



Public Comment Period: Tru-Grit Abrasives Inc

Address: 1110 E Alexander Ave, Tacoma, Pierce County

Cleanup Site ID: 1294

Facility Site ID: 1206878

We are accepting comments from

**August 10, 8:00 AM to
September 10, 11:59 PM**

Submit comments

Online (preferred):

Scan the QR code or visit

[go.ecology.wa.gov/
comment1294](https://go.ecology.wa.gov/comment1294)



By mail or email:

Valerie Chu, Site Manager

Toxics Cleanup Program

PO Box 47775

Olympia, WA 98504-7775

Valerie.Chu@ecy.wa.gov

Review documents

Online:

Visit go.ecology.wa.gov/1294

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

In-Person:

Tacoma Public Library, Main Branch

1102 Tacoma Avenue, Tacoma, WA 98402

Ecology’s Lacey office *appointment only*

300 Desmond Drive SE, Lacey, WA 98503

PublicDisclosureSWRO@ecy.wa.gov

360-407-6365

Join our mailing list or request a public

meeting: Please email Abby Zabrodsky at

Abby.Zabrodsky@ecy.wa.gov.

Documents Available for Public Comment

Ecology and the Port of Tacoma are proposing an interim action cleanup to dredge and remove contaminated sediment from an area of the Tru-Grit cleanup site, specifically from the lower slope area of the Blair Waterway.

This work must take place before the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) deepens the Blair Waterway, planned to occur in 2028. This action will prevent the contaminated material from sliding into the navigation channel during or after the deepening work.

Ecology is now accepting comments on three documents:

- **Interim Action Plan:** This is the plan on how the Port of Tacoma and Ecology will complete the interim action cleanup. It includes the cleanup details, schedule, and permitting requirements. Appendixes of the Interim Action Plan include a Water Quality Monitoring Plan and a Compliance Monitoring and Contingency Plan to make sure state cleanup standards and criteria are met.
- **State Environmental Policy Act (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.
- **Public Participation Plan:** Ecology’s outreach plan. It describes how we will inform the public about this site and provide opportunities for public review and comment.



Historic aerial photo of the Tru-Grit site, 1971.

Source: Figure F-2, the draft Remedial Investigation Report

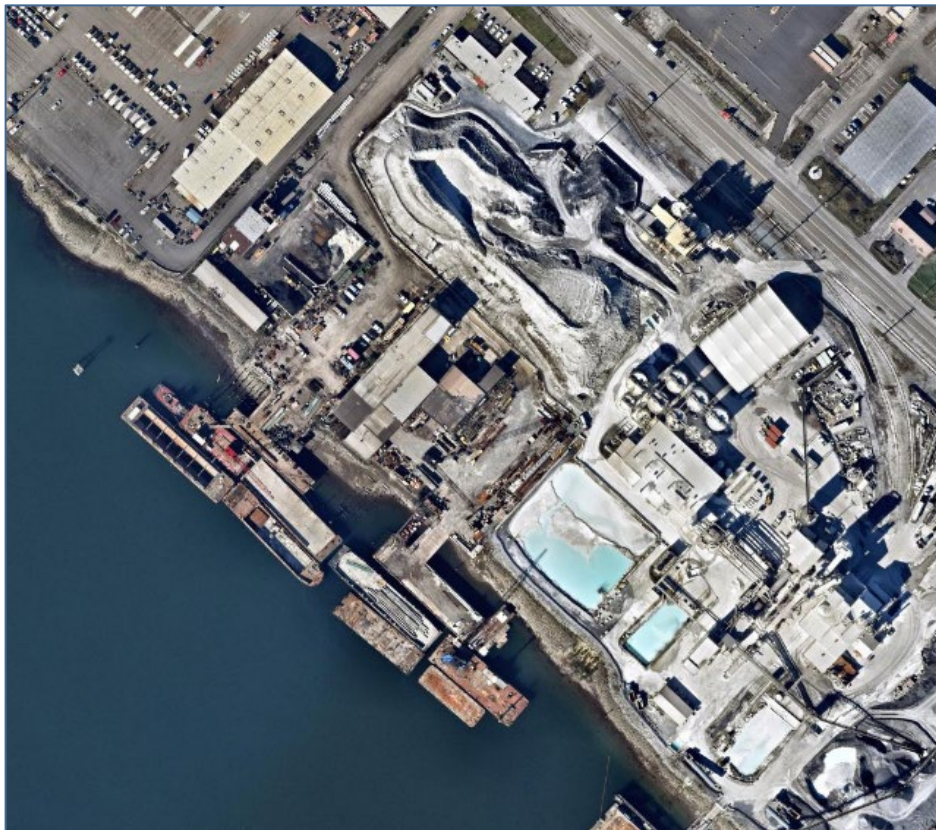


Overview of the Tru-Grit Abrasives Inc Cleanup Site

The Tru-Grit site is located at 1110 Alexander Avenue in the Tacoma Tideflats, on the northeastern side of the Blair Waterway. The site has been used for grit processing since at least 1993.

