



Notice of Interim Action Cleanup and Public Comment Period at Arkema Inc Cleanup Site

Address: 2901 Taylor Way, Tacoma

Cleanup Site ID: 3405

Facility Site ID: 1220

We are accepting comments from
**Thursday December 4th, 8:00 AM to
 Tuesday January 6th, 11:59 PM**

How to submit comments

Online (preferred):

Scan the QR code below or visit
go.ecology.wa.gov/comment3405

By mail or email:

Sam Meng
 Toxics Cleanup Program
 PO Box 47775
 Olympia, WA 98504-7775
Sam.Meng@ecy.wa.gov



Scan to comment

Where to review documents

Visit go.ecology.wa.gov/3405

Scroll down to “Documents”
 and open the drop-down menu.

Tacoma Public Library, Main Branch

1102 Tacoma Avenue
 Tacoma, WA 98402

Ecology Lacey office *appointment only*

300 Desmond Drive SE
 Lacey, WA 98503
PublicDisclosureSWRO@ecy.wa.gov
 360-407-6365

Public meeting

To request a public meeting, please email
Abby.Zabrodsky@ecy.wa.gov. We will hold
 a meeting if 10 or more people request it.

Cleanup Site History

The Arkema Inc site was used as a chemical manufacturing facility from 1927 to 1997. The manufacturing processes at the site caused toxic contamination. Manufacturing operations stopped in 1997, and the manufacturing facilities were dismantled and removed.

In 2007, the Port of Tacoma bought the property from Arkema. Since then, the upland portion of the site has been vacant and unused. The site is currently covered with plants, crushed rock, and leftover infrastructure features.



Figure 1: A 2016 aerial photo shows the site is currently vacant.

Documents Available for Public Comment

Ecology is now accepting comments on three documents:

Interim Action Work Plan: A plan to conduct a limited cleanup of the site that will help limit arsenic entering the Hylebos Waterway before a cleanup plan for the entire site is developed.

Agreed Order Amendment: This is an addition to the 2011 legal agreement that powers the site’s cleanup. This agreement is between Ecology and the Port of Tacoma, who is conducting the cleanup. The amendment adds the Interim Action Work Plan and its schedule to the Port’s scope of cleanup requirements.

SEPA Determination of Non-Significance: We determined the proposed cleanup is not likely to cause significant environmental harm. We considered environmental, historical, and cultural factors in this process.

Interim Action Plan Overview

Contaminated groundwater at the site is moving into the Hylebos Waterway. The proposed interim action is needed to protect human health and the environment. This interim action is not designed to clean up the site. Rather, it proposes a way to contain the contamination within the site and prevent future spreading into the waterway. The Port will continue developing their cleanup plans for the entire site while this Interim Action Plan is being enacted. Once completed, the Cleanup Action Plan for the entire site will be made available for public comment before it's finalized and carried out.

Logistics

To stop the spread of arsenic groundwater contamination, the Port of Tacoma will:

- Install a **barrier wall** underground around the arsenic groundwater plume core (blue outline, figures 2 & 3).
- Install a **water-tight cap** over the barrier wall area (cross-hatched area in figure 3)
- Install a **permanent asphalt cap** over a roughly 24-acre area (green and yellow areas in figure 3).

