



Fact Sheet

Enforcement Order – Remedial Investigation Blaser Die Casting Site

The Department of Ecology invites the public to read and comment on:

- Enforcement Order and Scope of Work for a remedial investigation at the Blaser Die Casting site

The site is located in south Seattle, at 5700 3rd Ave. S.

Public Comment Period January 31, through March 1, 2008

The documents identified above are available for review by appointment from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, at:

Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office
3190 160th Ave. SE
Bellevue, WA

Comments must be postmarked or received by close of business on March 1. Hand-deliver comments to the Ecology address shown above/below.

Send your comments to:

Ed Jones
Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office
3190 160th Ave. SE
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452

Or, email to: ejon461@ecy.wa.gov

After reviewing public comment, Ecology will make a final decision on the draft order.

Overview

In 2007 Ecology held order discussions with **Blaser Die Casting (Blaser)**, a zinc casting facility located at 5700 3rd Ave. S. Unable to reach agreement on an *Agreed* Order, Ecology has decided to issue the company a unilateral, *Enforcement* Order (per WAC 173-340-540).

In October of 2006 Blaser issued a "Soil and Groundwater Investigation Report" describing the discovery of soil and groundwater contamination on and near their property in 2006. The contamination was caused by releases of hazardous substances (primarily trichloroethene). Recently Blaser excavated some contaminated soils from beneath the western portion of their building.

Blaser is located in an area downgradient of the Philip Services Corporation's Georgetown facility ("PSC") (734 S. Lucile St.). Groundwater contamination associated with

releases from the PSC property is present in the general area. PSC is presently conducting corrective action to address their facility's releases pursuant to a hazardous/ dangerous waste permit.

Ecology intends to issue an order to Blaser to address the investigation phase of the contamination. Following the completion of the investigation phase, and finalization of the site's Remedial Investigation Report, it is anticipated that a new legal instrument will be developed to guide performance of feasibility studies and the drafting of a cleanup action plan. Depending on the outcome of other investigations in the area, it may, for example, be more effective to develop a joint order – with multiple Potentially Liable Persons – for performing an area-wide feasibility study.

SEPA

The order is limited to the investigation phase of the cleanup process. Investigations are unlikely to lead to a "probable significant adverse environmental impact" and are categorically exempt under WAC 197-11-800(18).

At this time the Department invites the public to comment on our "proposed study areas" for the Blaser site under the order.

Ecology's Procedures for Reaching a Final Decision

Ecology invites the public to read and comment on the proposed documents. Ecology will consider all public comments. The public review process regulatory requirements under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) are in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-340-600.

What Happens Next

Responding to comments

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

Effective date of enforcement order

The effective date of the enforcement order is expected to be January 31, 2008, the date the document is signed by Ecology and issued to Blaser. The order will therefore be effective during the public comment period.

If you need this publication in an alternate format, please call the Hazardous Waste & Toxics Reduction Program, Northwest Regional Office at (425) 649-7000. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341.

For more information, contact: Ed Jones at (425) 649-4449 or ejon461@ecy.wa.gov, or by accessing Ecology's website: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/foia/index.html>.

Department of Ecology
HWTR
PO Box 47600
Olympia WA 98504-7600

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

Blaser Die Casting Enforcement Order Public Notice Glossary

Enforcement Order: a legal document requiring a potentially liable person to conduct activities associated with site cleanup work

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

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*).

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.

Trichloroethylene (or trichloroethene, or TCE): a solvent commonly used in the past as a metal parts cleaner. Exposure to the chemical can cause cancer and other adverse health effects.