In 2007, the Port of Tacoma acquired the property. CanAm Minerals, Inc. (CanAm) continued operations at the site under a lease with Port until the lease expired on July 31, 2020. Today, CanAm is still in operation at a different property, located at 3701 Taylor Way, and is now known as KleenBlast.

In 2007, Ecology's Water Quality Program issued an enforcement order, Admin Order No. 4003, for the property's Industrial Stormwater General Permit. This order was required because grit had migrated into the Blair Waterway, causing water quality and contamination issues in the sediment. In 2010, CanAm and Ecology reached a settlement to start work on addressing the cleanup of contaminated sediment. CanAm signed Agreed Order No. DE 8978 in 2012 to work with Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program and begin the cleanup process for toxic contamination at the site.



Aerial photo of the site, taken in March 2016. *Source: Nearmap*

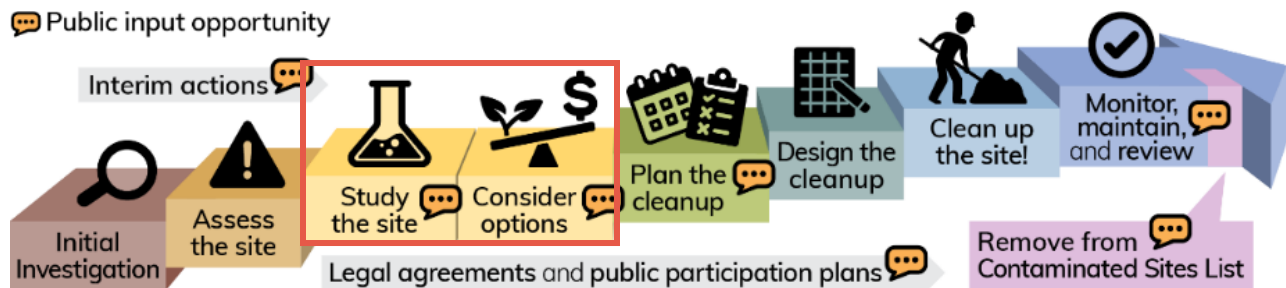
Cleanup progress

This site is being cleaned up through Washington's cleanup law, the **Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)**. A cleanup site is a place where a toxic substance is harming or threatening human health or the environment.

Under MTCA, people or entities who pollute the air, land, or water, or own contaminated properties, are responsible for cleaning up the contamination. Ecology has identified two **potentially liable parties (PLPs)** responsible for cleaning up the site: CanAm Minerals, Inc, who signed an agreed order in 2012; and the Port of Tacoma as the current landowner. The Port signed the amended 2012 agreed order in July 2026.

Cleanup for the entire site is ongoing. CanAm and the Port of Tacoma are studying the site and considering cleanup options. Once the studies are complete, Ecology will review the findings. The studies and considerations (called a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study) will inform the development of a draft Cleanup Action Plan. Before Ecology approves these documents, the public will have an opportunity to review and comment on them.

Right now, the proposed interim action cleanup at the site is focused on removing contaminated sediment from the in-water lower slope area of the Tru-Grit site in preparation for the larger Blair Waterway Navigational Channel deepening project. The Port of Tacoma is performing this interim action work.



Steps of Washington's cleanup law, the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA).

The red rectangle shows where the Tru-Grit site is currently in the process for the full cleanup work.

Overview of the Proposed Interim Action

An **interim action** partially addresses contamination at a site. Ecology uses interim actions to address time-sensitive threats or conduct extra work to assess site hazards. While creating this draft Interim Action Plan, Ecology and the Port used data collected at the site (currently available for reference in the [draft Sediment Characterization Report](#)) to inform decision making.¹

This interim action will dredge a section of the Tru-Grit site before the USACE undertake a [Federal Navigation Channel \(FNC\) Deepening Project](#) in the Blair Waterway.² The contaminated sediments being addressed by this interim action need to be removed prior to USACE dredge work. This removal will prevent contaminated material from sloughing into the navigation channel during USACE dredging. It will also avoid potential redistribution of contaminated sediments into the navigation channel or throughout the Blair Waterway.

