

trichloroethane (1,1,1-TCA) as well as fuels and oils.

TCE located in the soil and groundwater beneath the 220 S. Dawson Street building can change to a gas and move upwards through the soil, into the building work spaces. This can contaminate indoor air.

Multiple indoor air samples collected on different days were analyzed for TCE and other volatile chemicals used at the Plant. Based on these and soil gas sampling results, Ecology directed GE to submit an interim action work plan (Plan).

The Plan includes a detailed design and cost estimate for a *mitigation system* at the Plant. This system will protect the building's occupants from contaminated vapors that come inside from beneath the ground surface.

The mitigation system comprises several holes made through the concrete floor in different locations. Soils are removed from beneath these holes, creating small sump areas. Plastic pipes put into the holes extend to the ceiling. At the ceiling, or on top of the roof, the pipes connect at a central point. From there, a line runs to a blower (fan). This applies suction to the air in the pipes, removing vapors from below the floor and blowing them out above the roof. Once exhausted above the roof, the chemicals become diluted with outdoor air.

The Environmental Protection Agency and State agencies have found that this type of system effectively reduces the amount of contaminated soil gas coming inside a building. These measures are routinely used when soils or shallow groundwater are contaminated with radon or chemicals (like TCE at the 220 S. Dawson Street building) that can potentially change to a gas and move upwards into overlying buildings.

In addition to this interim action, GE is required to work with Ecology to implement a long-term cleanup action for the site.

Environmental Review

Ecology is the SEPA lead agency for cleanup decisions at the former GE facility.

After evaluating relevant information, **Ecology determined this interim action cleanup will not adversely impact the environment.** Ecology is issuing a determination of non-significance (DNS). The DNS and SEPA checklist are included for public comment.

Effective Date of the Agreed Order and Review of Public Comment

Ecology made the **agreed order effective on the start date of this public notice.** This directs GE to

quickly start the necessary preparations for installing the vapor intrusion mitigation equipment. Ecology still invites and will consider public comments on the proposed documents.

Ecology reserves the right to modify or withdraw any provisions of this Order if public comments disclose information indicating the Order is inadequate or improper in any respect.

Ecology will consider and respond to written comments submitted by the public.

If significant changes are made, an additional public comment period will be held.

The regulatory requirements for the public review process under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) are in the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-340-600. See <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-340-600> for information.

For more information about SEPA and MTCA, please see <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/sepa/handbk/hbch10.html#ReviewProcess>

General Electric Agreed Order Public Notice Glossary

Agreed Order: A legal agreement between Ecology and a potentially liable person to conduct work toward a cleanup.

Comment Period: A time when the public can review and comment on documents and proposed actions. For example, a comment period may allow community members to review and comment on proposed cleanup action alternatives and plans.

DNS: "Determination of Non-significance" (DNS) is the written decision by the responsible official of the lead agency that a proposal is not likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment.

Groundwater: Water found beneath the earth's surface that fills pores between materials such as sand, soil, or gravel. In some places (aquifers), ground water occurs in quantities sufficient to use for drinking water, irrigation and other purposes.

Information Repository: A file containing current information, technical reports, and reference documents available for public review. It is usually in a public building convenient for local residents such as a school, city hall, or library.

Interim action: An action necessary to reduce a threat to human health and the environment. This is done by eliminating or substantially reducing one or more pathways for exposure to a hazardous substance at a facility.

Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA): Legislation requiring identification, investigation, and clean up at facilities where hazardous substances were released. It defines the role of Ecology and invites public involvement in the decision making process. MTCA regulations are administered by the Washington State Department of Ecology. The legislation was passed by citizens of the State of Washington through an initiative in 1988.

Potentially liable person: Any person who is responsible for cleaning up a contaminated site.

Public Notice: Adequate information mailed to people who have made a request of Ecology and to persons in the potentially affected vicinity of the proposed action. Also includes a mailing to appropriate news media; a publication in the local (city and county) newspaper of largest circulation; and the opportunity for the interested persons to comment.

SEPA: State Environmental Policy Act: A state policy requiring state and local agencies to consider the likely environmental consequences of a proposal before approving or denying the proposal.

Tetrachloroethylene (also known as perchloroethylene or PCE): A solvent used for metal parts cleaners. This chemical causes cancer.

Trichloroethylene (TCE): A solvent used typically as a metal parts cleaner. This chemical causes cancer.

1,1,1-Trichloroethane (1,1,1-TCA): A solvent used typically as a metal parts cleaner.

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PUBLIC COMMENT REQUESTED

We used several mailing lists. If you receive a duplicate, please pass it on.