



Sound Mattress and Felt Site Responsiveness Summary

Comment Period: February 10 to March 13, 2022

Cleanup Site ID: 1615
Facility ID: 1232087
Address: 1940 East 11th Street, Tacoma, WA 98421
County: Pierce

Documents for review and comment

- Agreed Order No. DE 19403
- Public Participation Plan

Background

The site is located on East 11th Street near the Sitcum Waterway in the Tacoma Tideflats. The Site is about 10 acres and affected properties on Thorne Road and Sitcum Plaza, on railway property, and street right-of-ways next to these properties. The Port of Tacoma owns the three affected parcels and is a PLP, potentially liable person, responsible for the cleanup.

Chemicals hazardous to human health and the environment are present in groundwater above state cleanup standards. These chemicals include chlorinated volatile organic compounds (CVOCS) like tetrachloroethylene (PCE), trichloroethylene (TCE), dichloroethene (DCE), and vinyl chloride (VC).

The groundwater plume of PCE is likely being chemically broken-down in some areas by naturally-occurring microbes to form TCE, DCE, and VC.

PCE is used as a degreasing solvent to clean metal parts. The site likely has source areas where PCE leaked into soil or groundwater in the past when household metal fixtures were manufactured at the site.

Metal contaminants in soil are suspected to be present in concentrations above state cleanup levels. Metal contaminants include arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, nickel, and zinc.

The Agreed Order requires the Port of Tacoma to prepare the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study. These documents will provide the basis for them to draft a preliminary draft cleanup action Plan. Ecology will use the information to prepare the draft Cleanup Action Plan that describes how the site will be cleaned up.

The Public Participation Plan describes how we inform the community about cleanup at the site.

We received one comment during the comment period. We considered the comment and made no changes to the Agreed Order and the Public Participation Plan.

The comment we received and our response are in the following sections of this summary.

You can follow the progress of cleanup at the [Sound Mattress & Felt webpage](#).¹

Prepared by

Sandy Smith
Cleanup Project Manager

Nancy Davis
Public Involvement Coordinator

¹ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/1615>

Comment from Communities for a Health Bay (The comment letter follows.)

We have two major concerns that we would like to see addressed by Ecology:

1. Complete delineation of the contaminated groundwater plume, and;
2. Demonstration of the groundwater plume’s intersection with the Sitcum Waterway.

Response from Ecology

Thank you for your comment.

We share Communities for a Healthy Bay’s concerns regarding (1) complete delineation of the contaminated groundwater plume, and (2) evaluation of the plume’s impact on the Sitcum Waterway.

The scope of work, included as Appendix C of the Agreed Order, requires the Port of Tacoma to include the sampling results necessary to fully delineate contamination, including:

- Lateral and vertical extent of groundwater, soil, and soil gas contamination.
- Potential contamination from the site to surface water and sediment of the Sitcum Waterway.

The remedial investigation report will show the sampling results and describe the nature and extent of contamination at the site.



March 9, 2022

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Sandy Smith
WA Department of Ecology
PO Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775
Submitted electronically

Re: Sound Mattress and Felt Co. Site Agreed Order

Dear Sandy Smith,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Sound Mattress and Felt. Co Site Agreed Order (AO).

Executive Director

Melissa Malott

Communities for a Healthy Bay (CHB) is a 31-year-old organization whose mission is to represent and engage people in the cleanup, restoration, and protection of Commencement Bay, its surrounding waters and natural habitat. We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit providing practical, solutions-based environmental leadership in the Puget Sound area. We work side-by-side with residents, businesses, and government to prevent and mitigate pollution and to make our community healthier and more vibrant.

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We understand that the Sound Mattress and Felt Co. site located at 1940 East 11th Street near the Sitcum Waterway in the Tacoma Tideflats is comprised of three parcels owned by the Port of Tacoma. Site groundwater is known to be contaminated above state cleanup levels with Chlorinated volatile organic compounds (CVOCs), including tetrachloroethylene (PCE), trichloroethylene (TCE), dichloroethane (DCE), and vinyl chloride (VC). Heavy metals in the soil at the site include arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, nickel, and zinc.

CHB is grateful for the start of this cleanup process. We have two major concerns that we would like to see addressed by Ecology:

1. Complete delineation of the contaminated groundwater plume, and;
2. Demonstration of the groundwater plume's intersection with the Sitcum Waterway.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the AO. Should you have any questions regarding our comments, please feel free to reach out.

Sincerely,

Erin Dilworth
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