

Weyerhaeuser DuPont 1 a.k.a. Former DuPont Works Site Response to Comments Summary

Today's Date: February 8, 2023

Cleanup Site ID: 3555
Facility ID: 1269
Address: 2301 Center Drive, DuPont, WA, 98327
County: Pierce County

Ecology held a comment period from October 6 to November 4, 2022, giving the public an opportunity to comment on the plan for cleanup at the Weyerhaeuser DuPont 1 a.k.a. Former DuPont Works cleanup site (Site). The documents up for comment were Agreed Order (AO) DE 21135 and Public Participation Plan with Albatross Estates, LLC. Albatross Estates, LLC is the potentially liable person (PLP) responsible for additional cleanup at the Site.

Ecology received one public comments during the comment period.

Document for public review during the comment period

Agreed Order (AO) DE 21135
Public Participation Plan

Site background

The Weyerhaeuser DuPont 1 a.k.a. Former DuPont Works cleanup site is located at 2301 Center Drive. The Site extends from Center Drive west to the Puget Sound. DuPont Works built an explosives factory at the Site, which operated from 1906 to 1976. Production, transportation, storage, and disposal of materials on the Site resulted in soil, groundwater, and surface water contamination. These contaminants included petroleum hydrocarbons, volatile organic compounds, metals, and solvents.

After the factory closed, it was dismantled. The area is currently used for commercial and recreational purposes.

In 1996 and 2003, Ecology approved cleanup action plans (CAPs) for the Site. Soil contamination was cleaned up in a series of interim actions, excavation, and capping. Institutional controls to maintain certain land uses were put in place. Groundwater contamination was addressed through a monitoring program. Cleanup actions were completed around 2007.

A series of environmental covenants were placed on the Site because some contamination remains. Among the covenant's restrictions, they limit areas to non-residential land use. With environmental covenants in place, the condition of the Site is reviewed about every 5 years by Ecology.

In 2016, Ecology removed the Site from the Hazardous Sites List because the Site has been cleaned up and meets state cleanup standards.

More cleanup is needed to reduce contamination to levels required for unrestricted land use. The purpose of the work under AO DE 21135 is to provide sufficient data, analysis, and evaluations to enable Ecology to select a method to further cleanup the Remedial Action Area.

The AO requires:

- Data Summary Report.
- Focused Remedial Investigation Feasibility Study (RI/FS).
- Interim actions if required or agreed to by Ecology.
- Preliminary Draft Cleanup Action Plan (DCAP)

Comment Received

-----Original Message-----

From: Scott Schenck

Sent: Sunday, October 9, 2022 7:26 PM

To: Smith, Andrew (ECY) <ansm461@ECY.WA.GOV>

Subject: Comments for DuPont Works Cleanup

Greetings Andrew,

I'm sending my comments regarding the DuPont Works cleanup Site ID 3555. Thank you for taking the feedback. I've lived in DuPont within 0.35 miles of the areas marked for review. I walk daily through the areas closest to Home Course hole #8 and #12. I also play golf regularly at the Home Course, a fabulous course, and key attraction in DuPont. I agree fundamentally with the further plan to reduce contamination wherever needed to designate the land as unrestricted use.

1. The areas mapped, from what I have observed, are sparse in nature and wildlife beyond prairie bunnies with coyote prowlers. It is rare to observe anything else due to the lack of tall trees or soil on the ground. It is mostly rocky ground.
2. In the case of "do nothing" scenario - The land would be forever destitute to commercialized zoning, that may not mesh well with the golf course or nearby residential areas and Pioneer Middle School. Having options for best case city planning is in the interest of more than ever with the growth of DuPont nearby population. Not taking the most important step of fully closing the case here, will keep the cleanup stigma alive, not helping anyone.
3. In favor of cleanup to unrestricted land use, the investment carries a significant return on investment for all living and working in DuPont. Doing so will help the DuPont Community thrive for generations to come by fully opening up the land use. As well, leaves no question about what the Washington Ecology team left behind as a result of enduring principles, backed by a community who cares.

Thanks again Andrew. I look forward to our future success in the DuPont Works cleanup. Please let me know if you have further question for me.

Regards,
Scott Schenck



Response to Comment

Greetings Scott,

Thank you for your thoughtful comments and reflections about the site and the documents out for public review. We recognized that you live and recreate closely to this site and are very familiar with the landscape and ecology. We appreciate that you took the time to share with us your thoughts on these documents and the cleanup process at the Site more broadly, indicating you support. Please do stay in touch if any concerns or further reflections arise.

Sincerely,
Andrew Smith, Site Manager
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This report prepared by

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Site Manager

Matt Fuller
Public Involvement Coordinator