



# Public Participation Plan Eatonville Landfill Site Eatonville, Washington

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**Facility Site ID: 85933**

**Cleanup Site ID: 15271**

For the

**Toxics Cleanup Program**

Washington State Department of Ecology  
Olympia, Washington

August 2021

## Publication Information

This plan is available on the Department of Ecology's website at:

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=15271>

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## ADA Accessibility

The Department of Ecology is committed to providing people with disabilities access to information and services by meeting or exceeding the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Washington State Policy #188.

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6831 or email at [ecyadacoordinator@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:ecyadacoordinator@ecy.wa.gov). For Washington Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341. Visit Ecology's website for more information.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.ecology.wa.gov/contact](http://www.ecology.wa.gov/contact)

# Department of Ecology's Regional Offices

## Map of Counties Served



|   |   |                                       |                                       |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Southwest Region</b><br>360-407-6300 | <b>Northwest Region</b><br>206-594-0000 | <b>Central Region</b><br>509-575-2490 | <b>Eastern Region</b><br>509-329-3400 |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|

| Region              | Counties served  | Mailing Address                           | Phone        |
|---------------------|--|---|--------------|
| <b>Southwest</b>    | Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, Wahkiakum           | PO Box 47775<br>Olympia, WA 98504         | 360-407-6300 |
| <b>Northwest</b>    | Island, King, Kitsap, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom   | 15700 Dayton Ave N<br>Shoreline, WA 98133 | 206-594-0000 |
| <b>Central</b>      | Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan, Yakima   | 1250 W Alder St<br>Union Gap, WA 98903    | 509-575-2490 |
| <b>Eastern</b>      | Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman | 4601 N Monroe<br>Spokane, WA 99205        | 509-329-3400 |
| <b>Headquarters</b> | Across Washington  | PO Box 46700<br>Olympia, WA 98504         | 360-407-6000 |

# Public Participation Plan

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**Eatonville Landfill Site  
Nisqually State Park  
Mashel Prairie Road accessed from State Route 7  
Eatonville, WA 98328**

Toxics Cleanup Program  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
Southwest Regional Office  
Lacey, WA

**August 2021**



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

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# Public Involvement in Contamination Cleanup

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) developed this public participation plan (plan) in cooperation with the Town of Eatonville (Town) and Weyerhaeuser Company (Weyerhaeuser), the parties responsible for cleanup. The purpose of the plan is to promote meaningful community involvement during cleanup.

The plan describes ways Ecology will inform the public about contamination investigations and cleanup options throughout the cleanup process. Ecology encourages the public to learn about and get involved in decision-making opportunities. This plan identifies how and when the public can get involved during different stages of the investigation and cleanup of contamination.

This plan is for cleaning up contamination at the Eatonville Landfill site.

## Site contacts

To be included in the site record, comments about the cleanup process must be submitted during comment periods. Questions and informal comments or information about the site's history are welcome anytime.

## Ecology

Southwest Regional Office  
300 Desmond Drive SE  
Lacey, WA 98503

Craig Rankine, site manager  
Vancouver Field Office  
[Craig.Rankine@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Craig.Rankine@ecy.wa.gov)  
360-690-4795

Nancy Davis, public involvement coordinator  
[Nancy.Davis@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Nancy.Davis@ecy.wa.gov)  
360-407-0067

## Public Participation Grants

Grants may be available to neighborhood committees, non-profits, and other groups interested in the site. For contaminated sites, these funds can be used to:

- Hire an expert to help interpret technical information.<sup>2</sup>
- Conduct activities that enhance the public's understanding of, and participation in, the cleanup process.

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<sup>2</sup> Ecology currently does not have a citizen technical advisor for providing technical assistance to citizens on issues related to the investigation and cleanup of the site.

For more information about public participation grants, please contact Faith Wimberley at 425-275-7285 or [faith.wimberley@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:faith.wimberley@ecy.wa.gov). You may also visit the [Public Participation Grant website](#).<sup>3</sup>

## Washington's Cleanup Laws

Ecology uses the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) and accompanying regulations for cleanup activities.

