



Public Participation Plan Alcoa Vancouver

**5701 NW Lower River Road, Vancouver, Clark County
Facility Site ID: 21, Cleanup Site ID: 2867**

Industrial Section

Washington Department of Ecology
Olympia, Washington

Publication **##-##-###**, June 2025

Publication Information

This document is available on the Department of Ecology's [Alcoa Vancouver cleanup site page](#).¹

Related Information

- Cleanup site ID: 2867
- Facility site ID: 21

Contact Information

[Industrial Section](#)²

Department of Ecology-Industrial Section
PO BOX 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
Phone: 360-407-6900

Tara Roberts, Public Involvement Coordinator
360-280-4325, tara.roberts@ecy.wa.gov

Dave Johnson, Site Manager
360-338-2638, dave.johnson@ecy.wa.gov

ADA Accessibility

The Department of Ecology is committed to providing people with disabilities access to information and services by meeting or exceeding the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Washington State Policy #188.

To request an ADA accommodation, contact the Ecology ADA Coordinator by phone at 360-407-6831 or email at ecyadacoordinator@ecy.wa.gov. For Washington Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341. Visit [Ecology's website](#)³ for more information.

Language Access

The Department of Ecology offers free translation and interpretation services. If you need help in your preferred language, please call Tara Roberts at 360-280-4325 and request an interpreter, or email tara.roberts@ecy.wa.gov.

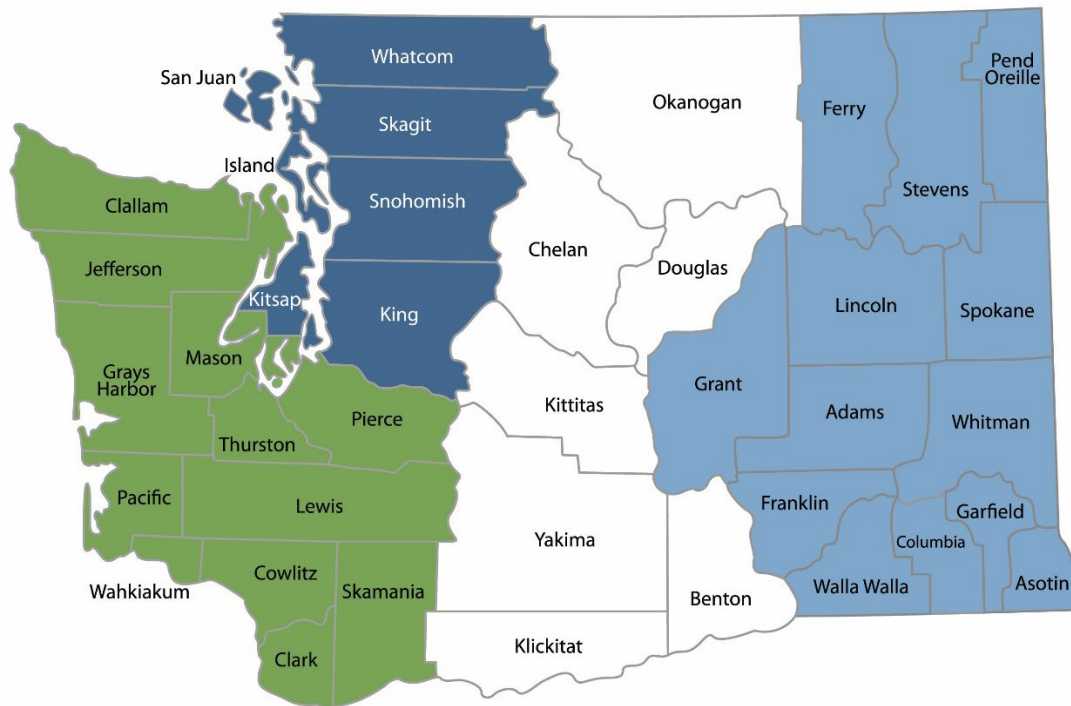
¹ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/2867>

² <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/permits-certifications/industrial-facilities-permits>

