Northport Waterfront Cleanup

Comments accepted

August 22 – October 5, 2023

Submit comments

Online:
https://bit.ly/NorthportEDRcomments

By mail or email:
Erin Andersen, Site Manager
4601 N. Monroe St.
Spokane, WA 99205
Email:
erin.andersen@ecy.wa.gov

Document review

Online: https://bit.ly/EcologyNorthportWaterfront

Print: Please contact Erika Beresovoy at erika.beresovoy@ecy.wa.gov or 509-385-2290.

Site info

Facility Site ID: 96239
Site Cleanup ID: 14874

Public invited to comment on draft engineering design

The Washington Department of Ecology is directing cleanup of smelter-related metals contamination on Northport's waterfront area (site) next to the Town Park. You are invited to comment on the draft 100% Engineering Design Report, which provides more details about how the Cleanup Action Plan will be completed. The plan is to remove and cap contamination and encourage recreation in cleaned up areas.

The Engineering Design Report includes specifications such as the anticipated construction schedule; staging/stockpiling and waste characterization of excavated sand, soil, and rock; best management practices during construction; and public access improvements that will be installed after cleanup.

We are holding a 45-day comment period that began before the community received public notice in the mail. The comment period will remain open for 30 days following the receipt of notice via mail. We began the comment period as soon as we posted the Engineering Design Report and comment period online so the bidding process for the public works contract can be completed in time to keep the work on schedule to begin in spring 2024.

Changes and new information in the Engineering Design Report

Major changes and additions made to the Cleanup Action Plan in the draft Engineering Design Report include the following details.

Construction sequencing

The order of cleanup construction will be planned so work is done during periods of low water on dry land. Water levels can be unpredictable and change relatively quickly.

The cleanup contractor will need to have contingency plans and sequence their work (Figure 2) in a way that recognizes this potential issue. Work in areas below the ordinary high-water mark (OHWM) will be done during the low-water period of late February to late April, with cleanup on the Hillside and areas above the OHWM to follow.

Materials staging/stockpiling and waste characterization

After contaminated areas are excavated (Figure 3), the sand, dirt, and rocks will be screened for re-use, stockpiled, and characterized prior to being transported off site for disposal. A designated staging area to the south of the cleanup area is outlined, but any location within the designated work areas may be used depending on construction needs.

Based on chemical testing results (waste characterization) to determine contaminants, a disposal facility approved to accept those contaminants will be identified. Waste will be transported off site for disposal at the Stevens County Landfill or another disposal facility permitted to accept the waste.

Cap stability

The cap will be designed to resist the hydraulic forces of a 100-year flow event consistent with other shoreline cleanups in Washington. To inform the design, a 100-year flow event at the waterfront was simulated by Blue Coast Engineering. The details are in Appendix C of the Engineering Design Report.

Public access elements

The project will improve or retain existing public access within the Hillside and Seasonal Beach areas:

- Preserving the boat launch. It will be removed and protected during excavation and capping of the Bay area and returned to its existing condition following construction.
- Replanting all areas impacted by earthwork with native vegetation, including topsoil, compost, and mulch. Steep slopes will be stabilized.
- Improving trails with consistent grading, a pavilion picnic area, and two benches along the parking area.
- Installing short wooden fencing to prevent cut-off trails and walking on replanted areas.
- Creating areas that meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements as much as possible.

Historic preservation

An archeologist will be on-site before or during cleanup actions to comply with the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act for projects with the potential to affect cultural, archaeological, or historical properties. An Inadvertent Discovery Plan is in Appendix B of the Engineering Design Report.

Best management practices

The cleanup contractor will follow these practices to protect people and the environmental while constructing the cleanup:

- Excess or waste materials will not be allowed to enter waters of the state.
- Erosion control measures, such as temporary silt fence, will be constructed around all stockpile areas.

