

## Art Brass Plating Agreed Order and Interim Action Public Notice Glossary

**Agreed Order:** a legal agreement between Ecology and a potentially liable person to conduct activities associated with site cleanup work.

**Air Sparging:** a method of treating groundwater contamination. Air is injected into the groundwater causing volatile contaminants to be “stripped,” transferring them to the gaseous phase.

**Comment Period:** a time – often 30 days in duration -- when the public can review and comment on documents and proposed actions.

**DNS:** "Determination of Non-significance" (DNS) is the written SEPA 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 groundwater occurs in quantities sufficient to use for drinking water, irrigation and other purposes (when it is referred to as an *aquifer*).

**Interim action:** an action necessary to reduce a threat to human health and the environment, taken prior to any final cleanup action. This is done by eliminating or substantially reducing one or more pathways for exposure to a hazardous substance at a site.

**Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA):** legislation requiring identification, investigation, and cleanup at facilities where hazardous substances were released. The Act defines the role of Ecology and invites public involvement in the decision making process. The legislation was passed by citizens of the State of Washington through an initiative in 1988 and MTCA regulations (at WAC 173-340) are administered by the Washington State Department of Ecology.

**Remedial Investigation (RI):** one of the first steps in the cleanup process. Typically it is a study of the subsurface to determine the nature and extent of the contamination. It is generally followed by a “feasibility study,” which looks at the types of cleanup actions that could be implemented to address the contamination.

**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.

**Soil Vapor Extraction:** a method of treating soil contamination above the water table. Extraction “wells” are used to pull contaminated soil gases from beneath the ground surface to treatment units above ground.

**Trichloroethylene (or trichloroethene, or TCE):** a solvent used in the past at Art Brass Plating as a metal parts cleaner in a vapor degreaser. Exposure to the chemical can cause cancer and other adverse health effects.