

Cornwall Ave Landfill



SHARP Report — Part 1 of 2

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• SHARP first SHARP		v2024.04.29	Ecology Info	
• SHARP rating	Critical		ERTS	none
• SHARP date	05/16/2024		CSID	220
• EJFlagged?	⊘ - No Override		FSID	2913
• LD confidence level	low		VCP	NW0069
• Cleanup milestone	cleanup action plan		UST ID	none
• SHARPster	Julia Schwarz, Lucy McInerney		LUST ID	none

This section is blank if this is the first SHARP

SHARP Media	Scores	Confidence	Additional Factors
Indoor air	D4	high	multiple chemical types ✓
Groundwater	C1	high	risk to off-site people ⊘
Surface water	A1	high	climate change impacts ✓
Sediment	A1	high	plant/animal tissue data ✓
Soil	A1	high	

Location and land use info	
Cornwall Ave, Bellingham, Whatcom County, 98225	
Primary parcel	53748
Land use	industrial
Responsible unit	NWRO

Sources reviewed
2017, Fact Sheet, Ecology
2014, Cleanup Action Plan, Ecology
2013, RI/FS, Landau Associates



Primary census tract	Associated census tracts
53073001102	SHARP it

Local demographics comments

The census tract identifies 1 of 10 EJScreen demographics indicators greater than the 80th percentile for Washington. The Environmental Health Disparities score is 3. The EJFlag criterion is not met.

Source/source area description

Soil, refuse, and wood waste contain hazardous substances above applicable MTCA cleanup levels including: refuse, wood waste, existing cover soils, and interim action imported dredged sediment in the upland portion of the Site; Refuse and wood debris in the aquatic portion of the Site; Manganese and ammonia in Site ground water; Methane and possibly VOCs in soil gas; and Metals (cadmium, lead, copper, silver, zinc), PCBs, cPAHs, and BEP in sediment.

Soil comments

Presently, the only significant features on the Site consist of a stormwater detention basin constructed in 2005 at the south end of the Site, and the interim placement areas (IPAs) located in the western portion of the Site that store stabilized sediment from the interim action conducted in 2011 and 2012. The Site is largely unpaved, with the exception of a section of asphalt road and discontinuous areas of unmaintained pavement in the northeastern portion of the Site.

Groundwater comments

Ecology has determined that groundwater beneath the Cornwall Landfill Site and other waterfront cleanup sites in Bellingham Bay is non-potable; therefore, use of groundwater as drinking water was not considered in the development of cleanup levels.



Surface water comments

Several threatened species of fish may occasionally be present in marine areas near the Site.

Sediment comments

The Site RI/FS identified the following constituents of potential concern in sediment: Refuse and wood waste in upland “soil” and in aquatic portions of the Site; Dioxins/furans, metals, PCBs, carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (cPAHs), bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (BEP), and butylbenzylphthalate (BBP).

Indoor air comments

Since there are no buildings on site, the indoor air ranking must be D4.

Additional factors comments

PCBs, PAHs, and metals exceed cleanup levels in sediment, soil, groundwater, and/or surface water. The site is on Bellingham Bay and subject to sea level rise.

Site history

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Historically, the majority of the Site consisted of tide flats and subtidal areas of Bellingham Bay. From about 1888 to 1946, the Site was used for sawmill operations, including log storage and wood debris disposal. Between about 1946 and 1965, the Port held the lease on the state-owned portion, and subleased a portion of the Site to the City from 1953 to 1962. During that time period, the City used the Site for the disposal of refuse. In 1962, the City entered into a lease with another Port tenant (American Fabricators) and continued landfill operations at the Site until 1965. From 1971 to 1985, the Site was leased to Georgia Pacific West (GP) by the Port, including sublease of the state-owned portion of the Site. In 1985, GP purchased a portion of the Site from the Port referred to in previous documents as the “fee-owned portion” of the Site. In January 2005, the Port repurchased the fee-owned property from GP, in conjunction with other waterfront property owned by GP, and in December 2005, the City purchased an ownership interest in the fee-owned portion of the Site from the Port. In 2012, the City acquired the remaining fee-owned portions of the Site from the Port.

Upon closure in 1965, the landfill was covered with a soil layer of variable thickness, and the shoreline was protected by various phases of informal slope armoring consisting of a variety of rock boulders and broken concrete. Significant shoreline erosion has occurred following closure of the landfill, which resulted in exposure of landfill refuse at the surface and redistribution of landfill refuse onto the adjacent beach area. The toe of the refuse fill slope extends out into Bellingham Bay to some distance beyond the shoreline.

Note: Copied to new SHARP Tool version by Meredith Bee



Overflow - Site contamination and cleanup history

No overflow

Cornwall Ave Landfill

220 Cornwall Ave Landfill 20240516

First SHARP

SHARP rating — Critical

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Conceptual site model

05/16/2024



Assessment scores by environmental medium

