



Tribal Engagement Plan Columbia Gorge Aluminum

**85 John Day Dam Road, Goldendale, Klickitat County
Facility Site ID: 95415874, Cleanup Site ID: 11797**

Industrial Section, Solid Waste Management Program

Washington State Department of Ecology
Olympia, Washington

April 2026

Document Information

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

Related Information

- Facility Site ID: 95415874
- Cleanup Site ID: 11797

Contact Information

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¹ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/11797>

² <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Who-we-are/Our-Programs/Toxics-Cleanup>

³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Accountability-transparency/Our-website/Accessibility>

Tribal engagement in contamination cleanup

The purpose of this Tribal Engagement Plan is for the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) to invite affected Tribes as sovereign nations to learn about and consider their rights and interests for Ecology-conducted and Ecology-supervised cleanup sites.

Ecology's goal is to provide timely information, effective communication, continuous opportunities for collaboration, and when necessary, government-to-government consultation, as appropriate for each cleanup site.

Site information

Columbia Gorge Aluminum
85 John Day Dam Road
Goldendale, Washington 98620

This is an Ecology-supervised cleanup site

Facility Site ID: 95415874, Cleanup Site ID: 11797

Ecology's [Columbia Gorge Aluminum cleanup site page](#)⁴

Tribes

Ecology identified the following Tribes as potentially affected by site contamination and cleanup.

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

Gerald Lewis, Tribal Chair, PO Box 151, Toppenish, WA 98948, (509)-865-5121, gerald.lewis@yakama.com

Elena Ramirez Groszowski, Yakama Nation Fisheries, Senior Geologist, rame@yakamafish-nsn.gov, 509-830-8123.

Laura Klasner Shira, Yakama Nation Fisheries, Senior Environmental Engineer, shil@yakamafish-nsn.gov, 509-985-3561.

Jennifer White, Yakama Nation Fisheries, Senior Environmental Analyst, whij@yakamafish-nsn.gov.

Tribal engagement process

7/24/2015- MOU Between Ecology and Yakama Nation

⁴ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/11797>

Yakama Nation and Ecology have an existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) entered into and signed in 2015 (Ecology 2015). The MOU establishes the agreement and mutual commitment of both parties to ensure the protection of human health and the environment, resulting from releases of hazardous substances from facilities within the State of Washington. Ecology will follow the MOU with respect to MTCA cleanup engagement with the Yakama Nation at the Columbia Gorge Aluminum site.

Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

Jonathan W. Smith, Tribal Chair, 1233 Veterans Street, PO Box C, Warm Springs, Oregon 97761, (541)-553-3257, jonathanwsmith@wstribes.org

Robert Brunoe, Natural Resources General Manager, 1233 Veterans Street, PO Box C, Warm Springs, Oregon 97761, (541)-553-2002, robert.brunoe@wstribes.org

Tribal department/staff title contacted/contact information (as appropriate – can be filled in if tribe requests)

Tribal engagement process

2/11/2026

Ecology Site Manager reached out to tribal representatives above for review and comments on the draft tribal engagement plan and process contained herein. As of 4/28/2026 no formal response has been to Ecology. Ecology will use the plan herein but will revise the plan as needed based on input from Warm Spring tribal members.

Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation

Kat Bringham, Tribal Chair, 46411 Timine Way, Pendleton, OR 97801, 541-276-3095, KatBringham@ctuir.org

Eric Quaempts, Natural Resources Director, 46411 Timine Way, Pendleton, OR 97801, 541-429-7229, naturalresources@ctuir.org

Tribal department/staff title contacted/contact information (as appropriate – can be filled in if tribe requests)

Tribal engagement process

2/11/2026

Ecology Site Manager reached out to tribal representatives above for review and comments on the draft tribal engagement plan and process contained herein. As of 4/28/2026 no formal response has been provided to Ecology. Ecology will use the plan herein but will revise the plan as needed based on input from Umatilla tribal members.

