



Public Participation Plan Weyerhaeuser DuPont 1 a.k.a. Former DuPont Works DuPont, Washington

Facility Site ID: 1269

Cleanup Site ID: 3555

For the

Toxics Cleanup Program

Washington State Department of Ecology
Olympia, Washington

September 2022

Publication Information

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

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/sitepage.aspx?csid=3555>

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¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Contact-Us>

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	15700 Dayton Ave N 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

Public Participation Plan

**Weyerhaeuser DuPont 1 a.k.a. Former DuPont Works
2301 Center Drive
DuPont, WA 98327**

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

September 2022



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Table of Contents

List of Figures	ii
Public Involvement in Contamination Cleanup	1
Site contacts.....	1
Public Participation Grants	1
Washington’s Cleanup Laws	2
Model Toxics Control Act.....	2
State Environmental Policy Act.....	2
Site Information	4
Site description	4
How the Site became contaminated	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Hazardous substances known or suspected at the Site	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Previous cleanup actions at the Site	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Cleanup plans.....	5
Area community.....	6
Public Participation Activities	6
How we share information with the community	6
How to share information with us	8
Americans with Disabilities Act.....	9
Plan Amendments	9
Glossary	9

List of Figures

Figure 1. Steps in Washington's cleanup process.....	3
Figure 2. The Weyerhaeuser DuPont 1 Site is located in city of DuPont.	4
Figure 3. The shaded blue indicates the remedial action area of the Site.	5

Public Involvement in Contamination Cleanup

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) developed this public participation plan (plan) for cleaning up contamination for the Weyerhaeuser DuPont 1 a.k.a. Former DuPont Works (Site). The purpose of the plan is to promote meaningful community involvement.

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.

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

Andrew Smith, Site Manager
ansm461@ECY.WA.GOV
360-485-3987

Matt Fuller, Public Involvement Coordinator
matt.fuller@ecy.wa.gov
360-485-5340

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 information²
- Conduct activities that enhance the public's understanding of, and participation in, the cleanup process

² 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. You may also visit the [Public Participation Grant website](#).³

Washington's Cleanup Laws

Ecology works to clean up contaminated properties throughout the state. Cleanups are construction projects that remove, treat, and/or contain potentially hazardous substances. 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 \(WAC\)](#).⁴ 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.

