



Public Participation Plan

TransAlta Centralia

Cleanup Site ID: 17302

Facility ID: 94772166

Address: 913 Big Hanaford Road, Centralia

County: Lewis County

Toxics Cleanup Program

Southwest Region Office

Lacey, Washington

December 2025

This document is available on Ecology's [TransAlta Centralia](#) webpage.¹ Cover photo from Google Earth (2013 imagery).

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. Please note that the most up-to-date contact information will be on the [cleanup site webpage](#)².

Ecology

Southwest Region Office

300 Desmond Dr SE
Lacey, WA 98503-1274
Phone: 360-407-6300

Tom Middleton

Site Manager
thomas.middleton@ecy.wa.gov
360-999-9594

Carolyn Subramaniam

Public Involvement Coordinator
carolyn.subramaniam@ecy.wa.gov
564-250-0563

Potentially Liable Party

TransAlta

Mickey Dreher
913 Big Hanaford Rd
Centralia, WA 98531-9101
mickey_dreher@transalta.com
360-330-8230

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 Services

The Department of Ecology offers free translation and interpretation services. If you need help in your preferred language, please call Carolyn Subramaniam at 564-250-0563 and request an interpreter, or email carolyn.subramaniam@ecy.wa.gov.

¹ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/17302>

² <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/17302>

³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/ADA>

Summary

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) developed this Public Participation Plan. The goal is to ensure meaningful community involvement during cleanup of TransAlta Centralia (site). This plan outlines how Ecology will keep the public informed about contamination investigations and cleanup options at each stage of the 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.

Table of Contents

Public Participation Activities	1
How we share information with the community	1
How to share information with us	2
Public Participation Grants	3
Site Information	4
Location.....	4
How the site became contaminated.....	5
Area community.....	5
Tribal engagement	5
Washington’s Cleanup Laws	6
Model Toxics Control Act.....	6
State Environmental Policy Act.....	6
Plan Amendments	7
Appendix A. Steps in the MTCA cleanup process	9

List of Figures

Figure 1. Site map	4
---------------------------------	----------

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

Notices of public comment periods 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. Ecology will hold a public meeting if 10 or more people request it.

Ecology may also develop documents outside of comment periods to keep the community updated on the site's status.

Postal mailing list

Ecology maintains a mailing list that includes addresses within at least a quarter-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 Carolyn Subramaniam at 564-250-0563 or carolyn.subramaniam@ecy.wa.gov.

Contaminated Site Register

Public comment periods, events, and other cleanup notices are published in Ecology's [Contaminated Site Register](#).⁴ To receive the *Contaminated Site Register* by email, please [subscribe online](#),⁵ or contact Sarah Kellington at sarah.kellington@ecy.wa.gov or 360-280-3167.

Newspaper display ads or legal notices

If required by the Model Toxics Control Act, we will announce public comment periods and events for this site in ads or notices published in *The Daily Chronicle*.

⁴ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Site-Register-lists-and-data>

⁵ <https://ecology.wa.gov/site-register>

Email lists

Ecology maintains an email list to update interested persons about this site. To be added to the email list, please contact carolyn.subramaniam@ecy.wa.gov.

To subscribe to automated updates from Ecology's computer system, click the blue "Subscribe to this site" button on the top right corner of the [cleanup webpage](#)⁶.

Ecology's website and social media platforms

We maintain a website for the [TransAlta Centralia cleanup site](#).⁷ The website provides site information, and you may download cleanup documents.

We will publish notice on our [Public Input & Events Listing](#).⁸ We may also share information about cleanup sites through [news releases, our blog, and social media](#).⁹

Places to see print documents

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

Centralia Timberland Library

110 S. Silver St
Centralia, WA 98531
360-736-0183

Washington Department of Ecology

Southwest Region Office
300 Desmond Dr SE
Lacey, WA 98503-1274

To schedule an appointment to view documents at Ecology's Lacey office, contact call 360-407-6365 or email PublicDisclosureSWRO@ecy.wa.gov.

How to share information with us

Ecology holds public comment periods and public events to gather input and share information with the community.

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 Tom Middleton at 360-999-9594 or thomas.middleton@ecy.wa.gov.

Public comment periods

Formal 30-day comment periods 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.

⁶ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/17302>

⁷ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/17302>

⁸ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Events/Search/Listing>

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

After a comment period ends, we publish a responsiveness summary which contains all the comments we received and our responses. 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, then the documents become final.

