

David Jones

I moved to Edmonds in 1961. My quality of life is directly impacted by the environment in which I live.

The land that Unocal used for its bulk fuel storage and distribution site in Edmonds was once healthy, but Unocal poisoned it by allowing chemicals to leach into the soil and water.

Now that Unocal is no longer using this site it doesn't want to be held responsible for restoring the health of that property.

The Department of Ecology, acting on behalf of the citizens of our state, must hold Unocal to the same standard of behavior that a responsible parent expects of a wilful child--clean up your mess. Make your bed. Hang up your clothes. Don't expect someone else to clean up after you.

There is no logic to permitting Unocal to walk away from the fuel transfer site in Edmonds until it has cleaned up its mess. Allowing Unocal off the hook for the cost of this work just means someone else will be required to clean it up, and someone else will be required to shoulder the cost of that project. There is no logic in that, only irresponsible oversight of this land.

Is the Department of Ecology willing to take on that cost and effort? It should not--that would be a gift of public funds to Unocal.

As a long time resident of Edmonds and someone who is proud and protective of our natural environment, I request that the Department of Ecology require Unocal to restore this property to its clean, natural state. That requires more than just covering up any contamination with a layer of dirt. It means completely cleaning the land and water, restoring both to their original, natural condition.

Unocal profited from the use of this land. They now must understand that maintaining a clean worksite and leaving property in its natural state is an expected part of doing business in our state.

That is what I expect my Department of Ecology to require of Unocal and any other business.

To permit a company to get away with anything less is irresponsible and unconscionable.