



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

In the Matter of Remedial Action by:)	
)	AGREED ORDER
The Port of Bellingham)	FOR RI/FS
)	No. DE 03TCPBE-5623
)	

TO: Port of Bellingham
P.O. Box 1677
Bellingham, Washington 98225

I.
Jurisdiction

This Agreed Order ("Order") is issued pursuant to the authority of RCW 70.105D.050(1).

II.
Findings of Fact

The Washington State Department of Ecology ("Ecology") makes the following Findings of Fact, without admission or agreement of the accuracy or completeness of such facts by the Port of Bellingham ("Port").

1. The Site, known as Weldcraft Steel and Marine, is located at 9 Squalicum Way in Bellingham, Washington, as shown in Exhibit A. The Site is located in the NW ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 25 Township 38 N Range 2 E.
2. The Weldcraft Steel & Marine facility was established on the Site in 1946 and was initially involved in general boat repair activities. The company was known as Weldcraft Steel Works until 1961, Weldcraft Steel and Tank from 1961 to 1972, and Weldcraft Steel & Marine from that point forward. Weldcraft has primarily operated as a shipyard that conducted various activities including: boat construction, repair, and maintenance; wood and metal fabrication; marine pipefitting; electrical work; sheet metal work; painting; machinery construction, installation, and repair; vessel haul-out and launching; lofting and pattern-making; canvas and plastic work; storage, brokerage, retail, and wholesale sales; and concrete work.
3. Industrial activities at the Site have taken place both in the fee-owned upland and adjacent fee-owned submerged and inter-tidal aquatic lands.
4. The Port has been an owner of the Site, which was vacant tidelands at the time of purchase, since 1927 when it acquired the Site from Hugh Eldridge. During the late 1920's, the Site was filled with material dredged during construction of Squalicum Waterway.
5. The Port has not been an operator of the Site. Entities that conducted shipyard operations at the Site prior to the discovery of site soil, groundwater and sediment contamination in 1998 include Weldcraft Steel & Marine operating under the various names identified in paragraph 2 above.

6. Between 1993 and 2002, the Port conducted a number of investigations of environmental conditions at the Site, including 1) a Phase II environmental site assessment (ESA), 2) a supplemental sediment investigation, and 3) a Phase III ESA, and a sediment remedial investigation (RI).
7. The above listed investigations confirmed the presence of hazardous substances in site soil, groundwater and sediment including total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) in the gasoline range in groundwater; tributyltin (TBT), mercury, copper and semivolatile organic compounds in sediment; and TPH in the gasoline range and lead in soil.
8. Based on that sampling, Ecology added the Site to its list of Confirmed and Suspected Contaminated Sites in 2001.
9. In 2001 and 2002, Ecology conducted a Site Hazard Assessment and in 2002 placed the Site on the Hazardous Sites List. In 2002, Ecology listed the Site on its Sediment Management Standards Contaminated Site List.
10. Ecology issued Early Notice Letters of Potentially Liable Person (PLP) status to the Port and Weldcraft Steel & Marine (Mr. Owen Wilson) on September 25 and September 26, 2002, respectively. Ecology issued letters confirming PLP status to the Port and Weldcraft Steel & Marine on December 13, 2002.
11. The investigations conducted by the Port to date constitute remedial actions as defined in RCW 70.105D.020(11).
12. In order to protect human health and the environment and to prevent the release or threatened release of hazardous substances from the Site, Ecology has determined that a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) should be developed for the Site pursuant to WAC 173-340-350 and WAC 173-204-560 and that an interim action should be implemented for cleanup of Site sediment pursuant to WAC 173-340-430 and WAC 173-204.

III.

Ecology Determinations

Ecology makes the following Determinations, without admission or agreement of the accuracy or completeness of the determinations by the Port:

1. The Port of Bellingham is an "owner or operator" as defined at RCW 70.105D.020(11) of a "facility" as defined in RCW 70.105D.020(4).
2. The facility is known as the Weldcraft Steel & Marine site and is located at 9 Squaticum Way in Bellingham, Washington 98227.
3. The substances found at the facility as described above are "hazardous substances" as defined at RCW 70.105D.020(7).
4. Based on the presence of these hazardous substances at the facility and all factors known to Ecology, there is a release or threatened release of hazardous substances from the facility, as defined at RCW 70.105D.020(19).

