.nbec.org>.

---

## Annual Reporting With TurboWaste 2.1

TurboWaste is computer software for Annual Hazardous Waste Reporting. Using TurboWaste, you can enter information on Generation and Management (GM), Off-site Identification (OI) and Waste Received (WR) forms. The information is screened for reporting errors and then submitted to Ecology on a disk or over the Internet. Ecology has improved TurboWaste in the new 2.1 version.

- ✓ The installation procedure has been improved
- ✓ TurboWaste can now be used on Windows NT and Windows 95
- ✓ TurboWaste file naming convention is now year 2000 compliant
- ✓ An Autosum safety feature has been added
- ✓ A new Save Record feature has been added
- ✓ Improved Export feature allows Internet submission of zipped data files

The new 2.1 version is recommended, but not required, for 1998 Annual Reporting. TurboWaste 2.1 is FREE from Ecology's Internet home page at <http://www.wa.gov/ecology/hwtr>. Copies of the software on CD ROM are available for \$10.00. For more information, call Jean Rushing at (360) 407-6732 or e-mail her at [jeru461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:jeru461@ecy.wa.gov)

---

## Free Information

Call Ecology's Publication Office at (360) 407-7472 or 1-800-633-7585 for:

- ✓ *Dry Cleaner Reference Manual* (also in Korean), #96-200
- ✓ *Hazardous Waste Service Providers Directory*, #98-412
- ✓ *You Auto Recycle* (also available in Spanish), #98-433

## Case Study: Beacon Cleaners and Laundry, Spokane

A new dry cleaning solvent has been introduced that offers some advantages over conventional dry cleaning systems. Last February, Beacon Cleaners and Laundry in Spokane installed new machines that use the new solvent. Rebecca Yearout, manager of Beacon Cleaners and Laundry, is very pleased with the performance of her new system. The new system uses a special solvent that reportedly offers these advantages:

- ✓ it is almost odorless
- ✓ has a high flash point (meaning that it doesn't easily catch fire)
- ✓ has good cleaning performance
- ✓ it creates no hazardous waste.

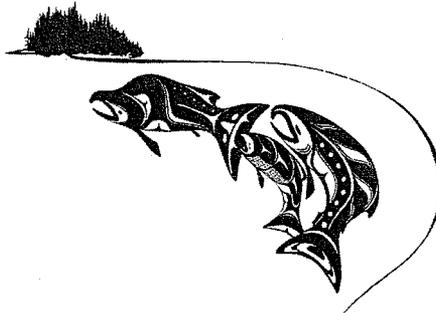
According to Yearout, "We wanted a system that produced the safest working environment for our employees and our customers. These computer-controlled machines are absolutely fantastic. The clothes come out softer, cleanliness is not compromised, and there is less color fade than with perc (perchloroethylene). I've worked with all the solvents in the dry-cleaning industry and at this point I am very pleased with this new system." Beacon Cleaners installed the two new 55 lb. dry-cleaning machines at a cost of about \$70,000 each.

The new solvent is a synthetic, high purity hydrocarbon solvent produced by Exxon Chemical Corporation and marketed as DF-2000. Neither the spent solvent nor the recycling residues (filter waste or still bottoms) are dangerous waste. This eliminates the cost of managing the residues as dangerous waste, and reduces regulatory requirements. As with other solvents, if hazardous constituents enter the system as contaminants on garments or rags, the spent solvent and the residues could become dangerous waste.

The most common dry-cleaning solvent in use today is perc. Dry-cleaners who use perc are subject to

stringent air quality and hazardous waste regulations because of environmental and health concerns. While perc is known to cause cancer in animals and is suspected of causing cancer in humans, DF 2000 is not a known or suspected carcinogen. All dry-cleaning operations that use perc produce residues that are hazardous waste. When a facility chooses a safer alternative to a hazardous substance they are practicing pollution prevention.

For more information on dry cleaning technology contact the Ecology office nearest you, listed on page 4.



## Ecosystem Restoration: "Turning the Tide" Conference

This year the Society for Ecological Restoration Northwest Chapter Conference and Annual Meeting will address the issue of salmon recovery and the immediate need for broad-based restoration initiatives in the Pacific Northwest. It will offer a wide array of opportunities for input, interaction and training. The conference will be held October 28-30th at the Tacoma Sheraton Hotel. For more information, call toll free in the U.S. 1-800-942-4978 or (509) 335-3530 in Canada or visit the website at <http://www.halcyon.com/serrnw/>.

## 1999 Hazardous Waste Generator Workshops

If an Ecology Hazardous Waste Inspector showed up on your doorstep, how would your company measure up in an inspection?

