

Public Participation Plan

**Intalco Aluminum Corp Ferndale
4050 Mountain View Rd, Ferndale, WA
98248**

Solid Waste Management Program

Washington State Department of Ecology

Industrial Section

Lacey, Washington

February 2026

Publication Information

This document is available on the Department of Ecology's [Intalco Aluminum Corp Ferndale cleanup site page](#).¹

Related Information

- Cleanup site ID: 2280
- Facility site ID: 16

Contact Information

Solid Waste Management Program

Industrial Section

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PO Box 47600
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300 Desmond Dr SE
Lacey, WA 98503

Website: [Washington State Department of Ecology](#)²

ADA Accessibility

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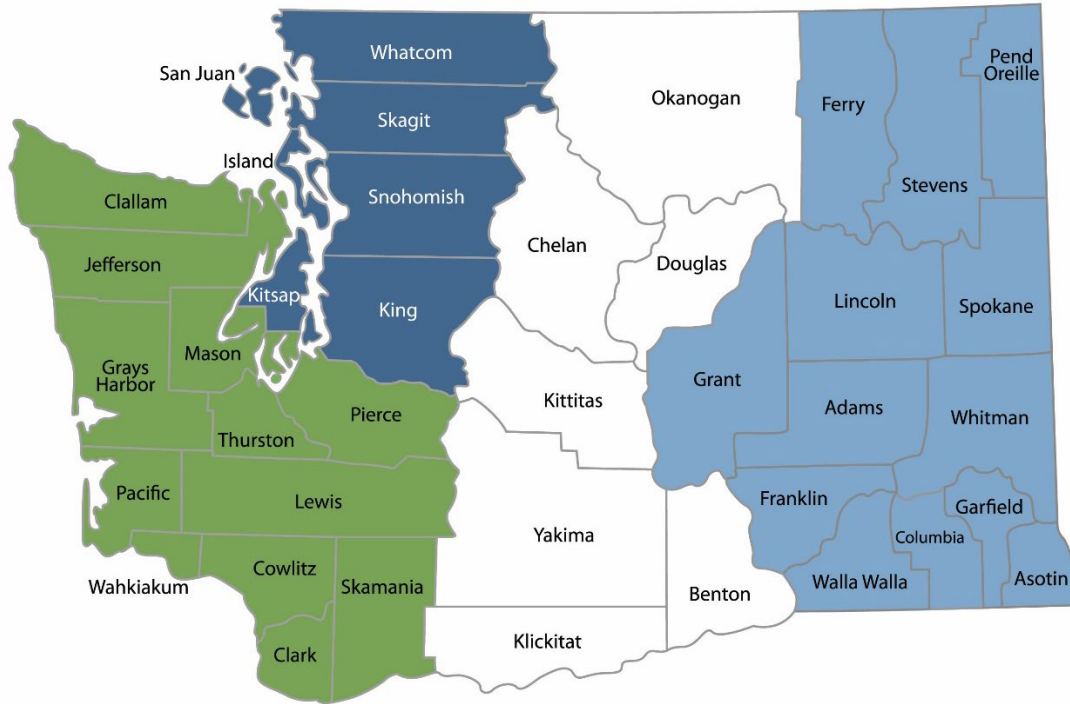
To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6831 or email at ecyadacoordinator@ecy.wa.gov. For Washington Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341. Visit Ecology's website for more information.

¹ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/2280>

² <https://ecology.wa.gov/about-us/contact-us>

Department of Ecology's Regional 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
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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 46700 Olympia, WA 98504	360-407-6000

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DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

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Public Involvement in Contamination Cleanup

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) developed this public participation plan (plan) in cooperation with Intalco Aluminum LLC (Intalco) and Altagas Ltd. (Altagas), the parties responsible for cleanup costs. The purpose of the plan is to promote meaningful community involvement during cleanup.

The plan describes ways Ecology will inform the public about contamination investigations and cleanup options throughout the cleanup process. Ecology encourages the public to learn about and get involved in decision-making opportunities. This plan identifies how and when the public can get involved during different stages of the investigation and cleanup of contamination.

This plan has been drafted in conjunction with the comment period for the draft Agreed Order No. 24369 for the Intalco Aluminum Corp Ferndale closed aluminum smelter (Site).

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

Solid Waste Management Program
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300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503
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aaron.bishop@altagas.ca
403-809-2610

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 information³, and

³ Ecology currently does not have a citizen technical advisor for providing technical assistance to citizens on issues related to the investigation and cleanup of the site.

- Conduct activities that enhance the public’s understanding of, and participation in, the cleanup process.

For more information about public participation grants, please visit the [Public Participation Grant website](#).⁴

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 \(WAC\)](#).⁵ 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 Hazardous Sites List, 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 have the opportunity to get involved by commenting on the cleanup process.

