



Colombia Lace Removal Okanogan County, Washington

June 2002

EPA to remove hazardous substances at old flower drying business

EPA will remove hazardous substances from the abandoned Colombia Lace flower drying operation 1½ miles from Bridgeport. The removal is necessary to prevent human and ecological exposure to the hazardous substances.

Colombia Lace is within the boundaries of the Colville Indian Reservation on Jack Wells Road, about one mile from the Columbia River. The Bureau of Indian Affairs and EPA will pay for the cleanup because the company is bankrupt. EPA and the Colville Tribes' Office of Environmental Trust will coordinate the clean up. Flower drying operations have not occurred on site for six years.

Last fall, EPA conducted an evaluation to find out what hazardous substances were on the site. EPA found evidence of hazardous materials in drums and containers on the site.

What was found on site?

- 255 drums of chemicals
- 200 paint cans
- 155 gallons of diesel fuel
- 75 canisters of soil fumigant
- 8 Lead-acid batteries
- Unknown quantity of contaminated soil



Partially submerged trailer trucks located at Columbia Lace. Flooding makes removal of contamination more difficult.

Why is cleanup necessary?

EPA believes hazardous wastes at the site pose a substantial risk to public health and the environment. The site is partially flooded, yet easily accessible to people. Until the cleanup is complete, trespassers could enter the site and be exposed to hazardous substances.

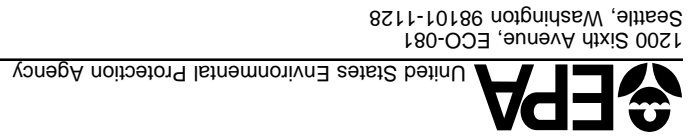
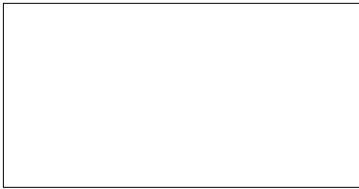
How will EPA clean up the area?

EPA's contractors will clean up the site in early July. They will wear protective suits and take all other precautions while cleaning up the site. EPA expects that it will take about one week to remove contaminants safely from the site.

EPA will identify the contents of the many 55 gallon drums on site, then they will separate the contaminants and dispose of all the drums and containers. Since some areas of soil appear to be heavily contaminated, EPA will remove soil in so-called "hot spots." EPA will also remove any hazardous substances in the semi-tractor, trailers, and former greenhouses, but will not remove them from the site. The cleanup will meet Tribal standards similar to those set by Washington's Model Toxics Cleanup Act.



Some of the over 450 containers at the Colombia Lace site; these are partially submerged near the old greenhouses.



For more information, please contact:

Michael Szerlog
EPA On- Scene Coordinator
800-424-4372 x0279
szerlog.michael@epa.gov

Joseph Creamer
EPA Community Involvement
800-424-4372 x1986
creamier.joseph@epa.gov

For people with disabilities: if you have any special requests for reasonable accommodations, please contact Joseph Creamer at 800-424-4372, extension 1986. For TTY users: please call the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339 and then give the operator Joseph Creamer's phone number.