

Thurston County - Recycled Asphalt Policy E.5 Informational Public Meeting on Consultant Report

Thursday, June 20, 2019
6:00pm – 7:30pm
Lacey Community Center

Organizations Represented:

(12 individuals signed-in)

- Interested Citizens
- Nisqually River Council
- Local 612 International Union of Operating Engineers
- Cairncross & Hempelmann
- Lakeside Industries, Inc.
- The Olympian

County Staff in Attendance:

- Maya Teeple, Project Manager
- Brad Murphy
- Chris Chaput
- Kaitlynn Nelson
- Shannon Shula
- Chris Chaput
- Ian Lefcourte

Open House

Citizens began arriving at approximately 5:45 PM. Two posters (attached at the end of this summary) were available for citizens to view and staff was available to answer questions. Staff reiterated that this is not a public hearing, just a presentation by the consultant on the literature review report. A comment box was available for citizens to submit written comments.

Presentation by Herrera Environmental Consultants, Inc.

At 6:30 PM, Maya introduced Herrera Environmental Consultants, Inc. Joy Michaud with Herrera Environmental Consultants gave a presentation on the literature report.

Question and Answer Session

At approximately 6:53 PM, Maya opened the Q&A session. Below is a summary of questions received and answers given.

Q: Did any studies show that governments prohibited recycled asphalt pavement (RAP)?

A: No, can't recall that was explicitly stated in any studies. Purpose of literature was primarily to evaluate impacts of RAP. Instead, studies indicated "based on the findings, impacts seen would be negligible", or "based on findings, more research is needed" in the case of the Norin and Stromvall (2004) report.

Q: A pH difference of 4.5 to 3.5 is significant – isn't pH logarithmic? That would be a difference of 8+ time?

A: Yes, that would be a difference of about 10 times. These cases would have more aggressive leaching compared to the studies at a pH of 7. Even though 4.5 to 3.5 is a larger difference in one direction, 4.5 to a more neutral pH (such as 7) is a large difference in the other direction, about 100 times. Leaching of metals typically starts at below a pH of 6.

Q: The center of the pile is the area of highest concentration, and when you add more recycled asphalt to that, the center of the pile increases.

A: Yes, that is correct. The surface area is higher in the center of the pile, so there is more area that water can come into contact with.

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Q: Best Management Practices (BMPs) say that RAP should be covered, not just by a tarp.

A: We didn't look at which BMPs would be most effective, but they are an option to reduce leachate. One area (New Jersey) has fairly extensive rules on RAP and does not allow recycled asphalt next to posts for guardrails and the like; they must use a gravel fill.

Q: The study cited near the end of the presentation has a conclusion that more field studies should be done; who will determine that?

A: (Maya) The project initially had a "Phase 2" option of this review could include a site-specific field study to evaluate how recycled asphalt would leach in the Nisqually Subarea. The Phase 2 was intended to be determined after this study was complete. Thurston County will first look at BMPs, and then determine if a field study is necessary.

Q: Who determines this Phase 2 study and does public comment matter?

A: (Maya) Could be staff, but this will likely be a commissioner decision. Yes, you're comments matter. You can comment to me, and I relay those comments through work sessions with the commissioners, or you can comment directly to your commissioners at any time, but especially during public hearings for this specific policy amendment.

- At the beginning of any work session with the Planning Commission, there is opportunity for public comment. Planning Commission meetings are the first and third Wednesday's of every month at 6:30 PM.
- At Tuesday afternoon meetings, the Board of County Commissioners has a public testimony for each meeting. These start at 2PM.
- You can also email staff or commissioners at any time.

Q: Contaminants leach out as soon as a rain event occurs.

A:

Q: Exposure to roadway usage and study with 8 PAHs about detection limit were the result of the roadway usage?

A: Clarified – how much is from the roadway as a use versus the material itself. This is a good question not specifically answered by the study, but the use is a contributor.

Q: Were there any studies with no road usage?

A: At least one of the studies reviews recycled asphalt versus fresh asphalt not used.

Q: So you can find this leaching along any roadway?

A: Yes, from asphalt but mostly from cars and roadway usage (diesel, gas, fluids from cars).

Q: Compare a road to coffee beans. Ground up releases more (more leaching).

A: Yes, this is because of the liquid to surface area ratio.

Q: Herrera was hired by Lakeside?

A: (Maya) Lakeside is paying for the amendment to be considered, because this policy review is a citizen-initiated amendment. As part of the study, the County hired the consultant. The County conducted the RFP/RFQ and interviews to hire the consultant (Lakeside was not involved in hiring the consultant).

Q: This study doesn't address the location and environmental characteristics.

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A: (Maya) This study evaluates environmental concerns at a high-level, because it is a policy and impacts the entire Nisqually Subarea. Site-specific environmental constraints, traffic, noise, and air are evaluated at the permit stage for each individual permit.

Q: Can they store it anywhere they want?

A: (Maya) The County already allows it in other areas of the County. The Nisqually Subarea is the only location where it is not allowed.

Q: This study seems incomplete. Language was written into the plan and now we attempt to strike it. Where is this coming from?

A: (Maya) The County periodically reviews policies and amendments. This was a citizen-initiated amendment (Lakeside). Any citizen can initiate an amendment.

Q: There are toxins in asphalt. The area is protected because citizens spoke up. What is considered here?

A: Continue to be involved, communicate with staff, participate in events, and attend work sessions with commissioners as they begin.

Q: Has Thurston County reached out to the Tribe?

A: Yes.

Q: All these studies assume water will flush through. Debate is how fast leaching will occur. If you cover RAP, it does not leach.

A: Yes, you can stop leaching by covering it. This was not evaluated as part of this paper, but Best Management Practices exist.

Q: Do you know how companies apply BMPs?

A: No, but that is the next step for the County to research more.

Q: Recycling Asphalt prevents more mining. It allows for reuse and prevents further impact. Expansion of operation is less harmful than new operations.

A:

Q: In Pg. 3 of the Literature Review, there is a distinct initial flush that exceeds standards. Will this also be reviewed for air quality?

A: Air quality is typically reviewed at the site level when a permit application is in. ORCAA coordinates with county and operator for air quality monitoring.

Q: I used to work at ORCAA and there were no monitors for air quality. I would like to see more phase 2 field studies. People are in danger and the industry wants money.

A: (Maya) I'm happy to follow-up more with you after we break from the Q&A session.

Comments Received at Meeting

The following comments were received at the meeting in the comment box.

1. There should be NO approval for asphalt recycling. NO approval to change the comp plan.

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2. This proposal makes a mockery of the effort to restore the Nisqually estuary. The millions of dollars invested in the restoration project will be a waste if this proposal is allowed. How can Thurston County guarantee the safety of groundwater if this is allowed to happen? How can the county guarantee that the internal committee and commissioners will not take bribes from Lakeside Industries? I see this as a form of silent genocide against the Nisqually Tribe. It's absolutely appalling that Lakeside Industries is making this proposal.
3. Issues with field studies (in this report tonight). "Swedish study" Conclusion: "underestimating contaminants". We should not allow recycled asphalt in the Nisqually Valley.
4. I am against this proposal. After living in the county for 30 years, I know that the Nisqually Area is special. It is unique. It has our city of only drinking water at the Allison Springs wellhead. We must not pute this area with more trucks, recycled asphalt, etc.