This plan is required under MTCA, a law that passed in 1989. MTCA provides guidelines for contaminated site cleanup in Washington State and sets standards to ensure the cleanup protects human health and the environment.

### Model Toxics Control Act

MTCA began as a grassroots citizen's initiative in 1988, and started the process of systematically cleaning up contaminated sites in Washington. Under MTCA, a current or past property owner or operator may be held responsible for cleaning up contamination on, or coming from, their property to standards that are safe for human health and the environment.

Ecology enacts MTCA and oversees cleanups in the state and issues regulations and guidance governing those cleanups. The regulations are found in [Chapter 173-340 Washington Administrative Code \(WAC\)](#).<sup>4</sup> Ecology investigates reports of property contamination, and if the contamination is seen as a significant threat to human health or the environment, the contaminated property is placed on the Hazardous Sites List, and the cleanup process begins.

Public participation is an important part of cleanup under the MTCA process. Participation needs are assessed at each cleanup site according to the level of public interest and the degree of risk posed by the contamination. Individuals who live near the site, community groups, businesses, government, other organizations, and interested parties have the opportunity to get involved by commenting on the cleanup process.

Under MTCA, the cleanup process generally includes five phases. Each phase includes an opportunity for the public to review and comment on cleanup documents (see Figure 1).

### State Environmental Policy Act

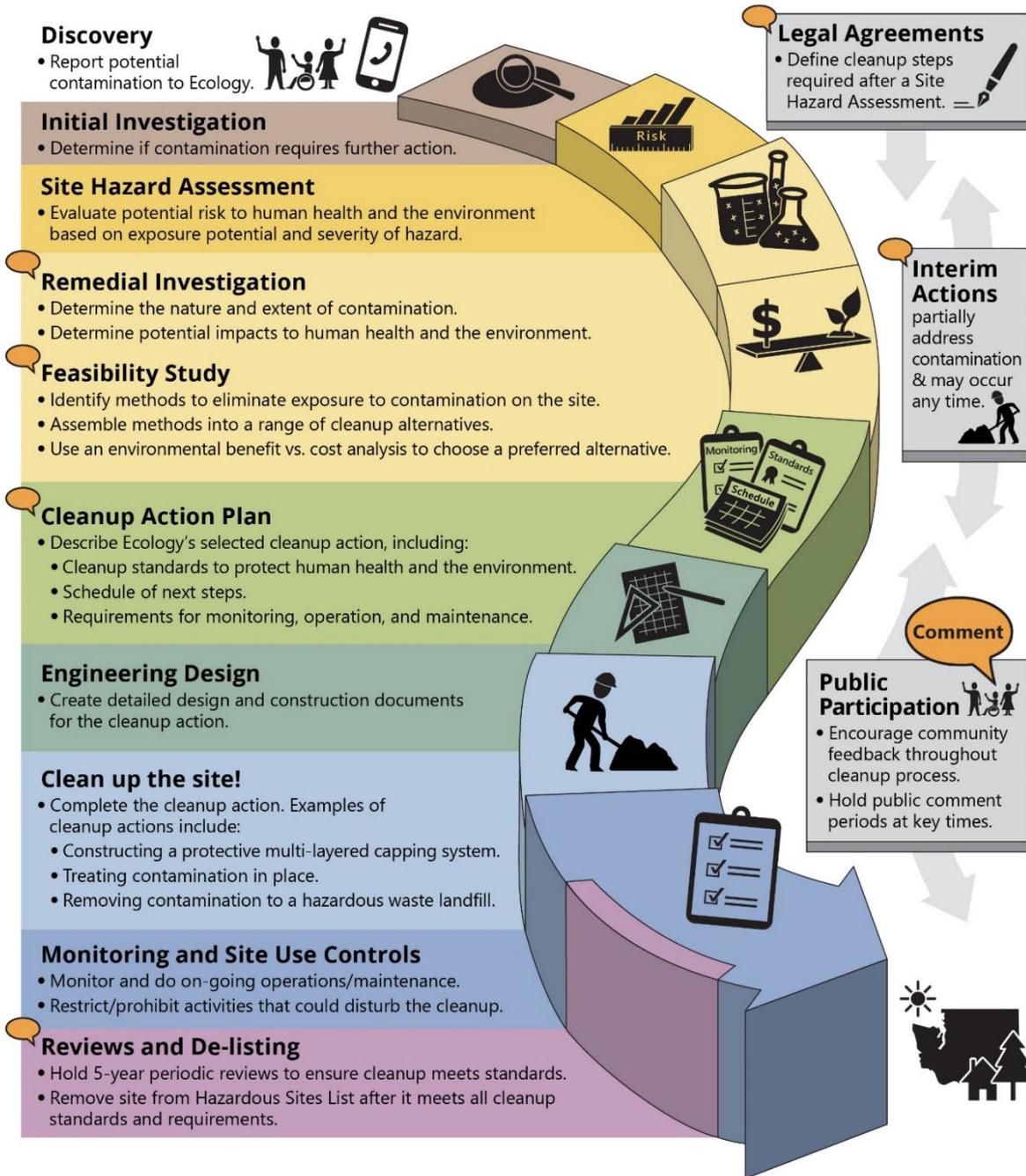
The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) is followed during review and development of cleanup plans.