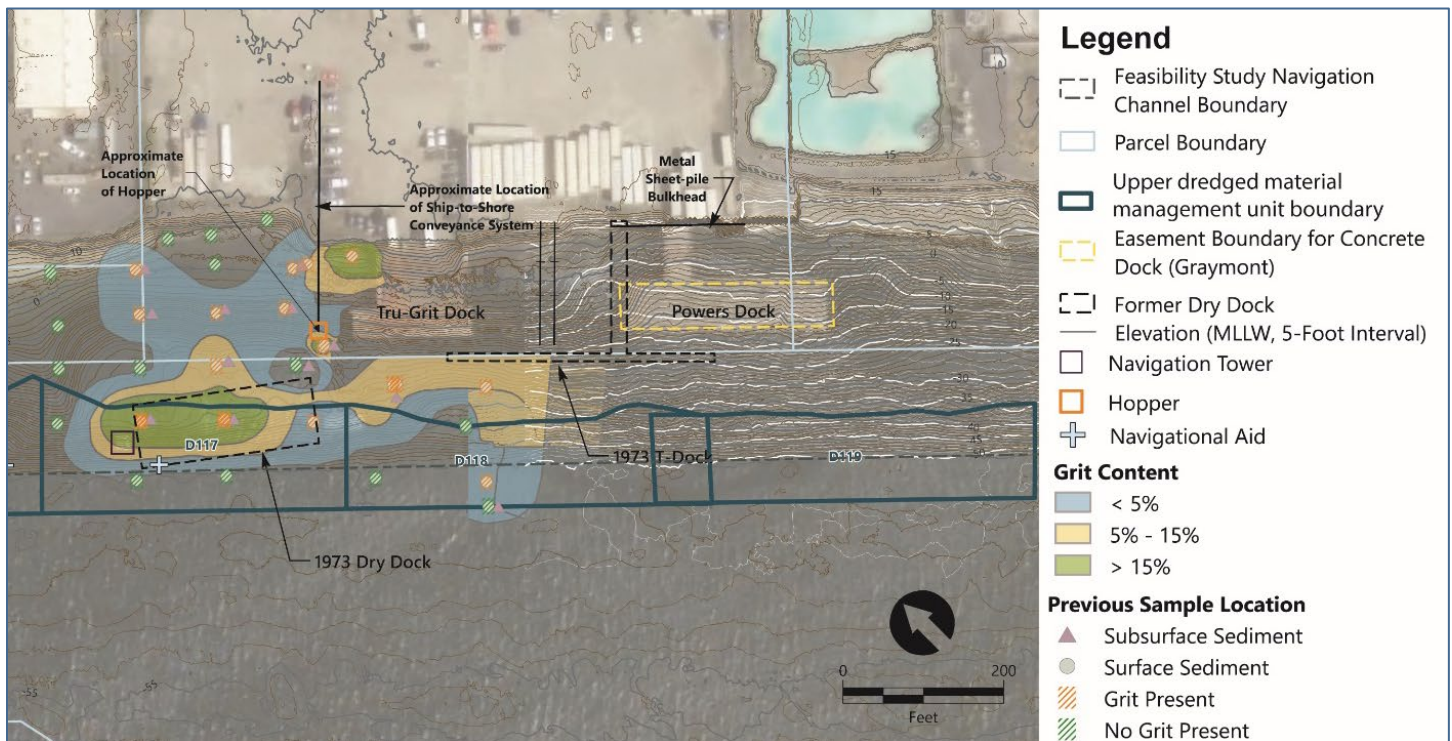
This interim action is not intended to serve as the final cleanup for this area. The comprehensive cleanup strategy will be developed during the next phase of the Model Toxics Control Act process, shown in the graphic above as “Plan the Cleanup.” During that phase, Ecology and the PLPs will develop and propose a Cleanup Action Plan for the entire site. This interim action will not limit or preclude any future cleanup actions.

¹<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/document/167149>; (download link, 86 MB)

² <https://www.portoftacoma.com/blair-waterway-deepening-program>

Contamination concerns

Contamination at the site is in marine sediment in and along the shoreline of the Blair Waterway. Sources of the contamination include minerals from an offloading facility operated by Tru-Grit and its parent company, CanAm Minerals, Inc., as well as past shipyard operations.



Historical features and previous sampling locations at the Tru-Grit site.

Source: Interim Action Plan, Figure 2-2.

The figure above shows the distribution of contaminated grit that resulted from these past operations. Areas highlighted green have the highest concentrations of grit, with more than 15% of the sediment containing grit content.

