



B&L Woodwaste Draft Cleanup Action Plan and SEPA Determination Available for Comment

*Department of Ecology is Requesting Your Comments
on a Draft Cleanup Action Plan and SEPA Determination!*

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is asking for your comments on a proposed Cleanup Action Plan for the **B&L Woodwaste site** in Milton, Washington.

As part of an existing Enforcement Order, Ecology is requiring Murray Pacific Corp. (Murray Pacific), Louisiana Pacific Corp., Wasser & Winters and Asarco Inc. (Asarco) to carry out requirements of a Cleanup Action Plan including;

- Constructing a groundwater barrier wall around the existing capped landfill.
- Treating arsenic contaminated groundwater from within the groundwater barrier and nearby wetland with a pump and treat system.
- Constructing a treatment system to prevent arsenic in the wetlands from reaching the Hylebos Creek.

Ecology has also done a **State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)** review of the site and determined that the proposed activities will not result in significant harm to the environment (Determination of Non-Significance (DNS)). The SEPA checklist and DNS are also available for public review and comment at this time. For more information about SEPA, see the box on the right side of this page.

Ecology welcomes your comments on this Cleanup Action Plan and SEPA determination from **June 22 through July 23, 2007**. Please use the gray box to the right to find information



What is SEPA?

The Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requires state and local agencies to review all projects that may have a negative impact on the environment. This includes cleanup projects. The result of a review is called a **SEPA determination**.

Ecology is issuing a Determination of Non-Significance (DNS).

A DNS means that the project will probably not cause significant negative effects on the environment or local community. The public is welcome to review the decision and provide comments to Ecology during this comment period.

about document location and where to submit comments.

Site Background

The B & L Woodwaste site is located at 2201 6th Avenue in Milton in a mixed residential/agricultural and wetland area. It is southeast of Interstate 5 between Fife Way and the Puget Power access road.

This site was used as an industrial landfill from mid 1970's until the early '80's. Wood chips from log sort yards, slag from the old Asarco smelter in North Tacoma and soil from the Commencement Bay Near-shore/Tideflats area were dumped here.

June 2007

**Public Comment Period
June 22 to July 23, 2007**

You may review the draft Cleanup Action Plan and SEPA determination at the following locations:

Pierce County Library

1000 Laurel Street
Milton WA 98354
(253) 922-2870

Tacoma Main Library

1102 Tacoma Avenue South
Tacoma, WA 98402
(253) 591-5666

Citizens for a Healthy Bay

917 Pacific Avenue Suite 100
Tacoma, WA 98402
(253) 383-2429

WA State Department of Ecology

Southwest Regional Office
Toxics Cleanup Program
300 Desmond Dr.
Lacey, WA 98503
(360) 407-6365

You can also find information on the Ecology web site:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/B_L_Woodwaste/B_L_woodwaste_hp.htm

Submit your comments and technical questions to:

Dom Reale

Department of Ecology
Southwest Regional Office
PO Box 47775

Olympia, WA 98504-7775

(360) 407-6266

E-mail: Drea461@ecy.wa.gov

For information about public involvement, contact:

Meg Bommarito

Department of Ecology

(360) 407-6255

Email: mbom461@ecy.wa.gov

Facility Site #1203



What is SLAG?

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Slag is a by-product of smelting, a process used to create pure metals.

Smelting involves melting metal ores to remove pure metals. After pure metals are removed, the remaining material is called slag. Slag cools into a rock-like solid.

The slag found at the B&L Woodwaste site is a result of a copper smelting process. It contains arsenic and lead.

In 2002, Asarco's funds became unavailable and they were unable to complete the rest of the Cleanup Action Plan. In 2005, Ecology amended the original Enforcement Order and required the PLPs to complete:

- Evaluation of several potential remedies to contain the release of contaminated groundwater from the site
- Investigation of the wetland area to determine what remedial action is needed.

In 2006, Asarco entered into bankruptcy proceedings and has failed to contribute towards cleanup efforts since that time. Murray Pacific has contributed to the preparation of the Cleanup Action Plan.

In 1982, the Commencement Bay Nearshore/Tideflats area, including Hylebos Waterway and the B&L Woodwaste site, were added to the National Priorities List by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The B&L Woodwaste site was named as a source of arsenic, copper and lead.

In 1992, Ecology issued an Enforcement Order requiring Asarco, Inc., Murray Pacific Corporation and Executive Bark, Inc, site owner, to do the following:

- Consolidate the 18 acre site into an 11 acre pile.
- Construct a multi-layer capping system to prevent metals from escaping from the site.
- Install and operate a groundwater monitoring well system
- Create a plan to address any failure of the original remedy

Monitoring during the mid-1990's discovered elevated arsenic in the ditch system that surrounds the pile and increased arsenic in groundwater outside of the landfill containment system, including a wetland next to the site.

In response to these findings, Ecology completed an extensive study of the wetland area. Results of the study showed:

- Dissolved arsenic levels in the groundwater in a nearby wetland were above Model Toxics Control Act cleanup standards.
- Some waste from the bottom of the pile was in contact with the water table during the winter months.
- Plants and animals in the nearby wetland did not appear to be experiencing any toxic effects.

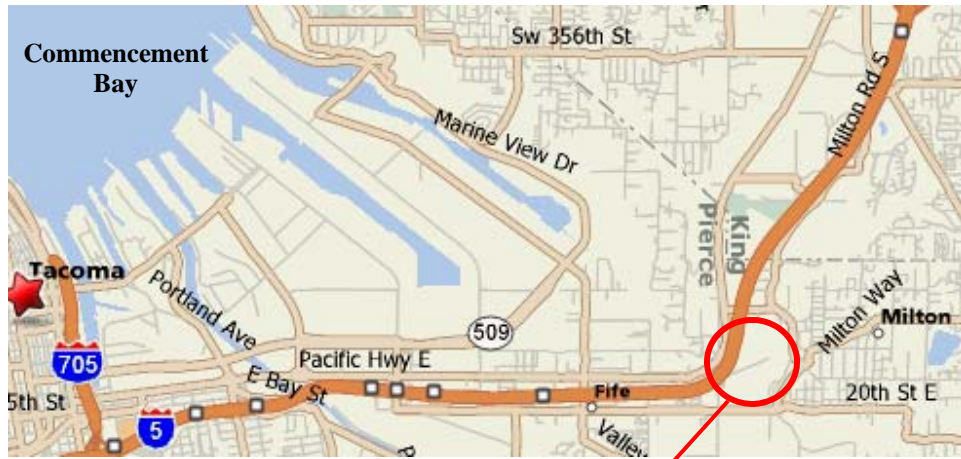
What Happens Next?

Once the public comment period has ended, Ecology will consider all comments received and may make changes to the Cleanup Action Plan. Once the Cleanup Action Plan has been finalized, Ecology will oversee its implementation.

Ecology Wants Your Comments!

Ecology will be accepting comments on the draft Cleanup Action Plan and SEPA Determination from June 22 through July 23, 2007. Information about where to view the document and submit comments can be found in the gray box on page 1. Ecology will respond to your comments at the end of the comment period.

B&L Woodwaste Site Location



Wetland adjacent to the site



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Southwest Regional Office
PO Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504**

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