³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/ADA>

Department of Ecology's Region Offices

Map of Counties Served



Southwest Region
360-407-6300

Northwest Region
206-594-0000

Central Region
509-575-2490

Eastern Region
509-329-3400

Region	Counties served	Mailing Address	Phone
Southwest	Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, Wahkiakum	PO Box 47775 Olympia, WA 98504	360-407-6300
Northwest	Island, King, Kitsap, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom	PO Box 330316 Shoreline, WA 98133	206-594-0000
Central	Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan, Yakima	1250 W Alder St Union Gap, WA 98903	509-575-2490
Eastern	Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman	4601 N Monroe Spokane, WA 99205	509-329-3400
Headquarters	Across Washington	PO Box 47600 Olympia, WA 98504	360-407-6000

Public Participation Plan

Alcoa Vancouver
5701 NW Lower River Road, Vancouver, Clark County

Industrial Section
Washington State Department of Ecology
HQ Region Office
Olympia, Washington

June 2025



Table of Contents

Public Involvement in Contamination Cleanup	1
Site contacts.....	1
Public Participation Activities	2
How we share information with the community.....	2
How you can share information with us.....	4
Public Participation Grants	5
Site Information.....	5
Historical use.....	5
How the site became contaminated.....	5
Contamination	6
Cleanup plans.....	7
Area community	7
Tribal engagement	7
Washington’s Cleanup Laws	8
Model Toxics Control Act.....	8
State Environmental Policy Act.....	8
Plan Amendments	9
Appendix A. Steps in the MTCA cleanup process	10
Appendix B. List of Figures	11
Figure 1. Vicinity map	11
Figure 2. Site Parcel Ownership	12
Figure 3. Approximate Area of Interim Action Dredging	13
Figure 4. Approximate Area of Interim Action Dredging	14

Public Involvement in Contamination Cleanup

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) developed this Public Participation Plan in collaboration with the Port of Vancouver, the party responsible for cleanup costs. The goal of this plan is to ensure meaningful community involvement throughout the cleanup of the Alcoa Vancouver (site).

This plan outlines how Ecology will keep the public informed about contamination investigations and cleanup options at each stage of the process. Please review Appendix A for more information about the cleanup process. The plan also details when and how the community can participate in the cleanup process. We encourage the public to engage with the decision-making opportunities and provide input.

Site contacts

To be included in the site record, comments about the cleanup process must be submitted during comment periods. Questions and informal comments or information about the site's history are welcome anytime.

Ecology

Industrial Section
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504

Dave Johnson
Site Manager
dave.johnson@ecy.wa.gov
360-338-2638

Tara Roberts
Public Involvement Coordinator
tara.roberts@ecy.wa.gov
360-280-4325

Port of Vancouver

Port of Vancouver
3103 NW Lower River Road
Vancouver, WA 98660

Mary Mattix
Director of Environmental Services
mmattix@portvanusa.com
360-823-5316

Matt Harding
Environmental Project Manager
mharding@portvanusa.com
360-823-5317

If you are unable to reach these contacts, please visit the [Alcoa Vancouver cleanup site page](#)⁴ for up-to-date contact information.

⁴ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/2867>

Public Participation Activities

Members of the public may ask questions, submit informal comments, or share site information at any time. Interested parties do not need to wait for a formal public comment period to contact Ecology.

However, to be included in the formal site record, comments about the site investigation, cleanup alternatives, or cleanups must be submitted during formal comment periods. In addition, the public is invited to review site documents before they become final. This is the most direct and influential way to learn more about the site and be involved in the cleanup's decision-making.

How we share information with the community

During specific stages of the cleanup, Ecology will mail notices about public comment periods to addresses surrounding the site. The mailing list area will vary depending on the type of contamination and where it's located. However, the list will at least include addresses within a 1/4-mile radius of the site and other interested organizations and individuals. These notices will provide general information about the site, contact information for submitting comments, and times and locations of public meetings or hearings, or how to request one if not yet scheduled.

Comment period notices will be available online and at document repositories (for example at the library closest to the site). Notices may also be posted in various locations throughout the community (for example, local businesses, schools, or post offices).

Ecology may also develop documents outside of comment periods to keep the community updated on the site's status. These informational documents will be available online and print copies may be mailed to the nearby community if we feel the message warrants the associated cost and resources.

Postal mailing list

Ecology maintains a mailing list that includes addresses within a 1-mile radius of the site and relevant local, state, and federal government contacts.

