



Response to Comments

Cleanup Action Plan, Consent Decree, and SEPA Determination

Gas Works Park Cleanup Site Sediment Unit Seattle, WA

Toxics Cleanup Program

Washington State Department of Ecology

Northwest Regional Office

Shoreline, Washington

July 2023



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<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/2876>

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- Aerial view of Gas Works Park (Ecology)

Related Information

- Clean-up site ID: 2876
- Facility site ID: 139

Contact Information

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ADA Accessibility

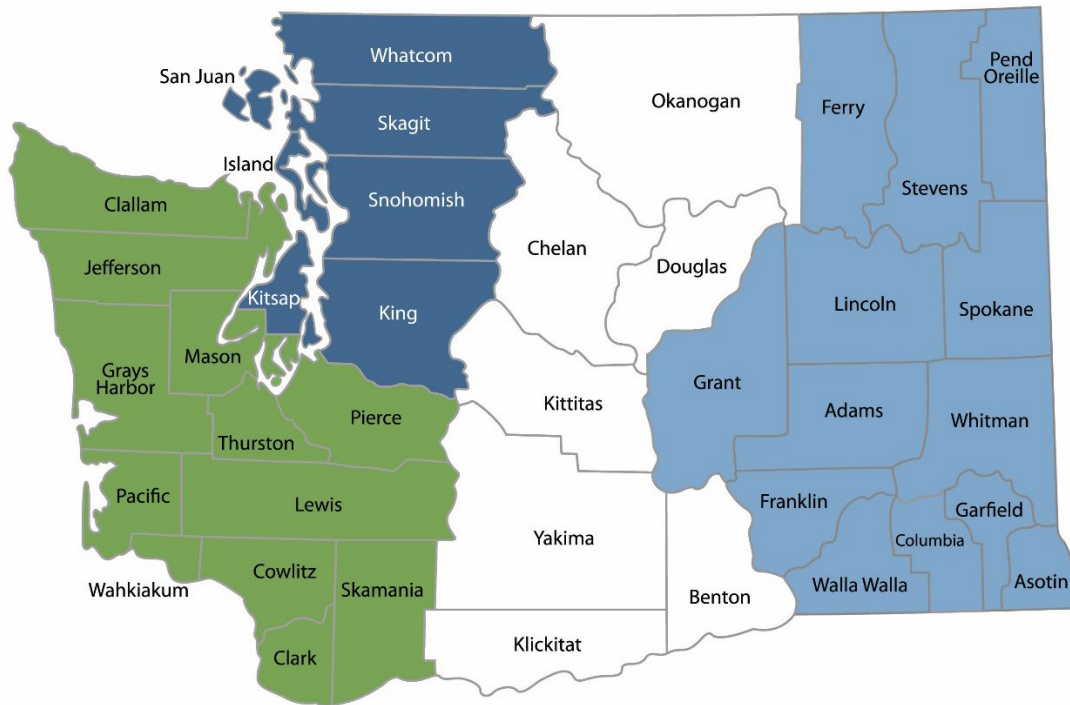
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¹ www.ecology.wa.gov/contact

Department of Ecology's Regional Offices

Map of Counties Served



| | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Southwest Region 360-407-6300 | Northwest Region 206-594-0000 | Central Region 509-575-2490 | Eastern Region 509-329-3400 |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|

| Region | Counties served | Mailing Address | Phone |
|---------------------|--|--|--------------|
| Southwest | Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, Wahkiakum | PO Box 47775 Olympia, WA 98504 | 360-407-6300 |
| Northwest | Island, King, Kitsap, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom | PO Box 330316 Shoreline, WA 98133 | 206-594-0000 |
| Central | Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan, Yakima | 1250 W Alder St Union Gap, WA 98903 | 509-575-2490 |
| Eastern | Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman | 4601 N Monroe Spokane, WA 99205 | 509-329-3400 |
| Headquarters | Across Washington | PO Box 46700 Olympia, WA 98504 | 360-407-6000 |

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DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

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Public Outreach Summary

The Gas Works Park site (Site) is located in Seattle, Washington on Lake Union. It consists of approximately 21 upland acres (Upland Unit) and approximately 56 in-water acres (Sediment Unit). The Upland Unit was previously remediated except certain shoreline areas. Ecology is addressing these shoreline areas and the Sediment Unit in accordance with Washington State's [formal cleanup process](#)² as directed under the Model Toxics Control Act ([MTCA](#)³).

Ecology invited review of a cleanup action plan and associated documents for the cleanup of remaining contamination at the Site. The plan calls for removing and capping shoreline soil, treating shoreline groundwater, dredging sediment, capping sediment, monitoring, and administrative site use controls.

The plan is part of a legal agreement between Ecology, the City of Seattle (City), and Puget Sound Energy (PSE).

The following documents were available for review:

- **Cleanup Action Plan:** describes Ecology's selected cleanup action to address remaining contamination.
- **Consent Decree (legal agreement):** requires the City and PSE to develop detailed design documents and construct the cleanup action described in the cleanup action plan.
- **State Environmental Policy Act-Determination of Non-Significance:** Ecology determination that the cleanup action is not likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact.

