



Weyerhaeuser Mill A Site Response to Comments

Today's Date: June 21, 2024

Cleanup Site ID: 2146
Facility ID: 1884322
Address: 3500 Terminal Ave, Everett
County: Snohomish
More information: [Weyerhaeuser Mill A Site webpage](#)¹
Public Comment Period: April 8 to May 7, 2024

Documents for review and comment

- Draft Agreed Order 22405 with Exhibit B Interim Action Plan for the Former Weyerhaeuser Mill A.

Background

The Weyerhaeuser Mill A site was primarily a sawmill and pulp mill from the 1890s till it ceased operations in 1980. The Port of Everett purchased the property in 1983 and currently uses the site for container and cargo handling. Past environmental investigations at the site documented industrial mill wastes including heavy metals, wood waste, and other chemicals in soil, groundwater, and marine sediments that were released by historical industrial operations.

The contamination at the Weyerhaeuser Mill A site needs to be addressed under the state's cleanup law, the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA, see Figure 1).

The Agreed Order requires the Port of Everett to perform an interim action (partial cleanup) at the site. The interim action consists of reconfiguring and upgrading the existing stormwater collection and treatment system to allow for more water flow and additional treatment technology.

Comment period and next steps

During the comment period, April 8 to May 7, 2024, we received two comments. We considered the comments, which did not require us to make any changes to the Agreed Order or the interim action workplan. So, we finalized the documents. The comments and our responses are shown below.

As outlined in the interim action workplan, the Port of Everett will begin to reconfigure and upgrade the stormwater system during summer 2024.

You can follow the progress of cleanup at the [Weyerhaeuser Mill A webpage](#).¹

¹ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/2146>

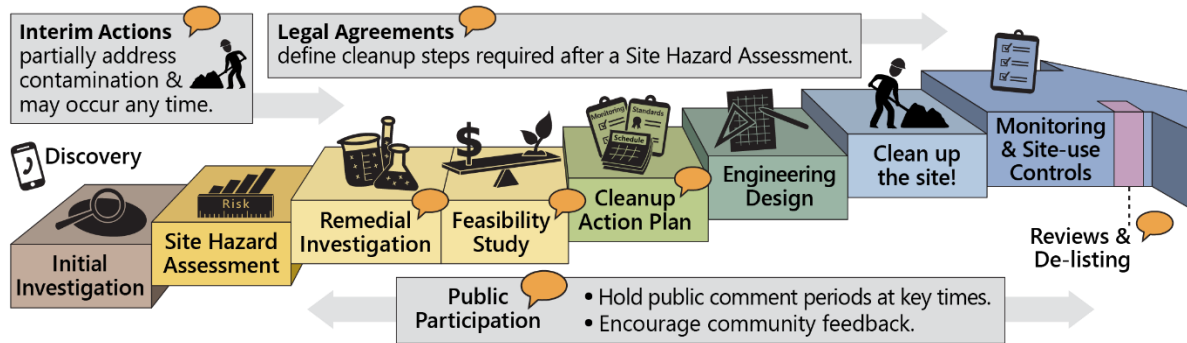


Figure 1. The Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) is Washington’s cleanup law. There are several steps in the MTCA cleanup process. The comment bubbles indicate major milestones in the process when there is an opportunity for public comment.

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Comment from Chris Lowell

Why is it necessary to reroute the storm water if the cleanup site is offshore of the port? And why would the rerouted storm water need to be "treated"? Where is the current storm water outfall located, and where is the treatment area to which the storm water is proposed to flow? This project is arguably a waste of resources in light of the fact that this area has been in current state for such a long time — no information was given on this website explaining why the sediment, soil, etc. should be disturbed, thus stirring up the so-called toxins.

Response from Ecology

Thank you for your comment and questions about the project.

The Weyerhaeuser Mill A site has both an upland area and an in-water area (see Figure 2). Stormwater is rain and snow that falls on a variety of surfaces (asphalt, vehicles, buildings, and open ground) and can pick up trace amounts of contamination. The Stormwater Interim Action improves the stormwater system in the upland area. Stormwater is often treated prior to release to surface water. The stormwater treatment at the site will help to remove contamination that may be present in the stormwater. Both the upland and in-water areas will be cleaned up as the project progresses. Improving the stormwater treatment system reduces the amount of contamination that might move from the upland into the in-water area.

The project will plug outfall 003 and stormwater will be rerouted for treatment in the bioswales before being discharged to the in-water area at outfall 001 (see Figure 2).