People on the mailing list receive public comment notices when draft documents are available.

We will add additional individuals, organizations, and other interested parties to the mailing list as requested. If you would like to be added to the mailing list for this site, please contact Tara Roberts at 360-280-4325 or tara.roberts@ecy.wa.gov.

Contaminated Site Register

Public comment periods, events, and other cleanup notices are published in Ecology's [Contaminated Site Register](#).⁵ To receive the *Contaminated Site Register* by email, please [subscribe online](#),⁶ or contact Sarah Kellington at sarah.kellington@ecy.wa.gov or 360-280-3167.

Newspaper display ads or legal notices

We announce public comment periods and events for this site in ads or notices published in *The Columbian* newspaper. We will also publish notice on our [Public Input & Events Listing](#).⁷

Ecology's website and social media platforms

We maintain a website for the [Alcoa Vancouver cleanup site](#).⁸ The website provides site information, and you may download cleanup documents.

We may also share information about cleanup sites through [news releases, our blog, and social media](#).⁹

Automatic site updates

You can subscribe to this site from our [Alcoa Vancouver](#) webpage. You'll receive a weekly email if we change the site's status, add documents to the site's webpage, or open a comment period.

Places to see print documents

During public comment periods, you can find print documents at the following locations:

Vancouver Community Library
901 C Street
Vancouver, WA 98660
360-906-5000

Washington Department of Ecology
Headquarters Building
Industrial Section
300 Desmond Dr. SE
Olympia, WA 98504

To schedule an appointment, please contact Tara Roberts at 360-280-4325 or tara.roberts@ecy.wa.gov.

Signs around the cleanup site

We may also install signs displaying information about project status, traffic impacts, and health risks around the cleanup site.

⁵ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Site-Register-lists-and-data>

⁶ <https://ecology.wa.gov/site-register>

⁷ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Events/Search/Listing>

⁸ [Alcoa Vancouver - \(2867\)](#)

⁹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Get-to-know-us/News>

How you can share information with us

We hold public comment periods and sometimes public events to learn your thoughts, opinions, and concerns about cleanup at a site. We may also identify public concerns and cleanup goals by meeting with and soliciting information from interested community members and organizations. To collaborate with us about this site, please contact Tara Roberts at 360-280-4325 or tara.roberts@ecy.wa.gov.

Public comment periods

At a minimum, the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) (see page 8 for more information) requires 30-day comment periods to allow interested members of the public to comment on draft documents, legal agreements, and proposed cleanup actions. If there is significant interest, Ecology may extend the public comment period.

When Ecology oversees State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) determinations (see page 9 for more information), we hold comment periods for at least two weeks and may extend to 30 days or more when other cleanup documents are concurrently available for review.

Following a comment period, we publish all the input we received and respond to significant comments and questions, as appropriate. If the comments result in significant changes to the cleanup documents, then the documents will be revised and re-issued for public review. If the comments do not result in significant changes, the documents will become final.

Public events

We hold public meetings, workshops, open houses, and hearings based on community interest. At meetings, workshops, and open houses, attendees can ask questions, learn more about the site, and submit written comments when a comment period is open. At a public hearing, verbal comments are transcribed for the record, and Ecology responds to them after the comment period in our response to comments.

Events are held at locations close to the site that meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards. Public events are always announced in advance using a variety of methods.

Ecology will hold a virtual public meeting with presentation and formal hearing on the proposed actions July 30, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. on ZOOM. Please register for this meeting at <https://waecy-wa-gov.zoom.us/meeting/register/Q7z8Ps-SSfeL8cEybcEruw>. 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 360-280-4325 or tara.roberts@ecy.wa.gov.

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.

