



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Northwest Region Office
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October 31, 2025

Molly McGuire, Senior Planner
Community Planning and Development Department
City of Mercer Island
9611 SE 36th St
Mercer Island, WA 98040

**Re: City of Mercer Island Rezone & New Public Safety and Maintenance Facility
File# SEP25-017, Ecology SEPA# 202504012**

Dear Molly McGuire:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) notice of application utilizing the optional determination of nonsignificance (ODNS/NOA) process for the City of Mercer Island Rezone & New Public Safety and Maintenance Facility project. Based on review of the checklist associated with this project, the Department of Ecology (Ecology) has the following comments:

The property is listed by Ecology as a contaminated Site (Mercer Island Public Works Site, Cleanup Site ID 8968). The Site was enrolled in Ecology's Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) in 2004 (VCP NW1365) at the initiation of the Site cleanup process; however, the Site was terminated from the VCP in 2007 due to cleanup inactivity. Petroleum contamination has been confirmed in soil and groundwater at the Site due to releases from former underground storage tanks (USTs) (LUST ID 973). Cleanup of the Site has not been completed, and contamination remains present on the property. Information for this Site can be found on Ecology's [Mercer Island Public Works Site Webpage](#).

Ecology recommends the proposal include the cleanup of the Site under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA), WAC 173-340, to address the known soil and groundwater contamination present on the property. Since the contaminants on the property are petroleum-related, Ecology recommends cleaning up the Site through the Washington Pollution Liability Insurance Agency (PLIA). PLIA assists tank owners, operators, and property owners with petroleum-related Site cleanup under their [Technical Assistance Program \(TAP\)](#).

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Ecology recommends working with PLIA to develop a contingency plan to address contaminated media and to complete Site cleanup prior to and during construction activities. PLIA's [TAP Fact Sheet](#) can provide more information regarding Site cleanup. If an unknown UST is encountered during demolition activities, it must be decommissioned in accordance with local fire department regulations.

Ecology strongly recommends working with an environmental professional to assist with regulatory compliance requirements. The environmental profession can also assist with UST decommissioning (if needed). If PLIA determines that the Site is not eligible for their TAP, the environmental professional can assist in enrolling the Site into Ecology's VCP.

Thank you for considering these comments from Ecology. If you have any questions or would like to respond to these comments, please contact Kim Vik from the Toxics Cleanup Program at (206) 556-5258 or by email at kim.vik@ecy.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



Kelli Price
SEPA Coordinator

Sent by email: Molly McGuire, molly.mcguire@mercerisland.gov

ecc: Kim Vik, Ecology