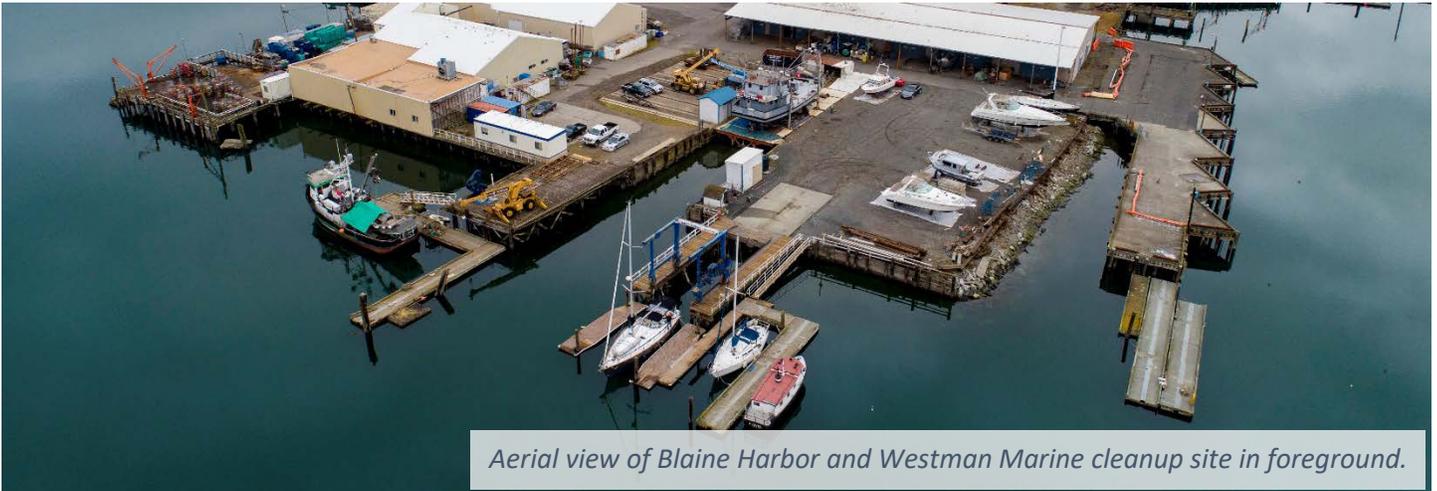


# Westman Marine Site



*Aerial view of Blaine Harbor and Westman Marine cleanup site in foreground.*

## Comments accepted:

September 3 – October 2, 2019

## Submit comments:

**Online at** <http://bit.ly/Ecology-WestmanMarine-Comments>

### Or by mail to:

Cris Matthews, Site Manager  
 WA Department of Ecology  
 913 Squalicum Way, Unit 101  
 Bellingham, WA 98225  
 Phone: 360-255-4379  
 Email: [Cris.Matthews@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Cris.Matthews@ecy.wa.gov)

## Site info:

<http://bit.ly/Ecology-WestmanMarine>

Facility Site ID: 66519819

Site Cleanup ID: 2205

## Document review locations:

Blaine Library  
 610 3rd Street  
 Blaine, WA 98230  
 Phone: 360-305-3637

Ecology-Bellingham Office  
 913 Squalicum Way, Unit 101  
 Bellingham, WA 98225  
 By appointment, call 360-255-4400

Ecology-Bellevue Office  
 3190 160<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE  
 Bellevue, WA 98008-5452  
 By appointment, call 360-649-7190

## Environmental report ready for public review

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) invites you to comment on an environmental report for the Westman Marine cleanup site (Site) at the Blaine Harbor. The Port of Bellingham (Port) owns and operates Blaine Harbor.

The report, called a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS):

- Describes contamination found at the Site.
- Evaluates cleanup alternatives.
- Identifies a preferred cleanup alternative.

The Port prepared this report with Ecology oversight.

The contamination is the result of historical boat maintenance and repair operations. The contaminant levels are potentially harmful and must be addressed under Washington's cleanup law, the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCOA).

## More information?

### Attend a tour of the Site

RE Sources for Sustainable Communities will host a walking tour of the Site on:

- **Wednesday, September 4**  
**Noon – 2 p.m.**  
**218 McMillan Avenue, Blaine, WA 98230**
- Ecology and Port site managers will be available for questions.
- For details visit <http://www.re-sources.org/events>.