5. By letter dated December 13, 2002, Ecology notified the Port of its status as a "potentially liable person" under RCW 70.105D.040 after notice and opportunity for comment.
6. Pursuant to RCW 70.105D.030(1) and 70.105D.050, Ecology may require potentially liable persons to investigate or conduct other remedial actions with respect to the release or threatened release of hazardous substances, whenever it believes such action to be in the public interest.
7. Based on the foregoing facts, Ecology believes the remedial action required by this Order is in the public interest.

IV.

Work to be Performed

Based on the foregoing Facts and Determinations, it is hereby ordered the Port take the following remedial actions and that these actions be conducted in accordance with Chapter 173-340 WAC unless otherwise specifically provided for herein.

1. Purpose & Scope of Work ("Work")

The purpose of the Work will be to complete a Final Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for the Site pursuant to WAC 173-340-350 and WAC 173-204-560 and to complete an interim action for cleanup of Site sediment pursuant to WAC 173-340-430 and WAC 173-204.

2. Description of the Work

- A. **Sediment Interim Action.** The Port will implement an interim action consistent with the scope of work presented in the interim action work plan (Exhibit C). The interim action shall commence no later than the first full in-water work period following receipt of all required permits and approvals for conducting the Work, anticipated to be September 2003. The Port shall submit a construction documentation report to Ecology within ninety (90) days of completion of the interim action. The construction documentation report shall describe all construction activities and present all relevant construction quality assurance/quality control data, including post-construction bathymetry and sediment quality. All chemical data collected as part of post-construction compliance monitoring will be submitted to Ecology in SEDQUAL electronic data format.

At least ninety (90) days prior to implementation of the interim action, the Port shall submit an Ecology Review Draft Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) for Ecology review and comment. The Ecology Review Draft SAP will be submitted to Ecology within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this order. The Port will submit a revised SAP addressing Ecology review comments on the Ecology Draft SAP. The Revised Draft will be submitted to Ecology within thirty (30) days of receiving Ecology's comments.

- B. **Site-wide RI/FS.** The Port will produce a draft RI/FS (Ecology Review Draft RI/FS) for Ecology review and comment. The Ecology Review Draft of the RI/FS will be submitted to Ecology within ninety (90) days of completion of the sediment interim action. The Ecology Review Draft will identify a Preferred Remedial Alternative for cleanup at the Site and will meet MTCA (WAC 173-340-350) and SMS (WAC 173-204-560) requirements for a RI/FS. All chemical data collected as part of the RI/FS will be submitted to Ecology in SEDQUAL (sediment) and EIM (upland) electronic formats.

The Port will submit a revised RI/FS to Ecology addressing Ecology review comments on the Ecology Review Draft RI/FS. The Revised Draft will be submitted to Ecology within forty-five (45) days of receiving Ecology's comments.

After Ecology has determined that the Revised Draft RI/FS has adequately addressed Ecology's comments, Ecology will make the draft available to the public. This "Public Review Draft" of the RI/FS will be made available for public review consistent with WAC 173-340-600(13)(c). Following completion of the review period, Ecology will prepare a responsiveness summary.

Within forty-five (45) days of Ecology's responsiveness summary, the Port will submit to Ecology a revised RI/FS addressing issues raised during public comment. After determining that public comments have been adequately addressed, Ecology will declare the RI/FS final ("Final RI/FS").

The exhibits referenced in this section are incorporated by reference and are integral and enforceable parts of the Order.

3. Progress Reports

During performance of this Order, the Port will submit written quarterly progress reports to Ecology. The progress reports will summarize work performed during the reporting period and the work anticipated during the following quarter.

V.

Terms and Conditions of Order

1. Definitions

Unless otherwise specified, the definitions set forth in Ch. 70.105D RCW and Ch. 173-340 WAC shall control the meanings of the terms used in this Order.

