

Boeing Auburn Cleanup: Draft Feasibility Studies Available for Review and Comment



Photo of the Boeing Auburn Fabrication Facility in 1966

Comments accepted

April 26th – June 18th, 2021

Submit comments

Online: bit.ly/BoeingAuburnComments

By mail:

Li Ma, Site Manager
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li.ma@ecy.wa.gov

Site info

Webpage:
bit.ly/ECYBoeingAuburn
Facility Site ID: 2018
Site Cleanup ID: 5049

Need help?

Contact Janelle Anderson,
Community Outreach Specialist
at 425-301-6454 or
janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov.

We want to hear from you!

We're overseeing contamination cleanup at the Boeing Auburn facility, located at 700 15th St. SW in Auburn, WA. We invite you to review and comment on a draft feasibility study, draft supplemental feasibility study, and draft public participation plan. When the public comment period ends, we'll consider all comments and may change the documents based on them. After considering all comments, the documents will become final.

Draft feasibility study (FS): The draft FS compares ways to clean up the site's contamination.

Draft supplemental feasibility study (SFS): The draft SFS addresses concerns Ecology raised when we reviewed the FS Boeing submitted.

Draft public participation plan (PPP): The draft PPP encourages community involvement in cleanup decisions.

Public meeting

We're hosting a public meeting to provide information, answer questions, and collect comments. It will be held via Zoom on Monday, April 26th, 2021, 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at bit.ly/3qvKwnP. Access a recording of the presentation at: <https://youtu.be/6lZi1k9gmMY>.

Información en español

Descargue este documento en español:

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2104021ES.html>.

La reunión pública incluirá una transcripción y un intérprete en español.

Si le gustaría recibir documentos en español, por favor llame a Amelia Min-Venditti al 360-819-0304 o envíe un correo electrónico a preguntas@ecy.wa.gov.

Washington state's coronavirus response

Due to the coronavirus response, we aren't hosting in-person public meetings or supporting physical document repositories. Documents for review are available online only. If a hearing is requested, we will determine the appropriate response under Washington's Stay Home, Stay Healthy order. If you need access to a hard copy document, would like to request a hearing, or have other questions, please contact Janelle Anderson at 425-301-6454 or janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov.

Documents for public comment

Visit bit.ly/ECYBoeingAuburn to view these documents.

- **Draft feasibility study (FS).**
- **Draft supplemental feasibility study (SFS).**
- **Draft public participation plan (PPP).**
- **Boeing's statement on cleanup levels.**
- **Ecology's response to Boeing's statement on cleanup levels.**

Site background

Boeing treated and stored hazardous waste at its Auburn facility and used a liquid chemical—trichloroethylene (TCE)—to clean metal airplane parts. The site became contaminated when some of the TCE leaked into soil and groundwater. The groundwater contamination extends off the Boeing property. Boeing no longer uses TCE, so there is no risk of more TCE contamination from the facility.

The cleanup process

Boeing must follow Washington's cleanup process (see Figure 1). We're in the feasibility study phase.

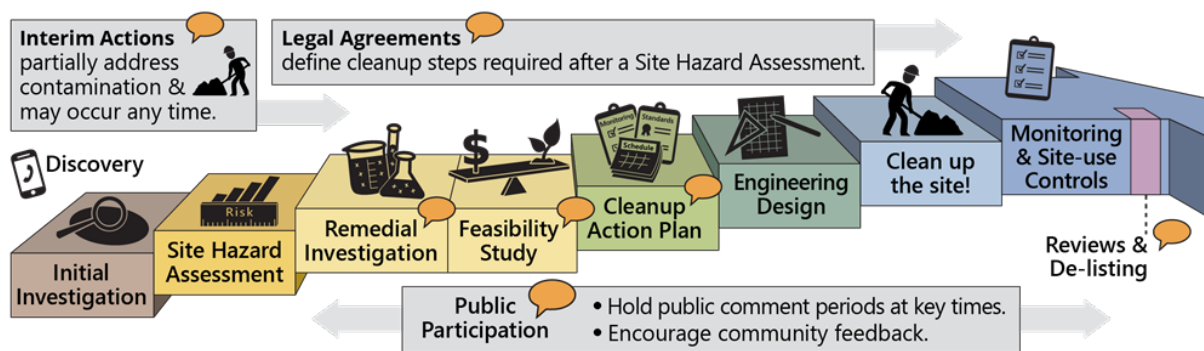


Figure 1: Washington's cleanup process. [Read a plain text version.](#)¹

Cleanup plans for soil and groundwater

Boeing must clean up the contamination. We apply both the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the state Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) regulations to clean up hazardous waste sites. The cleanup protects human health and the environment from dangerous wastes and chemicals.

