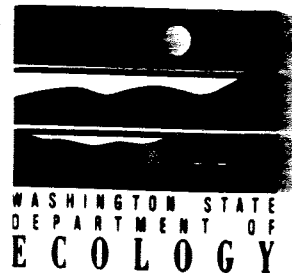


MARALCO ALUMINUM SITE



Public Comment Period Completed/ Responsiveness Summary Available

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) held a public comment period from June 15, 1990 to July 15, 1990 on the work-plan for Phase I of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) at the Maralco Aluminum Site, located at 7730 South 202nd Street, Kent, Washington 98032.

Ecology considered and responded to all written comments received during the public comment period. These comments are summarized in the Responsiveness Summary which is now available to the public. The box at right provides information on where to review this document.

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.

REPOSITORIES

The Responsiveness Summary can be reviewed 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

MaralcoFS002
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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-Beryko site in Wenatchee, and 5,000 tons of aluminum oxide (a byproduct of the recycling/refinery process).

What Happens Next?

Ecology will begin implementing the work-plan for Phase I of the RI/FS. This includes a preliminary evaluation of 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. Information from the Phase I RI/FS will be used to develop a work-plan for a comprehensive Phase II RI/FS. Phase II RI/FS will define the types, sources, and extent of contamination at the site and evaluate 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.

Questions?

If you have any questions regarding the MARALCO site, call the Department of Ecology at the phone number listed on page one of this fact sheet.