

Shell Oil Tank Farm Response to Comments

Today's Date: July 22, 2025

Cleanup Site ID: 4846
Facility ID: 4781157
Address: 14th Street and Q Avenue, Anacortes
County: Skagit
More information: [Shell Oil Tank Farm webpage¹](#)
Public Comment Period: June 1 to July 1, 2025

Documents for review and comment

- Draft Periodic Review

Background

The Tank Farm area was originally a portion of the Fidalgo Bay tide flats and filled between 1925 and 1929. The property was acquired by the Port in 1929 and leased to Shell Oil Company in 1930 for use as a bulk fuel storage and distribution facility that primarily handled gasoline and diesel-range fuels. The Site operated as a bulk fuel storage facility under Shell and various bulk product distributors until 1987 when all tanks, piping, and structures on-site were removed.

In November 2014, 4,300 cubic yards of contaminated soil was excavated and taken off-site to a permitted facility.

Comment period and next steps

During the comment period, June 1 to July 1, 2025, we received one comment. We considered the comment and made minor grammatical changes to the document to help clarify conclusions after the comment period.

The comment submitted and our response is listed below.

Prepared by

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¹ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/4846>

Comment from Scott Morris

"In my role as Water Quality Coordinator for the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe, I would like to ask a question about the Shell Oil Tank Farm Draft 5-year periodic review. The Site History includes this statement: "Groundwater contamination continues to remain below cleanup standards. Based on the 2023 groundwater monitoring results, we suggest that groundwater monitoring be discontinued at this location." This seems incongruous. If the site is still not meeting the state water quality standard, groundwater is still contaminated, why would Ecology recommend discontinuing groundwater monitoring? Has Ecology given up on remediating this site? If so, why? I was not able to find much explanation for this suggestion. Thanks for your consideration, and I would appreciate some follow up -- I can be reached at smorris@sauk-suiattle.com."

Response from Ecology

Thank you for your comment and concerns about the site. What is meant by "groundwater contamination continues to remain below cleanup standards" is that groundwater continues to not exceed contamination thresholds. In other words, groundwater concentrations continue to meet cleanup standards and remain protective of human health and the environment. As such, Ecology recommends discontinuing groundwater monitoring. Ecology has rephased the sentence in the report to help improve clarity.