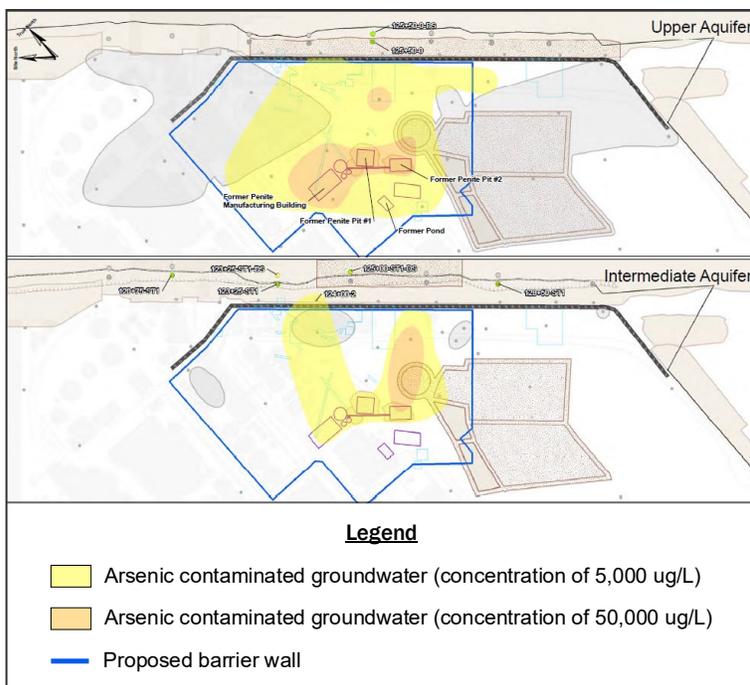


Figure 2: The site's main arsenic groundwater plume, sources of contamination, and proposed barrier wall.

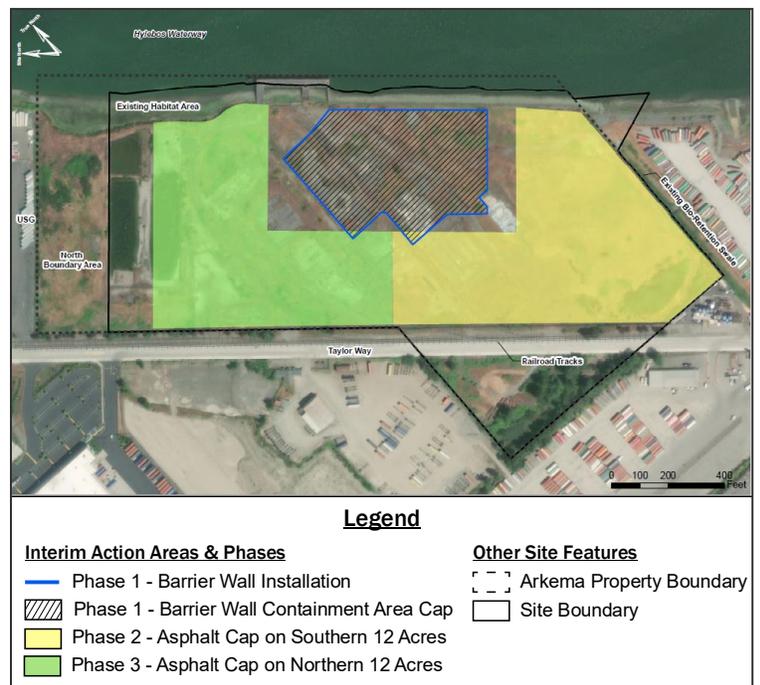


Figure 3: The planned interim action areas, phases of implementation, and other site features.

The **barrier wall** buried underground will be made from a slurry mixture of clay, Ground Granulated Blast-Furnace Slag (GGBFS), and tap water. The wall will surround the soil source area and arsenic groundwater plume. The barrier wall will be impermeable, meaning groundwater inside the walled area cannot move through it.

A **water-tight cap** will be placed over the barrier wall. This cap will keep the barrier wall protected, prevent the slurry mixture from drying out, and minimize the amount of stormwater that infiltrates the system. This cap will have a non-woven geotextile at the bottom, a polyvinyl chloride liner in the middle, and a layer of gravel on the top. The cap can be penetrated in the future if the final cleanup requires soil removal from this area.

Finally, an **asphalt surface cap** will be placed on a roughly 24-acre portion of the site. The purpose of this cap is to minimize stormwater infiltration to the rest of the site. It will also decrease the transportation of contaminants, mainly arsenic, towards the Hylebos Waterway. In addition, the asphalt surface cap will support future land-use goals for the site.