Nez Perce Tribe

Shannon Wheeler, Tribal Chair, PO Box 305, Lapwai, ID 83540, (208)-843-2253, npotec@nezperce.org

Aaron Miles, Natural Resources Director, PO Box 365, Lapwai, ID 83540, (208)-621-3845,
2moon@nezperce.org

Tribal department/staff title contacted/contact information (as appropriate – can be filled in if tribe requests)

Tribal engagement process

4/28/2026

Ecology Site Manager will reach out to tribal representatives above for review and comments on the draft tribal engagement plan and process contained herein. Ecology will use the plan herein but will revise the plan as needed based on input from the Nez Perce tribal members.

Tribal Engagement Process

This Tribal Engagement Plan proposes actions Ecology will take to provide timely and relevant information and offer meaningful engagement opportunities to Tribes during investigation and cleanup of Ecology-conducted and Ecology-supervised contaminated sites.

Tribal Engagement for this site is separate from and in addition to public involvement. Tribes and indigenous peoples are welcome to also participate in Ecology's public involvement process. Ecology's [Public Participation Plan](#)⁵ for the site has more information about that process.

Ecology invites each Tribe to share their perspective on what constitutes meaningful engagement for this site, enabling Ecology to develop a more effective process.

Ecology's Tribal Engagement Responsibilities under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)

Ecology will initiate engagement with affected Tribes before a remedial investigation or an interim action at a site, or as early in the investigation and cleanup process as possible.

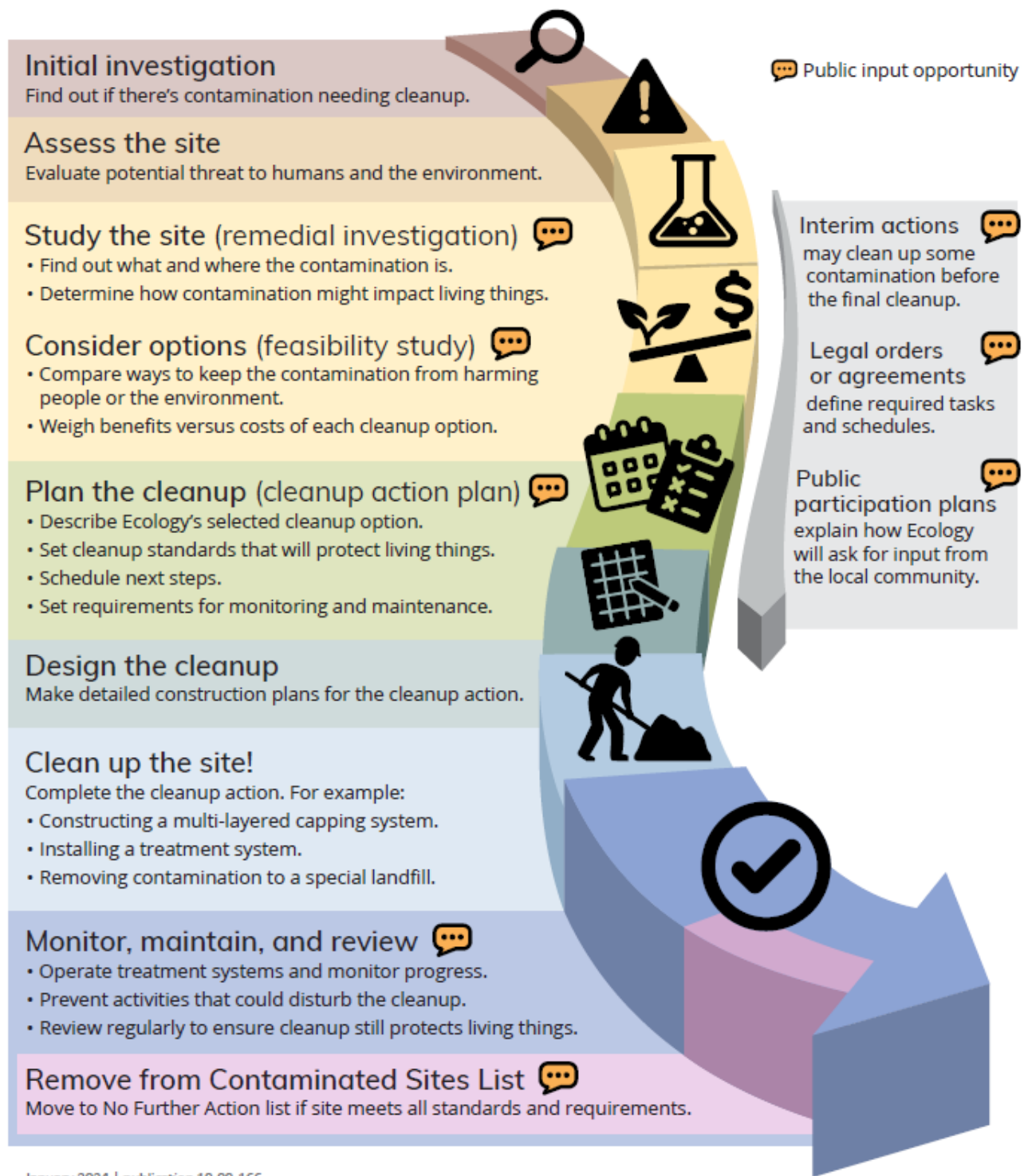
Ecology will seek to maintain meaningful engagement with Tribes throughout the cleanup process.