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<sup>3</sup> [ecology.wa.gov/About-us/How-we-operate/Grants-loans/Find-a-grant-or-loan/Public-participation-grants](https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/How-we-operate/Grants-loans/Find-a-grant-or-loan/Public-participation-grants)

<sup>4</sup> <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/publications/9406.pdf>

# Washington's Formal Cleanup Process



 **Washington's Cleanup Law**  
Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)

MTCA defines the cleanup process. This public-initiated environmental law directs upland cleanups (on land or in groundwater) and sediment cleanups (in freshwater or marine environments). Ecology enacts MTCA and regulates the cleanup process.

September 2019  
Ecology Publication 19-09-166

Figure 1. Steps in Washington's cleanup process.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/1909166.pdf>

# Site Information

## Site description

The former Eatonville Landfill cleanup site is located in rural Pierce County. The site is located about 3.5 miles west of the Town of Eatonville. The landfill is an unlined, unfenced dump site about two acres in size. The site is on a parcel designated as undeveloped vacant land owned by the Weyerhaeuser.

The Nisqually State Park surrounds the landfill (see Figure 2). Road access to the site is through the entrance to the state park off Mashel Prairie Road from State Route 7 in Eatonville. The state plans to develop recreational facilities in the area where the landfill is located.

The landfill is on a very steep slope. There is a wetland at the lower end and the base of the landfill. Water from the wetland flows downstream about ¼ mile to the Mashel River. A major tributary of the Nisqually River, the Mashel River provides critical spawning and rearing habitat for Fall Chinook salmon and steelhead.

The Nisqually Indian Tribe holds fishing, hunting, and gathering rights in the Nisqually watershed and the area around the site is culturally important to them.

