



Response to Comments

Agreed Order/Public Participation Plan

Block 79 E Cleanup Site Seattle, WA

Toxics Cleanup Program

Washington State Department of Ecology

Northwest Regional Office

Shoreline, Washington

March 2022

Publication Information

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

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/13006>

Cover photo credit

- October 1, 1956 Seattle Municipal Archives photo of the southern side of the property.

Related Information

- Clean-up site ID: 13006
- Facility site ID: 84466254, 45221945, 2224749

Contact Information

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Website1: [Washington State Department of Ecology](http://www.ecology.wa.gov)

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¹ www.ecology.wa.gov/contact

Department of Ecology's Regional Offices

Map of Counties Served



Southwest Region 360-407-6300	Northwest Region 206-594-0000	Central Region 509-575-2490	Eastern Region 509-329-3400
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Region	Counties served	Mailing Address	Phone
Southwest	Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, Wahkiakum	PO Box 47775 Olympia, WA 98504	360-407-6300
Northwest	Island, King, Kitsap, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom	PO Box 330316 Shoreline, WA 98133	206-594-0000
Central	Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan, Yakima	1250 W Alder St Union Gap, WA 98903	509-575-2490
Eastern	Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman	4601 N Monroe Spokane, WA 99205	509-329-3400
Headquarters	Across Washington	PO Box 46700 Olympia, WA 98504	360-407-6000

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DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

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Public Outreach Summary

The Block 79 E cleanup site (Site) located in Seattle, WA is continuing Washington State's [formal cleanup process](#)² as directed under the Model Toxics Control Act ([MTCA](#))³. The Block 79 LLC is addressing contamination at the Site under a legal agreement with Ecology.

The Department of Ecology's public involvement activities related to this Site's 30-day comment period from February 14 – March 15, 2022 included:

- **Fact Sheet:**
 - US mail distribution of a postcard providing information about the cleanup documents, the public comment period to approximately 4,783 addresses including neighboring businesses and other interested parties.
 - The postcard and fact sheet were available digitally through Ecology's [cleanup site webpage](#)⁴.
- **Legal Notices:**
 - Publication of one paid display ad in *The Seattle Times*, dated Friday, February 11, 2022.
- **Site Register:**
 - Publication of 4 notices in Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Site Register:
 - Comment Period Notice:
 - Site Register for February 10, 2022 (Publication # 22-09-041C)
 - Site Register for February 24, 2022 (Publication # 22-09-041D)
 - Site Register for March 10, 2022 (Publication # 22-09-041E)
 - Response Summary Notice:
 - Site Register for April (Publication # 22-09-041G)
 - Visit [Ecology's Site Register website](#)⁵ to download PDFs.
- **Social Media:**
 - **Twitter:** Ecology – Northwest Region @ecyseattle posted a [tweet](#)⁶ on Monday, February 14, 2022 connecting readers to the comment period including the cleanup site webpage and how to submit comments.
- **Websites:**
 - Ecology announced the public comment period, posted the fact sheet, Public Participation Plan, and Agreed Order, and made the review documents available on [Ecology's webpage](#)⁷ and Ecology's [Public Inputs & Events webpage](#)⁸.

² <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Cleanup-process>

³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/mtca>

⁴ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/13006>

⁵ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/UIPages/PublicationList.aspx?IndexTypeName=Program&NameValue=Toxics+Cleanup&DocumentTypeName=Newsletter>

⁶ <https://twitter.com/ecyseattle/status/1493333704873168897?s=20&t=TezeiaqntcC7mBmAIOHAbw>

⁷ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/13006>

⁸ <https://10ecology.wa.gov/Events/Search/Listing>

- **Document Repositories:**
 - Documents were available for in-person review at the following locations:
 - Seattle Public Library – Central
1000 4th Ave., Seattle, WA
 - Department of Ecology – Northwest Regional Office
15700 Dayton Ave., Shoreline, WA 98133

Comment Summary

From February 14 – March 15, 2022, Ecology solicited public comments on an Agreed Order and Public Participation Plan for the Block 79 E cleanup site.

Ecology received 2 comments during the 30-day comment period.