Permitting and engineering design

The Model Toxics Control Act excuses cleanup parties from the application process for some local and state permits. Ecology still requires the Port of Tacoma to follow the rules on all relevant permits, but the Port does not have to submit the paperwork to apply for the approval. This helps speed up the process, so cleanup work can start sooner. For this project, the Port of Tacoma is exempt from: City of Tacoma Site Development Permit, City of Tacoma Shoreline Substantial Development Permit (including Conditional Use Permit), City of Tacoma Right-of-Way Work Order Permit, City of Tacoma Building Permit, and Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife Hydraulic Project Approval.

The interim action work plan lays out a general schedule and requirements for the Port to follow. Additional engineering design plans are needed to determine exact technical specifics. While the engineering design of the final logistical details is not yet finished, a preliminary design has already been developed. The preliminary design can be found in the Interim Action Work Plan as appendixes (Appendix G for the barrier wall and water-tight cap, and Appendix H for the permanent asphalt cap). The engineering design will be completed after this public comment period.

Schedule

This interim action will take place over several years in a phased approach. For now, the tentative schedule is:

- **September 2024 - February 2025:** Applied for and got a Joint Aquatic Resource Permit Application (JARPA) for the stormwater outfalls.
- **July 2025 - February 2026:** Ecology and the Port of Tacoma will ensure that all the necessary permits are ready and requirements from exempted permits are included in the design.
- **December 2025:** Public comment period.
- **December 2025:** The Port of Tacoma submits a draft engineering design to Ecology. The design will include the plans for how to build the barrier wall, the water-tight cap, and asphalt cap, manage waste, monitor compliance, and manage soil and materials.
- **February 2026:** After feedback and edits, Ecology will approve the engineering design.
- **February-October 2026:** Contracting for and construction of barrier wall (Phase 1) and stormwater outfalls.
- **2027 - 2029:** Contracting for and construction of asphalt cap (Phases 2 and 3).

Cleanup Plans in Development

Cleanup planning is still underway to figure out how to deal with all the remaining contamination at the site. Right now, the site is in development for three stages of cleanup: studying the site, considering cleanup options, and planning the cleanup. The Port is still putting together reports that explain what they've found, what options they've considered, and what they plan to do. Ecology and the Port reviewed early drafts of these reports while creating this Interim Action Work Plan. This helps ensure the interim actions taken now won't interfere with future cleanup work. Another public comment period will take place once those cleanup documents are ready for review.

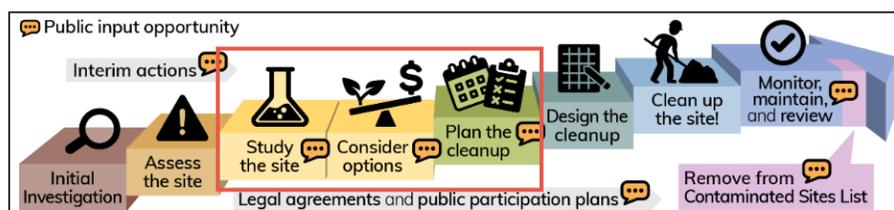


Figure 2: Steps of Washington's cleanup law, the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA). The red square shows where Arkema Inc currently is in the process for the full cleanup work.



Toxics Cleanup Program
PO Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775



Public Comment Period for the Arkema Inc Cleanup Project:

Legal Agreement Amendment, Cleanup Interim Action Plan &
State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Determination

Comments accepted:

December 4, 2025 – January 6, 2026

Submit comments online:

<https://go.ecology.wa.gov/comment3405>

Contact Ecology:

Abby Zabrodsky, Public Involvement Coordinator

Abby.Zabrodsky@ecy.wa.gov

Sam Meng, Cleanup Site Manager

Sam.Meng@ecy.wa.gov

ADA Accessibility

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 564-250-0561 or email at

Abby.Zabrodsky@ecy.wa.gov, or visit ecology.wa.gov/ADA.

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



The Arkema Inc cleanup site (outlined in yellow)