Public Participation Grants

Grants may be available to neighborhood committees, non-profits, and other groups interested in the site. For contaminated sites, these funds can be used to:

- Hire an expert to help interpret technical information
- Conduct activities that enhance the public's understanding of, and participation in, the cleanup process

For more information about public participation grants, please contact Laura Busby at 360-280-5088 or laura.busby@ecy.wa.gov and Wendy Kovach at 564-250-2909 or wendy.kovach@ecy.wa.gov. You may also visit the [Public Participation Grant webpage](#).¹⁰

Site Information

Historical use

The Alcoa Vancouver site is located at 5701 NW Lower River Road in Clark County approximately three miles northwest of downtown Vancouver, Washington (Figure 1). The 208-acre property is zoned industrial and located along the northern shore of the Columbia River at river mile 103.3 (Figure 2). The site was historically owned and operated by Alcoa, Inc. (Alcoa) as a primary aluminum smelter facility starting in 1940. From 1940 to 1970, Alcoa added several fabrication operations to the smelter facility. By 1970, the facility contained an aluminum smelter and a series of fabrication plants to form the aluminum metal into finished goods such as wire, rod, and extruded channel. The aluminum smelter facility included potlines, an aluminum casting facility, green mill, carbon bakes, docks, raw materials handling systems, laboratory, and miscellaneous support facilities. Alcoa operated the smelter facility with limited interruptions, from approximately 1940 until 1986. Alcoa in 1986 started investigating, remediating, and selling individual parcels and operations associated with the site. Since 1987 the site has changed ownership several times until manufacturing operations were terminated in 2000. In 2009 the Port of Vancouver (Port) acquired the site and is the current owner.

How the site became contaminated

The primary aluminum smelter facility operations and various manufacturing processes lead to widespread contamination being found at the site (Figure 1 and Figure 2). Ongoing smelter and manufacturing facility operations at the site led to improperly managed waste materials being released into the environment. Former smelter operations released hazardous substances into the environment including but not limited to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in Columbia River sediment (Figure 3 and Figure 4).

¹⁰ <https://ecology.wa.gov/PPG>

In 1997, the Clark County Public Utilities (CPU) constructed a 12-inch-diameter submerged outfall pipeline to carry non-contact cooling water for discharge into the Columbia River. Sediment samples collected in the sediment surrounding the outfall exceeded site-specific cleanup levels (CULs) for PCBs at the time. Additional sediment sampling identified another hot spot of PCBs near the CPU outfall located on the south bank area along the shoreline. Elevated PCBs are present in site sediment due to a historical localized release of PCBs on the south bank area along the shoreline. Further tests determined during construction of the CPU outfall additional contaminated soils were disturbed and released from the bank which has contributed to elevated PCBs in sediment at the site (IAWP, AP Exhibit B).

Several cleanups were completed by Alcoa on its 97 upland acres of the original 208-acre smelter property. In 2008, Ecology issued an Enforcement Order to Alcoa (Ecology Order No. DE 5660) for a series of upland and shoreline remedial actions. In 2009, Alcoa signed Consent Decree No. 09-2-00247-2 with Ecology, which required Alcoa to implement a 2008 Cleanup Action Plan (CAP) to address contamination identified in a September 2008 Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) as part of a cleanup action for the site. Additional remedial actions were performed by Glencore Washington LLC (now known as Evergreen) in their 111 acres of uplands under Enforcement Order 4931. Between October 2008 and April 2009, a sediment cleanup was performed by Alcoa that involved dredging of PCB contaminated sediment along the shoreline and placement of enhanced natural recovery (ENR) sand.

In 2015, Ecology conducted the first Periodic Review and concluded, based on the availability of data at the time, that prior cleanup actions completed at the site appear to be protective of human health and environment based on site-specific cleanup standards established at that time. Since the prior Periodic Review, the Port and Alcoa have collected additional in-water sediment samples showing elevated PCBs in site sediment are above established site-specific cleanup levels and remedial action levels within the footprint of prior cleanup action.

Ecology has determined that PCB levels in sediment remain above site-specific cleanup standards and remediation levels as established in the 2008 CAP. Based on these circumstances, Ecology determined that an interim action is warranted under WAC 173-340-430.

Contamination

Ecology has determined that an Interim Action is warranted under WAC 173-340-430 to address elevated PCBs in site sediment. The Port plans to conduct a phased Interim Action consisting of dredging of PCB- and PAH-contaminated sediment.

This proposed interim action is being conducted to address historic releases from the prior usage of the site as an aluminum smelter. Site sediments are contaminated with:

- Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)
- Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)

Cleanup plans

A substantial amount of cleanup work has already occurred on this site to date. The current AO and its associated exhibits including the Interim Action Work Plan are open for public comment.