2. Public Notices

WAC 173-340-600(10) (c) requires a thirty (30) day public comment period before this agreed order on a state RI/FS and interim action becomes effective. Ecology shall be responsible for providing such public notice and reserves the right to modify or withdraw any provisions of this Order should public comment disclose facts or considerations which indicate to Ecology that the Order is inadequate or improper in any respect.

3. Remedial Action Costs

The Port shall pay to Ecology costs incurred by Ecology pursuant to this Order and consistent with WAC 173-340-550. These costs shall include work performed by Ecology or its contractors for investigations, remedial actions, and Order preparation, oversight and administration. Ecology costs shall include costs of direct activities and support costs of direct activities as defined in WAC 173-340-550(2). The Port shall pay the required amount within ninety (90) days of receiving from Ecology an itemized statement of costs that includes a summary of costs incurred, an identification of involved staff and the amount of time spent by involved staff members on the project. A general description of work performed will be provided upon request. Itemized statements shall be prepared quarterly. The Port may invoke the Dispute Resolution process under §V, paragraph (9) of this Order if it disagrees with Ecology's oversight cost charges. Failure to pay Ecology's uncontested costs and costs for which a final decision has been

issued under the Dispute Resolution process within 90 days of receipt of the itemized statement of costs or the date of the Dispute Resolution final decision will result in interest charges.

4. Designated Project Coordinators

The project coordinator for Ecology is:

(206) 728-6242
Name: Mary K. O'Herron, Environmental Specialist
Address: Department of Ecology, Bellingham Field Office
1204 Railroad Avenue, #200
Bellingham, Washington 98225

The project coordinator for the Port of Bellingham is:

Name: Mike Stoner, Director of Environment
Address: Port of Bellingham
P. O. Box 1677
Bellingham, Washington 98227

The project coordinator(s) shall be responsible for overseeing the implementation of this Order. To the maximum extent possible, communications between Ecology and the Port, and all documents, including reports, approvals, and other correspondence concerning the activities performed pursuant to the terms and conditions of this Order shall be directed through the project coordinator(s). Should Ecology or the Port change project coordinator(s), written notification shall be provided to Ecology or the Port at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the change.

5. Performance

All work performed pursuant to this Order shall be under the direction and supervision, as necessary, of a professional engineer, hydrogeologist or similar expert, with appropriate training, experience and expertise in hazardous waste site investigation and cleanup. The Port shall notify Ecology as to the identity of such engineer(s), hydrogeologist(s) or similar expert(s) and of any contractors and subcontractors to be used in carrying out the terms of this Order, in advance of their involvement at the Site. The Port shall provide a copy of this Order to all agents, contractors and subcontractors retained to perform work required by this Order and shall ensure that all work undertaken by such agents, contractors and subcontractors will be in compliance with this Order.

- A. Except where necessary to abate an emergency situation, the Port shall not perform any remedial actions at the Site outside that required by this Order unless Ecology concurs, in writing, with such additional remedial actions.
- B. WAC 173-340-400(6) requires that "construction" performed on the Site must be under the supervision of a professional engineer registered in Washington. WAC 173-340-430(8) requires that construction of an interim action shall be in conformance with WAC 173-340-400(7).

6. Access

Ecology or any Ecology authorized representative shall have the authority to enter and freely move about the Site at all reasonable times for the purposes of, inter alia: inspecting records, operation logs, and contracts related to the work being performed pursuant to this Order; reviewing the progress in carrying out the terms of this Order; conducting such tests or collecting samples as Ecology or the project coordinator may deem necessary; using a camera, sound recording, or other documentary type equipment to record work done pursuant to this Order; and verifying the data submitted to Ecology by the Port. By signing this Agreed Order, the Port agrees that this Order constitutes reasonable notice of access and agrees to allow access to the Site at all reasonable times for purposes of overseeing work performed under this Order. Ecology shall allow split or replicate samples to be taken by the Port during an inspection unless doing so interferes with Ecology's sampling. The Port shall allow split or replicate samples to be taken by Ecology and shall provide seven (7) days notice before any sampling activity.