### Contact Ian Fawley, Ecology Outreach Specialist

Call: 360-255-4382

Email: [Ian.Fawley@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Ian.Fawley@ecy.wa.gov)

# Toxics Cleanup Program

## Site background

The Westman Marine cleanup site is located at 218 McMillan Avenue in the Blaine Harbor industrial area in Blaine, WA. The Site consists of an approximately 1 acre upland area (Upland Unit) and an approximately 27 acre in-water sediment area (Marine Unit). Portions of the property were contaminated by past boat maintenance and repair operations.



*Aerial photo of Blaine Harbor, 1956, including Westman Marine cleanup site*

Blaine Harbor was originally created in the late 1930s by dredging the tideflats and using the dredged materials to create uplands. The harbor’s upland areas were expanded in the 1940s, 1950s, and again in 2001.

The property has been used for marine operations since approximately 1949. In 1984, the Port became the owner of the property, including this cleanup site, and has leased it to several different companies. The State of Washington owns a portion of the site which the Port manages.

Ecology and the Port entered into a legal agreement (Agreed Order) in April 2013 to complete an investigation, evaluate cleanup options, identify a preferred cleanup alternative, and develop a draft cleanup action plan.

## Early cleanup action

In March 2014, the Port completed an early cleanup action (interim action) in order to construct a new building for another tenant partially located in the Site area. The Port removed and disposed of approximately 420 tons of contaminated soil.

## Remedial Investigation

In 2001 the Port began voluntarily sampling sediments in Blaine Harbor. Further investigations conducted by the Port in 2013-2014 found contamination concentrations at the Site above state standards established to protect human health and the environment:

- **Soil:** carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (cPAHs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and metals
- **Sediment:** Metals, organotins (TBT), cPAHs and PCBs



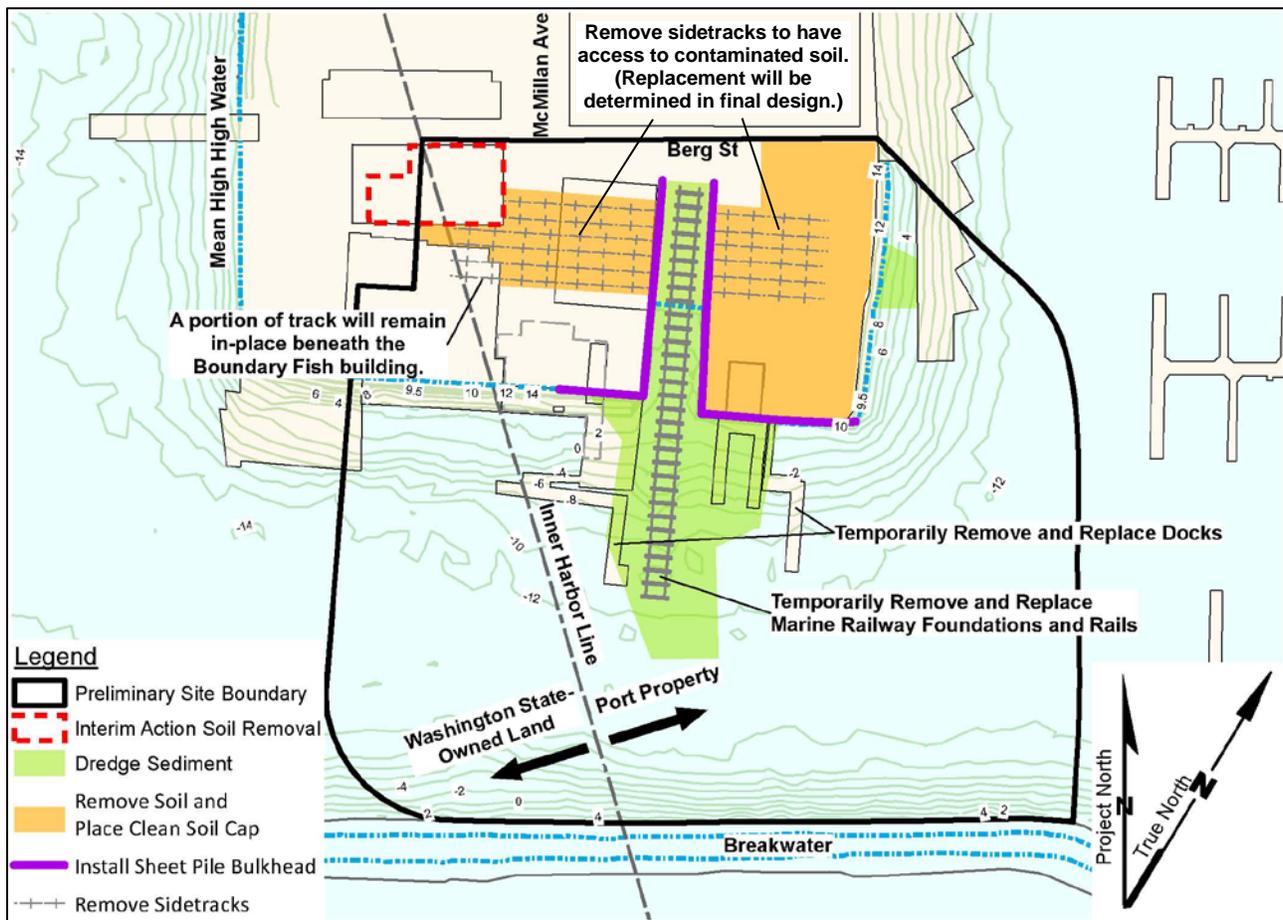
*Approximate site boundary and interim action location*

