SINCE 1979 · VOLUME 38, NO. 49 Keizertimes **SECTION A SEPTEMBER 8, 2017** \$1.00 Polluted dirt could move through Keizer

City wants more info before plan progresses

By ERIC A. HOWALD Of the Keizertimes

The City of Keizer is asking for more information before the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) permits a contractor to truck 152,000 cubic yards of polluted soil through Keizer.

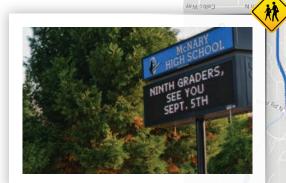
"The city is not opposing the project, we just want questions answered and to make sure that our citizens are protected and our neighbors are protected," said Elizabeth Sagmiller, manager of Keizer's environmental and technical division

The main concern is the presence of a pesticide called dieldrin (see sidebar: What is dieldrin?). The soil contains several long-lasting pollutants, but dieldrin is the only one that exceeds health standards for residential use. The current plan is to haul the soil - in approximately 14,000 truckloads - from a development site off Hazelgreen Road Northeast in Salem, west on Lockhaven Drive and then north on Windsor Island road to fill in two abandoned quarries. The route travels near hundreds of Keizer residences, directly past three schools (Chemawa Indian School, Whiteaker Middle School and McNary High School), and a block away from Keizer Elementary School.

Granada Land Company, LLC, has already begun work on a planned 500-home residential development at the Hazelgreen site, known as Northstar. Windsor Island Company, LLC, which is owned by the Zielinski Family Trust owns the planned disposal site at 6848 Windsor Island Road North, which is outside Keizer city limits.Visitors to the development site can see where several inches of soil have already been removed in the southeast corner of the 150-acre development. For now, the tainted soil is being stored on the site. Despite public notices in

traditional outlets, Keizer officials were unaware of the plan to move the dirt through the city until an article appeared in the Statesman Journal in July, with a deadline for public comment looming, Sagmiller said.

Nancy Sawka, a DEQ senior project manager, said that DEQ mailed out more than 200 public comment notices and the exclusion of Keizer



was unintentional.

"I would have expected that the developer or project engineer contact us regarding how their plan was going to work. They aren't under any obligation to do that because they aren't getting a permit from Keizer, but it would have been nice to get the heads up," Sagmiller said.

DEQ officials and Keizer representatives met on July 31 to discuss the matter, but Sagmiller said she was hesitant to put any faith in the commitments made until she saw it in writing. DEQ officials also admitted they hadn't visited the disposal site during the meeting, but have done so since.

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dealing with the pesticide-

contaminated dirt: moving to a

low-lying area of the property

and capping it, which would

require ongoing monitor-

ing; treating the soil onsite to

reduce con-

tamination;

excavating it and moving it

to a landfill; or

moving it to

the quarry pits

for future con-

tinued agricul-

was the cheap-

est option on

the board, but

it had other

benefits, Sawka

said.

"Even if the contaminated

soil was capped (onsite), there

would always be a chance that

residents or children could

Moving it

tural use.



of Environmental Quality could allow to move through Keizer for dumping in abandoned quarries northeast of city limits.

Dieldrin is an insecticide developed as an alternative to DDT in the 1940s. It was used primarily on fruit, soil and seed. The U.S. Department of Agriculture banned the use of dieldrin in 1970, but it is a legacy pollutant that remains in the environment long after being introduced. Other pesticides - DDT, DDD, DDE, aldrin, atrazine, chlorophyrifos and diuron - are present in the soil, but dieldrin is the only one that exceeds health standards. When as little as a pound of dieldrin enters the environment, the federal government's National Response Center (NRC) must be notified immediately. The NRC is operated by the U.S. Coast Guard and responds to environmental contaminations.

other pollutants, an additional 10 were ordered specifically for dieldrin testing. The suggested limit on dieldrin is .02 partsper-million (PPM). Tests of 10 soil samples from the development site in last month revealed three without dieldrin contamination, six samples between .02 and .08 PPM, and one sample where the contamination was nearly 10 times the permissible level.

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Private Farmland





Luau at Keizer **Rapids**

New Claggett principal



DEQ decision hinged on how the soil would be used, not where

It will take

approximately

14,000 trips

to move the

152,000

cubić yards

of soil

By ERIC A. HOWALD Of the Keizertimes

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) looked at several options for handling contaminated soil

at the site of a residential development in Salem before determining that moving it to two abandoned quarries north of Keizer would be the best fit.

The deciboiled sion down to how the soil could be accessed by the public, said Nancy

Sawka, a senior project manager with DEQ. The owners of the Northstar development, Granada Land Company, LLC, proposed several options for come in contact with the soil by



departs here Northstar Developme Polluted soil

(9)

digging or that the soil could be

exposed during outdoor projects or subto the quarries surface work," she said.

> It would require that every home on the property come with a deed restriction notifying all future owners of the dieldrin contamination (see sidebar: What is dieldrin?). While that might work fine for immediate owners, the likelihood of forgetting over time makes it a problematic solu-

After initial tests of 350 samples revealed the presence of dieldrin and the

tion.

"This can result in people being exposed to contamination in the future, often without knowing about it. Especially for a site like this with contamination over a large area, with many different future land owners, capping and managing soil in place would be very difficult to implement and not as protective as removing it in a controlled manner under DEQ oversight," Sawka said.

Sawka said the owners did not look at alternative sites for

The report on the contamination, supplied by Multi/Tech Engineering Services, Inc., suggests that further testing is necessary to determine the breadth and depth of the affected soil.

In addition to the soil passing through Keizer to the disposal site, Elizabeth Sagmiller, manager of Keizer's environmental and technical division, said continuing to use the soil for farming could also be a problem. Because dieldrin breaks down slowly, it is subject to biomagnification, the process by which toxic substances accumulate in larger amounts the higher up the food chain it goes.

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dumping the soil.

Aside from cost, each of the possible solutions was scored on: the effectiveness and protectiveness of the clean-up, the long-term reliability, how difficult or easily the plan could be implemented, any risks associated with performing the actions.

DEQ officials also paid attention to the how the soil would be used in the quarries - for growing hazelnuts. To that end, DEQ consulted the Oregon Department of Agri-Please see DEQ, Page A9

Lady Celt returns to pitch strong PAGE A11







First Responder Appreciation Cash exclusively for active members of an eligible First Responder Association. Special \$1000 bonus cash limited to the purchase or lease of an eligible new 2017 model year F-150 or Super Duty (F-250 thru F-550) and must take delivery by October 2, 2017. Not available on Raptor. \$500 Bonus Cash available toward the purchase or lease of an eligible new 2016/2017/2018 Ford or Lincoln vehicle, some exclusions apply. Take new retail delivery from dealer stock by January 2, 2018. Limit of 5, for U.S. residents only. See dealer for complete details and eligible on Raptor.