7. Public Participation

Ecology shall maintain the responsibility for public participation at the Site. The Port shall help coordinate and implement public participation for the site consistent with the scope of work presented in the public participation plan (Exhibit B).

8. Retention of Records

The Port shall preserve in a readily retrievable fashion, during the pendency of this Order and for ten (10) years from the date of completion of the work performed pursuant to this Order, all records, reports, documents, and underlying data in its possession relevant to this Order. Should any portion of the work performed hereunder be undertaken through contractors or agents of the Port, then the Port agrees to include in their contract with such contractors or agents a record retention requirement meeting the terms of this paragraph.

9. Dispute Resolution

In the event a dispute arises as to an approval, disapproval, proposed modification or other decision or action by Ecology's project coordinator, the parties shall utilize the dispute resolution procedure set forth below.

- A. Upon receipt of the Ecology project coordinator's decision, the Defendant has fourteen (14) days within which to notify Ecology's project coordinator of its objection to the decision.
- B. The parties' project coordinators shall then confer in an effort to resolve the dispute. If the project coordinators cannot resolve the dispute within fourteen (14) days, Ecology's project coordinator shall issue a written decision.
- C. Defendant may then request Ecology management review of the decision. This request shall be submitted in writing to the Toxics Cleanup Program Manager within seven (7) days of receipt of Ecology's project coordinator's decision.
- D. Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program Manager shall conduct a review of the dispute and shall issue a written decision regarding the dispute within thirty (30) days of the defendant's request for review. The Program Manager's decision shall be Ecology's final decision on the disputed matter.

10. Reservation of Rights/No Settlement

This Agreed Order is not a settlement under Ch. 70.105D RCW. Ecology's signature on this Order in no way constitutes a covenant not to sue or a compromise of any Ecology rights or authority. Ecology will not, however, bring an action against the Port to recover remedial action costs paid to and received by Ecology under this Agreed Order. In addition, Ecology will not take additional enforcement actions against the Port to require those remedial actions required by this Agreed Order, provided the Port complies with this Agreed Order.

- A. Ecology reserves the right, however, to require additional remedial actions at the Site, in addition to those required under this Order, should it deem such actions necessary. The Port expressly reserves its rights with regard to any future agency action.
- B. Ecology also reserves all rights regarding the injury to, destruction of, or loss of natural resources resulting from the releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances from the Site.
- C. In the event Ecology determines that conditions at the Site are creating or have the potential to create a danger to the health or welfare of the people on the Site or in the surrounding area or to the environment, Ecology may order the Port to stop further implementation of this Order for such period of time as needed to abate the danger. Any verbal order by Ecology to stop work shall be followed within forty-eight (48) hours of such verbal order by written confirmation from Ecology to the Port of such verbal order.
- D. Nothing herein shall be a waiver of the Port's right to pursue any other responsible party for its costs associated herewith.

11. Extension of Schedule

- A. An extension of schedule shall be granted only when a request for an extension is submitted in a timely fashion, generally at least thirty (30) days prior to expiration of the deadline for which the extension is requested, and good cause exists for granting the extension. All extensions shall be requested in writing. The request shall specify the reason(s) the extension is needed.

An extension shall only be granted for such period of time as Ecology determines is reasonable under the circumstances. A requested extension shall not be effective until approved by Ecology. Ecology shall act upon any written request for extension in a timely fashion. It shall not be necessary to formally amend this Order when a schedule extension is granted.

- B. The burden shall be on the Port to demonstrate to the satisfaction of Ecology that the request for such extension has been submitted in a timely fashion and that good cause exists for granting the extension. Good cause includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - 1) Circumstances beyond the reasonable control and despite the due diligence of Port including delays caused by unrelated third parties or Ecology, such as (but not limited to) delays by Ecology in reviewing, approving, or modifying documents submitted by Port;
 - 2) Acts of God, including fire, flood, blizzard, extreme temperatures, storm, or other unavoidable casualty; or