

Hardel Mutual Plywood Cleanup: Public Comment Period and Open House

We are accepting comments from
Thursday May 1st at 8:00 AM to
Monday June 2nd at 11:59 PM.

Submit your comment:

Online (preferred):

Scan the QR code or go to

go.ecology.wa.gov/comment3704

By mail or email:

Steve Teel

Toxics Cleanup Program

PO Box 47775

Olympia, WA 98504-7775

steve.teel@ecy.wa.gov



Read the Documents

go.ecology.wa.gov/3704

Scroll down to
"Documents" and open the
drop-down menu.



Olympia Timberland Library

313 8th Ave SE

Olympia, WA 98501

Ecology Lacey office *appointment only*

300 Desmond Drive SE

Lacey, WA 98503

PublicDisclosureSWRO@ecy.wa.gov

360-407-6365

Site Information

1210 West Bay Drive NW, Olympia

Facility Site ID: 75128579

Cleanup Site ID: 3704

You're invited to an open house!

Come meet our staff, look at posters about the site, and ask any questions you may have about cleanup.

When? 3:00-5:30 PM on Monday, May 12, 2025

Where? Olympia Timberland Library meeting room.

The library address is 313 8th Ave SE in Olympia.

Who? All are welcome, including kids!

Summary

This cleanup site in Olympia has been used for wood milling since the late 1800s. Hardel Mutual Plywood (Hardel) operated at this site from 1951 to 1996. Wood milling released hazardous substances into the environment.

Hardel signed a legal agreement with Ecology in 2007 and cleaned up the site in 2010. In 2012, Ecology listed the cleanup as complete.

West Bay Development Group (West Bay) bought the property from Hardel in 2021. West Bay discovered areas of contamination in soil and groundwater that were not found in the earlier cleanup work.

Therefore, this site needs more cleanup to protect human health and the environment. Please note that this comment period is about cleanup, not development, of the site.

Two Documents for Your Review and Comment:

Agreed Order DE 21726 is a legal agreement between Ecology and West Bay. It requires West Bay to:

- Study the site to understand what kind of contamination is at the site, and where it is.
- Use that information to compare different options for how to clean up the site.
- Suggest a cleanup option to Ecology.

Public Participation Plan is Ecology's outreach plan. It describes how we will contact the public about this site, and opportunities for public input.

Background and Previous Cleanup

The Hardel Mutual Plywood cleanup site is near 1210 West Bay Dr NW, in Olympia. The land is currently undeveloped (**Figure 1**).

This land was used for wood milling since the late 1800s. Hardel Mutual Plywood used the site from 1951 until 1996. Hardel's operations stopped in 1996 when a large fire destroyed buildings at the site. The buildings have since been removed.

In 2004, sampling found petroleum products and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons at the site. Diesel, gasoline, and oil are types of petroleum products at the site.

In 2007, Ecology and Hardel signed a legal agreement to start the cleanup process at this site.



Figure 1. Aerial photos of the cleanup site from May 1992 (left) and July 2016 (right). The site is located off West Bay Dr NW and is on the shore of Budd Inlet. The 1992 photo shows Hardel's manufacturing facility; these buildings were destroyed in the 1996 fire. The 2016 photo shows the current undeveloped condition of the site. Photo source: [Ecology's Coastal Atlas](#)¹.

2010 cleanup work included:

- Removing concrete building foundations, saving clean concrete.
- Removing petroleum floating on groundwater.
- Removing about 23,331 tons of contaminated soil and debris. Hardel used clean soil to fill those areas.
- Pumping and treating groundwater from areas where soil was removed. Hardel discharged about 1,250,600 gallons of treated water to the sanitary sewer system.
- Covering part of the site with one foot of crushed concrete. Hardel reused clean concrete from the building foundations.

In August 2012, after a year of monitoring, Ecology listed the cleanup as complete.

¹ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/shorephotoviewer/>

New Legal Agreement Available for Public Comment

In 2021, West Bay bought the property from Hardel. West Bay sampled the property before purchasing it and discovered more contamination, including:

- Metals
- Total petroleum hydrocarbons (gasoline, oil, diesel)
- Volatile organic compounds
- Semi-volatile organic compounds

Because of this new information, Ecology is requiring more cleanup at this site and negotiated a new legal agreement with West Bay (Agreed Order DE 21726).

Requirements of the new legal agreement

- Conduct a **supplemental remedial investigation**. This study will build on previous sampling work to find out what contaminants remain in soil, groundwater, and marine sediment.
- Analyze and compare different options for how to clean up the site in a **feasibility study**. After that, West Bay will suggest an option to clean up the site up in a **preliminary draft Cleanup Action Plan**.

After the comment period, Ecology will:

- Respond to all comments received in the comment period. We may change documents based on public input. Ecology will then sign the Agreed Order.
- Hold public comment periods as the site continues moving forward in the cleanup process. To be notified about future comment periods, please contact carolyn.subramaniam@ecy.wa.gov.

Public Input During Washington's Cleanup Process

The Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) is Washington's environmental cleanup law. MTCA funds and directs the investigation, cleanup, and prevention of sites that are contaminated by hazardous substances. It works to protect people's health and the environment, and to preserve natural resources for the future.

MTCA requires 30-day public comment periods throughout the cleanup process (Figure 2). **Currently, we are accepting comments on a legal agreement and a public participation plan.**

Next, we will accept public input on the supplemental Remedial Investigation, Feasibility Study, and draft Cleanup Action Plan.

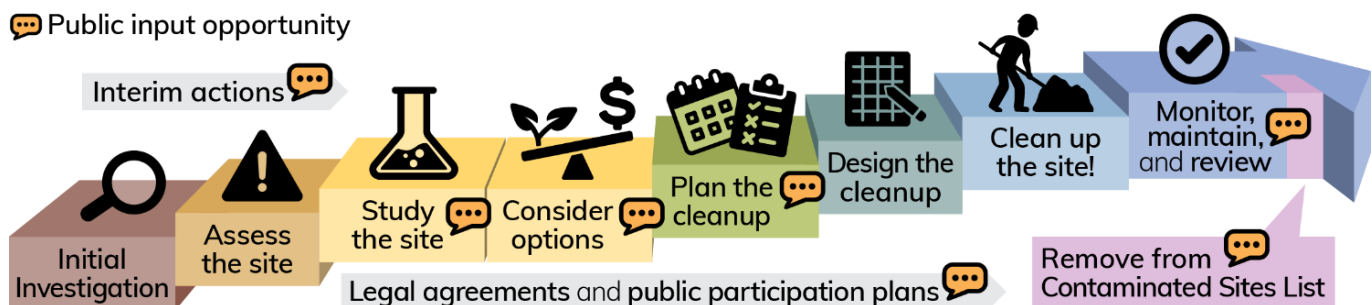


Figure 2. The Model Toxics Control Act is Washington's state cleanup law. Public input is required at several steps in the cleanup process, marked with speech bubbles on the graphic.



Toxics Cleanup Program
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Olympia, WA 98504-7775

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Open House: May 12th from 3:00 – 5:30 PM
at Olympia Timberland Library.

Questions? Please reach out to Steve Teel, cleanup
project manager, at steve.teel@ecy.wa.gov or
360-890-0059.

ADA accessibility: To request an ADA
accommodation, contact Ecology by email at
carolyn.subramaniam@ecy.wa.gov or phone at
564-250-0563.

For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.

For more information, please visit
ecology.wa.gov/Accessibility.

