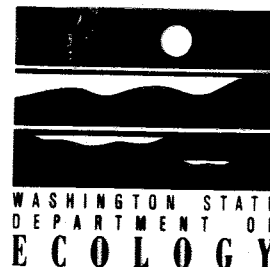


MARALCO ALUMINUM SITE



Announcing the Start of a Phase I Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is beginning a Phase I Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) of hazardous substance contamination at the Maralco Aluminum Site (7730 South 202nd Street, Kent, Washington 98032). Information developed by this study will be used to define a comprehensive Phase II RI/FS.

Ecology invites the public to review and comment on the public participation plan and the work-plan under which the investigation is being conducted. The box at right provides information on where to review documents and submit comments. The public comment period will extend from June 15, 1990 through July 15, 1990.

Site History

The Maralco Aluminum Site is a 13-acre industrial property located in Kent, Washington. Maralco Aluminum Company, Inc. (Maralco) operated an aluminum recycling/refinery facility at the site from 1980 to 1986. The recycling facility produced aluminum alloy ingots from aluminum cans and scrap. The facility was abandoned in November 1986.

Waste products produced from the operation included black dross (salt and impurities) and baghouse dusts (particulate matter). During the first year of operation, the waste products were transported off-site to a landfill. After 1981, the material was deemed a

dangerous or hazardous waste and Maralco began storing the waste products on-site.

The recycling/refinery process used by Maralco involved melting and processing aluminum scrap in rotary barrel and reverberatory furnaces. The scrap used contained varying amounts of associated heavy metals. Black dross from the molten aluminum was stored in an outside pile. Baghouse dusts from the smelting operations were collected and discharged onto the black dross pile.

Maralco filed for bankruptcy in May of 1986, and the property is now being managed by a bankruptcy examiner. The site remediation activities are funded by the State of Washington's Model Toxics Control Account.

Environmental Concerns

Short-term risks to human health associated with the site are low, as contamination is believed to be localized on-site. Because the site is fenced and is located in what is primarily an industrial area, it is not easily accessible to the public. Long-term risks to human health and the environment associated with the site are not yet well defined.

ECOLOGY ADDRESS

Department of Ecology
Toxics Cleanup Program
Attn: Richard Huey
4350 150th Avenue N.E.
Redmond, WA 98052
(206) 867-7256

FACT SHEET

Additional fact sheets may be obtained by writing to Richard Huey, Community Relations Specialist, at the above address.

PUBLIC COMMENT/QUESTIONS

Written comments should be directed to Richard Huey, Community Relations Specialist, at the above address. Call (206) 867-7256 if you have questions on this site.

REPOSITORIES

Documents providing additional information on this site can be found at the following locations:

Department of Ecology
4350 150th Avenue N.E.
Redmond, WA 98052

Kent Community Library
232 4th Avenue S.
Kent, WA 98032

MaralcoFS001
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The City of Kent obtains some of its drinking water from groundwater wells, but the City wells are not near the site. Because contamination is believed to be localized, there is little chance that drinking water sources will be affected.

There are three major contamination concerns:

- 1) contamination of groundwater with black dross salt,
- 2) contamination of groundwater with diesel from a 50,000-gallon diesel underground storage tank,
- 3) contamination of soil by dust from the black dross waste pile.

The black dross and baghouse dusts are mixed together, with black dross making up the majority of the mixture. Black dross is a dangerous waste due to its high salt content, estimated to be between 30% and 50%. The baghouse dust is acidic, and is classified as an extremely hazardous waste.

Other hazardous substances of interest at the Maralco site are 10 tons of chromium-bearing dross brought on-site by Maralco from the Kawecki-Berylco site in Wenatchee, and 5,000 tons of aluminum oxide (a byproduct of the recycling/refinery process).

Planned Activities

The Phase I RI/FS includes a preliminary evaluation of both soil and groundwater contamination, and the feasibility of alternative cleanup methods. A pilot project will assess the technical and economic viability of a process to recycle the black dross waste pile.

What Happens Next?

Information developed during the Phase I RI/FS will be used to develop a work-plan for a comprehensive Phase II RI/FS. The Phase II RI/FS will define the types, sources, and extent of contamination on the site and evaluate alternative cleanup methods. When ready, the report on Phase I studies and the Phase II RI/FS work-plan will be made available for public comment.

Ecology Wants Your Comments!

The public is invited to review and comment on the Phase I RI/FS work-plan, and the public participation plan. The 30-day public comment period is an opportunity to have your ideas and comments heard by the State. Ecology will consider all comments received when developing the scope of work for the Phase II RI/FS work-plan. The box on page 1 provides details on where the documents can be found and how to submit comments. Comments will be accepted through July 15, 1990.