

# What you should know about the Landsburg Mine Site



Landsburg Mine is a former coal mine located 1.5 miles northwest of Ravensdale in southeast King County, Washington. Between the late 1960s and late 1970s, a large amount of industrial waste was dumped in trenches above the former mine. A small amount of visible waste was cleaned-up in 1991. The remaining waste poses a potential threat to drinking water supplies and surface water in the area.

## What did we do?

Washington State Department of Health worked with the Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the City of Kent to complete a health consultation. We wanted to learn if the work done at the site provided the information we need to determine whether there is a potential threat to public health and drinking water.



*Wells drilled near Landsburg Mine help us understand how waste inside the mine impacts groundwater.*

## What did we learn?

1. **The waste at the site could pose a threat to groundwater** in the area, which is used for drinking water. The extent of this potential threat is unknown because we don't know if, when, where, or what type of release could occur.
2. **None of the groundwater chemicals we evaluated, except arsenic, pose a health threat.** We did not determine the source of the arsenic at the site. Naturally-occurring arsenic is often found in groundwater across Washington. The highest level of arsenic found at the site presents some risk of long-term health effects. However, no one is drinking the groundwater at the site and the level of arsenic is below state and federal drinking water standards.
3. **There are some physical hazards at the site**, including steep trench walls and possible openings into the mine.

## What did we recommend?

We made recommendations to Ecology about actions they could take to help us further understand whether the site poses a threat to public health. Ecology and the Potentially Liable Parties (PLPs) agreed to take actions to address many of our suggestions.

	Department of Health recommendations	Ecology and PLP actions
<b>Monitoring wells</b>	Install additional wells and measure water levels to determine which way the groundwater flows inside the mine.	Use new and existing wells to determine which way the groundwater flows inside the mine.
	Install additional wells at the north end of the mine to tell if contaminants are being released from the mine.	Change the location and depth of two proposed wells to better monitor potential releases.

	Department of Health recommendations	Ecology and PLP actions
<b>Public water systems</b>	Provide information about the City of Kent's Clark Springs drinking water system, Covington Water District system, and Cedar Valley Sole Source Aquifer (used by the City of Renton) to ensure common understanding about these systems.	Include information about the water systems in the Cleanup Action Plan (CAP).
<b>Private wells</b>	Conduct a survey to identify private wells in the area.	Survey private wells in the area.
	Test private wells near the north and south ends of the mine every year for five years and evaluate the need to continue testing.	Test private wells near the north and south ends every year for five years and evaluate the need to continue testing.
	Test private wells to the east and west of the mine every year for five years and evaluate the need to continue testing.	Based on the history and current understanding of the site, additional testing to the east and west is not needed.
<b>Sampling</b>	Sample and analyze soils for volatile organic compounds (VOCs).	Test soil at the edge of the proposed cap above the waste.
	Test surface water.	Test surface water at the north and south ends of the mine.
	Ensure future groundwater sampling methods will provide useful results.	Continue to ensure all sampling methods are appropriate.
<b>Pumping test</b>	Explain why pumping tests are not possible and what steps will be taken to ensure contaminants do not move.	Explain in the CAP why pumping tests are not possible and highlight what steps will be taken to ensure contaminants do not move beyond the site boundaries.
<b>Fence and warning signs</b>	Maintain fencing around the area and add warning signs.	Maintain fencing and post signs.

## What will happen next?

Washington State Department of Health will:

- Provide copies of the health consultation to Ecology, the City of Kent, and the PLPs.
- Review future site characterization plans and results and, if requested, evaluate groundwater results from well testing to determine if there is a potential health threat.

## About health consultations

Washington State Department of Health completes health consultations under a cooperative agreement with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). Health consultations are completed when community members or agencies have concerns about chemicals in their environment. Department of Health looks at environmental and health data to determine whether contact with chemicals in the environment is harmful to your health. We make suggestions about how to protect your health based on this information.

A full copy of the health consultation report is available at [www.doh.wa.gov/consults](http://www.doh.wa.gov/consults)  
For more information, contact Washington State Department of Health at 1-877-485-7316