- When wet materials are transported, haul trucks or containers will be lined or otherwise sealed to prevent release of soil or liquids during transport.
- Stockpile areas will be lined with a waterproof geosynthetic liner (for unscreened excavated materials and off-site disposal materials) or a geotextile liner (for import materials and beneficial reuse materials) to prevent project-generated materials from mixing with soil under the stockpile.

Contaminants

Investigation results showed that copper, lead, and zinc were found most frequently throughout the site at levels posing a risk to people and the environment. The goal of cleanup is protecting people and aquatic life from these contaminants.

Sources of contamination

The Le Roi Smelter (also known as the Northport Smelter), which handled copper ores between 1901 and 1911, and lead ores between 1916 and 1921, was just south of the Northport waterfront. Le Roi Smelter operations deposited clinker and granular slag wastes on the waterfront.

Wastes discharged into the Columbia River until 1995 from the still-operating metal smelter in Trail, British Columbia, Canada, are part of a broader series of investigations the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is doing. The Northport Waterfront project is separate from the EPA's work.

This project is funded by the Eastern Washington Clean Sites Initiative. The money comes from a voter-approved tax on hazardous substances. Funds are used to clean up properties where the responsible party couldn't be found or can't pay cleanup costs.

Next steps

We will respond to all the comments we receive during the comment period and publish our responses. The next step is the bidding process for cleanup contractors. We expect bids to open this fall and construction to begin in spring 2024 with cleanup completed in fall 2024.

Because bid documents, including the Engineering Design Report, will be compiled during the comment period, the successful bidder may need to update their contract if public comments result in any substantial changes to the engineering design.

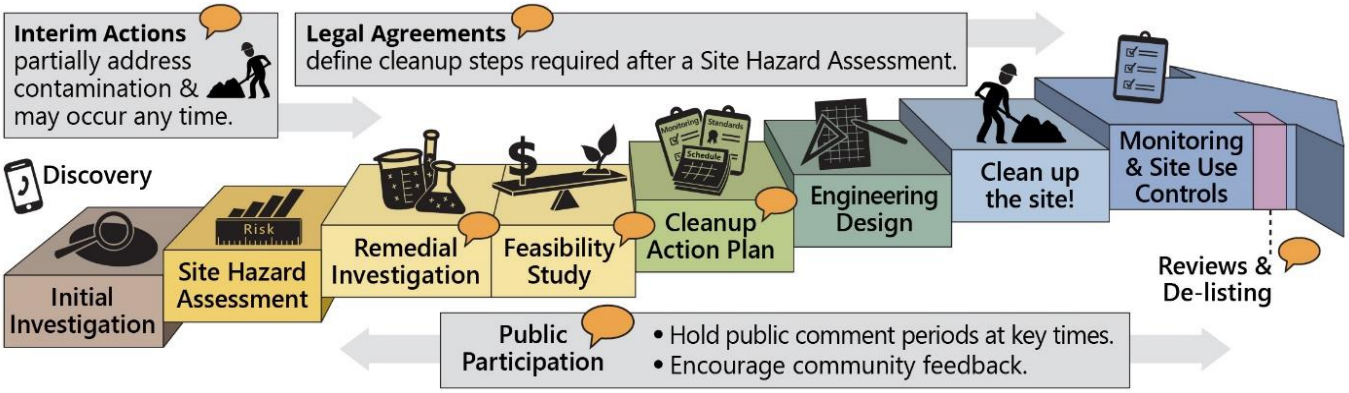


Figure 1. Washington's formal cleanup process. The Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) is Washington's environmental cleanup law. It provides requirements for contaminated site cleanup and sets standards that protect human health and the environment. Ecology implements the MTCA cleanup process and oversees cleanups.

