

### Evergreen/Alcoa Vancouver Aluminum Smelter Cleanup

#### Enforcement Order and SEPA Determination of Non-Significance Available for Public Review

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is seeking public comment on a draft Enforcement Order and State Environmental Policy Act Determination of Non-Significance (SEPA DNS) for the Evergreen/Alcoa aluminum smelter site in Vancouver, Washington. The Enforcement Order directs Alcoa to clean up soil contamination and demolish petroleum tanks, piping and smelter ore unloading systems to prepare the dike and river bank for a sediment cleanup in the Columbia River beginning in November 2008.

#### Background

The Alcoa property was initially developed in late 1939 when aluminum smelting operations began in Vancouver. During World War II, Alcoa filled the eastern end of the smelter site with dredge sands from the Columbia River and constructed the smelter. Aluminum manufacturing at the site began in 1940. From 1940 to 1970, Alcoa added a number of fabrication operations to the facility. By 1970, the facility contained the aluminum smelter and a series of fabrication plants to form aluminum into finished goods such as wire, rod, and extruded channel. Alcoa operated the aluminum smelter and adjacent manufacturing facilities for approximately 45 years, until 1986.

Individual land parcels associated with the aluminum manufacturing facility began to be remediated, closed, and sold by Alcoa. In 1985, the cable mill operation was sold to ACPC, Inc., who leased the property from Alcoa until 1997. In 1987, Alcoa sold the aluminum smelter to Vanalco, Inc., and retained title to the extrusion section of the property known as Vancouver Extrusion Company (Vanexco). Vanexco was operated by Alcoa until 1991 when it was closed.

Also in 1991, Alcoa sold the property located to the west of Evergreen Aluminum and previously leased by Crowley Marine Lines to Russell Towboat and Moorage Company. In 1994, a parcel of property known as the North Parcel was sold to the Clark County Public Utility District (PUD) for construction of a cogeneration plant. A cleanup was conducted on a parcel known as the Northeast Parcel and the property was sold to Clark County as a jail site in 1997. Glencore Washington purchased the aluminum smelter from Vanalco in 2002. Glencore named the new business entity, Evergreen Aluminum LLC.

Over the past few years, Alcoa has sold various parcels of land located east of the site to the Port of Vancouver. Alcoa retains ownership of the river dock and loading area, closed landfill east of the aluminum smelter and the property west of the smelter.

#### DATES AND LOCATIONS

#### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

June 5, 2008 through  
July 5, 2008

#### Send written comments to:

Paul Skyllingstad  
Department of Ecology  
Industrial Section  
PO Box 47706  
Olympia WA 98504-7600  
(360) 407-6949 (phone)  
(360) 407-6102 (fax)  
psky461@ecy.wa.gov

#### Public Meeting

7:00 PM Thursday  
June 17, 2008  
Clark College Campus  
Foster Auditorium  
1933 Fort Vancouver Way  
Vancouver, WA 98663

#### Information Repositories Read a printed copy of the Enforcement Order at either of the following locations:

Industrial Section  
Department of Ecology  
300 Desmond Drive  
Lacey, WA 98503  
Phone: (360) 407-6916

Fort Vancouver  
Regional Library  
1007 East Mill Plain Blvd  
Vancouver, WA  
Phone: (360) 695-1566

*If you need this publication in an alternate format, please phone Kathy Vermillion in Lacey at 360/407-6916. Persons with hearing loss may press 711 to connect with the Washington Relay Service. Persons with speech disability may phone 877/833-6341 for assistance.*

# Public Comment Period

## Industrial Section

June 2008

The Port of Vancouver plans to purchase the entire site from Evergreen Aluminum and Alcoa for future port development.

### Soil contamination

Soil sampling in 2007 and 2008 located PCB and petroleum contamination in bank soils east and west of the dock structures. Additional soil sampling will delineate the nature and extent of the contamination. PCB levels in the soils range from non-detect to 15 mg/Kg. Petroleum hydrocarbons were found in the shallow groundwater near three underground storage tanks.

### What work will be completed?

The draft Enforcement Order directs Alcoa to: 1) demolish ore unloading systems and ore storage tanks next to the smelter dock on the Columbia River; 2) remove existing above ground petroleum tank structures, underground petroleum tanks, and piping located along the Columbia River bank east and west of the dock; 3) conduct petroleum contamination soil sampling after removal of tanks and piping and, if necessary, perform soil removal; 4) sample and remove any PCB contaminated soils along the river bank and dike; and 5) prepare and regrade the soils along the Columbia River bank and dike as needed for geotechnical stability.

The demolition work will allow for the staging of upland river sediment removal equipment needed in the Columbia River remediation. Soil sampling in the river bank and associated cleanup will remove any PCB-contaminated soil from the bank. This will protect the Columbia River from re-contamination after the sediment cleanup.

The remediation work being completed under this Enforcement Order will allow Alcoa to begin removing PCB-contaminated sediment from the Columbia River in early November. Cleanup work in the river is timed to occur during the November 2008 – January 2009 fish window.

### Why an Enforcement Order?

There are several mechanisms that can be used under MTCA to address a cleanup action. Issuing an Enforcement Order, rather than negotiating an Agreed Order, hastens the MTCA cleanup process – allowing faster remediation of the area prior to

conducting the river sediment cleanup. Completing the upland remediation this summer will ensure that the timeframes for working in the river are met.

### What happens next?

Ecology invites you to read and comment on the draft Enforcement Order. Copies of the Enforcement Order are located at the Fort Vancouver Regional Library and at the Department of Ecology in Lacey, Washington. Submit written comments by July 5, 2008, to Paul Skyllingstad.

An informational public meeting will be held at Clark College - Foster Auditorium at 7:00 o'clock on June 17, 2008. Come learn about, discuss, and comment on the proposed remediation staging work being proposed under the draft Enforcement Order.

After the public comment period ends, Ecology will review comments received and prepare a summary of the comments and suggested changes. A written response to these comments, called a Responsiveness Summary will be made available for public review. Ecology will provide updates of site activities to those who submit comments or who ask for inclusion on the site mailing list.

If significant changes are made to the Enforcement Order, a revised draft will be issued for a public comment. If no significant changes are made, the order will be considered final.

Ecology's next step in the project will be to approve the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for the site and select a preferred cleanup option. After the cleanup option is selected, the RI/FS and a draft Consent Decree (CD) and Cleanup Action Plan (CAP) will be public noticed. The Consent Decree formalizes the selected cleanup option and sets a schedule for Evergreen and Alcoa to complete the site cleanup. Ecology expects to public notice the RI/FS, CD, and CAP this summer.