Area community

The Alcoa Vancouver site is located at 5701 NW Lower River Road in Clark County approximately three miles northwest of downtown Vancouver, Washington (Figure 1). The 208-acre property is zoned industrial and located along the northern shore of the Columbia River at river mile 103.3 (Figure 2). The current land uses in the general vicinity of the site are mixed use industrial and agricultural.

A vicinity map is shown in Figure 1. Though much of the area to the north and west of the site consists of farmland, there are a couple of parks within 5 miles of the site, including but not limited to Frenchman's Bar Regional Park and hiking trail area along with Vancouver Lake Regional Park. To the east, is the city of Vancouver where warehouses with a few interspersed houses are located nearest the site. Though a bit further out, the nearby residential neighborhoods are 70 percent white and 20 percent Hispanic with Asian, Black, American Indian, and Pacific Islanders making up the remaining 10 percent of the population. The communities closest to the facility consist mostly of persons living below the Federal Poverty Level in both single-family homes and multi-family housing.

Ecology will reach out to cultural community organizations as part of our outreach and provide information in other languages according to federal guidance.¹¹ The non-English language(s) most widely spoken in the Southwest Vancouver is Spanish. When appropriate, Ecology will provide outreach in Spanish. To request information in another language, call Tara Roberts at 360-280-4325, and wait on the line while we connect an interpreter.

We strive to make our public participation efforts as inclusive as possible and welcome your input about how to best reach the nearby community.

Tribal engagement

The Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Cowlitz Indian Tribe, and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and potentially other Tribes not identified herein rely on resources that could be affected by the contamination. The identified Tribes have treaty fishing, hunting, and gathering rights in the area. The cleanup process may also uncover cultural resources.

We will reach out to Tribes to offer opportunities to engage in the cleanup process that are separate from the public involvement process. This engagement is described in a site-specific

¹¹ <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2004/06/25/04-14464/guidance-to-environmental-protection-agency-financial-assistance-recipients-regarding-title-vi>

Tribal Engagement Plan, as required by [WAC 173-340-620](#).¹² We invite Tribal members and other indigenous peoples to engage in the public involvement process as well.

Washington's Cleanup Laws

Ecology uses the [Model Toxics Control Act \(MTCA\)](#)¹³ and accompanying regulations for cleanup activities. Passed in 1989, MTCA provides guidelines for contaminated site cleanup in Washington state. This law sets standards to ensure the cleanup protects people and the environment. MTCA requires the creation of this plan.

Model Toxics Control Act

MTCA began in 1988 as a citizen-led effort to clean up contaminated sites in Washington state. The law holds property owners or operators responsible for cleaning up contamination on, or coming from, their property.

Ecology carries out MTCA, making sure cleanups happen according to state rules and regulations. These rules are found in [Chapter 173-340 Washington Administrative Code \(WAC\)](#).¹⁴ Ecology investigates reports of contamination, and the property is placed on the [Contaminated Sites List](#)¹⁵ if the pollution is determined to pose a serious risk to human health or the environment. This starts the cleanup process at the site.

The cleanup process under MTCA includes several steps (Appendix A). Public involvement is a key part of MTCA's [cleanup process](#).¹⁶ Nearby residents, businesses, community groups, and other interested parties can review and comment on documents related to steps that make crucial decisions or plans about the cleanup.

State Environmental Policy Act

MTCA cleanups also require evaluation under the [State Environmental Policy Act \(SEPA\)](#).¹⁷ Under SEPA, the potential for significant adverse environmental impacts from a project or action must be evaluated by state and local agencies when making decisions. This evaluation is subject to public review and comment in parallel with cleanup documents.

¹² <https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=173-340-620>

¹³ <https://www.ecology.wa.gov/mtca>

¹⁴ <https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=173-340>

¹⁵ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/reports/cleanup/contaminated>

¹⁶ <http://www.ecology.wa.gov/MTCA-process>

¹⁷ <https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=197-11>

Plan Amendments

Ecology developed this plan following MTCA regulations (WAC 173-340-600). We review it as the cleanup progresses and amend it as necessary. You may suggest amendments to Dave Johnson at dave.johnson@ecy.wa.gov and 360-338-2638.

We intend for this plan to provide the public with information on opportunities for public involvement and comment. The outreach activities discussed reflect Ecology's current plans to keep the public informed. It also provides ways for those interested in the site to communicate their concerns and questions to us.