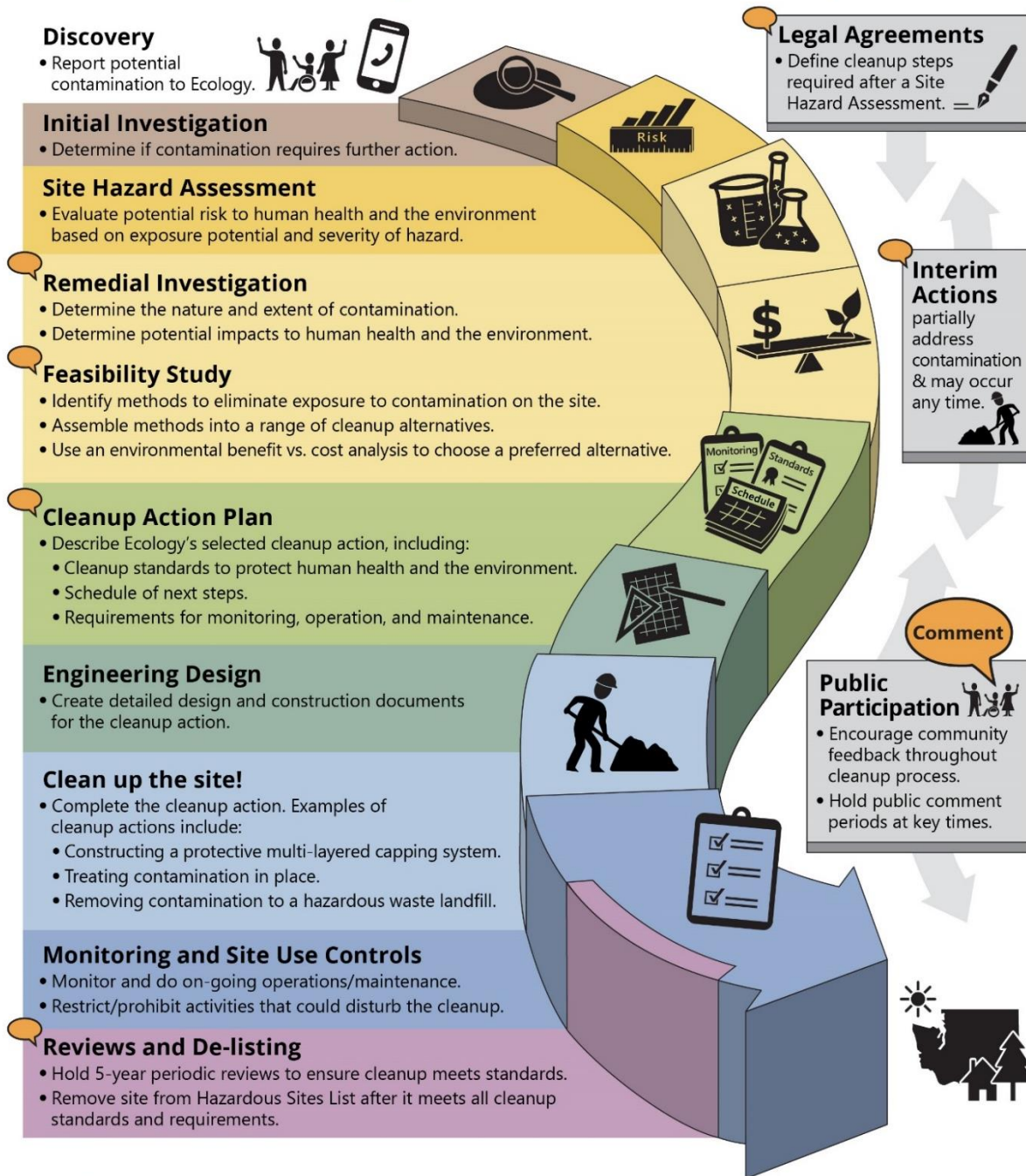
State Environmental Policy Act

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

³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Payments-contracts-grants/Grants-loans/Find-a-grant-or-loan/Public-participation-grants>

⁴ <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.⁵

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

Site Information

Site description

For thousands of years, Coast Salish Peoples have been living in the area. These include the Nisqually Tribe and the Steilacoom Tribe. In the 1830s, Europeans settled in the area and built Fort Nisqually, which was located in the northern portion of the Site. Industrialization of the Site began as DuPont Works, a factory that produced commercial explosive materials and operated from 1906 to 1976. The historical Village of DuPont was established in 1909 as a company town for plant workers.

Weyerhaeuser bought the property and adjacent areas from DuPont Company in the 1970s. Weyerhaeuser and DuPont Company subsequently cleaned up the Site under Ecology oversight as outlined below. In 2016, Ecology removed the Site from the Hazardous Sites List because the Site had been cleaned up and met state cleanup standards for restricted use. In 2020, a portion of the Site was sold to Albatross Estates, LLC. In order for Albatross to move forward with development plans for the property, more cleanup is needed to reduce contamination to levels required for such unrestricted land use.



Figure 2. The Weyerhaeuser DuPont 1 Site is located in city of DuPont

The Site is currently interspersed with a mix of commercial and recreational properties, most notably The Home Course, Old Fort Lake and the Sequalitchew Creek Trail which runs along the northern Site boundary. Joint Base Lewis-McChord is located to the north, east, and south. A Burlington Northern Santa Fe right-of-way and the Puget Sound are to the west of the Site.



Figure 3. The shaded blue indicates the remedial action area of the Site.