The Department of Ecology's public involvement activities related to this 31-day comment period (June 20 – July 20, 2023) included:

- **Fact Sheet:**
 - US mail distribution of a fact sheet providing information about the cleanup documents, the public comment period, online public meeting to approximately 3,850 addresses including neighboring businesses and other interested parties.
 - Email distribution of the fact sheet to over 70 people, including interested individuals, local/county/state/federal agencies, neighborhood associations, and interested community groups.
 - The fact sheet was also available digitally through Ecology's [cleanup site webpage](#)⁴.
- **Legal Notice:**
 - Publication of one paid display ad in *The Seattle Times*, dated Friday, June 16, 2023.

² <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Cleanup-process>

³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/mtca>

⁴ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/2876>

- **Site Register:**
 - Publication of 4 notices in Ecology’s Toxics Cleanup Site Register:
 - Comment Period Notice:
 - June 15, 2023
 - June 29, 2023
 - July 13, 2023
 - Response Summary Notice:
 - August 10, 2023
 - Visit [Ecology’s Site Register website](#)⁵ to download PDFs.
- **Media Notification:**
 - Ecology sent a media notice on Friday, June 16, 2023, to Seattle area media outlets.
- **Media Coverage:**
 - King 5 ran a story [online](#)⁶ and on TV on Wednesday, June 21, 2023 about the Gas Works Park Sediment Unit cleanup, public outreach, and next steps.
 - KUOW (NPR Radio) ran a story [online](#)⁷ on Monday, June 26, 2023 about the Gas Works Park Sediment Unit cleanup, public outreach, and next steps.
- **Social Media:**
 - **Blog:** On Thursday, June 22, 2023 Ecology’s Northwest Regional Office posted a story on [Ecology’s blog](#)⁸, which has approximately 1,200 email subscribers.
 - **Twitter:** Ecology – Northwest Region @ecyseattle posted a [tweet](#)⁹ on Wednesday, June 21, 2023 connecting readers to the comment period including the cleanup site webpage and then a meeting reminder [tweet](#)¹⁰ on Friday, June 23, 2023.
- **Online Public Meeting**
 - Ecology hosted an [online public meeting](#)¹¹ Wednesday, June 28, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. through the Zoom meeting application. Interpretation was available in Spanish, Chinese, and Tagalog. Ecology and City of Seattle/Puget Sound Energy environmental consultants presented details on the Gas Works Park Sediment Unit cleanup action plan and answered questions.

⁵<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/UIPages/PublicationList.aspx?IndexTypeName=Program&NameValue=Toxics+Cleanup&DocumentTypeName=Newsletter>

⁶ <https://www.king5.com/article/tech/science/environment/department-ecology-public-comment-final-clean-up-phase-gas-works-park/281-2f096ac9-1344-4e03-823d-c19adc8541be>

⁷ <https://www.kuow.org/stories/more-clean-up-planned-for-seattle-s-gas-works-park>

⁸ <https://ecology.wa.gov/blog/june-2023/cleaning-up-cleanup-of-shoreline-and-sediment-moving-forward-for-seattle-s-gas-works-park>

⁹ <https://twitter.com/ecyseattle/status/1671618301322207232>

¹⁰ <https://twitter.com/ecyseattle/status/1672282781743984640>

¹¹ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/document/126450>

- **Websites:**
 - Ecology announced the public comment period, Ecology’s public meeting, posted the fact sheet (including translations in Spanish, Chinese, and Tagalog), and made the review documents available on Ecology’s [Gas Works Park webpage](#)¹² and Ecology’s [Public Inputs & Events webpage](#)¹³.
- **Document Repositories:**
 - Copies of the review documents and fact sheets (including translations) were available for review at Seattle Public Library’s Fremont Branch.
 - Outreach materials also directed the public to contact Ian Fawley, Outreach Planner, for document review assistance.

Comment Summary

From June 20 – July 20, 2023, Ecology invited public comments on a cleanup action plan, consent decree (legal agreement), and SEPA Determination for the Gas Works Park Sediment Unit.

Ecology received comments from three commenters during the 31-day comment period.

Table 1: List of Commenters

| | First Name | Last Name | Agency/Organization/Business | Submitted By |
|---|------------|-----------|--|--------------|
| 1 | Eagle | Jones | | Individual |
| 2 | L K | | | Individual |
| 3 | Ron | Hess | Gas Works Park Marina Owners Association Board | Organization |

¹² <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/2876>

¹³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Events/Search/Listing>

Next Steps

Ecology has reviewed and considered the public comments received on the documents, and no edits to the documents are necessary. Ecology is finalizing the documents.

From 2023 – 2027, engineering design and permitting will continue, including additional investigations and evaluations to refine the cleanup action and enable detailed design work. Construction is planned to begin in 2027.

See graphic below and visit Ecology's [cleanup process webpage](#)¹⁴ to learn more about Washington's formal cleanup process.