Public events

We hold public meetings, workshops, open houses, and public hearings based on community interest. If we have not scheduled an event, we will hold one if 10 or more people request it.

Events are held at locations close to the site that meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards. Public meetings, workshops, open houses, and hearings are always announced in advance using a variety of methods.

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 Jill Krumlauf at 360-790-5771 or jill.krumlauf@ecy.wa.gov. You may also visit the [Public Participation Grant webpage](#).¹⁰

¹⁰ <https://ecology.wa.gov/PPG>

Site Information

Location

The TransAlta Centralia site is at 913 Big Hanaford Rd, Centralia. The site is about 5 miles east of Centralia, and 3 miles south of Bucoda.

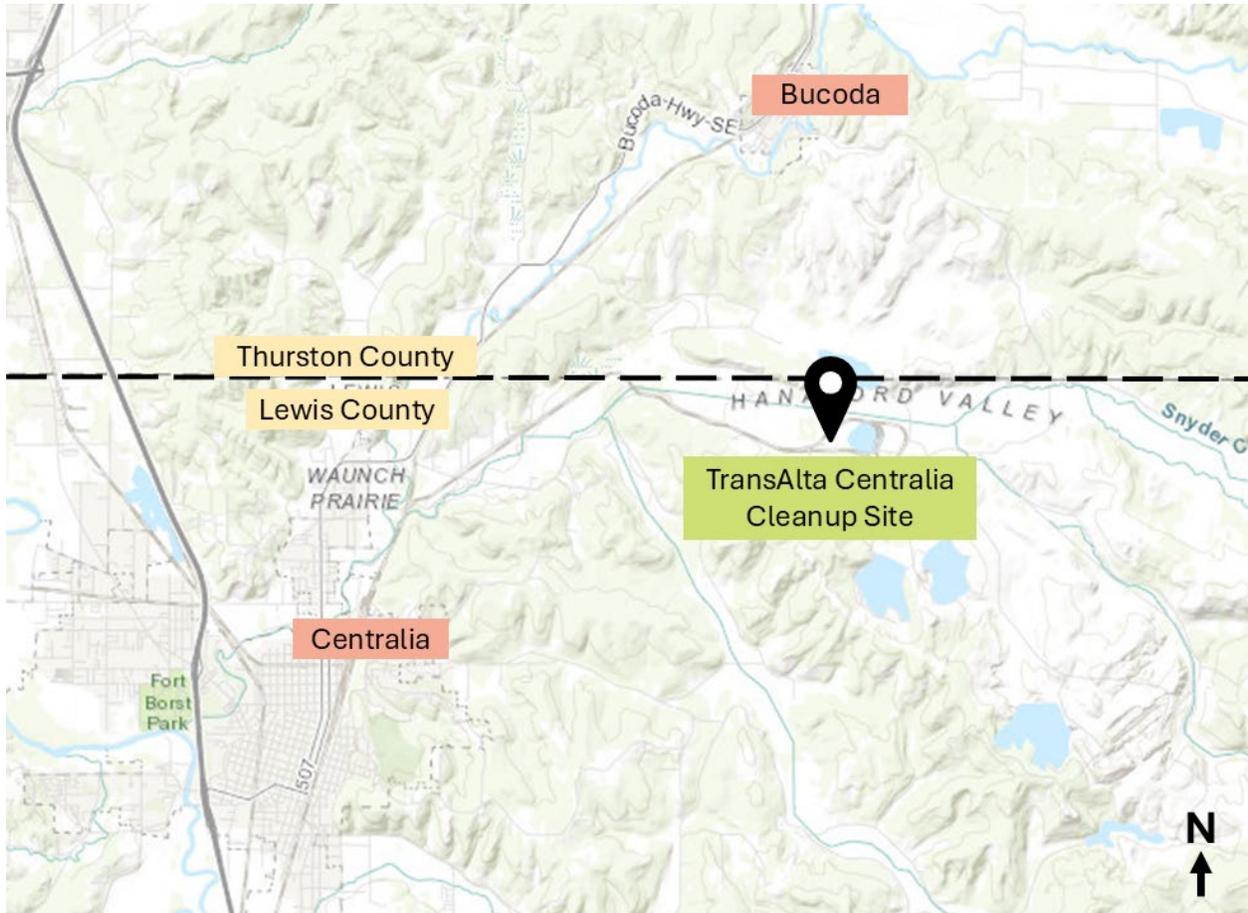


Figure 1. Location of site.