History of Site contamination

Between 1906 and 1976, the production, transportation, storage, and disposal of commercial explosive materials on the Site resulted in contamination from petroleum hydrocarbons, volatile organic compounds, metals, and solvents. The DuPont Company operations and decommissioning of the manufacturing plant resulted in the accumulation of hazardous substances in soil Site-wide and in groundwater. Weyerhaeuser Company and DuPont Company subsequently cleaned up the Site under Ecology oversight as outlined below. In 2020, a portion of the Site was sold to Albatross Estates, LLC.

Previous cleanup actions

From 1985 to 1995, studies were done to determine whether hazardous substances were present at the Site. Areas of concern were identified. A remedial investigation and a human health risk assessment were conducted. In 1994 and 1995, draft cleanup reports were submitted to Ecology by the Weyerhaeuser Company and the DuPont Company, the PLP's at that time. Ecology approved cleanup action plans (CAPs) in 1996 and 2003, between which interim removal actions to cleanup soil and debris occurred and institutional controls to maintain certain land uses were put in place.

Soil contamination was remediated through a series of interim actions, excavation, capping, and tree root zone remediation. Groundwater contamination was addressed through a monitoring program. A series of environmental covenants were also placed on the Site to restrict certain types of land use. Remedial cleanup actions from the 2003 CAP were completed in 2007. In 2016, Ecology removed the Site from the Hazardous Sites List. Property within the Site are subject to several restrictive covenants, and the Site is reviewed every 5 years by Ecology in periodic reviews.

Area community

The Site's permitted use has been commercial and recreational. Cleanup actions and standards have been predicated on these restricted uses. Plans with the new PLP (Albatross) may entail future residential zoning and development. This has necessitated a new RI/FS and dCAP to ensure cleanup standards meet the requirements for unrestricted use.

Ecology will reach out to cultural community organizations as part of our outreach and provide information in other languages as appropriate following federal guidance.⁶ Though 49% of residents living in the census tract area are people from communities of color, English proficiency measures at a level 4 on the Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map. This means that 2.6% of the population over the age of five speak English "less than very well." We strive to make our public participation efforts as inclusive as possible and welcome your input about how best to reach nearby communities.

The federally-recognized tribe of the Nisqually is nearby. The Steilacoom Tribe is also nearby. These communities and others are known to rely on resources that could be affected by the contamination at the Site. Ecology will invite the tribes to provide feedback and to be engaged with our outreach for this Site.

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 surrounding 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.

⁶ Guidance to Environmental Protection Agency Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons, 69 Fed. Reg. § 35602 (June 15, 2004).

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 Matt Fuller at 360-485-5340 or matt.fuller@ecy.wa.gov.

Site Register

Ecology publishes public comment periods, events, and other cleanup notices in the [Site Register](#).⁷ To receive the *Site Register* by email, please contact Sarah Kellington at 360-407-7466 or sarah.kellington@ecy.wa.gov, or [subscribe online](#).⁸

Newspaper display ads or legal notices

We announce public comment periods and events in ads or notices published in *The News Tribune*. We will also publish notice on our [Public Input & Events Listing](#).⁹

Ecology's website and social media platforms

We maintain a website for the [Weyerhaeuser DuPont 1 Site](#).¹⁰ The website provides 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](#).¹¹

Document repositories

At this time, document repositories are open, and during public comment periods you can find print documents at the following locations. In consideration of public health and safety during the Covid-19 pandemic, appointments are encouraged if you wish to visit to view these

⁷ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Site-Register-lists-and-data>

⁸ https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAECY/subscriber/new?topic_id=WAECY_118

⁹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Events/Search/Listing>

¹⁰ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/3555>

¹¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Who-we-are/News>

documents in person at our Ecology office below. After you make an appointment, you will need to fill out our online health screening tool.

DuPont Pierce County Library
1540 Wilmington Drive
DuPont, WA 98327
253-548-3326

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

Please contact the library to determine if an appointment is necessary for viewing documents. To schedule an appointment to view documents at Ecology, please contact Susan Baxter at 360-407-6365 or 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.

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 Matt Fuller at 360-485-5340 or matt.fuller@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, then they are finalized.

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 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, 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 Matt Fuller at 360-485-5340 or matt.fuller@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 type and 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.