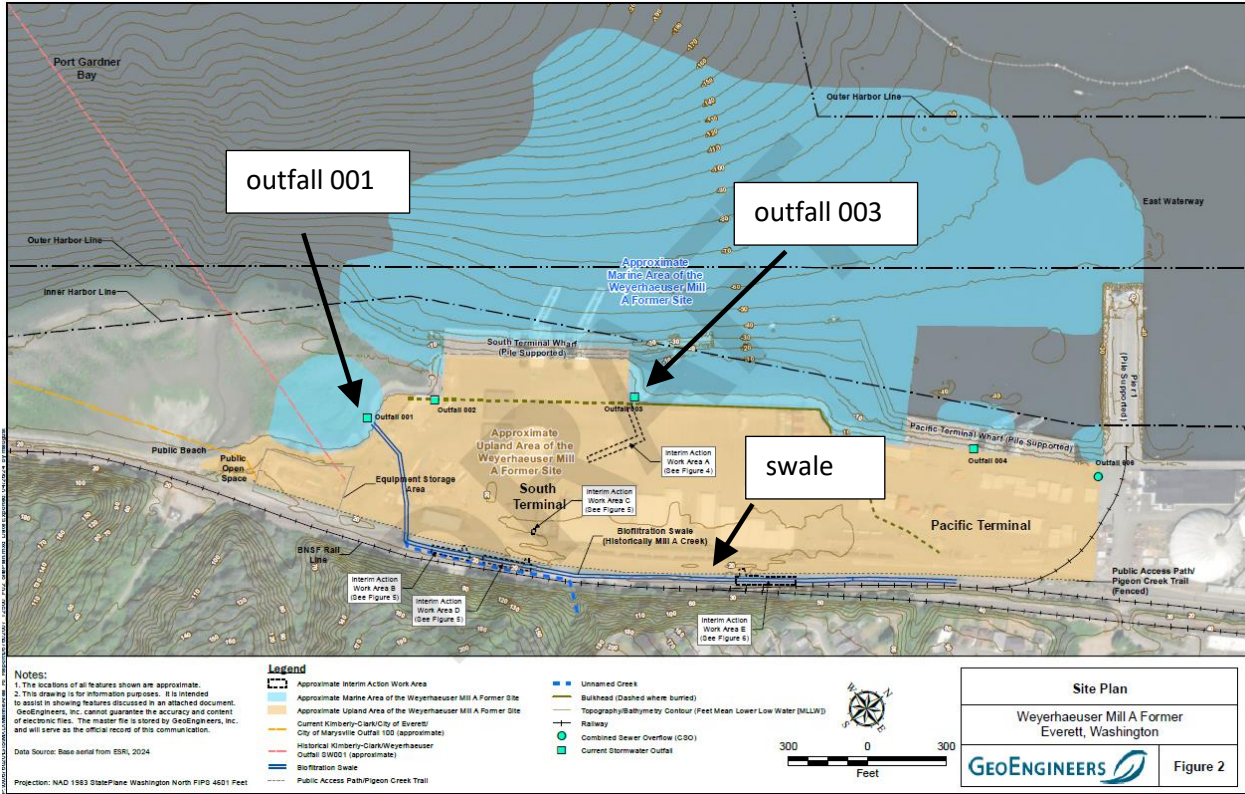


Figure 2. Mill A site. The upland area is shown in brown and the in-water area is shown in blue. Outfall locations are the small blue squares. Bioswales will be installed in the area shown by double blue lines. Figure courtesy of GeoEngineers 2024.

Comment from Cory Goulet

Hi Ryan, I am responding to your request for comments regarding the Toxic Clean Up Site - Weyerhaeuser Mill A at the Port of Everett.

We live above the site that will be worked. Curious on who all received the flyer, as I have spoken with a few people around the neighborhood about it, and only one person out of 6 recalls getting a flyer.

Can you please tell us what the actual cleanup entails?

What is the cleaning schedule and hours of operations?

We have a few safety considerations:

Air quality-dust

Sound-Noise levels controlled.

Hazardous chemical, now being disturbed?

How will air and noise pollution be controlled?

Will the cleanup be in parallel to port activities or will the cargo unloading tasks be halted during the cleanup?

Was this pollution cleanup one of the reasons the Port wanted to take over control of the property zoning above the port. Meaning the property owners have no input on this activity.