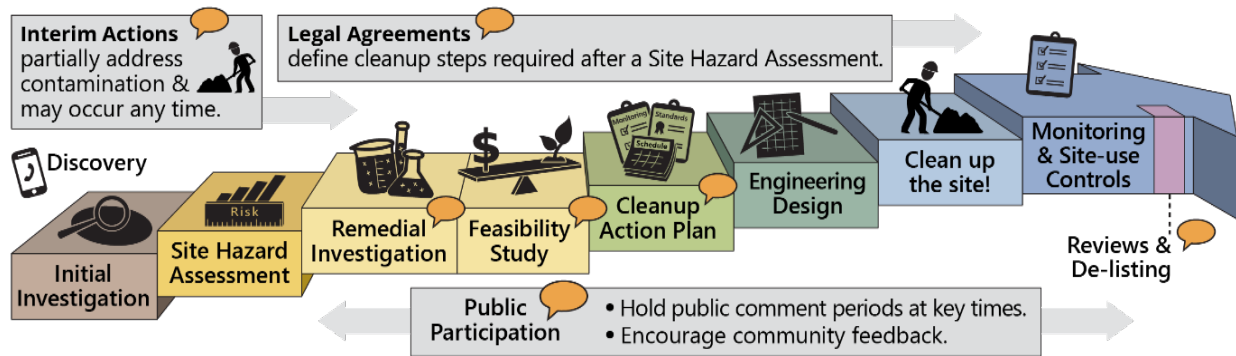


Figure 1: Washington's formal cleanup process ([download a text explanation](#)¹⁵)

Comments and Responses

The public comments are presented below, along with Ecology's responses. Appendix A, page 12, contains the comments in their original format.

Comment from: Eagle Jones

How was the AOI defined? Given that some areas of known contamination and remediation extend all the way to the edges of the AOI without showing uncontaminated margins, how can we be sure that all contaminated areas are being addressed?

Response:

The sediment portion of the AOI was defined using sampling data to determine the nature and extent of contamination that is directly associated with the former manufactured gas plant and other historical industrial activities that occurred in the upland area of the Gas Works Park Site (GWPS). The AOI boundary defines where contaminants from historical activities at the GWPS cannot be differentiated from contaminants from other Lake Union sources.

¹⁴ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Cleanup-process>

¹⁵ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/1909166.html>

The sediment cleanup will address all contamination within the AOI: contamination from historical activities that occurred in the upland area of the GWPS and contamination from other Lake Union sources that is also present within the AOI.

The legal agreement (Consent Decree) between Ecology, PSE and the City for the cleanup of the GWPS settles liability for sediment contamination within the AOI, but not for potential GWPS-related sediment contamination that may be present outside of the AOI.

Comment from: L K

What will be the impacts to the house boats within the areas for dredging and sediment cap? Would they need to be moved? Will the construction budget allocate money for temporary relocation if necessary?

Response:

Currently, the cleanup action is not expected to require moving of house boats. During the design of the cleanup action (occurring over the next two years) the limits of dredging and capping will be refined, and specific implementation plans will be developed. A goal of the design will be to identify and minimize potential impacts to house boats. If impacts cannot be avoided, we will coordinate with affected parties right away to determine the path forward. The costs for implementing the Ecology-required cleanup action will be borne by PSE and the City.

Comment from: Gas Works Park Marina Owners Association Board (Ron Hess, GWPM Board Member)

Dear DOE Gas Works Park Sediment Unit team,

We, of the Gas Works Park Marina (GWPM) Owners Association Board, representing our members, would like to thank the DOE/City team for your comprehensive GW Cleanup Action Plan (CAP). With property adjacent to and overlapping the cleanup area, we fully support this environmental remediation effort. We also appreciate your public outreach, providing both information and opportunities for comment.

We're writing now in response to your current Request for Comments, closing July 20th.

With half of our property lying within your Sediment Management Areas (SMAs-7&10), we'll need to work closely with your team through planning and implementation of the cleanup. In your January 2023 Response to Comments (pp.13-14), you replied to questions posed by GWPM member Cheryl Groff, stating -1-that PSE and the City will coordinate with the Gasworks Park Marina during planning for pre-remedial design field investigations,-1- scheduled to begin later this year. As a follow up, we are writing to request a preliminary coordination meeting with designated members of your team and a GWPM team.

Among other matters, we need to understand how our ongoing dock and piling infrastructure maintenance may be affected by or limited by your permanent capping solution. We perform maintenance, such as piling replacements, and are currently completing our Long-term Plan and Reserve Study. So, a preliminary coordination meeting would be very welcome. We look forward to coordinating with your team on this important environmental remediation project.

Sincerely,

Gas Works Park Marina Owners Association Board

Response:

Ecology would be happy to meet with a GWPM team. Please contact Lucy McInerney, the Ecology GWPS project manager, at lucy.mcinerney@ecy.wa.gov or 425-410-1400.

Appendices

Appendix A. Public comments in original format

Eagle Jones

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