



Holly Street Landfill

File: 253 Holly Street Landfill 20240429

SHARP Report — Part 1 of 2

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• SHARP first SHARP		v2024.04.23	Ecology Info	
• SHARP rating	Medium		ERTS	none
• SHARP date	1/29/1900		CSID	253
• EJFlagged?	✓ – No Override		FSID	2925
• LD confidence level	low		VCP	NW0436
• Cleanup milestone	periodic review		UST ID	none
• SHARPster	Julia Schwarz		LUST ID	none

This section is blank if this is the first SHARP

SHARP Media	Scores	Confidence	Additional Factors
Indoor air	C4	medium	multiple chemical types ✓
Groundwater	C3	medium	risk to off-site people ☒
Surface water	A2	medium	climate change impacts ✓
Sediment	B1	medium	plant/animal tissue data ☒
Soil	C2	high	

Location and land use info	
600 W Holly Street, Bellingham, Whatcom County, 98225	
Parcel(s)	3802255603490000, 380330087229, 3803300842220000, 3803300892160000, 3803300982150000, 3803301002230000, 3803300712440000,
Responsible unit	NWRO
Land use	mixed use

Sources reviewed
Department of Ecology, 2024, DRAFT First Periodic Review, Holly Street Landfill.



Primary census tract	Associated census tracts
53073000600	53073000502

Local demographics comments	Go to top
no comments	

Source/source area description	Go to top
<p>In the late 1800s, the Holly Street Landfill Site was part of the original Whatcom Creek estuary and mudflat. Around 1905, private property owners began filling portions of the Site with dredge spoils and other materials to increase useable upland areas. Beginning in 1937, sanitary landfills for municipal waste disposal operated on certain private tidelands under permits issued by the City of Bellingham to property owners wishing to raise their properties above the tide. Also, municipal waste was used by owners to fill private tidelands within the former Whatcom Creek estuary from 1937 to 1953. Wastes disposed at the Site included debris and scrap materials, consistent with landfill disposal practices of the time. Most of the wastes disposed at the Site included glass, concrete, household debris, metal scrap, soil, coal slag, ashes, and woody debris, consistent with landfill disposal practices of the time. The waste materials are currently covered by soil fills, gravel, buildings, building foundations and asphalt.</p> <p>Solid waste covers approximately 9.1 acres on the northwest side of Whatcom Creek and 3.8 acres on the southeast side (Maritime Heritage Park). The City currently owns 8.3 acres of the 13-acre landfill site, including all landfill properties located along the Whatcom Creek shoreline. Various private property owners own the remainder of the landfill site.</p>	

Soil comments	Go to top
no comments	

Groundwater comments

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Compliance monitoring was not required for groundwater because compliance is measured using seeps as a conditional point of compliance. However, cPAHs were not evaluated in seep samples, and it is unknown if copper currently meets cleanup standards at the conditional point of compliance. Groundwater discharges to surface water in Whatcom Creek.

Surface water comments

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Surface water impacts have not been identified, but seep performance monitoring conducted did not include cPAHs. It is unknown if copper currently meets cleanup standards at the conditional point of compliance. Recent surface sampling of sediment in Whatcom Creek identified dioxin/furan compounds and further information is needed.

Sediment comments

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Whatcom Creek runs through the site. Shellfish have not been documented at the site but could be present. Sediment sampling has not been part of previous compliance monitoring activities, but recent sampling of surface sediment in Whatcom Creek adjacent to the site identified dioxin/furan compounds that were above the natural background concentration for Bellingham Bay (downstream of the site). Additional information is needed to fully assess sediment impacts at the site.

Indoor air comments

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Methane is present in soil gas in some areas of the site; buildings on top of this area are required to have mitigation systems to address this concern.

Additional factors comments

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no comments

Site contamination and cleanup history

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Previous investigations have indicated the following media and contaminants exceeding cleanup levels for unrestricted land use: soil/refuse (metals and cPAHs), soil gas (methane 30 to 300 percent of the Lower Explosive Limit), groundwater (iron and bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate), and shoreline seepage (dissolved copper and zinc).

The selected cleanup alternative for the Site was a cap constructed along the northern landfill area and localized upland areas, in conjunction with institutional controls and monitoring of localized surface water seeps. Other project elements included excavating shoreline solid waste from the north bank, within and adjacent to the "B" Street right-of-way, and along localized portions of the south bank (Maritime Heritage Park); backfilling the excavation areas with a clean cap material, graded to relatively flat slopes, concurrently providing slope stabilization and restoring historically lost aquatic habitat in this important estuary; and enhancing the existing soil cap in portions of the Maritime Heritage Center to be consistent with other landfill areas already capped to ensure that humans and the environment are protected from buried solid waste.

Overflow - Site contamination and cleanup history

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No overflow

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First SHARP

Medium SHARP Rating

SHARP Report — Part 2 of 2

Conceptual site model

01/29/1900



Assessment scores by environmental medium

