

# Shell Oil Tank Farm Site Anacortes, Skagit County, WA

*Site Investigation Documents Ready for Public Review*

*A PUGET SOUND INITIATIVE site – Reaching the goal of a healthy, sustainable Puget Sound now and forever*



## *The Department of Ecology welcomes your comments on a proposed agreement and draft Public Participation Plan for a new cleanup site.*

Ecology is asking for your comments on a new proposed agreement to study a site on Puget Sound for cleanup. This Site, called the Shell Oil Tank Farm, is one of several located on the waterfront that will be studied for cleanup under the state's Puget Sound Initiative. It is located between 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Streets on Q Avenue, on Fidalgo Bay, in Anacortes, Skagit County, WA.

## **Site background**

The Port of Anacortes purchased the Shell Oil Tank Farm Site in 1929. The Port leased the Site to Shell Oil and various other companies to distribute gasoline, diesel, oil and other chemical products. Site features included three 25,000-gallon, two 12,500-gallon, and one 4,000-gallon above-ground storage tanks. The tanks were removed in the 1980s. The Site is currently used for public vehicle and boat trailer parking.

In 1987, petroleum hydrocarbon contamination was found on the Site and partially removed. In 2005, gasoline, diesel, and heavy oil contamination was found in soil and groundwater samples that were collected around the Site. The amount

of contamination in the soil samples was above Washington State cleanup levels.

In 2007, cadmium was found in Site soil when a part of the City of Anacortes storm drain pipe was replaced. The amount of this metal was above state cleanup levels. The amount of remaining contamination is unknown and will be further investigated.

## **Overview of the Agreed Order**

The proposed agreement, called an Agreed Order, is a legal document between Ecology and the Site owner, the Port of Anacortes. The Agreed Order describes the studies that the Port agrees to perform on the Site.

The Agreed Order covers the following studies and documents:

- Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) work plan. It will explain the work needed to look for and analyze contamination in soil and water.
- RI/FS report. It will present the results of the study and propose alternatives for cleanup actions.
- Draft Cleanup Action Plan (DCAP). It will use RI/FS information to identify a preferred cleanup action and a schedule to remediate the contamination.

The purpose of the Agreed Order is to protect human health and the

**Ecology requests your comments from April 30 through May 30, 2008**

*Send comments to:*  
**Panjini Balaraju, Site Mgr.**  
**WA Department of Ecology**  
**Toxics Cleanup Program**  
**P.O. Box 47600**  
**Olympia, WA 98504-7600**  
**(360) 407-6161**  
**E-mail: [pbal461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:pbal461@ecy.wa.gov)**

*To review documents:*  
**Anacortes Public Library**  
**1220 10<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Anacortes, WA 98221**  
**Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 11am-8pm,**  
**Fri. 11am-5pm, Sat.-Sun. 12-5pm**

**WA Department of Ecology**  
**Headquarters**  
**300 Desmond Drive SE**  
**Lacey, WA 98503**  
**By appointment only:**  
**Contact Carol Dorn,**  
**[cesg461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:cesg461@ecy.wa.gov) or**  
**(360) 407-7224**

**Ecology web site:**  
[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/shell\\_anacortes/shell\\_anacortes\\_hp.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/shell_anacortes/shell_anacortes_hp.htm)

Facility Site # 4781157

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environment. It ensures that cleanup happens in a timely manner and according to Washington State's cleanup law, the Model Toxics Control Act.

## Overview of the draft Public Participation Plan

Ecology and the Port are committed to providing the public with timely information and meaningful opportunities to participate in the cleanup process. As part of this commitment, Ecology and the Port agree to provide a public participation plan. This plan outlines how citizens and interested parties can learn about and provide input on the cleanup.

Your comments and ideas are needed to improve the cleanup. The public participation plan explains how Ecology will do the following:

- Notify the public when and where documents are available for review and comment;
- Notify the public about how they can become involved;
- Provide public participation opportunities; and
- Consider public comments in cleanup decisions.

## Protecting and restoring Puget Sound at the Shell Oil Tank Farm Site

Governor Chris Gregoire and the Washington State Legislature approved the Puget Sound Initiative.

One of the objectives of the Initiative is to protect and restore Puget Sound, cleaning up 50-60 sites within one-half mile of the Sound. One of these is the Shell Oil Tank Farm. These cleanup actions will help to reduce pollution and restore habitat and shorelines in Puget Sound.

### Other sites and activities on Fidalgo Bay in Anacortes:

- Cap Sante Marine Site: A boat yard and marina support area, located just north of the Shell Oil Tank Farm.
- Dakota Creek Site: Used for vessel moorage, bulk fuel and oil storage, and shipbuilding activities, located at 155 Q Avenue (northernmost end).
- Custom Plywood Mill Site: A former mill and wood-box factory, located near 35<sup>th</sup> Street and V Avenue in Anacortes.

## How to submit your comments

Ecology welcomes your comments on the proposed Agreed Order and draft Public Participation Plan from April 30 through May 30, 2008. For your review, these documents can be found on the Ecology web site and at the locations listed on the first page of this fact sheet.

Please direct all technical questions to Ecology Site Manager, Panjini

Balaraju. Contact information can be found on the first page of this fact sheet. All other questions may be directed to Ecology Public Involvement Specialist, Sandra Caldwell at [saca461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:saca461@ecy.wa.gov) or (360) 407-7209.

Please send your comments by May 30, 2008, to Ecology's Site Manager, Panjini Balaraju. Comments may be sent by mail or e-mail. Please include "Shell Oil Tank Farm" in the subject line.

## What's next?

Once the public comment period ends, Ecology will review and consider all comments that have been received. The Agreed Order and draft public participation plan may be modified based upon your comments.

Additional public comment periods will be noticed and conducted as future documents on the Site are developed.

**For information about other Ecology public comment periods, meetings, hearings, workshops, and open houses, please visit Ecology's public events calendar at:**

**<http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/pubcalendar/calendar.asp>. Read *Frequently Asked Questions about Effective Public Commenting* at this link to learn more about the public comment process.**

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Anacortes, Skagit County, WA**

*Ecology Seeks Public Comment  
on Draft Documents*

Public Comment Period  
April 30 – May 30, 2008



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Toxics Cleanup Program  
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