Table 1: List of Commenters

	First Name	Last Name	Agency/Organization/Business	Submitted By
1	Anonymous	Anonymous		Individual
2	Yumi	Sumida		Individual

Next Steps

Ecology has reviewed and considered the public comments received on the Block 79 E Response to Comments document. Based on Ecology’s evaluation of the comments, no changes were necessary in the documents, and they are being finalized.

Work will begin on the Remedial Investigation, Feasibility Study, preliminary draft Cleanup Action Plan, and any interim cleanup actions. See graphic below and visit Ecology’s [cleanup process webpage](#)⁹ to learn more about Washington’s formal cleanup process.

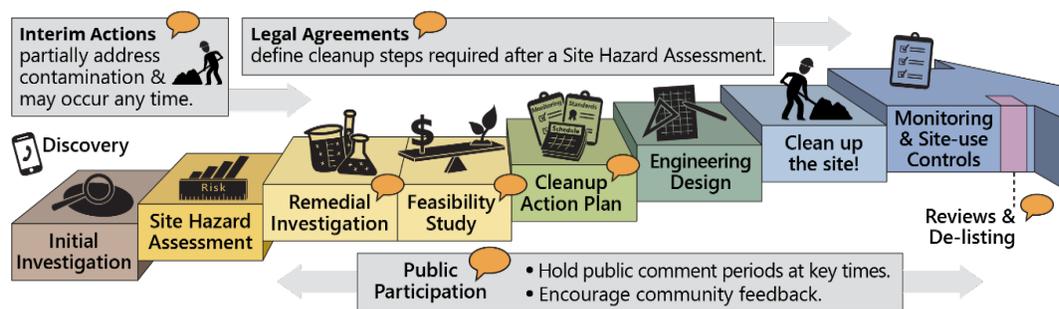


Figure 1: Washington's formal cleanup process ([download a text explanation](#)¹⁵)

⁹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Cleanup-process>

¹⁵ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/1909166.html>

Comments and Responses

The public comments are presented below, along with Ecology's responses. Appendix A, page #9, contains the comments in their original format.

Comment from: Anonymous Caller

A member of the public submitted a public comment by calling Meredith Waldref, Outreach Specialist on 2/13/2022 at 4:49pm. Below is a transcript of the voicemail comment:

"Block 79 East Cleanup Site. Toxic Cleanup Program. We are in the United States. You put down here Español and then Chinese. I'm German. Why don't you put it in German too? I mean I have to learn English. Why don't the Chinese have to learn English. Why don't the Mexicans have to learn English? You should put that in German too. I feel discriminated. Think about it, I really feel discriminated. I have to, I have to talk English. I cannot talk my language here. It would be nice if you guys would put it in German too. Thanks."

Response:

Thank you for your comment. Ecology uses language data from the US Census Bureau to determine translation needs for public outreach. This data did not indicate a community need for German translation.

Comment from: Yumi Sumida

Plant trees! Please consider phytoremediation of this land. Not only could this contribute to the clean up, it would also create a root system to stabilize this land which given the history of site is likely landfill. I leave the type of plants to be used up to the experts.

Response:

Thank you for your comment. The Agreed Order requires that a feasibility study be conducted to compare the possible options for cleaning up the site. Cleanup options are assessed based on protectiveness, permanence, cost, long-term effectiveness, management of short-term risk, implementability, public concerns, and restoration timeframe. Ecology will work with Block 79 LLC to assess the applicability of phytoremediation to cleaning up the types and location of contaminants at the site. A draft feasibility study and the selected cleanup action will be available for public comment prior to finalizing the documents. The notification and comment process will be similar to how you have reviewed and commented on this Agreed Order.

Appendices

Appendix A. Public comments in original format

Anonymous Anonymous

A member of the public submitted a public comment by calling Meredith Waldref, Outreach Specialist on 2/13/2022 at 4:49pm. Below is a transcript of the voicemail comment:

"Block 79 East Cleanup Site. Toxic Cleanup Program. We are in the United States. You put down here Español and then Chinese. I'm German. Why don't you put it in German too? I mean I have to learn English. Why don't the Chinese have to learn English. Why don't the Mexicans have to learn English? You should put that in German too. I feel discriminated. Think about it, I really feel discriminated. I have to, I have to talk English. I cannot talk my language here. It would be nice if you guys would put it in German too. Thanks."

Yumi Sumida

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