If you feel the planned outreach activities and mechanisms found in this plan are insufficient or would like to modify them in some way, please contact us. We will work to find solutions. We can implement new activities or outreach tools right away, with or without amending this plan.

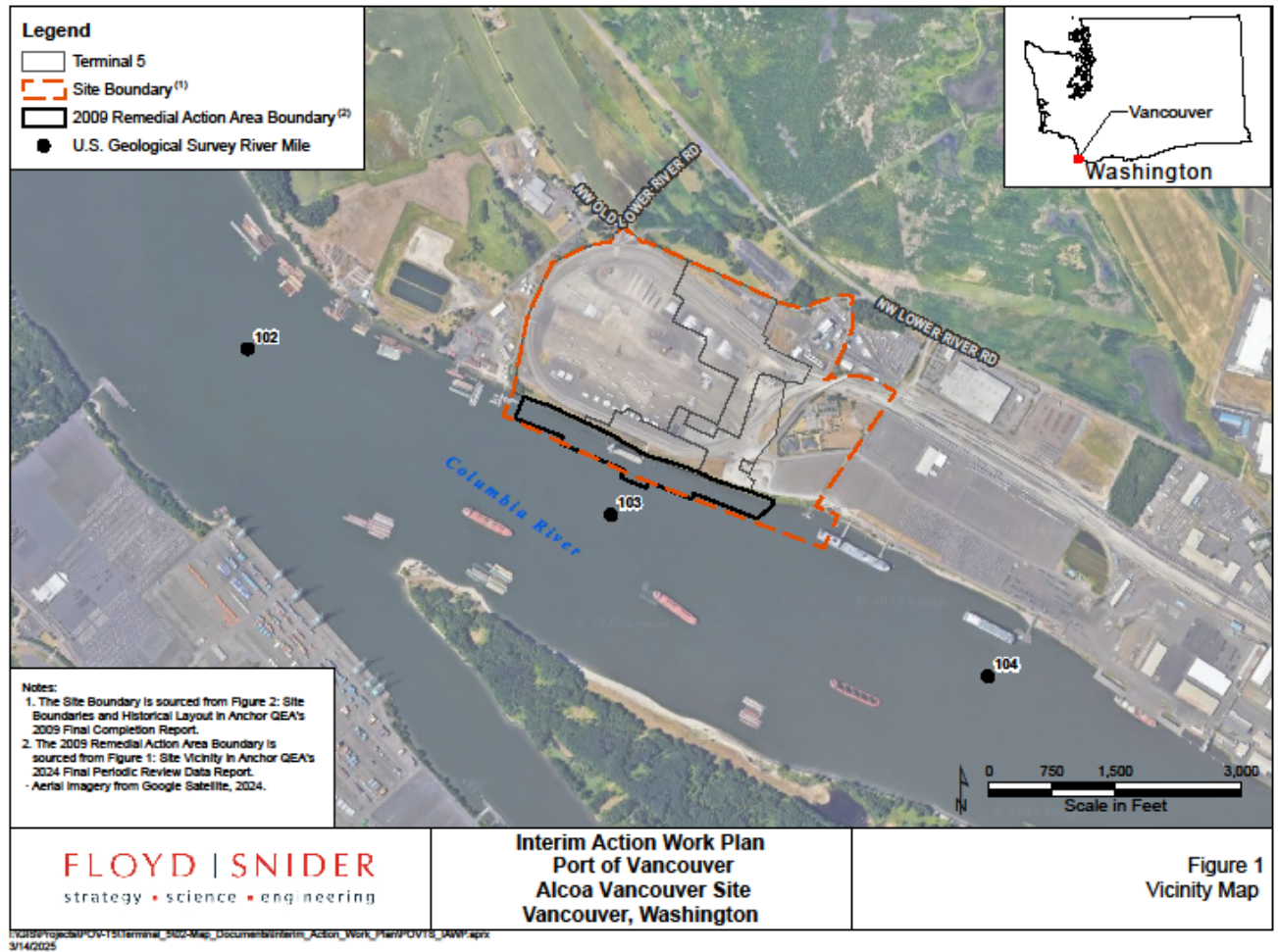
Appendix A. Steps in the MTCA cleanup process

The cleanup process is defined in the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA), Washington's cleanup law.