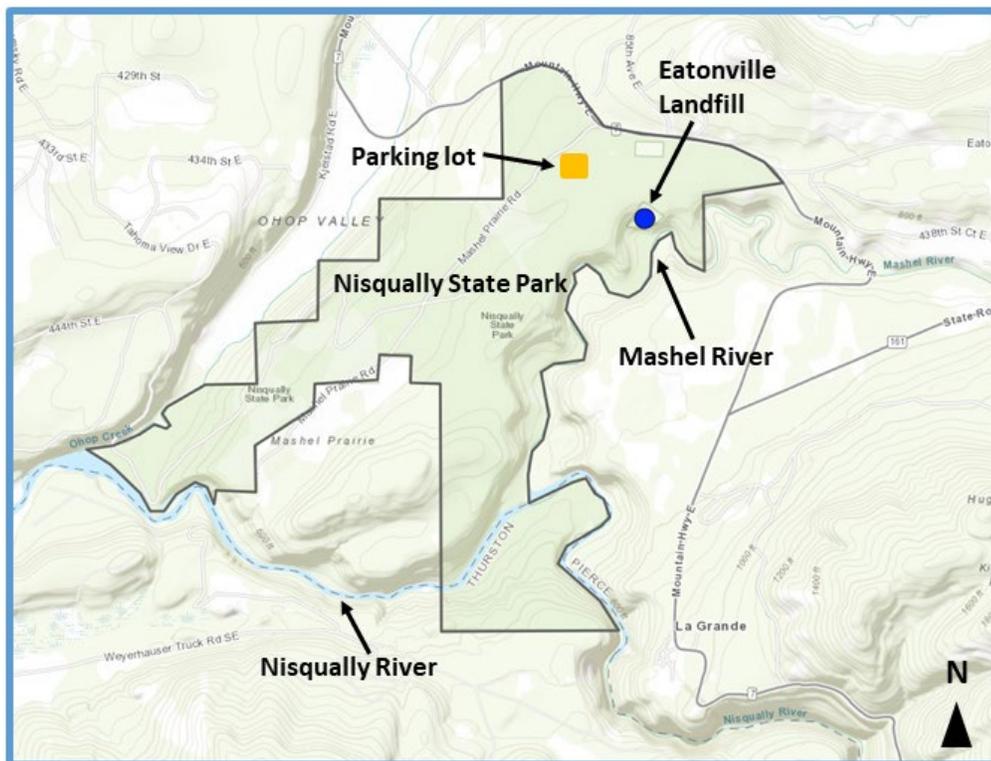


Figure 2. The Eatonville landfill area (blue dot) is surrounded by the Nisqually State Park. The landfill is near the Mashel River, which flows into the Nisqually River. A parking lot (orange rectangle) along the Mashel Prairie Road provides access to the landfill area.

## How the site became contaminated

Weyerhaeuser leased the property to the Town for use as a dump. Refuse was deposited at the site from 1950 until about 1980. Municipal solid waste, appliances, car parts, empty drums, tires, and other waste were disposed of at the landfill. Waste burning occurred at the site.

## Hazardous substances known or suspected at the site

Ecology reviewed investigative documents and placed the site on the Confirmed and Suspected Contaminated Sites List. At the site, metals (iron, lead, and zinc) have contaminated water to levels above water quality standards. The contamination was found in water seeping from the ground at the base of the landfill.

Other substances may have contaminated surface water, sediment, and/or groundwater. The suspected contaminants include polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), petroleum products, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

## Cleanup plans

Ecology needs information to develop the plan to clean up the site. To accomplish this, Ecology and the PLPs will enter into a legal agreement, Agreed Order (AO) DE 20072. The Agreed Order outlines the responsibilities of the PLPs to investigate the site and also describes how the PLPs and Ecology will plan to clean up the site. The public will have an opportunity to review and comment on the Agreed Order (see Figure 1).

The PLPs will complete the Remedial Investigation (RI) report, which explains what type and where contamination is located at the site. The report also identifies actual and potential ways that people and the environment can be exposed to contamination.

The PLPs will complete the Feasibility Study (FS), which compares alternative methods to clean up the site.

With information in the RI/FS, the PLPs will complete a preliminary draft cleanup action plan describing the method used to clean up the site.

Ecology will use the preliminary plan to prepare the draft Cleanup Action Plan (dCAP).

Once completed, the RI/FS and dCAP will be available for public review and comment before the reports are finalized.

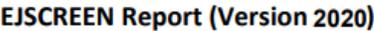
The Cleanup Action Plan (CAP) describes how the site will be cleaned up. The CAP will be implemented under a separate legal agreement that will be available for public review and comment.

