



## **A Avenue Landfill FAQs**

### **About the A Avenue Landfill**

The A Avenue Landfill is a former municipal solid waste landfill that was operated by the City of Anacortes (City) from approximately the 1960s to 2006. Following a Site Hazard Assessment in 2009 by the Skagit County Public Health Department (SCPHD), the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) issued a “No Further Action” determination for the site. Since that time, the landfill has been jointly monitored by SCPHD and the City under a 10-year closure plan.

In an Early Notice Letter dated January 22, 2020 (revised February 7, 2020), Ecology notified the City that the 2009 No Further Action determination had been rescinded and the Site had been placed on Ecology’s Confirmed or Suspected Contaminated Sites List for further evaluation. The City remains committed to protecting its valuable resources and is currently working with Ecology to review historical information and assess whether additional work is required under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA).

### **Does the landfill pose an imminent threat to public health?**

- No. Based on currently available data, the landfill does not pose an imminent threat to human health. Data collected by SCPHD in 2020 indicate that contaminants in groundwater seep samples are below cleanup standards.

### **When was the landfill closed?**

The last time the landfill received municipal solid waste was in the early 1970s and the landfill was formally closed in 2006.

### **What actions were performed to close the landfill?**

- The landfill was evaluated and closed in coordination with SCPHD. To close the landfill, the City completed the following actions which were recommended and subsequently inspected by SCPHD: installation of fencing, vegetation and signage to limit and discourage public access on private property; placement of a clean soil cap and regrading of the soil surface to limit direct contact with landfill materials and reduce ponding and infiltration of surface water (rain water); installation of appropriate surface water drainage channels; removal of accessible/visible municipal waste from the landfill perimeter (as practicable without disturbing adjoining wetlands); hydroseeding and maintenance of a grass cover on the landfill cap; and monitoring of groundwater seeps from the landfill perimeter.

**What soil contamination been found on site?**

- Petroleum contamination was found in a single soil sample from 2003 in a portion of the landfill that has since been capped with clean soil.

**What monitoring has been performed since closure?**

- In accordance with the 10-Year Closure Plan, which was finalized in 2009, groundwater seep monitoring has been performed every five years by SCPHD since closure. Data collected by SCPHD in the most recent round of monitoring (i.e., in 2020) indicate that contaminants in groundwater seep samples are below cleanup standards. Since closure, the City and SCPHD have also performed routine inspection and maintenance of the cap and associated institutional controls required by the 10-Year Closure Plan.

**Why did Ecology rescind the No Further Action?**

- Ecology rescinded the “No Further Action” for the landfill due to public concerns regarding potential contamination and based on a historical soil sample (from 2003) that exceeded a cleanup standard for petroleum hydrocarbons. Ecology rescinded the NFA prior to having monitoring data from the most recent (2020) sampling event. The new data collected by SCPHD indicate that contaminants in groundwater seep samples are below cleanup standards. The City was not consulted regarding the NFA rescission until after Ecology made the determination.

**What happens now that the No Further Action designation has been rescinded?**

- The City is currently working with Ecology to conduct further assessment of environmental conditions at the former landfill. The work will be completed under Washington’s Formal MTCA Cleanup Process, which includes the following steps: initial investigation (completed); site hazard assessment (completed); remedial investigation; feasibility study; cleanup action plan; engineering design; cleanup, monitoring and site use controls; reviews and de-listing. The City has hired Anchor QEA – a qualified environmental consultant – to support this work. The investigations will determine if suspected contaminants are present at concentrations that pose a risk to human health or the environment and if further evaluation is needed to comply with the requirements of MTCA. If the remedial investigation concludes that there is no environmental risk, then the subsequent steps in the cleanup process are not required.

**What does the City plan to do with the Site?**

- No future site development is currently planned.

**Can the public access the landfill?**

- No. Public access to the landfill is restricted and is considered trespassing. The City has installed fencing, vegetation, and signage along the perimeter of the landfill to prevent public access to the property to be protective of the landfill and the surrounding natural areas. The public should stay on the trails, and the public should not enter the landfill property or natural areas surrounding it.

**Where can the public find documents related to the cleanup process?**

- Ecology maintains a website for the site that includes a database of documents and information. That website can be accessed here: <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=1771>