This Tribal Engagement Plan will eventually become publicly available on the [cleanup site page](#).⁶

⁵ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/document/112023>

⁶ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/11797>

Figure 1. Washington's Cleanup Process under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)⁷



⁷ <https://ecology.wa.gov/spills-cleanup/contamination-cleanup/cleanup-process>

Ecology's Tribal Engagement Plan proposed actions:

- Invite potentially affected Tribes as early as possible in the cleanup process to share and discuss information about the site and to understand the Tribes' concerns.
- Provide a copy of the Tribal Engagement Plan to potentially affected Tribes for review and comment.
- Invite the Tribes to share their preferred engagement process and propose any changes to this Tribal Engagement Plan.
- Provide early notifications and opportunities for collaboration and input at specific points in the cleanup process. See Table 1.
- Communicate project timelines, review timeframes, and comment period deadlines⁸.
- Provide tribes at least as much time to provide input as provided to the public in each stage in the process.
- Notify potentially affected Tribes when Ecology identifies a potentially liable person under WAC 173-340-500.
- Meet with Tribes upon request.
- Keep effective communication open throughout the cleanup process.
- If long-term monitoring is required for the cleanup, learn from the Tribes what level of engagement is preferred during monitoring.
- If a Tribe requests government-to-government consultation, engage Ecology leadership and facilitate that process.

⁸ Ecology aims to finalize documents shortly after close of comment periods.

Table 1: Ecology documents and cleanup actions where tribes will be invited to review and comment.

	Document or Action	Ecology-supervised
	Interim action plans	X
	Legal Orders or Agreements • Consent decrees & amendments • Agreed orders & amendments • Enforcement orders & amendments	X
	Remedial investigation work plans	X
	Remedial investigation reports	X
	Feasibility study reports	X
	Cleanup action plans (CAPs) (which may or may not include institutional controls ⁹)	X
	Engineering design reports	X
	Implementation plans substantially changing cleanup action plans	X
	Periodic review reports	X
	Amendment of institutional controls	X
	Removal of institutional controls	X
	Removal of sites from contaminated sites list	X

⁹ Institutional controls are legal and administrative tools that help protect people from exposure to contaminants. Examples include prohibiting use of groundwater for drinking, requiring maintenance of a barrier to prevent exposure, and zoning and property use restrictions among others.

Other Tribal engagement opportunities

In addition to engagement through MTCA, Ecology will also contact Tribes for the following purposes when relevant to the cleanup.

- Cleanup activities, especially those that disturb the ground, can affect or reveal cultural resources that may need to be assessed for protection or preservation, called a [Cultural Resource Review](#).¹⁰
- Identifying and analyzing environmental impacts associated with governmental decisions as required by the [State Environmental Policy Act¹¹](#) (SEPA) and associated [SEPA rules](#).¹²
- Implementing [Washington's Environmental Justice Law \(HEAL Act\)](#).¹³

¹⁰ <https://ecology.wa.gov/about-us/payments-contracts-grants/grants-loans/find-a-grant-or-loan/area-wide-groundwater-investigation-grants/cultural-resources-review>

¹¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review>

¹² <https://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=197-11>

¹³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/about-us/who-we-are/environmental-justice/heal>