How will land and water - wildlife be protected during this work.

Who do we contact if there are any issues?

Most of us in the Port Gardner neighborhood above the Port, don't trust the Port, which is why I was asking who all received the flyer. We have tried to work with them regarding noise levels, hrs of operations - and the latest, they tried to move our properties under what is called an Industrial Zone, like anyone wants that on their deed. There goes the value of your home.

Will anyone discuss the plan for this at the Port Gardner neighborhood meeting? Held Mondays, once a month.

What about all the pylons in the water at the port, those old toxic pylons - are they part of this program?

Lots of questions, appreciate the opportunity to ask these questions.

Thank you!

Response from Ecology

Thank you for your comments and questions. We listed your questions and concerns individually in **bold** followed by our response.

Curious on who all received the flyer

We mailed the flyer to residences and businesses located within 0.25 miles of the site. Ads were posted in the Snohomish County Tribune, Everett Daily Herald, and on HeraldNet.com to inform people of the comment period.

Can you please tell us what the actual cleanup entails? What is the cleaning schedule and hours of operations?

This cleanup involves excavation of soil in areas where the existing stormwater system will be removed and where new stormwater infrastructure will be placed. Excavations will be backfilled with clean material.

This project involves decommissioning stormwater outfall 003 and rerouting stormwater that previously discharged from that outfall (Figure 2). The stormwater is being rerouted to bioswales for treatment and will be discharged at a newly constructed outfall (outfall 001). The work is planned to occur between July and November 2024. The Port of Everett will need to follow the [City of Everett Municipal Code](#)² for their hours of operation. The code allows for work at construction sites between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. on weekdays and between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. on weekends and holidays.

Air quality-dust?

The Port will use engineering controls to minimize air quality and dust concerns. This will be done by covering areas not being actively excavated and wetting material as necessary to keep down the dust.

Sound-Noise levels controlled.

² <https://everett.municipal.codes/EMC/20.08.100>

There will be some noise due to construction equipment. Work will be performed during hours allowed by the City of Everett Municipal Code. If noise concerns arise, the Port maintains a Noise Compliant Hotline (425-388-0269) that is monitored 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

Hazardous chemical, now being disturbed?

The Port will be testing all excavated material and disposing of contaminated soil at a certified land fill. The excavated soil will be replaced with clean fill material. Water collected from dewatering activities will be stored, tested, and treated as necessary before discharge to the City of Everett’s sanitary sewer or taken offsite for disposal at a certified disposal facility.

How will air and noise pollution be controlled?

Please see the above responses on about how Air quality-dust and Sound-Noise Levels will be controlled.

Will the cleanup be in parallel to port activities or will the cargo unloading tasks be halted during the cleanup?

The cleanup will occur at the same time the port handles cargo.

Was this pollution cleanup one of the reasons the Port wanted to take over control of the property zoning above the port. Meaning the property owners have no input on this activity.

Thank you for this question and for being involved in this comment period. Ecology is not involved in changing zoning. The clean up is entirely on Port owned property and is not related to zoning of neighboring properties.

How will land and water - wildlife be protected during this work.

No in-water work will be conducted during this interim action. During construction, all the stormwater will be collected and either treated and released into the sanitary sewer or sent offsite for treatment/disposal. This means that contaminated water will not enter Port Gardner Bay.

The work will be on the upland part of the site and this area is not good habitat for wildlife. The stockpile of excavated material will be lined and covered to protect any wildlife that stops by the site and prevents them from interacting with contaminated soil.

In the long-term, the project will enhance wildlife habitat because stormwater will be controlled and treated before it is discharged to Port Gardner Bay. This will enhance the bay’s habitat by cleaning it up.

Who do we contact if there are any issues?

If you have noise complaints you can contact the Port’s Noise Compliant Hotline (425-388-0269) that is monitored 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

If you have other concerns related to the interim action or future site cleanup, you can contact our site manager Ryan Hardwick at Ryan.Hardwick@ecy.wa.gov .

Will anyone discuss the plan for this at the Port Gardner neighborhood meeting? Held Mondays, once a month.

Thank you for your invitation. We will take this offer under consideration.

What about all the pylons in the water at the port, those old toxic pylons - are they part of this program?

The pilings will not be addressed as part of this project. The focus of this project is to enhance the stormwater treatment system and to reroute stormwater. The Port has a separate pile replacement program, along its docks, and typically removes a dozen or so old creosote piling each year and replaces them with steel piling.