
Central Waterfront Site Bellingham



Cleanup Documents Available for Public Review

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology), the Port of Bellingham (Port), and the City of Bellingham (City) have negotiated a draft legal agreement (called an *agreed order*) to perform an environmental study (called a *remedial investigation/feasibility study*) at the Central Waterfront site in Bellingham, Washington. The agreed order outlines the work to be performed and ensures the site investigation and cleanup activities are conducted in a timely fashion in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. In addition to negotiating a draft agreed order with the Port and City, Ecology has developed a draft *public participation plan* outlining opportunities throughout the process for the public to provide input.

Comments Encouraged!

The draft agreed order and draft public participation plan are currently available for public comment. Your comments on these proposed documents are welcome through **June 18, 2006**. The box at the right contains information on where to view the documents and how to submit written comments. Ecology will respond in writing to all comments received and may make changes to the documents as a result of them. If these changes are significant, the revised agreed order will once again be made available for public review.

Site Background

The Central Waterfront site (Site) is approximately 55 acres in size and is located on Bellingham's downtown waterfront, between the Whatcom Waterway, the I&J Waterway, Roeder Avenue, and the Aerated Stabilization Basin (see map on page 3). The Site is currently owned primarily by the Port and the City, and has historically been used to support a variety of industrial activities including a municipal and wood waste landfill, boat yards, foundry activity, bulk petroleum storage, and pulp and paper mill product storage.

Previous environmental investigations of the Site indicate the presence of hazardous substances in groundwater, surface water, soil and/or sediments above state cleanup standards. As a result, the Site is subject to the investigation and cleanup requirements of the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) administered by Ecology. The primary contaminants of

May 2006

**Public Comment Period:
5/18/06-6/18/06**

**Technical questions, written
comments, or to be added to
the site mailing list:**

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**Documents can be reviewed at
the following locations:**

Department of Ecology
Bellingham Field Office
1204 Railroad Avenue, Ste 200
(360) 738-6250

Bellingham Public Library
210 Central Avenue, Bellingham
(360) 676-6860

Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office
3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98008
(425) 649-7190

Ecology's Website:
[http://www.ecv.wa.gov/programs/
tcp/sites/blhm_bay/sites/bel_bay_
sites.html](http://www.ecv.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/blhm_bay/sites/bel_bay_sites.html)

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If you need this publication in an alternate format, please call the Toxics Cleanup Program at (425) 649-7000. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call (877)-833-6341.

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concern are solid waste, landfill gases, metals, and petroleum related substances.

This Site is one of several cleanup sites being addressed as part of the Bellingham Bay Demonstration Pilot; a bay-wide, multi-agency initiative integrating sediment cleanup, control of pollution sources, habitat restoration and aquatic/shoreline land use.

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study

The draft agreed order requires the Port and City to complete a remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS). This study will summarize existing environmental conditions at the Site, present and evaluate a range of cleanup alternatives, and identify a preferred cleanup approach. It will build on previous Site investigations and will provide the information necessary for Ecology to select a preferred alternative for the Site cleanup. The RI/FS will detail:

- Results of previous investigations.
- The nature and extent of contamination.

- Other important Site information relevant to Site cleanup.
- Multiple alternatives for cleanup of the Site and the evaluation of those alternatives against MTCA and Sediment Management Standard (SMS) criteria including protectiveness, effectiveness, implementability, and cost.
- Definition of a preferred alternative.

The RI/FS is scheduled to be issued for public review and comment in 2007.

How can you be Involved?

Ecology encourages you to stay informed and involved in the cleanup by getting on the Site mailing list (see box on page one for a contact), attending Ecology meetings, reading related documents as they become available, becoming familiar with the cleanup process, and providing feedback through public meetings and comment periods. You can provide valuable local input and knowledge that will be helpful as the cleanup plan is developed and implemented.

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Location Map of Central Waterfront Site



Central Waterfront Site