Under MTCA, the cleanup process generally includes five phases. Each phase includes an opportunity for the public to review and comment on cleanup documents.

State Environmental Policy Act

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) is followed during review and development of cleanup plans.

⁴ ecology.wa.gov/About-us/How-we-operate/Grants-loans/Find-a-grant-or-loan/Public-participation-grants

⁵ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/publications/9406.pdf>

Site Information

Land use

The Site includes:

- Primary aluminum smelter operations since 1966.
- Surrounding industrial-zoned and undeveloped areas.
- Strait of Georgia to the west of the smelter.

How the site became contaminated

Industrial practices and historical land use by the smelter owners and operators have resulted in soil and groundwater contamination at the Site.

Contamination

Previous independent investigations conducted by Intalco and Altagas have detected the following contaminants in soil or groundwater at the Site:

- Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs),
- Fluoride, and
- Chloride.

Cleanup plans

Intalco and Altagas have voluntarily investigated and performed cleanup actions at some locations at the Site. Some of the voluntary cleanup actions may have received a “No Further Action” status from Ecology. No further action letters do not constitute a settlement between parties potentially liable for cleanup and Ecology. At this point of the cleanup process, Ecology is providing a draft agreed order for public review and comment. When in place, the agreed order initiates the cleanup process under Ecology supervision. The public will have multiple opportunities to comment throughout the cleanup process, as indicated by the orange comment bubbles in Appendix A of this document.

Area community

The Site is located west of Ferndale near the Strait of Georgia. Zoning for the Site is currently designated as industrial. Areas surrounding the Site are zoned as industrial and undeveloped.

Ferndale has unemployment rates of 5 percent and 30 percent of its population is considered low income. Its population is mostly white with the next largest ethnic groups being Hispanic (11 percent) and Asian (7 percent). Nearly all households (98 percent) speak English proficiently.

Ecology will reach out to cultural community organizations as part of our outreach and provide information in other languages as appropriate following federal guidance.⁶ The non-English language(s) most widely spoken in the Ferndale area are Spanish, Russian, Arabic, and Korean. When appropriate and as needed, Ecology will be prepared to provide outreach in Spanish, Russian, Arabic, and Korean if requested. We strive to make our public participation efforts as inclusive as possible and welcome your input about how to best reach the nearby community.

Ecology has developed a Tribal Engagement Plan to work with the federally recognized tribes who own land or rely on resources near this site that could be affected by the contamination.

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, but 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.

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 at document repositories. Print copies may be mailed to the nearby community if we feel the message warrants the associated cost and resources.

Comment period notices and other site announcements may also be posted in various locations throughout the community (for example, local businesses, schools, libraries).

Postal mailing list

Ecology maintains a mailing list that includes addresses within a 1.5 mile radius of the site and relevant local, state, and federal government contacts.

⁶ 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).

These people 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.

Site Register

Public comment periods, events, and other cleanup notices are published in Ecology's [Site Register](#).⁷ To receive the *Site Register* by email, please [subscribe online](#),⁸ 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 in ads or notices published in the Ferndale Record. We will also publish notice on our [Public Input & Events Listing](#).⁹

Email lists

Ecology maintains an email list to update interested persons about this site. If you would like to be added to the email list for this site, please contact Tara Roberts at 360-280-4325 or tara.roberts@ecy.wa.gov.

Ecology's website and social media platforms

We maintain a website for the [Intalco Aluminum Corp Ferndale cleanup site](#).¹⁰ The website provides site information, and you may download cleanup documents.

We may also share information about cleanup sites through [news releases, our ECOconnect blog, and social media](#).¹¹

Places to see print documents

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

Ferndale Public Library
2125 Main Street
Ferndale, WA 98248
360-384-3647

⁷ ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Site-Register-lists-and-data

⁸ https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAECY/subscriber/new?topic_id=WAECY_118

⁹ ecology.wa.gov/Events/Search/Listing

¹⁰ https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/2280

¹¹ ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Get-to-know-us/News

Washington Department of Ecology
Industrial Section, Solid Waste Management Program
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503

To schedule an appointment at Ecology's building, 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.

How to share information with us

At minimum, MTCA requires 30-day public comment periods for draft cleanup documents and 14-day comment periods SEPA documents. SEPA documents are often made available for public review with other cleanup documents. In that case, we combine the comment periods, and they last at least 30 days. We may hold comment periods longer than 30 days.

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 Greg Gould at 360-819-6426 or greg.gould@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. When Ecology oversees SEPA determinations, 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. 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 they become final.

Public events

We hold public meetings, workshops, open houses, and public hearings based on community interest. If we have not scheduled a meeting, we will hold one if 10 people request it, and this may cause us to extend a public comment period so the meeting occurs during 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.