Groundwater is not affected by the contamination releases on the Site and is not considered an affected medium.

## Feasibility Study

To address contamination found at the Site, the Port prepared a feasibility study that evaluated six different cleanup alternatives for both upland (Upland Unit) and in-water sediment (Marine Unit) areas. The costs and environmental benefits of the alternatives were then compared, leading to a preferred cleanup alternative. The preferred cleanup alternative includes the combined upland and in-water sediment actions described below and incorporates the 2014 interim action.

## Preferred cleanup alternative



### Upland Unit (upland)

- Remove top 2 feet of contaminated soil, dispose offsite, and place a clean soil cap.
- Remove sidetracks to have access to contaminated soil. (Replacement will be determined in final design.)

### Marine Unit (in-water sediment)

- Install a sheetpile bulkhead to support dredging and prevent upland soil erosion and exposure to contaminated soil.
- Temporarily remove and replace docks and marine railway to enable dredging.
- Dredge contaminated sediment and dispose offsite.
- Perform compliance monitoring to ensure cleanup standards are achieved. (If needed, place additional cover layer over in-water sediment to attain cleanup standards.)

Ecology will require Site use controls that restrict certain activities and a long-term operation and maintenance plan.



*Westman Marine site marine railway and boat maintenance area*

## Costs and funding

The preferred cleanup alternative is estimated to cost about \$6.1 million to complete. The Port is eligible for reimbursement of up to half of this cost through the state’s Remedial Action Grant Program, which helps pay for the cleanup of publicly-owned sites. The Legislature funds the grant program with revenues from a tax on hazardous substances.

## Next steps and estimated project timeline

- **September 3 – October 2, 2019:** Hold a 30-day public comment period.
- **September 4, 2019 (Noon – 2 p.m.):** RE Sources for Sustainable Communities hosts a walking tour of site.
- **2019/2020:** Finalize the environmental report. Ecology will review and consider all comments received as we finalize the remedial investigation/feasibility study report. We will provide a written response to comments received.
- **2020:** Select cleanup action. Based on the information in the final remedial investigation/ feasibility study report, Ecology will select a cleanup action for the Site. We will issue our cleanup action plan and an associated legal agreement for public review. The legal agreement will require the Port, and possibly others, to design the cleanup action.
- **2021:** Complete design and permitting for the cleanup action.
- **2022:** Begin implementing the cleanup action.

### En español

El Departamento de Ecología le invita a comentar sobre un reporte ambiental para el sitio que está contaminado Westman Marine en Blaine.

Para recibir este documento en español, por favor llame a Gretchen Newman al 360-407-6097 o envíe un correo electrónico a [preguntas@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:preguntas@ecy.wa.gov). Traducciones de avisos públicos para este sitio de limpieza se preparan bajo solicitud.

Toxics Cleanup Program  
913 Squalicum Way, Unit 101  
Bellingham, WA 98225

## Westman Marine Site Environmental report ready for review



*Aerial view of Blaine Harbor and  
Westman Marine cleanup site*

### Public comment period

Ecology invites you to comment on an environmental report:

**September 3 – October 2, 2019**

<http://bit.ly/Ecology-WestmanMarine>

<http://bit.ly/Ecology-WestmanMarine-Comments>

### Site tour

RE Sources for Sustainable Communities is hosting a walking tour:

**September 4, 2019, Noon – 2 p.m.**

<http://www.re-sources.org/events>

### Información en español incluida

**Accommodation Requests:** To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-255-4382 or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.