After the plan for cleanup is finalized, the detailed engineering design phase and cleanup construction can begin.

## Area community

To access demographics of the area, we used [EPA EJ Screen<sup>6</sup>](https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen) (2020 Version, accessed July 28, 2021) to gather information on the demographics of people living within a one-mile radius of the Town of Eatonville. EJScreen is an environmental justice mapping and screening tool that provides a nationally consistent dataset and approach that combines environmental and demographic indicators in maps and reports. This can help to highlight geographic areas and the extent to which they may be candidates for further review, including additional consideration for analysis or outreach.

The image below (Figure 3) shows information on demographics, income, and education for people living in the one-mile area of the Town. The area is estimated to have a population size of 2,721.


**EJSCREEN Report (Version 2020)**  
**1 mile Ring Centered at 46.867330,-122.268320, WASHINGTON, EPA Region 10**  
**Approximate Population: 2,721**  
**Input Area (sq. miles): 3.14**  
**1 mile around Eatonville, WA**

| Selected Variables  | Value  | State Avg. | %ile in State | EPA Region Avg. | %ile in EPA Region | USA Avg. | %ile in USA |
|---|--------|------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------|-------------|
| <b>Environmental Indicators</b>   |        |            |               |                 |                    |          |             |
| Particulate Matter (PM 2.5 in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )                    | 6.2    | 8.21       | 7             | 8.52            | 5                  | 8.55     | 5           |
| Ozone (ppb)   | 41.8   | 37.3       | 79            | 39.1            | 69                 | 42.9     | 41          |
| NATA* Diesel PM ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )                                | 0.0762 | 0.585      | 5             | 0.481           | <50th              | 0.478    | <50th       |
| NATA* Cancer Risk (lifetime risk per million)                               | 24     | 34         | 11            | 31              | <50th              | 32       | <50th       |
| NATA* Respiratory Hazard Index  | 0.35   | 0.5        | 11            | 0.46            | <50th              | 0.44     | <50th       |
| Traffic Proximity and Volume (daily traffic count/distance to road)         | N/A    | 610        | N/A           | 510             | N/A                | 750      | N/A         |
| Lead Paint Indicator (% Pre-1960 Housing)                                   | 0.18   | 0.23       | 59            | 0.22            | 59                 | 0.28     | 50          |
| Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)                                | 0.037  | 0.19       | 23            | 0.13            | 37                 | 0.13     | 33          |
| RMP Proximity (facility count/km distance)                                  | 0.039  | 0.63       | 3             | 0.65            | 6                  | 0.74     | 2           |
| Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)                      | 0.038  | 1.9        | 3             | 1.5             | 7                  | 5        | 3           |
| Wastewater Discharge Indicator (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance) | N/A    | 0.0091     | N/A           | 3.1             | N/A                | 9.4      | N/A         |
| <b>Demographic Indicators</b>   |        |            |               |                 |                    |          |             |
| Demographic Index   | 18%    | 29%        | 27            | 29%             | 26                 | 36%      | 25          |
| People of Color Population  | 11%    | 31%        | 16            | 28%             | 20                 | 39%      | 23          |
| Low Income Population   | 25%    | 27%        | 53            | 30%             | 45                 | 33%      | 42          |
| Linguistically Isolated Population  | 1%     | 4%         | 44            | 3%              | 49                 | 4%       | 47          |
| Population With Less Than High School Education                             | 7%     | 9%         | 56            | 9%              | 52                 | 13%      | 42          |
| Population Under 5 years of age   | 5%     | 6%         | 44            | 6%              | 44                 | 6%       | 45          |
| Population over 64 years of age   | 20%    | 15%        | 78            | 15%             | 77                 | 15%      | 77          |

\* The National-Scale Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) is EPA's ongoing, comprehensive evaluation of air toxics in the United States. EPA developed the NATA to prioritize air toxics, emission sources, and locations of interest for further study. It is important to remember that NATA provides broad estimates of health risks over geographic areas of the country, not definitive risks to specific individuals or locations. More information on the NATA analysis can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/national-air-toxics-assessment>.