Americans with Disabilities Act

To request ADA accommodation for disabilities, or printed materials in a format for the visually impaired, contact the Ecology ADA Coordinator at 360-407-6831 or ecyadacoordinator@ecy.wa.gov, or visit our [ADA website](#).¹² People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

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 Tara Roberts at 360-280-4325 or tara.roberts@ecy.wa.gov.

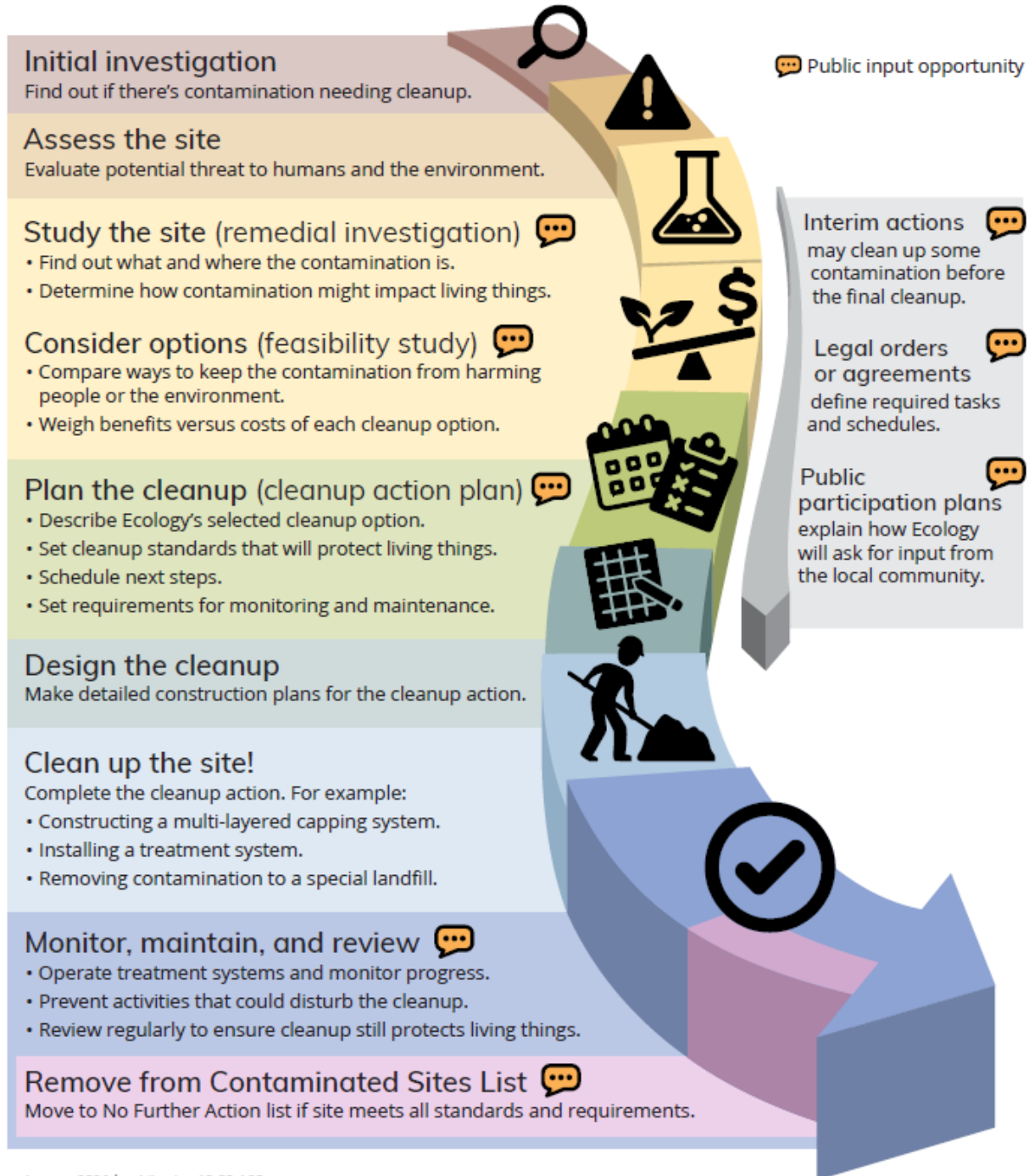
This plan includes information for the public regarding opportunities for public involvement and comment. The outreach activities discussed in this section reflect Ecology's current plans for keeping the public informed and providing ways for those interested in the site to communicate their concerns and questions to us.

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.

¹² <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Accessibility-equity/Accessibility>

Appendix

Appendix A. Washington's Cleanup Process



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