



Fact Sheet

Contaminated Soil Cleanup for the Southeastern Part of the Hillside Housing Area, Fort Lewis

Summary

This fact sheet:

- ✓ Describes lead contaminated soil sampling and cleanup activities near the southeastern part of the Hillside Housing area at Fort Lewis
- ✓ Discusses site cleanup documents available for public review
- ✓ Describes Ecology's decision-making process to finalize the cleanup documents

Fort Lewis environmental staff has identified that soil near the southeast part of the Hillside Housing area is contaminated with lead. Former small arms firing ranges in the Miller Hill area are the source of lead concentrations. The affected housing units are designated as 6043-6045, located east of Garcia Boulevard and just north of Colorado Avenue

Fort Lewis plans to investigate this area and cleanup the areas with lead contamination. Opportunities for public input are part of the cleanup process. Several site documents are available for public review and comment.

Site Description

From World War I to the 1960's the Miller Hill area, near the current Hillside Housing Area, was used as small arms training ranges. Decades of spent bullet slugs and fragments have accumulated in the soil and contaminated it with lead. The lead levels are higher than allowed by state and federal rules.

Fort Lewis has already conducted soil sampling in the Hillside Housing and Miller Hill areas. Fort Lewis is proposing to conduct sampling at additional housing units and remove any soil found to be contaminated with lead above state and federal guidelines. Following removal, the affected areas will be covered with clean soil and restored with grass.

Fort Lewis recognizes that this work may inconvenience families in the housing units. Affected families will be contacted prior to the start of sampling and cleanup activities and given further information regarding this project.

Site Cleanup Documents

The following documents describing the proposed cleanup actions are available for public comment:

Proposed Interim Action Plan

The purpose of the cleanup action is to remove lead contaminated soil at the housing units that is above state and federal guidelines. Contractors will sample and immediately dig up and haul away contaminated soils. The soils will be stockpiled at a location near Miller Hill, away from the housing units, and then treated.

Environmental Review

After evaluating a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) checklist describing the project and site area, Ecology has determined that the proposed cleanup action will not have a significant adverse environmental impact and has thus issued a determination of non-significance (DNS).



Location map of affected portions of the Hillside Housing Area on Fort Lewis.

Public Comment Period
30 Days: August 25 to September 24, 2008

Documents are available for review at:

Grandstaff Library
Building 2109, Pendleton Ave.
Fort Lewis, Washington 98433
253-967-5889

You may also view them, by appointment, at:

Washington State Dept. of Ecology
Southwest Regional Office
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503
360-407-6365

Comments must be postmarked or received by close of business on **September 3, 2008**. Send them to:

Greg Caron
Washington Dept. of Ecology
15 W. Yakima Ave. #200
Yakima, WA 98902-3452
Tel: 509 454-7893
email: grca461@ecy.wa.gov

To receive a copy of any of the documents contact Greg Caron (TTY relay service available at 1-800-833-6388).

Procedures for Reaching Final Decisions

The proposed cleanup action is subject to public review and comment. Ecology will consider all public comments before making a final decision. The public review process rules can be found in the Washington Administrative Code 173-340-600.

Comment Period

The 30 day comment period runs from **August 25 to September 24, 2008**.

A Public Hearing is Possible

If ten or more people request it, Ecology will conduct a public hearing. To request a hearing, or to request special accommodation for the hearing if one is held, contact Greg Caron by the end of the comment period. To find out if a public hearing

will be held and/or its date and location, contact Greg after **September 24, 2008**.

How to Participate

You may request, review and comment on the proposed plan and documents. Comments must be received by the deadline to be considered.

The most effective comments are those that:

- ✓ Provide specific information describing what aspect you believe is inappropriate.
- ✓ Provide factual and regulatory support for the comment.
- ✓ Suggest changes to fix the problem.
- ✓ Include supporting material that is not in Ecology's records (e.g., if the comment references a state or federal rule, Ecology already has that information; but if the comment references a report not in Ecology's records for Fort Lewis, then this would be appropriate supporting material). You need to provide a copy of the reference.

Decision Making Process

Responding to comments and testimony

Ecology will consider and respond to written comments submitted by the public and any testimony, if a public hearing is held.

Final decisions

After considering the comments and possible testimony, Ecology will make a final decision or make a new tentative decision on the proposed cleanup plan. If public comments result in substantial changes, then an additional public comment period will take place.

Effective date of decisions

After considering public comments, Ecology will make a final decision on the proposed cleanup plan. The effective date of Ecology's decision will be set forth in the respective documents.

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 Greg Caron at (509) 454-7893 (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.

FIRST CLASS MAIL
US POSTAGE PAID
WA STATE DEPT OF
PRINTING 98501