Washington has two clean water standards for cleanup sites: one for groundwater and one for surface water. For TCE, the surface water cleanup standard is about ten times stricter than the groundwater standard. At the Boeing Auburn site, Ecology is using the surface water standard as the groundwater cleanup level because the contaminated groundwater goes into surface water. Boeing's position is that the drinking water standard should be used instead of the surface water standard as the cleanup level for groundwater. Visit our website to see statements from both Boeing and Ecology on this issue. We'll review Boeing's argument and make a final decision. We welcome your comments on this issue: bit.ly/BoeingAuburnComments.

For details about water cleanup standards for TCE, see the cleanup standards infographic on our Boeing Auburn webpage: bit.ly/ECYBoeingAuburn.

¹ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/parts/1909166part2.pdf>

A computer model of the contaminated groundwater predicted that using enhanced bioremediation and monitored natural attenuation (MNA) would reduce cleanup time. For example, the model shows that using enhanced bioremediation in the Algona area should reduce the time needed to reach surface water quality standards there by more than half.

Enhanced bioremediation

Bioremediation is a natural process where bacteria in the soil “eat” the chemical contaminants. The enhanced method of bioremediation involves adding non-toxic food for the bacteria (sugars and carbon) to the groundwater so they grow faster and eat more chemicals.

We asked Boeing to install additional wells so they can inject bacteria food into the groundwater and promote faster breakdown of groundwater pollutants. Learn more about this in our [Focus on: Boeing Auburn Site Enhanced Bioremediation](#)² publication.

Monitored natural attenuation

Bacteria that live in soil and groundwater can break down chemicals into non-toxic end products. Monitoring this natural process through MNA keeps track of the contamination until the chemicals in contaminated soil and groundwater are below risk levels set by state law.

Throughout the MNA process, we require that Boeing collect and analyze samples to make sure that the concentration of chemicals in the soil and groundwater is declining. Learn more about this in our [Focus on: Boeing Auburn Site Monitored Natural Attenuation](#)³ publication.

Document review locations

In-person document review isn't currently available. You may review documents on our Boeing Auburn website: bit.ly/ECYBoeingAuburn.

Questions about accessing information?

Contact Janelle Anderson:

425-301-6454

janelle.anderson@ecy.wa.gov

En español: Si le gustaría recibir documentos en español, por favor llame a Amelia Min-Venditti al 360-819-0304 o envíe un correo electrónico a preguntas@ecy.wa.gov.

To submit your comments, questions, or concerns about any of these documents, visit Ecology's eComments page: bit.ly/BoeingAuburnComments.

What happens next?

Once the public comment period ends, we'll review and consider all received comments. The documents may change based on your comments. When new documents about the site are developed, we'll notify you about additional public comment periods.

² <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2104019.html>

³ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2104020.html>

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Join the Discussion!

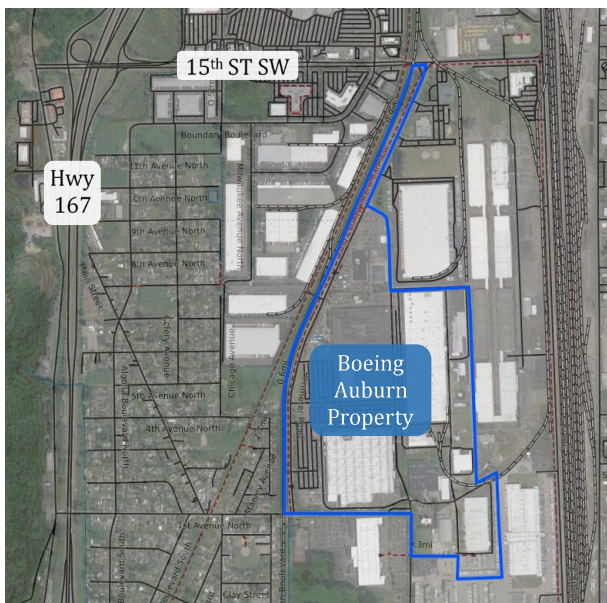


Figure 2: Boeing Auburn Fabrication Site Location

Boeing Auburn draft feasibility studies

Ecology seeks public comment on a draft feasibility study, draft supplemental feasibility study, and draft public participation plan for the Boeing Auburn site in Auburn, Washington.

Public comment period

April 26th – June 18th, 2021

bit.ly/BoeingAuburnComments

Public meeting

Monday, April 26th, 2021, 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Zoom link: bit.ly/3qvKwnP

Información en español incluida

El Departamento de Ecología está anunciando el periodo de comentario público relacionado a la limpieza ambiental del sitio Boeing Auburn. Si le gustaría recibir documentos en español, por favor llame a Amelia Min-Venditti al 360-819-0304 o envíe un correo electrónico a preguntas@ecy.wa.gov.

ADA Accessibility: To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6700, email hwtrpubs@ecy.wa.gov, or visit ecology.wa.gov/accessibility. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.