



# **Response to Comments**

## **Periodic Review for the Spokane River Shoreline Metals Sites**

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**Public comment period held  
September 22 – October 21, 2022**

**Facility Site ID: 615198**

**Cleanup Site IDs: 11576 (Island Complex), 11577 (Starr Road), 11578 (Murray Road), 11585 (Harvard Road), 11586 (Flora Road), 11587 (Barker Road North), 11588 (Barker Road South), 11589 (Myrtle Point), and 11590 (Islands Lagoon)**

**Toxics Cleanup Program**

Washington State Department of Ecology  
Spokane, Washington

November 2022

# Document Information

This document is available on the Department of Ecology's cleanup site pages (linked under Related Information below).

## Related Information

- Cleanup site IDs: [11576 \(Island Complex\)](#),<sup>1</sup> [11577 \(Starr Road\)](#),<sup>2</sup> [11578 \(Murray Road\)](#),<sup>3</sup> [11585 \(Harvard Road\)](#),<sup>4</sup> [11586 \(Flora Road\)](#),<sup>5</sup> [11587 \(Barker Road North\)](#),<sup>6</sup> [11588 \(Barker Road South\)](#),<sup>7</sup> [11589 \(Myrtle Point\)](#),<sup>8</sup> and [11590 \(Islands Lagoon\)](#)<sup>9</sup>
- Facility site ID: 615198

# Contact Information

## Toxics Cleanup Program

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**Website**<sup>10</sup>: [Washington State Department of Ecology](#)

# ADA Accessibility

To request an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodation, contact the Ecology ADA Coordinator by phone at 360-407-6831 or by 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](#)<sup>11</sup> for more information.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/11576>

<sup>2</sup> <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/11577>

<sup>3</sup> <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/11578>

<sup>4</sup> <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/11585>

<sup>5</sup> <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/11586>

<sup>6</sup> <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/11587>

<sup>7</sup> <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/11588>

<sup>8</sup> <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/11589>

<sup>9</sup> <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/11590>

<sup>10</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Cleanup-sites>

<sup>11</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Accountability-transparency/Our-website/Accessibility>

# Toxics Cleanup in Washington State

Accidental spills of dangerous materials and past business practices have contaminated land and water throughout the state. The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) Toxics Cleanup Program (TCP) works to remedy these situations through cleanup actions. TCP cleanup actions range from simple projects requiring removal of a few cubic yards of contaminated soil to large, complex projects requiring engineered solutions.

Contaminated sites in Washington are cleaned up under the [Model Toxics Control Act](#)<sup>12</sup> (MTCA, Chapter 173-340 Washington Administrative Code), a citizen-mandated law passed in 1989. This law sets standards to ensure toxics cleanup protects human health and the environment and includes opportunities for public input.

## Public Comment Period Summary

Ecology held a comment period September 22 through October 21, 2022, for the draft [Periodic Review](#)<sup>13</sup> for the Spokane River Shoreline Metals sites. We conduct a periodic review at least every five years after beginning cleanup at a site, as required by MTCA. The purposes of the review are to evaluate site conditions and to ensure continued protection of human health and the environment when institutional controls are used as part of a cleanup.

Ecology appreciates the comments we received from one person. We address them in the Response to Comments section that begins on page 4. After considering the comments, we have finalized the draft document without further changes.

## Site Background

Contaminants from historic mining practices in Idaho's Coeur d'Alene Basin washed downstream and settled in soil and sediment along some Spokane River beaches.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted studies of the mining contaminants in the Coeur d'Alene Basin and began a wide-spread cleanup of the Bunker Hill Mining and Metallurgical Superfund Site. As part of the EPA study and studies Ecology conducted, nine beaches in Washington were cleaned up.

The cleanups continue to protect human health and the environment from the capped contaminated sediments. However, contaminant concentrations have increased in some cases, and new contaminated sediments have been deposited on the caps. This likely means upstream sources are continuing to impact the river and could pose a risk to human health and the environment if they are not controlled.

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<sup>12</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Rules-directing-our-cleanup-work/Model-Toxics-Control-Act>

<sup>13</sup> <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/document/116415>

We will continue monitoring to ensure that the sites continue to be safe for human health and the environment. A monitoring study evaluating sediments entering the site at the Washington-Idaho border would help assess the potential for recontamination.

## Response to Comments

The comment is copied verbatim and followed by Ecology's response.

### John Alder, received online October 13

whatever is done let's avoid a flint michigan incident or more recently dover idaho up north

#### Ecology's response

Thank you for concern about the Spokane River and public health. Part of Ecology's mission is to protect human health and the environment. As our periodic review indicates, the Spokane River Shoreline Metals sites do not pose a threat to human health and the environment, and Ecology will continue to monitor the beaches for further heavy metal contamination.

The examples of Dover, Idaho, and Flint, Michigan, relate to drinking water contamination. The Spokane River Shoreline Metals sites and their cleanups don't involve drinking water. For further information on the drinking water contamination issues you mentioned, please see:

- The [City of Dover, Idaho, Water Department page](#),<sup>14</sup> which includes Water Quality Reports and drinking water updates. You can also visit their [News page](#)<sup>15</sup> to view these posts related to drinking water quality:
  - ["Boil notice lifted"](#)<sup>16</sup>, October 12, 2022
  - ["Water emergency update"](#)<sup>17</sup>, October 11, 2022
  - ["Boil water advisory"](#)<sup>18</sup>, ["Potable water for Dover residents"](#)<sup>19</sup>, and ["Water main line break and loss of water"](#)<sup>20</sup>, October 10, 2022
- The Center for Disease Control and Preventions' [Flint \[Michigan\] Water Crisis page](#)<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> <https://cityofdover.id.gov/public-documents/water-department/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://cityofdover.id.gov/news/>

<sup>16</sup> <https://cityofdover.id.gov/boil-notice-lifted/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://cityofdover.id.gov/water-emergency-update-10-11-2022/>

<sup>18</sup> <https://cityofdover.id.gov/boil-water-advisory/>

<sup>19</sup> <https://cityofdover.id.gov/potable-water-for-dover-residents/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://cityofdover.id.gov/water-main-line-break-and-loss-of-water/>

<sup>21</sup> [https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/casper/pdf-html/flint\\_water\\_crisis\\_pdf.html](https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/casper/pdf-html/flint_water_crisis_pdf.html)