Figure 3. Environmental and demographic indicators for the community living in the one-mile radius of the Town of Eatonville. The Eatonville landfill is located about 3.5 miles west of the Town.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>

The demographic indicators of particular relevance to this plan are the value (%) and percentile (%tile) in Washington, labelled as %tile in State. These values are estimates. A percentile is a relative term and compares the population indicator in Eatonville with the population of Washington. For example, if the population of people of color in Eatonville is 11% and is the 16th percentile for the state, this means that 11% of the area's population is people of color, and that is equal to or a higher percent people of color than where 16% of Washington state's population lives.

The EJScreen estimated the following demographic indicators for the community living in the Town of Eatonville as compared with the population of Washington:

- People of color is 16th percentile.
- Low income is 53rd percentile.
- Linguistically isolated is 44th percentile.
- Less than high school education is 56th percentile.
- Under 5 years of age is 44th percentile.
- Over 64 years of age is 78th percentile.

In particular, the community has a relatively high population of people over 64 years of age compared to other communities in Washington. We will keep this information in mind as we strive to make our public participation efforts as inclusive as possible. We welcome your input about how best to reach the nearby community.

The Washington Department of Health has a tool called the [Washington Tracking Network<sup>7</sup>](#) that compares the environmental health disparities for communities across the state by census tract or zip code. The tool estimates the cumulative environmental health impact score for each census tract reflecting pollutant exposures and factors that affect people's vulnerability to environmental pollution. The Eatonville census tract 53053073200 is given an overall environmental exposure rank of 2 on a ranking from 1 (low) to 10 (high) relative to the rest of the state. The rankings help to compare health and social factors that may contribute to disparities in a community. It is not used to diagnose a community health issue or to label a community.

There are no US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Priorities List (Superfund) sites located near the Town or the Eatonville landfill.

The Nisqually Indian Tribe is a federally recognized Tribe and owns land in the vicinity. The area is culturally important to the Tribe and they hold fishing, hunting, and gathering rights in the Nisqually watershed. The Tribe relies on resources that could be affected by the contamination at the landfill site. Ecology will invite the Tribe to be engaged with any decision-making process for this site. There is ample opportunity to be involved throughout the process on a government-to-government basis.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.doh.wa.gov/DataandStatisticalReports/WashingtonTrackingNetworkWTN>

## Public Participation Activities

Members of the public may ask questions, submit informal comments, or share site information at any time. Interested parties do not need to wait for a formal public comment period to contact Ecology.

However, to be included in the formal site record, comments about the site investigation, cleanup alternatives, or cleanups must be submitted during formal comment periods. In addition, the public is invited to review site documents before they become final. This is the most direct and influential way to learn more about the site and be involved in the cleanup's decision-making.

### How we share information with the community

During specific stages of the cleanup, Ecology will mail notices about public comment periods to addresses around the site. The mailing list area will vary depending on the type of contamination and where it's located, but the list will at least include addresses within a 1/4-mile radius of the site and other interested organizations and individuals. These notices will provide general information about the site, contact information for submitting comments, and times and locations of public meetings or hearings or how to request one if not yet scheduled.

Ecology may also develop documents outside of comment periods to keep the community updated on the site's status. These informational documents will be available online and at document repositories. Print copies may be mailed to the nearby community if we feel the message warrants the associated cost and resources.

Comment period notices and other site announcements may be posted in various locations in the community (for example, local businesses, schools, libraries).

### Postal mailing list

Ecology generates a mailing list that includes addresses within a 1/4-mile radius of the site and relevant local, state, and federal government contacts.

These people receive public comment notices when draft documents are available.

We will add additional individuals, organizations, and other interested parties to the mailing list as requested. If you would like to be added to the mailing list for this site, please contact Nancy Davis at 360-407-0067 or [Nancy.Davis@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Nancy.Davis@ecy.wa.gov).

