

# USG Interiors Inc 99 Site Cleanup

7110 Pacific Hwy E, Milton

Cleanup Plan Documents Available for Public Comment

Facility Site ID: 84531356 Cleanup Site ID: 3618

## Comment accepted

**June 15—July 17, 2023**

## Submit comments online

[http://tcp.ecology.commentinput.com  
/?id=icePt](http://tcp.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=icePt)

## Or by mail or email

**Andrew Smith, cleanup project  
manager**

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## Printed document review

**Milton/Edgewood Pierce County  
Library**

900 Meridian Ave E  
Milton, WA 98354

## Tacoma Main Library

1102 Tacoma Ave S  
Tacoma, WA 98402

## Ecology Lacey Office by appointment

300 Desmond Drive SE

Lacey, WA 98503

[PublicDisclosureSWRO@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:PublicDisclosureSWRO@ecy.wa.gov)

or 360-407-6365

## Site webpage

[https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/  
cleanupsearch/site/3618](https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/3618)

## Cleanup designed to address

Arsenic (a toxic metal) contamination of  
groundwater

## En español

 Ver este [anuncio público en español](#) en

(<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2309091ES.html>)

## Cleanup documents available for public comment

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) is entering into a legal agreement, Amendment 1 of Agreed Order (AO) DE 11099, with USG Interiors, LLC (USG). USG is the potentially liable person (PLP) responsible for cleanup of the USG Interiors Inc 99 Site (Site).

The amendment implements the revised Cleanup Action Plan (RCAP) for the Site. The RCAP is necessary because after pilot testing the original cleanup plan, results showed it did not reduce arsenic in groundwater to the levels desired. The RCAP includes additional remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater, and a contingency plan for additional groundwater cleanup if it is determined necessary.

Ecology invites you to review and comment on the following documents.

- **Amendment 1 to Agreed Order DE 11099.** The amendment implements the RCAP and modifies the cleanup schedule. The terms in Agreed Order DE 11099 not changed by Amendment 1 remain in force.
- **Revised Cleanup Action Plan (RCAP).** The plan describes Ecology's revised plan for cleaning up the contamination.
- **State Environmental Policy Act Determination of Non-Significance.** The determination describes our decision that the cleanup is not likely to harm the environment.

Documents are available at the Site webpage.

To review print documents, there are options listed in the blue box on the left. Please check to confirm when the libraries are open for walk-in service. Documents are available for viewing at our Southwest Regional Office in Lacey by appointment only.

Comments can be submitted online, by email, or by US Mail during the comment period from **June 15 to July 17, 2023**.

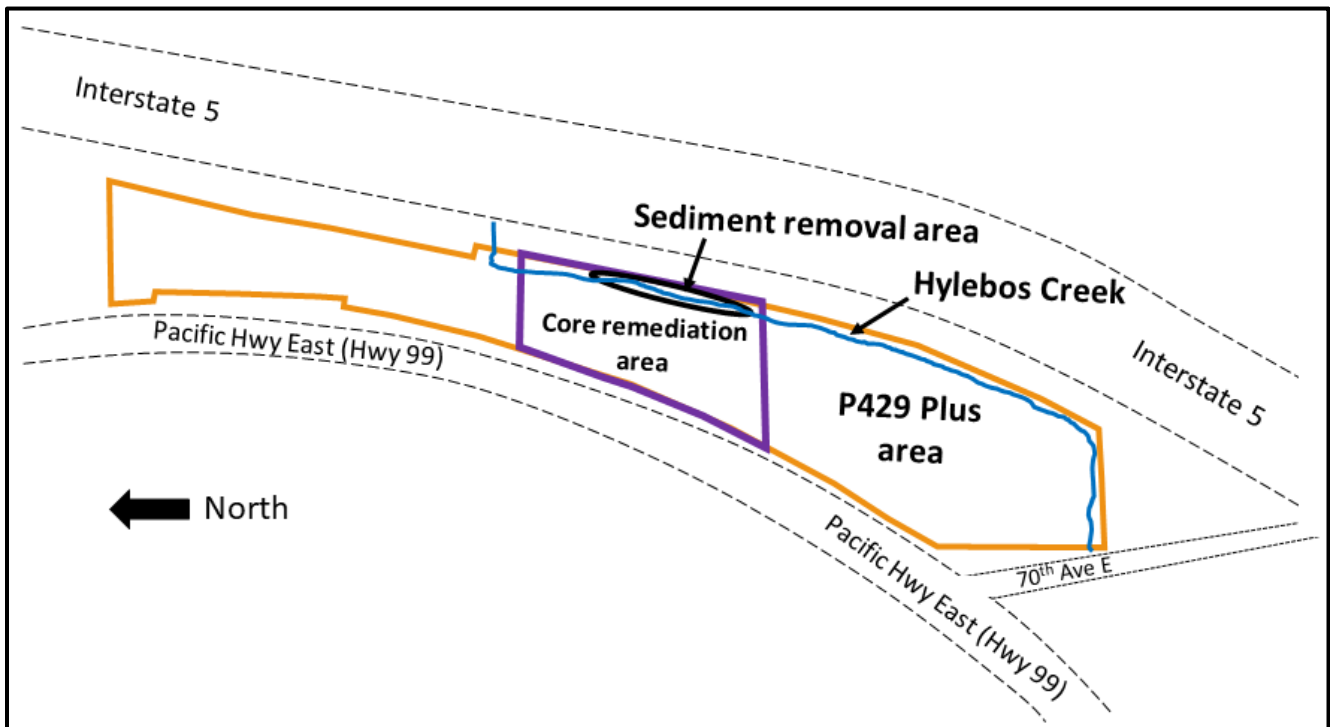
We will consider comments and if there are no changes, we will finalize the documents. USG will do the cleanup work.

