

Questions from the Community



Remedial Investigation

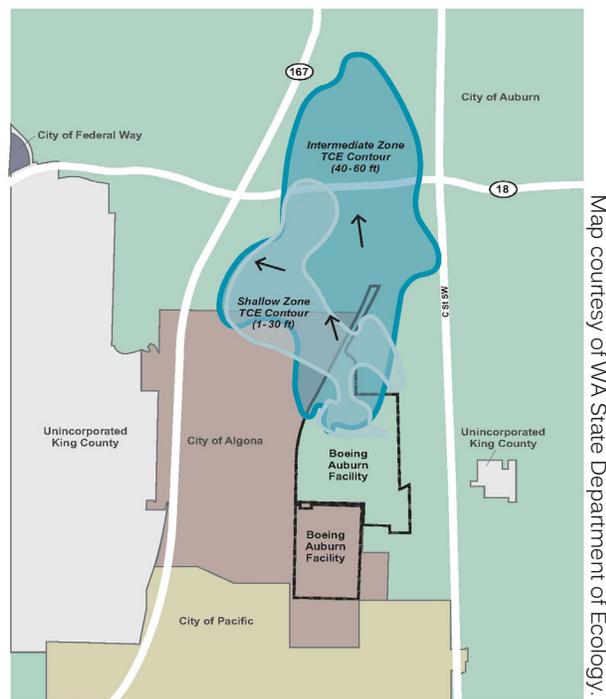
What is a Remedial Investigation?

The Remedial Investigation (RI) is a required study that Boeing is conducting under oversight by the Washington State Department of Ecology. The RI report will describe how, where and what is known about the groundwater plume. Protecting human health and the environment is a main goal throughout the RI process. The RI is conducted and paid for by the liable party of the contaminated site. In WA State the Department of Ecology “oversees the cleanup of sites to ensure that investigations, public involvement, actual cleanup and monitoring are done appropriately.”

What information is collected during the RI?

Many types of data are collected from the site, to help with feasibility studies and to assess potential risks early on. This information includes:

- Geological features, like soil, air, surface water and groundwater
- The characteristics of the contaminants, including how much is present, their threat level and mobility
- The source of the contaminants
- The pathways of exposure through the environment, for example surface water or accessible ditches
- Exposure routes, like inhalation or ingestion
- Other factors that relate to and aid in the investigation, including factors such as feedback from stakeholders.



Map of groundwater plume, created with data collected in the RI.

What role does the RI play in cleanup?

The information and data collected during the RI are used to pick the best and most effective ways to eliminate, reduce and control the impact of the contamination on human health and the environment. The materials from the RI are used to create a Remedial Investigation report, which is used to conduct a Feasibility Study. The Feasibility Study sets the stage for determining actions for planning and implementing a cleanup.

How can I be involved in the RI?

After the RI report is published, the Department of Ecology is required to release a public notice on the RI report. There is a public review, of at least 30 days, before finalizing the RI report, during which time the public has an opportunity to respond and comment on the RI findings.



What information is found in the RI report?

The RI report includes information about the cleanup site, such as:

- The type of contamination, its extent and concentration.
- The site's characteristics that could result in the contaminants' entrance and mobility through the environment.
- The level of threat to humans and the environment from the hazardous waste. Washington State uses the Washington Ranking Method (WARM) to determine the level of threat on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 as the highest level of risk and 5 as the lowest.

What are the next steps in the cleanup process?

- Following the finalization of the RI report comes a Feasibility Study, which identifies appropriate cleanup options.
- The Feasibility Study, which will provide another opportunity for community involvement through a comment period, is then followed by the development of a Cleanup Action Plan.
- Following the release of the Cleanup Action Plan the public will have an opportunity to comment before the final cleanup is implemented.
- After the cleanup, the Department of Ecology follows up with periodic review and monitoring. Periodic review evaluates cleanup at a minimum of every 5 years to ensure cleanup efforts were effective.

For more information please contact Jeanette Ordonez or visit us online

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