### Site Register

Public comment periods, events, and other cleanup notices are published in Ecology's [Site Register](#).<sup>8</sup> To receive the *Site Register* by email, please contact Sarah Kellington at 360-407-7466 or [sarah.kellington@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:sarah.kellington@ecy.wa.gov), or [subscribe online](#).<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> [ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Site-Register-lists-and-data](http://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Site-Register-lists-and-data)

<sup>9</sup> <http://listserv.ecology.wa.gov/scripts/wa-ECOLOGY.exe?SUBED1=SITEREGISTER&A=1>

## Newspaper display ads or legal notices

We announce public comment periods and events in ads or notices published in Tacoma's *The News Tribune*. We will also publish notice on our [Public Input & Events Listing](#).<sup>10</sup>

## Ecology's website and social media platforms

We maintain a webpage for the [Eatonville Landfill site](#).<sup>11</sup> The webpage provides site information and links to download cleanup documents related to the site.

We may also share information about cleanup sites through [news releases, our blog, and social media](#).<sup>12</sup>

## Document repositories

In consideration of public health and safety during the Covid-19 related closures, Ecology cannot currently offer in-person review options (August 2021). Staff are available by telephone and email, but our office will not be available for walk-in service at headquarters, regional, and field offices until further notice. Check [our website](#)<sup>13</sup> for updates on re-opening of our buildings to the public.

When Ecology offices and repositories reopen, you can find print documents at the following locations during public comment periods.

Eatonville Library  
205 Center Street West  
Eatonville, WA 98328  
253-548-3311

Washington Department of Ecology  
Southwest Regional Office  
300 Desmond Drive SE  
Lacey, WA 98503  
By appointment

Once the Ecology Southwest Regional Office reopens to walk-in service at the document repository, you will be able to schedule an appointment to review files. To schedule an appointment for viewing documents at Ecology, please contact Susan Baxter at 360-407-6365 or [PublicDisclosureSWRO@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:PublicDisclosureSWRO@ecy.wa.gov).

## Signs around the cleanup site

We may also install signs displaying information about project status, traffic impacts, and health risks around the cleanup site.

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<sup>10</sup> [ecology.wa.gov/Events/Search/Listing](https://ecology.wa.gov/Events/Search/Listing)

<sup>11</sup> <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/sitepage.aspx?csid=15271>

<sup>12</sup> [ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Get-to-know-us/News](https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Get-to-know-us/News)

<sup>13</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Get-to-know-us/Contact-us>

## How to share information with us

We invite the public to share information with us anytime by phone and email. During specific stages of the cleanup, we will solicit the public to share information with us.

At a minimum, MTCA requires 30-day public comment periods for draft cleanup documents and 14-day comment periods SEPA documents. SEPA documents are often available for public review with other cleanup documents. In that case, we combine the comment periods, and they last at least 30 days. We may hold comment periods longer than 30 days.

We may also identify public concerns and cleanup goals by meeting with and soliciting information from interested community members and organizations. To collaborate with us about this site, please contact Nancy Davis at 360-407-0067 or [nancy.davis@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:nancy.davis@ecy.wa.gov).

### Public comment periods

Formal 30-day comment periods allow interested members of the public to comment on draft documents, legal agreements, and proposed cleanup actions. If there is significant interest, Ecology may extend the public comment period. When Ecology oversees SEPA determinations, we hold comment periods for at least two weeks and may extend to 30 days or more when other cleanup documents are concurrently available for review.

Following a comment period, we publish the input we received and respond to significant comments and questions. If the comments result in significant changes to the cleanup documents, then the documents will be revised and re-issued for public review. If the comments do not result in significant changes to the documents, then they become final.

### Public events

We hold public meetings, workshops, open houses, and public hearings based on community interest. If we have not scheduled a hearing, we will hold one if 10 people request it, and this may cause us to extend a public comment period so the meeting occurs during the comment period.

