

COPY



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Southwest Region Office

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January 23, 2025

Kevin Smith, P.E.
Tacoma Public Utilities
3628 South 35th Street
Tacoma, WA, 98409-3192
kesmith@cityoftacoma.org

RE: Request for Natural Background Study

- **Site Name:** Riffe Lake
- **Site Address:** Kosmos Flats Area, Morton, Washington
- **Facility/ Site ID:** 61559576
- **Cleanup Site ID:** 9890

Dear Kevin Smith (Project Coordinator),

This work is being done under Agreed Order No. DE 16955 between Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the City of Tacoma, Department of Public Utilities, Light Division (d.b.a. "Tacoma Power") and in compliance with the Model Toxics Control Act, Chapter 70A.305 RCW.

Ecology requests that a natural background study be performed at the above referenced site in order to complete the Public Review Draft of the Remedial Investigation Report. As discussed in a October 1, 2024 meeting between Ecology, Tacoma Power, and Tacoma Power's consultant (Haley Aldrich), the current literature study used to eliminate copper as a containment of concern is inadequate. The natural background study shall be conducted in accordance with Washington Administrative Code 173-340-709 and other applicable regulations.

To facilitate the addition of a natural background study and its related documents, Ecology has put together a brief list of anticipated deliverables and their due dates. These deliverables and due dates are intended to supplement the Schedule of Deliverables in Exhibit C of Agreed order No. DE 16955 (Agreed Order). The following schedule is intended to occur between Tasks 8 and 9 of Exhibit C of the Agreed Order. A schedule of anticipated deliverables can be found below:

Deliverables	Due Dates
Submit a Draft Natural Background Study Work Plan	Within sixty (60) calendar days following the receipt of this letter.
Submit a Final Natural Background Study Work Plan	Within sixty (60) calendar days following the receipt and incorporation of Ecology comments on the Draft Natural Background Study Work Plan.
Start background study field work	Will be conducted as scheduled in the Final Background Study Work Plan.
Submit and update the existing Public Review Draft of the Remedial investigation Report to include the results of the natural background study	Within ninety (90) calendar days following the completion of the background study field work

If you have any questions, please call me at 360-999-9590 or email me at cpen461@ecy.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



Cam Penner-Ash, LG
Cleanup Project Manager
Southwest Region Office
Toxics Cleanup Program

cc: Kevin Smith, Tacoma Public Utilities, kesmith@cityoftacoma.org
Marian Abbett, Ecology, mabb461@ecy.wa.gov
Ecology Site File