



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**REGION 10**  
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, Washington 98101-3140

## Rainier Commons Building 6 Stairwell PCB Paint Removal

Removal of paint containing PCBs from the Building 6 stairwell will begin in early October. While PCB-containing paint is being removed from walls on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> floors, the entire stairwell will be closed off. Rainier Commons LLC will provide information to tenants on the dates of the closure. This is the first of a number of paint removal projects to take place inside and outside the Rainier Commons complex. Two other locations within the complex are known to have paint which contains high levels of PCBs. Paint removal from those areas is anticipated to occur before the end of 2011. (Tenants of those spaces have been notified about that paint.)

Paint on many areas outside of the building also contains levels of PCBs that must be removed. The results of the Building 6 internal stairwell paint removal work will be evaluated to determine if the same procedures can be used at other locations in the building.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the paint removal plan prepared by Rainier Commons LLC for the Building 6 internal stairwell and has instructed Rainier Commons to proceed. Paint will be removed through a process called soda blasting – using non-toxic baking soda. Soda was chosen for its likely effectiveness at removing paint. Soda blasting is less likely to damage bricks and mortar underneath the paint than sand blasting.

Throughout the process of paint removal, air in the work area will be filtered to ensure that no PCBs are released into the building or outside. Rainier Commons LLC is responsible for ensuring that the workers removing the paint are qualified to carry out this work safely for themselves and the tenants.

Rainier Commons LLC is expected to provide a plan to EPA for paint removal from the remaining interior spaces on or about November 1, 2011. EPA will ensure that affected tenants are informed about the removal plans and consulted in order to reduce disruptions.

For more information about specific aspects of this project, please contact one of the individuals below, or visit our web site at:  
<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/OWCM.NSF/pcb/rainier-commons/>.

**Paint removal:** Lior Abada, Rainier Commons LLC at 206-447-0263

**PCBs and how to protect your family:** Lenford O'Garro, WA Department of Health: 360-236-3376

**Sampling and background for this action:** Dave Bartus, Environmental Protection Agency: 206-553-2804