



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

# Public Notice

## Closure Plan for Three Units at The Oeser Company

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) invites the public to read and comment on a proposed closure plan for the following three units at The Oeser Company (Oeser): Treated Wood Storage Area, Charge Switching Area, and Drummed Waste Storage Area. This plan describes the closure activities required under the Washington State Dangerous Waste Regulations (Chapter 173-303 WAC).

The public may read and comment on this document between May 14, 2008 and June 13, 2008. Written comment must be postmarked no later than June 13, 2008. Ecology will hold a public meeting if ten or more persons request a public meeting in writing and if significant public interest is expressed before the end of the public comment period. Any request for a meeting must be accompanied by a basis for such a request and a discussion of topics. Ecology will consider and respond to all written comments and issues raised during the public meeting, then make a final decision on this document.

### Site Location and Background

Oeser is located at 730 Marine Drive, Bellingham, Washington and an active wood-treating facility in Whatcom County. Oeser treated wood with creosote and pentachlorophenol (PCP) from the 1940s and until the early 1980s when it discontinued creosote use and began using PCP only for preserving utility poles and pilings.

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a Consent Agreement and Final Order to Oeser to address alleged violation of RCRA, including the Washington State Dangerous Waste Regulations. Specifically, EPA found that unpermitted disposal of F032 hazardous wastes occurred in the Treated Wood Storage Area and the Charge Switching Area. The disposal was primarily associated with drippage from treated wood. The Drummed Waste Storage Area was included in the closure plan due to improper storage of dangerous waste containers.

Constituents of concern are carcinogenic PAH, PCP, naphthalene and total petroleum hydro carbon. Closure activities consist of soil removal from certain areas and cleaning asphalt or concrete surface.

### SEPA Determination

The SEPA environmental checklist and Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) also are available for public review at this time. This checklist is an evaluation of the environmental factors that may be impacted if this closure work is conducted. Ecology has reviewed the checklist and determined that no significant adverse environmental impacts will be caused by this closure work. For more information, contact Mr. Byung Maeng (Ecology Site Manager), at (425) 649-7253 or go to Ecology's website at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/foia/index.html>

### Public Comment Period May 14 – June 13, 2008

The proposed closure plan, public notice fact sheet, SEPA checklist and DNS will be available Monday through Thursday 10 AM to 8 PM, Friday and Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM, and Sunday 1 PM to 5 PM at:

City of Bellingham Library  
210 Central Avenue  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
(360) 778-7227

You may also read these documents Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 4:30 PM by appointment at:

Department of Ecology  
Northwest Regional Office  
3190 160th Ave. S.E.  
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452  
(425) 649-7190

Comments must be postmarked or received by close of business June 13, 2008.

### Send your comments to:

Byung Maeng  
Hazardous Waste & Toxics Reduction  
Department of Ecology  
3190 160<sup>th</sup> Ave SE  
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452  
Email Address: [bmae461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:bmae461@ecy.wa.gov)

Comments can be hand-delivered, during regular business hours.

### Ecology's Procedures for Reaching a Final Decision

Once the public comment period ends, Ecology will review all comments received and make recommendations for suggested changes to the proposed closure plan. If no significant changes are made, the document will be considered final. If significant changes are made, an additional public comment period may be held.

#### Effective date of decision

The effective date of Ecology's decision will be the date on Ecology's letter approving the proposed closure plan.

### Glossary

**Carcinogenic PAH:** A cancer causing chemical composed of two or more fused benzene rings: for example, acenaphthene, fluorine, benzo(a) pyrene, etc.

**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.

**F032 Hazardous Waste:** A hazardous (or dangerous) waste code for wastes generated from wood preserving processes that use chlorophenolic compound including pentachlorophenol (PCP).

**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.

**RCRA:** Resource Conservation and Recovery Act: A federal regulation that addresses the overall management of existing and future hazardous waste handling activities. Corrective action portion of the RCRA also addresses contaminated site cleanup.

**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.

*Ecology is an Equal Opportunity Agency. If you need this information in an alternative format, or you have special accommodation needs for the meeting, contact Byung Maeng at (425) 649-7253 (Voice) or 711 or 1-800-833-6388 (TTY relay service).*

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.