Appendix B. List of Figures

Figure 1. Vicinity map



Page 12 | Publication ##-##-###



Figure 3. Approximate Area of Interim Action Dredging

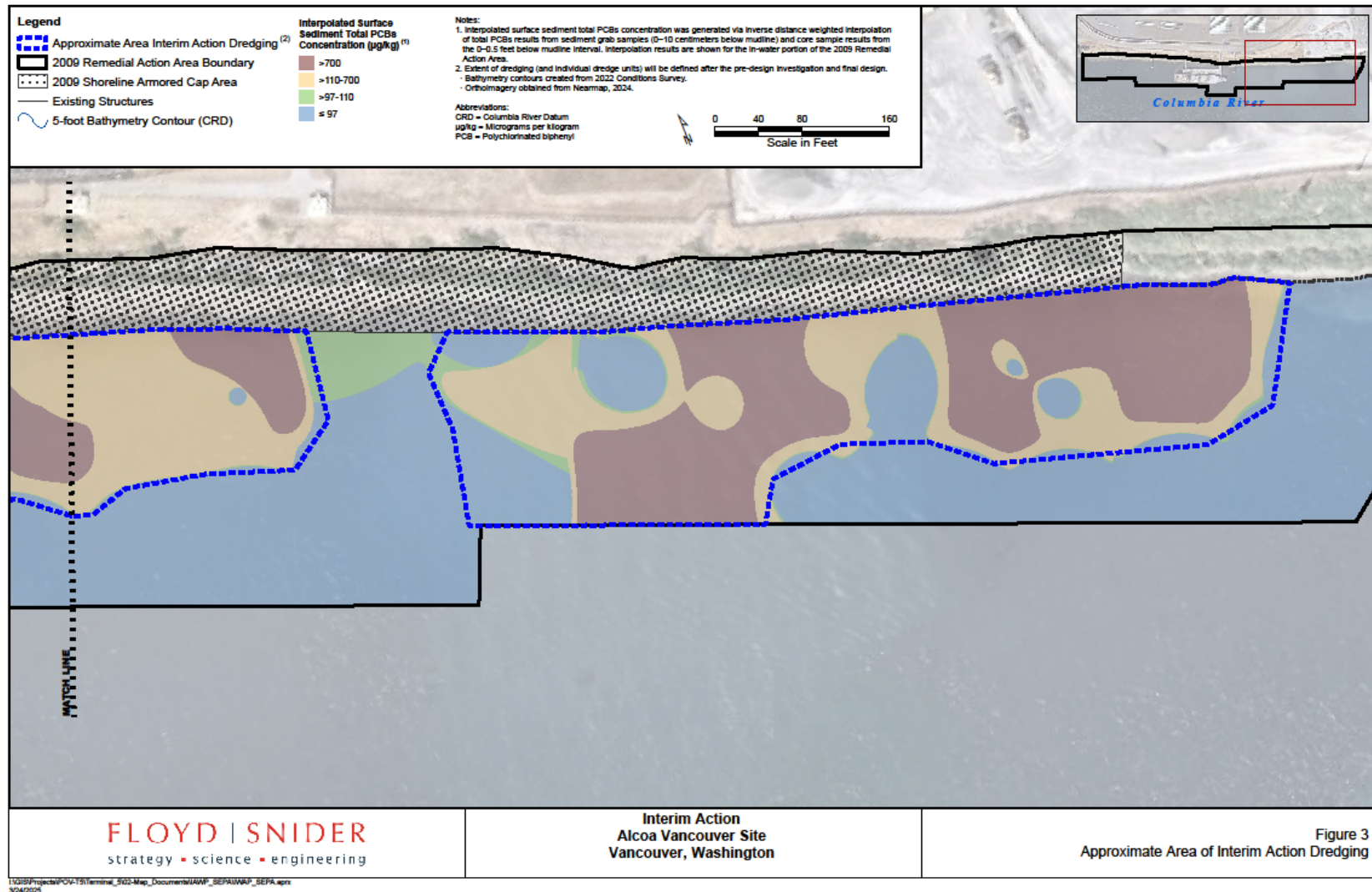


Figure 4. Approximate Area of Interim Action Dredging

