

Institutional Controls Proposed for FMC Yakima Cleanup

Public Comment August 15 to September 14, 2011

Yakima, WA

August 2011



EPA seeks your comments on proposed changes to the FMC Yakima cleanup plan. The proposed changes will ensure that the property is only used for industrial activities and groundwater is restored in a reasonable time frame. The proposed changes are described in the Proposed Plan for a *Record of Decision Amendment*.

The cleanup site is a former pesticide plant, located at 4 West Washington Avenue, approximately one mile east of the Yakima Airport. Cleanup was completed at this site in 1993. The cleanup included removing contaminated soil and cleaning a warehouse concrete floor so the building could be reused for industrial purposes. Today, the redeveloped site contains a variety of commercial and light industrial businesses.

EPA conducted a scheduled review of the cleanup in 2008 and found that the site can continue to be used for industrial purposes. However, the remaining groundwater contamination has taken longer than anticipated to naturally break down, and there are no **institutional controls** currently in place to ensure that the property is only used for industrial activities.

After evaluating four alternatives, EPA believes that adding **institutional controls** is the best option because it is cost-effective and protects people and the environment. **Institutional controls** are administrative and legal restrictions that ensure appropriate land and groundwater use in the future. Adding these controls would ensure that activities on the property will remain consistent with industrial land use, protect the groundwater from additional pollution, and protect people.

The four alternatives evaluated include:

No Action is no change from the actions already implemented under the original cleanup. This option is not protective because it does not prevent harmful land and groundwater use in the future.

Institutional Controls maintain activities consistent with industrial land use, including preventing excavation into contaminated soils and the use of the shallow groundwater aquifer. This preferred alternative is the most cost-effective option and helps minimize exposure to contamination.

Soil Excavation and Off-Site Land Filling and Institutional Controls would remove contaminated soil that has a small potential to pollute groundwater in the future. Although protective, this alternative is disruptive to the businesses on site and the most expensive. This alternative also includes using institutional controls to maintain industrial uses.

Groundwater Extraction and Treatment and Institutional Controls would pump and treat the slightly contaminated groundwater. This alternative is disruptive to one of the businesses on site and very costly. This option also contains institutional controls to support industrial uses.

Alternatives #2 through #4 include continued groundwater monitoring.

Public Comment Sought

How to Comment: EPA is accepting written comments about the proposed changes to the cleanup plan until September 14, 2011. Send comments to:

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Fax: 509 376-2396

At this time no public meeting is scheduled.

To request a public meeting,
please contact Craig Cameron
no later than

August 22, 2011.

At this time, no public hearing is scheduled. To request a public hearing, please contact Craig Cameron no later than August 22, 2011.

For More Information

The Proposed Plan explaining the basis for the change is at:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/cleanup.nsf/sites/fmcyakima>

The Proposed Plan and supporting documents explaining the basis for the change are in the Administrative Record file for the site, located at

Yakima Central Library

102 North 3rd Street
Yakima, Washington
509-452-8541

U.S. EPA Region 10

1200 6th Avenue, Suite 900, ETPA 081
Seattle, Washington
206-553-1200
9 a.m. –5 p.m. Monday-Friday

Questions? Contact:

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Next Steps

EPA will select an alternative after reviewing and considering all public comments. EPA will summarize responses to significant comments and include the summarized responses with the Record of Decision Amendment.

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for FMC Yakima Cleanup*

Read inside for details

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