

Former Alcoa Vancouver Agreed Order, SEPA Determination of Non-Significance, and Public Participation Plan



photo courtesy of Floyd Snider

Site Information

- 5701 NW Lower River Rd, Vancouver, WA
- Cleanup Site ID 2867
- Facility Site ID 21
- Recent sampling shows sediments at the site exceed cleanup levels for PCBs. The Port of Vancouver is proposing additional sampling and cleanup of sediments at the site as a interim action.
- Comment Period: 12:01 a.m., June 18, 2025 through 11:59 p.m. August 6, 2025
- Virtual Public Hearing: July 30, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. [Registration is required.](#)

We Invite you to comment

Ecology invites your review and comment on three documents relating to the site's re-entry into the cleanup process.

Agreed Order DE 23653

This is a legal agreement between Ecology and Port of Vancouver. The agreed order requires the Port of Vancouver, a potentially liable party responsible at this site, to:

- Conduct additional investigation related in-water sediment sampling.
- Use that information to plan and conduct an interim action cleanup of PCB-impacted sediment.
- Report all findings to Ecology.

State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Determination of Non-Significance

This document is Ecology's review and determination that the Interim Action is not likely to harm the environment.

Public Participation Plan

This is Ecology's plan for public outreach. It has information on how we will reach out to the public about this cleanup project, and how the public can share input with us.

Virtual Public Hearing

Ecology will hold a virtual public meeting with presentation and formal hearing on the proposed actions July 30, 2025, at 6:00 pm on ZOOM. Please [register for this meeting](#) Registration is required. If you need help with registration or would like to request interpretation in a language other than

English, contact Tara Roberts at
tara.roberts@ecy.wa.gov or 360-280-4325.

Review Documents:

- [Alcoa Vancouver's Ecology website](#)
- In person at:
 - Vancouver Community Library
901 C Street
Vancouver, WA 98660
 - Ecology Headquarters Building
300 Desmond Dr SE
Lacey, WA 98503

Where to comment:

Comments must be submitted or postmarked by
11:59 pm on August 6, 2025.

- [Online](#)
- By mail to:
 - Dave Johnson
 - Industrial Section
 - Department of Ecology
 - PO Box 47600
 - Olympia, WA 98504-7600
- Virtual Public Hearing. [Please Register](#).

Background

The Alcoa Vancouver/Port of Vancouver cleanup site in Vancouver (Clark County) was historically owned and operated by Alcoa, Inc. (Alcoa) as a primary aluminum smelter facility starting in 1940. Alcoa operated the aluminum smelter at the site

until 1986. Since 1987 the site changed ownership several times until the smelter shutdown in 2000. In 2009 the Port of Vancouver (Port) acquired the site and is the current owner. Former smelter operations released hazardous substances into the environment including but not limited to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in Columbia River sediment. Alcoa previously implemented a cleanup action to address contamination at the site; however recent sampling indicates that PCB-contaminated sediments (above cleanup levels) remain at the site.

Why it matters

The Port of Vancouver is proposing an Interim Action that removes PCB-impacted sediments and thereby reduce the unacceptable risk PCB-impacted sediments posed to human health and the environment at the site. Cleaning up PCB-impacted sediments at the site is crucial because it helps to:

- Reduce human exposure through the food chain, especially through fish and shellfish consumption.
- Minimize the risk of long-term health problems, associated with PCB contaminated media exposure, including cancer, neurological impacts, and endocrine and immune system disorders.
- Protect aquatic ecosystems and wildlife.
- Restore contaminated sites to enhance the community social, economic, and environmental health and vitality.

What happens next

When the comment period ends, we will review all comments received and make a final decision on these documents.

ADA Accessibility

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-280-4325 or email at tara.roberts@ecy.wa.gov, or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.