

I & J Waterway



SHARP Report — Part 1 of 2

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• SHARP first SHARP		v2024.04.29	Ecology Info	
• SHARP rating	High		ERTS	none
• SHARP date	05/16/2024		CSID	2012
• EJFlagged?	⊘ - No Override		FSID	3145643
• LD confidence level	low		VCP	none
• Cleanup milestone	cleanup action plan		UST ID	none
• SHARPster	Julia Schwarz and 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	D4	high	risk to off-site people ⊘
Surface water	A1	high	climate change impacts ✓
Sediment	A1	high	plant/animal tissue data ✓
Soil	B1	low	

Location and land use info	
No address on file, Bellingham, Whatcom County, 98225	
Primary parcel	no parcel associated
Land use	industrial
Responsible unit	NWRO

Sources reviewed
2023, Fact Sheet, Ecology
2019, Cleanup Action Plan, Ecology
2015, RI/FS, Anchor QEA



Primary census tract	Associated census tracts
53073000502	SHARP it

Local demographics comments

The census tract identifies 0 of 10 EJScreen demographics indicators greater than the 80th percentile for Washington. The WA Tracking Network score is 3. The EJFlag criterion is not met.

Source/source area description

The Site consists of lands located within and adjacent to the I&J Waterway in Bellingham, Washington. Metals and other contaminants have been detected within the Site at concentrations that exceed cleanup standards defined under MTCA and SMS regulations.

Soil comments

The site consists of two sediment cleanup units and no upland soil units. Soil sampling has been requested as part of a pre-remedial design investigation.

Groundwater comments

The entire site consists of two sediment cleanup units and no upland soil units. Testing and modeling indicate that groundwater is not a source of contamination to the site.

Surface water comments

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

Sediment comments

Contaminants in the site surface sediments include nickel, PAHs, bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate, dimethyl phthalate, N-nitrosophenylamine, dibenzofuran, benzoic acid, benzyl alcohol, mercury, and PCBs.

Indoor air comments

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

Additional factors comments

Contaminants in the site surface sediments include nickel, PAHs, bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate, dimethyl phthalate, N-nitrosophenylamine, dibenzofuran, benzoic acid, benzyl alcohol, mercury, and PCBs. The site is on Bellingham Bay and subject to sea level rise.

Site history

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The Whatcom Falls Mill Company owned and operated a lumber mill in the vicinity of the Site between the early 1900s and 1940. In 1944, these properties were acquired by the Port and leased to tenants, including Bayshore Lumber, which operated a lumber mill (1947 to 1962) and H&H Products, which managed the same lumber mill (1963 to 1972) at the head of the Waterway. The Olivine Corporation operated a rock crushing plant for the mineral olivine on upland property adjacent to the Site between 1963 and 1992. Fugitive dusts and wastewaters from that plant were released to the I&J Waterway at times during plant operation. North Pacific Frozen Products managed a food processing plant between 1946 and 1959 on upland property adjacent to the Site. Bornstein Seafoods has operated a seafood processing plant from 1959 to the present in this same location. Bornstein Seafoods provided diesel fuel to boats at its dock between 1960 and the early 1980s. A fire destroyed the main Bornstein Seafoods building in July 1985. Fire suppression efforts lasted for two days, during which time fire control water was discharged directly to the Site.

Based on exceedances of SMS criteria, contaminants in the Site surface sediments include nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and localized areas near the Bornstein Seafoods dock with bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate, dimethyl phthalate, N-nitrosophenylamine, dibenzofuran, benzoic acid, and benzyl alcohol. Mercury and total polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in surface sediment were detected at levels exceeding natural background in several samples near the Bornstein Seafoods dock. Contaminants above SMS criteria in subsurface sediments include mercury, bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate, and 2,4-methylphenol, and localized areas along the southern edge and the head of the I&J Waterway with benzoic acid, dibenzofuran, dimethyl phthalate, phenol, and PAHs. Total PCBs were present in several subsurface sediment samples above natural background. Dioxin/furans are also present above background levels in surface and subsurface sediment at the Site and throughout much of Bellingham Bay.

Note: Copied to new version of SHARP tool by Meredith Bee

Overflow - Site contamination and cleanup history

No overflow

I & J Waterway

2012 I & J Waterway 20240516

First SHARP

SHARP rating — High

SHARP Report — Part 2 of 2

Conceptual site model

05/16/2024



Assessment scores by environmental medium