**Background**

Before 1985, USG disposed of waste at the Site from their rock wool manufacturing plant in Tacoma. USG used slag (waste) from the ASARCO copper smelter in Tacoma as a raw material for rock wool production. The slag contained a high concentration of arsenic—a toxic metal. At the Site, USG buried waste and by-products of rock wool manufacturing. The buried waste was used as fill to raise the height of the Site to the level of Highway 99. The waste is the source material for the arsenic contamination at the Site.

In 1984 and 1985, 20,000 to 30,000 cubic yards of arsenic-contaminated waste was excavated and removed from the Site. Sampling in 2006 showed arsenic contamination of soil and groundwater were above cleanup levels, requiring cleanup under the state’s toxics cleanup law, the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA).

After a comment period was held for review of AO 11099 and the original cleanup action plan, the AO was signed, and the plan was finalized in 2016. However, pilot testing of the cleanup method described in the plan showed it would not reduce the arsenic contamination within a reasonable amount of time (less than 20 years).



The site is located between Interstate 5 and Pacific Highway 99 in Milton. On this figure, the site is outlined in orange. The Core Remediation Area is outlined in purple. The core remediation area comprises two vacant parcels (7110 Pacific Hwy E). The P429 parcel is located at 7100 Pacific Hwy E. It is owned by WA State Dept of Transportation for planned freeway improvements. The P429 Plus area is the P429 parcel combined with the right of way adjacent to Pacific Highway 99. Hylebos Creek runs along the south and east side of the site. The creek location is shown in blue. The approximate area of sediment removal from Hylebos Creek is shown in black. Areas are not exact.

## Proposed revised cleanup action plan

The RCAP is designed to reduce arsenic in groundwater within a reasonable timeframe (less than 20 years).

### Soil:

- Core remediation area: In-situ [solidification](#)<sup>1</sup> (ISS) will be implemented to treat all unsaturated and saturated soil (i.e., soil above and below the water table) containing arsenic greater than 250 mg/kg. ISS will solidify the soil using a mixture of cement, bentonite, and iron. Solidification of this soil will stop groundwater from moving through the treated soil and reduce groundwater contact with the arsenic source material. The treatment of the core remediation area with ISS will target the area where the highest concentrations of arsenic-contaminated soil is located. Afterwards, asphalt pavement will be placed over the Site to reduce the risk of direct human contact with contaminated soil.
- P429 Plus area: All contaminated soil containing greater than 20 mg/kg of arsenic will be [excavated](#)<sup>2</sup> and the contaminated soil will be disposed of off-site.

### Groundwater:

- Natural attenuation: Groundwater moving to the ISS-treated area from upslope will flow around, not through the solidified soil. Directing groundwater flow around the contamination will improve conditions by reducing exposure of groundwater to the arsenic in the soil.
- Contingency plan: Groundwater will be monitored four times each year for five years after soil cleanup is completed. If the reduction of arsenic by natural attenuation is too slow, then the groundwater will be treated. The contingency planned treatment [injects iron into the groundwater](#)<sup>3</sup>. The treatment reduces arsenic in the groundwater by binding the arsenic to the iron and holding it in the soil.

**Hylebos Creek sediment:** The RCAP is the same approach described in the original cleanup action plan.

- Contaminated sediment and some streambank soil will be removed and disposed of off-site.
- Low permeability soil barriers will be installed to prevent recontamination by contaminated groundwater.
- The excavation will be backfilled, and a new creek bed will be constructed.
- Monitoring wells will be installed, and the creekside buffer will be restored.

**Long-term monitoring:** The RCAP is the same approach described in the original cleanup action plan.

- Groundwater will be monitored to confirm the cleanup is successful.

**Institutional controls:** The RCAP is the same approach described in the original cleanup action plan.

- Because contamination will be isolated and remain on the Site, an environmental covenant will be filed with Pierce County for the Site. The covenant will protect the integrity of the cleanup actions, restrict land use, and prohibit groundwater extraction for any water supply use.
- While the covenant is in place, Ecology will review conditions at the Site every five years.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-04/documents/a\\_citizens\\_guide\\_to\\_solidification\\_and\\_stabilization.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-04/documents/a_citizens_guide_to_solidification_and_stabilization.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://semspub.epa.gov/work/HQ/401591.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://semspub.epa.gov/work/HQ/401603.pdf>

Toxics Cleanup Program  
PO Box 47775  
Olympia, WA 98504-7775

## USG Interiors Inc 99 Site

7110 Pacific Hwy E, Milton

**Public comment period** June 15 to July 17, 2023.

**Comment period to review these documents:**

- Amendment 1 to Agreed Order 11099
- Revised Cleanup Action Plan
- SEPA Determination of Non-Significance

**Contact information**

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360-485-3987

**¿Habla Español?** Unáse al diálogo sobre USG Interiors Inc 99 Site. Cuando el período de comentarios termine, revisaremos los comentarios y haremos cambios antes de finalizar los documentos. Para más información en español llame al 360-489-4971 y solicite un intérprete.

**ADA accessibility.** To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-489-4971 or email at [nancy.davis@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:nancy.davis@ecy.wa.gov), or visit [ecology.wa.gov/Accessibility](http://ecology.wa.gov/Accessibility). For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.