Events are held online and/or at locations close to the site that meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards. Public meetings, workshops, open houses, and hearings are always announced in advance using a variety of methods.

## Americans with Disabilities Act

To request ADA accommodation for disabilities, or printed materials in a format for the visually impaired, contact the Ecology ADA Coordinator at 360-407-6831 or [ecyadacoordinator@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:ecyadacoordinator@ecy.wa.gov), 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.

## Plan Amendments

Ecology developed this plan following MTCA regulations (WAC 173-340-600). We review it as the cleanup progresses and amend it as necessary. You may suggest amendments to Nancy Davis at 360-407-0067 or [nancy.davis@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:nancy.davis@ecy.wa.gov).

This plan includes information for the public regarding opportunities for public involvement and comment. The outreach activities discussed in this section reflect Ecology's current plans for keeping the public informed and providing ways for those interested in the site to communicate their concerns and questions to us.

If you feel the planned outreach activities and mechanisms described in this plan are insufficient, or should otherwise be modified, we will work to find solutions. New outreach activities or outreach tools established as a result can be implemented right away, with or without amending this plan.

## Glossary

**Agreed Order:** A legal agreement between Ecology and a Potentially Liable Person (see below) to conduct work toward a cleanup.

**Cleanup:** Actions that deal with a release or threatened release of hazardous substances that could affect public health or the environment. Ecology often uses the term "cleanup" broadly to describe response actions or phases of cleanup, such as the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study.

**Cleanup Action Plan (CAP):** A plan that explains which cleanup option(s) will be used at a site. The Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study provide the data and analysis to write a CAP. It also takes into account public comments and public concerns.

**Comment Period:** A time period during which the public can review and comment on various documents and proposed actions. For example, Ecology may hold a comment period to provide community members an opportunity to review and comment on proposed cleanup action alternatives and proposed plans.

**Contaminant:** Any hazardous substance that does not occur naturally or occurs at greater than natural background levels.

**Feasibility Study:** This study develops and evaluates cleanup options for a site.

**Groundwater:** Water found beneath the earth's surface that fills spaces between materials such as sand, soil, or gravel. In some aquifers, groundwater occurs in large enough amounts to be used for drinking water, irrigation and other purposes.

**Repository:** A file containing site information and reports for public review. It is usually located in a public building convenient for local residents, such as a public library, school, or city hall.

**Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA):** A law passed by Washington voter initiative in 1988. Its purpose is to find, investigate, and clean up places where hazardous substances have been released. It defines Ecology's role and encourages public involvement in cleanup decisions.

**Potentially Liable Person (PLP):** Any individual(s) or company(s) potentially responsible for, or contributing to, the contamination problems at a site. Whenever possible, Ecology requires PLPs to clean up sites.

**Public Notice:** At a minimum, adequate notice mailed to all persons who have made a timely request of Ecology and to persons residing in the potentially affected vicinity of the proposed action; mailed to appropriate news media; published in the local (city and county) newspaper of largest circulation; and the opportunity for the interested persons to comment.

**Public Participation Plan:** A plan that describes how the public can provide input on the cleanup of the site.

**Remedial Investigation:** This study characterizes the site and defines the extent of contamination.

**Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS):** Two distinct but related studies. They are usually performed at the same time, and together referred to as the "RI/FS." They are intended to:

- Gather the data necessary to determine the type and extent of contamination.
- Establish criteria for cleaning up the site.
- Identify and screen cleanup alternatives for remedial action.
- Analyze in detail the technology and costs of the alternatives.

**Responsiveness Summary:** A summary of oral and/or written public comments received by Ecology during a comment period on key documents, and Ecology's responses to those comments.

**Risk:** The probability that a hazardous substance, when released into the environment, will cause an adverse effect in the exposed humans or living organisms.

**Site:** Any area where a hazardous substance, other than a consumer product in consumer use, has come to be located.