How the site became contaminated

The plant generated electricity from coal, which caused contamination in soil, groundwater, sediment, and air at the facility. Therefore, Ecology is requiring cleanup to protect human health and the environment. For current information on contamination at the site, please visit the [TransAlta Centralia cleanup site webpage](#)¹¹.

Area community

Demographic and environmental health information can change over time. Ecology will review information about the community around this cleanup site before each new comment period. This area will include at least a quarter-mile radius around the cleanup site.

Data sources may include:

- [Washington Department of Health: Health Disparities Map](#)¹²

When appropriate, Ecology will provide outreach materials in languages other than English. Ecology will reach out to cultural community organizations as part of our outreach and provide information in other languages as appropriate following federal guidance.¹³

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

To request information in a language other than English, or provide input, contact Carolyn Subramaniam at 564-250-0563 or email carolyn.subramaniam@ecy.wa.gov.

Tribal engagement

We invite Tribes to engage with us in a separate process outlined in [WAC 173-340-620](#).¹⁴ We will develop a Tribal engagement plan for this site and when it is prepared, it will be available in the “Documents” section of the site’s webpage.

There may be earth-disturbing work involved in the cleanup activity. Before any earth disturbing activity occurs, we participate in the consultation for cultural resource protection described in [WAC 173-340-815](#).¹⁵

¹¹ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/17302>

¹² <https://doh.wa.gov/EHDmap>

¹³ Guidance to Environmental Protection Agency Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons, 69 Fed. Reg. § 35602 (June 15, 2004).

¹⁴ <https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-340-620>

¹⁵ <https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-340-815>

Washington's Cleanup Laws

Ecology uses the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) and accompanying regulations for cleanup activities. This plan is required under MTCA, a law that passed in 1989. MTCA provides guidelines for contaminated site cleanup in Washington State and sets standards to ensure the cleanup protects human health and the environment.

Model Toxics Control Act

MTCA began as a grassroots citizen's initiative in 1988 and started the process of systematically cleaning up contaminated sites in Washington. Under MTCA, a current or past property owner or operator may be held responsible for cleaning up contamination on, or coming from, their property to standards that are safe for human health and the environment.

Ecology enacts MTCA and oversees cleanups in the state and issues regulations and guidance governing those cleanups. The regulations are found in [Chapter 173-340 Washington Administrative Code \(WAC\)](#).¹⁶ Ecology investigates reports of property contamination, and if the contamination is seen as a significant threat to human health or the environment, the contaminated property is placed on the [Contaminated Sites List](#),¹⁷ and the cleanup process begins.

Public participation is an important part of cleanup under the MTCA process. Participation needs are assessed at each cleanup site according to the level of public interest and the degree of risk posed by the contamination. Individuals who live near the site, community groups, businesses, government, other organizations, and interested parties can get involved by commenting on the cleanup process.

Under MTCA, [Washington's cleanup process](#)¹⁸ includes multiple steps (Appendix A), with opportunities for the public to review and comment on cleanup documents. A partial cleanup (called an interim action) can occur at any time during the cleanup process. The public is provided an opportunity to review and comment on planned interim action work as well.

State Environmental Policy Act

MTCA cleanups also require evaluation under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA; [Chapter 197-11 WAC](#)¹⁹). 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 for at least two weeks.

¹⁶ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/publications/9406.pdf>

¹⁷ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/reports/cleanup/contaminated>

¹⁸ <https://ecology.wa.gov/MTCA-process>

¹⁹ <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 Carolyn Subramaniam at 564-250-0563 or carolyn.subramaniam@ecy.wa.gov.

This plan includes information for the public regarding opportunities for public involvement and comment. The outreach activities discussed in this section reflect Ecology's current plans.

If you feel the planned outreach activities and mechanisms described in this plan are insufficient, or should otherwise be modified, we will work to find solutions. New outreach activities or outreach tools established as a result can be implemented right away, with or without amending this plan.

Department of Ecology's Region Offices

Map of Counties Served



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

Appendix A. Steps in the MTCA cleanup process

The cleanup process is defined in the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA), Washington’s cleanup law. See the attached, accessible PDF for details.

Washington's Cleanup Process



Public participation plans and comment periods are only required for cleanups under a legal agreement with Ecology. Otherwise, all cleanups follow the same steps. The steps are defined by Washington's cleanup law, the Model Toxics Control Act.