- ✓ Is your waste properly designated?
- ✓ Are your containers being managed properly?
- ✓ What about your records? Have you been completing your annual reports correctly and on time?
- ✓ Are you finding ways to reduce the amount of waste that you generate?

If you want to learn more about proper waste management and reduction opportunities and get assistance with your Dangerous Waste Annual Report, plan to attend one of Ecology's Generator Workshops.

Workshops are planned for the following dates and locations (subject to change):

1/5/99	Wenatchee
1/7/99	Spokane
1/12/99	Pasco
1/14/99	Yakima
1/19/99	Vancouver
1/21/99	Tacoma
1/25/99	Bellevue
1/28/99	Seattle
2/2/99	Silverdale
2/4/99	Mount Vernon

These all-day workshops cover a wide range of information to help prepare you for an inspection. Come and have your questions answered in a casual, friendly atmosphere. The full-day training, lunch and a workbook are available to you for only \$35.00. Registration forms will be sent out in November to all sites with an active RCRA Site ID Number. Pre-registration is required. For registration information, call (360) 407-6718 or visit our website at [www.wa.gov/ecology/hwtr](http://www.wa.gov/ecology/hwtr) for the most current workshop details.

## Questions and Answers:

**Q** Will there be any changes in how the state regulates used oil?

**A** Yes. The Washington State Department of Ecology is on its way to adopting the federal Used Oil Management Standards. The Used Oil Management Standards contain cradle-to-grave requirements for the management of used oil. The rule is expected to be in place in Washington in late 1999.

In practice, the requirements of the Used Oil Management Standards are fairly straightforward and will reinforce many current business practices. Generators of used oil will need to ensure that:

- ✓ Containers of used oil are in good condition and not leaking
- ✓ Containers are labeled or marked with the words **Used Oil**
- ✓ Any releases of used oil must be stopped, contained and cleaned up
- ✓ Used oil is not used for dust suppression or disposed of on the ground
- ✓ Used oil is not mixed with other wastes

Under the Used Oil Management Standards, anyone who transports over 55 gallons of "business

generated" used oil will be considered a transporter and subject to the following requirements:

- (1) All transporters must notify Ecology of their status as a transporter and obtain an identification number
- (2) In the event of a discharge of used oil, the transporter must take appropriate action to safeguard human health and the environment
- (3) Transporters can only deliver to other transporters and processors who have identification numbers or to burner facilities.

More extensive standards apply to processors and re-refiners of used oil. These standards cover general facility standards, notification, tracking, operating records and reporting, and analysis plans.

With adoption of the Used Oil Management Standards, Washington will have used oil regulations very similar to those in most other states. By following the standards, businesses that generate and manage used oil will be able to minimize the potential for releases of used oil to the environment and so reduce their liability. In the meantime, generators of used oil should practice good container management so that oil is not released to the environment.

## Ecology Contacts

Remember, your business is liable for all hazardous wastes generated. If you are uncertain about your responsibilities as a hazardous waste generator, call your nearest Ecology office and ask for a hazardous waste specialist. For information on reducing or recycling hazardous waste, ask for the toxics reduction staff, also at the following numbers:

*Bellevue:* (425) 649-7000

*Lacey:* (360) 407-6300

*Yakima:* (509) 575-2490

*Spokane:* (509) 456-2926

The Department of Ecology is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action employer and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, age, religion or disability as defined by applicable state and/or federal regulations or statutes. If you have special accommodation needs or want more information, please contact the Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program at (360) 407-6700 (Voice) or (360) 407-6006 (TDD)

## Shoptalk

*Shoptalk* is produced quarterly by the Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program, Washington State Department of Ecology (360) 407-6759.

E-mail address: [mabl461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:mabl461@ecy.wa.gov)

Editor: *Bonnie Meyer*

Production Team: *Marnie Black, Dave Zink, Cathy Bouge, Joan Morris*

Technical Editor: *Chipper Hervieux*

Contributors: *Doug Jayne, Tom Loranger, Vern Mainz, Bonnie Meyer, Joanne Phillipson, Jean Rushing, Jim Sachet*

Distribution/Mailing List Changes: *Cathy Bouge (360) 407-6719* E-mail address:

[cbou461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:cbou461@ecy.wa.gov)

Shoptalk is run on an alcohol-free press using vegetable-based inks. Our paper has 50% recycled content, with 20% post-consumer waste.



BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Washington State  
Department of Printing

Washington State  
Department of Ecology  
Hazardous Waste and  
Toxics Reduction Program  
P.O. Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600