

Grant County Journal

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Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)

Chapter 70.105D RCW and Chapter 173-340 WAC

MTCA

- Sets standards for cleanup.
- Ecology prefers cooperative cleanups.

Agreed Order

Legally binding, administrative order

- Issued by Ecology and agreed to by the potentially liable person.
- Describes the site activities that must occur.

Who is Responsible for Cleanup?

Any past or present relationship with a contaminated site may result in liability.

Potentially Liable Persons (PLPs)

- City of Ephrata
- Grant County

Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study

- Collect, develop, and evaluate information
- Select a cleanup action.
- A RI/FS study shall be completed before selecting a cleanup action, except for an emergency or Interim Action.

Grants

Each year, Ecology provides millions of dollars in grants to local governments to help pay for the cost of site cleanup.

Public Participation Grants

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0607020.html>

Steps in a Site Cleanup

1. Site Discovery
2. Initial Investigation
3. Site Hazard Assessment
4. Hazard Ranking
5. Interim Action and RI/FS
6. Selection of Cleanup Action
7. Site Cleanup

Observed contaminants

- Chlorinated solvents and degreasers and their breakdown products:
 - Tetrachloroethene
 - Trichloroethene
 - 1,1,1-Trichloroethane
 - 1,1-Dichloroethane
 - 1,2-Dichloroethane
 - 1,2-Dichloropropane
 - Vinyl chloride

Observed contaminants

- Non-chlorinated solvents and degreasers:
 - Benzene
 - Toluene
 - Xylenes

Chlorinated solvents and degreasers

- Widely used for dry cleaning and metal degreasing.
- Nonflammable.
- Degrade naturally in groundwater.
 - Slow process

Non-chlorinated solvents and degreasers

- Widely used as paint solvents and for metal degreasing.
- Degrade naturally in groundwater.

How are health standards established?

- Health safety standards are based on:
 - At most one chance in a million of getting cancer during a lifetime,
 - For an adult constantly exposed to a chemical for 30 years; and
 - No toxic health effects,
 - For a child is constantly exposed to a chemical for 6 years.
- Less exposure = less risk.