



May 16, 2024

Ryan Hardwick
Site Manager and Bay-Wide Coordinator, Port Gardner Bay
Toxics Cleanup Program
Washington State Department of Ecology

Dear Ryan,

I am writing to inform you that we need to temporarily pause the RI/FS activities at the East Waterway site. As you are aware, we are currently allocating all available human resources to a larger project at the Mill-A site, valued at more than \$200M.

In addition to the Port's human resources, our expert consultant, Kathy Godfredsen of Windward Environmental, selected for the East Waterway Site retired in April 2024. The Port has not yet decided how to approach her replacement as it is a critical role that a select few experts can fulfill. We plan to address her replacement within the next 12 months.

That said, the Port has and will continue its efforts with the Corps of Engineers, discussing the deepening of the Corps of Engineers navigation channel – a key component of the East Waterway Site.

Additionally, at the request of Ecology, the Port agreed to release significant grant funding at the East Waterway site in early 2024. And recently, the Port and Ecology completed the execution of a new MTCA grant funding agreement for this site.

We appreciate your understanding and continued support as we focus our efforts on the Mill-A site.

Sincerely,

Erik Gerking
Chief of Planning and Development
Port of Everett