Figure 2. Project construction schedule (February – September 2024)

Anticipated Construction Season	Task Name	Estimated Duration (Days)
Spring 2024	Mobilization and Site Preparation	5–10
	Pre-Construction Survey	5
	Seasonal Beach Excavation/Placement	50–60
	Jetty Placement	6–8
	Bay and Public Dock Excavation/Placement	3–7
	Bayshore Placement	1–3
	Hillside Excavation/Placement/Public Amenities	8–12
	As-Built Survey	5
	Demobilization	5

Note:

1. Durations depend on contractor selection of equipment and crew.

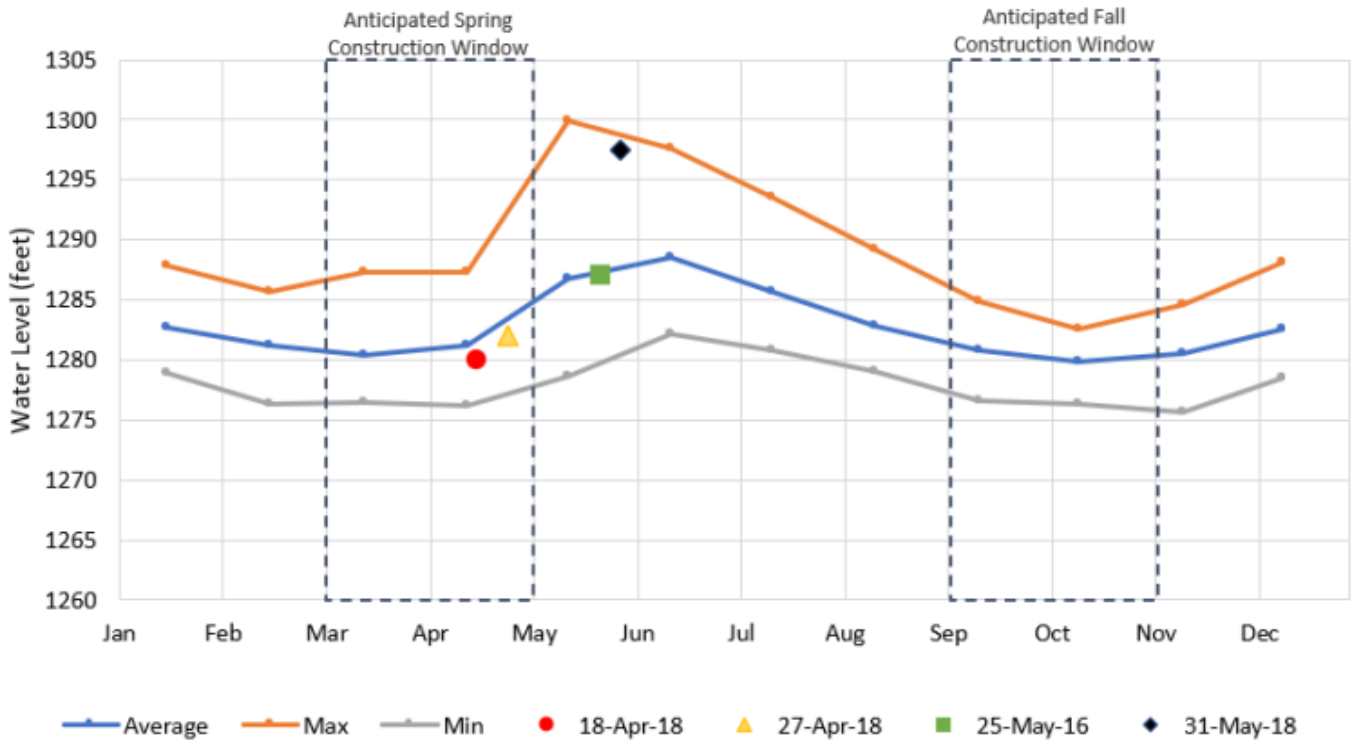
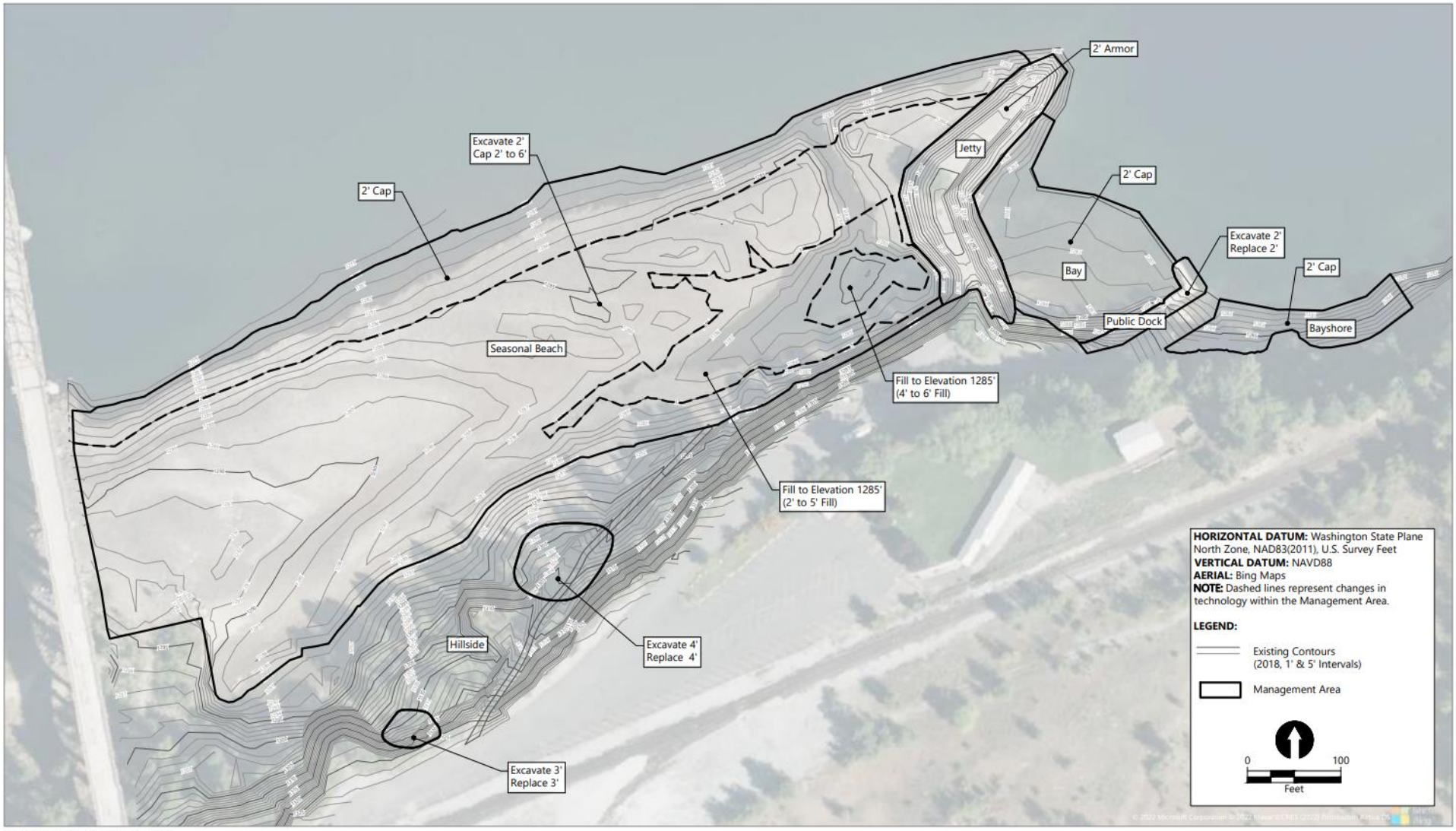


Figure 3. Proposed excavation and capping depths for the five waterfront areas



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DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Toxics Cleanup Program
4601 N. Monroe St.
Spokane, WA 99205

Northport Waterfront Cleanup

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Engineering design ready for public review and comment

Public Comment Period
August 22 – October 5, 2023

Review documents:
https://bit.ly/EcologyNorthportWaterfront

Submit comments:
https://bit.ly/NorthportEDRcomments

ADA accessibility
To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6831 or email ecyadacoordinator@ecy.wa.gov, or visit ecology.wa.gov/Accessibility. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.