

State of Washington
Department of Ecology
In the Matter of Remedial Action by:
Cosmo Specialty Fibers, Inc. (Charlestown Investments)
Agreed Order
No. DE 23840

To:

Richard Bassett
Cosmo Specialty Fibers, Inc.
1701 First St.
Cosmopolis, WA 9853

I. Introduction

Agreed Order No. DE23840 (Order) entered into by the State of Washington, Department of Ecology (Ecology) and Cosmo Specialty Fibers, Inc. (Cosmo) on July 18, 2025 requires that the potential liable party (PLP) perform a remedial investigation/feasibility study. By this Amendment to Agreed Order No. DE 23840 (Amendment), Ecology requires an interim action be conducted at the Site. Ecology believes the actions required are in the public interest.

This Amendment does not attempt to recite all of the provisions of the Order. Provisions of the Order not specially changed in this Amendment remain in full force and effect.

II. Jurisdiction

This Amendment is issued pursuant to the authority of RCW 70A.305.050(1).

III. Amendments

Ecology Determinations, Section 6 of the Order is Amended:

The Order, Section 6. (Ecology Determinations) is hereby amended to add the following:

6.8 Under WAC 173-340-430, an interim action is a remedial action that is technically necessary to reduce a threat to human health or the environment by eliminating or substantially reducing one or more pathways for exposure to a hazardous substance, that corrects a problem that may become substantially worse or cost

substantially more to address if the remedial action is delayed, or that is needed to provide for completion of a site hazard assessment, remedial investigation/feasibility study, or design of a cleanup action plan. Ecology has documented a number of violations of the dangerous waste regulations at the Site. This includes storage of dangerous waste in unsecured locations. Ecology has also been informed of vandalism at the Site, indicating that the public is able to enter the Site in an uncontrolled manner. Based on these circumstances, Ecology has determined that an interim action is warranted under WAC 173-340-430.

6.9 RCW 70A.305.030(2)(a) requires that, at a minimum, this Amendment and the IAWP requirement be subject to concurrent public notice. Ecology shall be responsible for providing this public notice and reserves the right to modify or withdraw any provisions of this Amendment should public comment disclose facts or considerations which indicate to Ecology that this Amendment is inadequate or improper in any respect.

Work to Be Performed, Section 7 of the Order is Amended:

The Order, Section 7 (Work to be Performed) is hereby amended to add the following requirement:

7.1.a As soon as practicable, but no more than 14 days from the effective date of this amendment, ensure sufficient security to ensure the public is not able to access the Site at any time. Sufficient security includes, at a minimum, 24-hour onsite security personnel and rover at the Main Mill and the Westport ponds. Maintain all cameras, fencing, and locks at the Main Mill and the Westport ponds.

7.1.b. Maintaining sufficient power and water at the site, including immediate notification to Ecology of any changes to access to power or water at the Site.

a. Until power and water are restored to the Main Mill and the Westport ponds, take all steps necessary to prevent pollution from migrating off-site via the storm drain or flooding.

7.1.c. Submit a detailed Site Stabilization Interim Action Work Plan (IAWP or Work Plan) for Ecology's approval within thirty days (30) days of the effective date of this Amendment. The purpose of the work plan is to stabilize and secure the site in such a way to eliminate or substantially reduce pathways for exposure to hazardous substances at the facility. The Work Plan must include, at a minimum, the following actions:

- a. For chemicals stored in tanks and process units:
 1. Maintain an up-to-date log of all chemicals, their amounts, and storage location(s).
 2. Inspect tanks and process units on a weekly basis to identify any leaks or other issues, unless a different frequency is approved by Ecology. Maintain documentation for each inspection.
 3. Lock out all tanks and process units to prevent tampering and accidental releases.
 4. For process units that require water seals to prevent the release of contamination to the air, maintain the water seals.
 5. For storage tanks and process units with secondary containment, maintain secondary containment to prevent breach or release to soil, surface water, or groundwater.
- b. For chemicals stored in totes, drums, or containers:
 1. Maintain an up-to-date log of all chemicals, their amounts, and storage location(s).
 2. Inspect the totes, drums, and containers on a weekly basis to identify any leaks or other issues, unless a different frequency is approved by Ecology. Maintain documentation for each inspection.
 3. Provide adequate secondary containment for the totes, drums, and containers to prevent a release to soil, surface waters, or groundwater.
- c. For the Wood Stave Pipe:
 1. Conduct a monthly visual observation of the surface above the entire line, including the vent stacks, to inspect for leaks, odors, or air releases.
 2. If a leak is observed, repair the leak as soon as practicable, but no longer than 15 calendar days after discovery, unless otherwise approved by Ecology. Until the leak is repaired, inspect the leak on a daily basis and maintain a log of the estimated leak rate and other observations, including color, pH, and any chemical analysis.

- d. Maintain the Westport Ponds and other ponds/lagoons, basins, and clarifiers to prevent overflow and air releases (i.e. odors from exposed sludge), including the following:
 1. Maintain aeration at each of the Westport ponds, unless otherwise approved by Ecology.
 2. Control vegetation around the perimeter of the Westport ponds as needed to allow for access and protection of the integrity of the ponds.
 3. Maintain an appropriate water level in all ponds, lagoons, basins, and clarifiers as necessary to prevent odors from exposed sludge and prevent overtopping.
 4. Inspect the Westport Ponds daily for the presence of odors, unless a different frequency is approved by Ecology. Maintain daily odor inspection logs to include H₂S readings and number of operating aerators.
 5. For the Westport Ponds, maintain either the ambient H₂S monitoring station or portable H₂S meter maintained according to manufacturers' specifications, unless otherwise approved by Ecology.

Cosmo shall prepare two (2) copies of the detailed IAWP and submit them, including one electronic copy each in Word (.doc) and Adobe (.pdf) formats. Ecology will revise and finalize the IAWP. Ecology will inform Cosmo in writing when the IAWP is approved and finalized. Cosmo will then implement the IAWP within 14 days of Ecology's written notice that the IAWP is approved and final.

Effective Date of Order Amendment: December 22, 2025

Cosmo Specialty Fibers, Inc. under the
ownership of Charlestown Investments

Richard Bassett

Charlestown Investments



State of Washington

Department of Ecology

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