The proposed interim action will address contamination in the marine sediments only. Contaminants that will be addressed during the interim action dredging include: **arsenic, zinc, carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (cPAHs), and dioxins/furans.**

Logistics

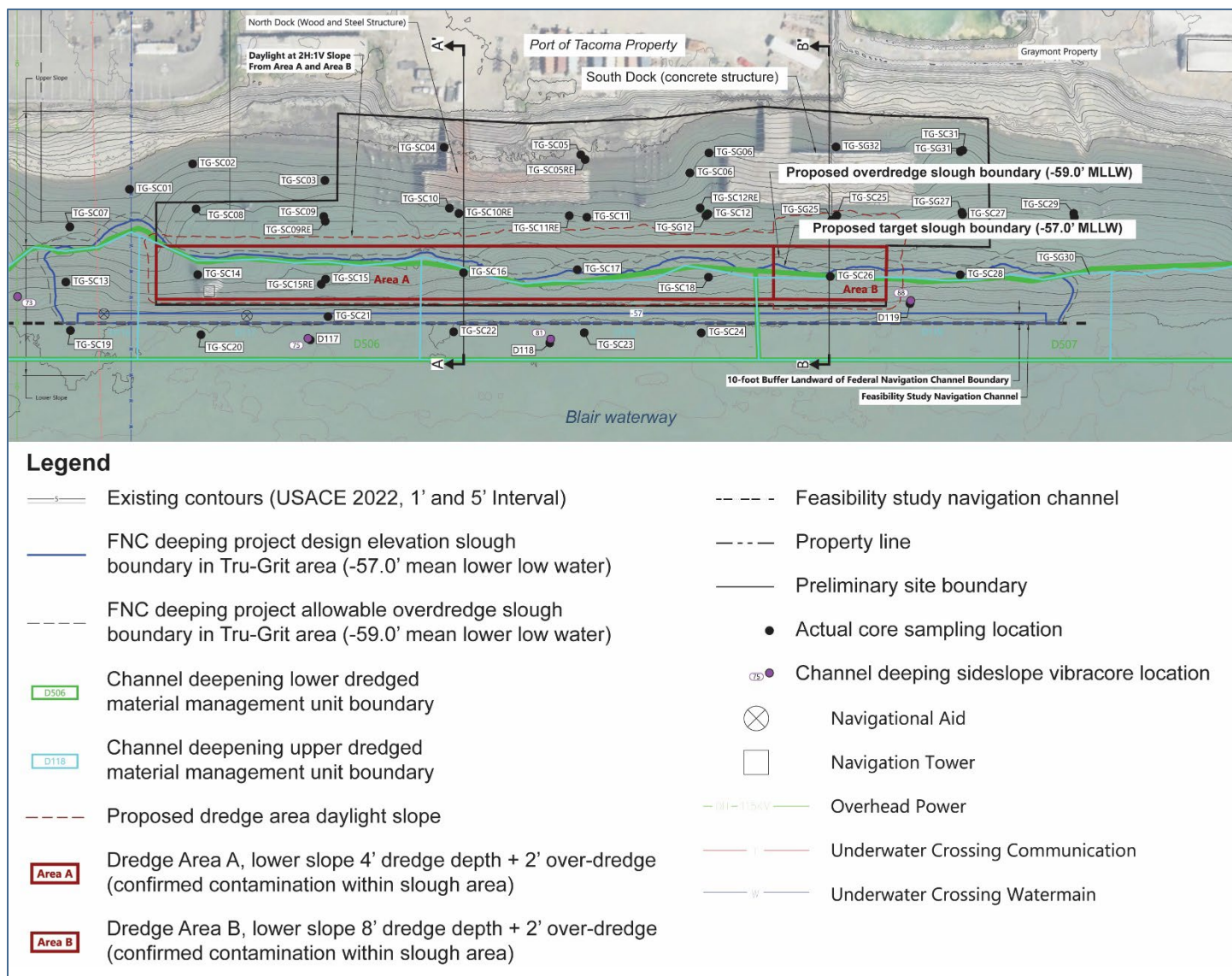
Dredging work

The interim action will remove contaminated sediments from two areas, Area A and Area B (outlined red in the figure on page 5). Both areas overlap with side slopes areas of the Blair Waterway Deepening Project.

- Area A** is offshore of the Tru-Grit dock. Dredging will go down to 4 feet below the mudline to target contaminated sediments. Ecology estimates that between 5,700-9,000 cubic yards of materials will be removed from Area A.
- Area B** is offshore of the Powers dock. Dredging will go down to 8 feet below the mudline to target contaminated sediments. Ecology estimates that between 2,700-3,600 cubic yards of materials will be removed from Area B.

The contaminated sediments will be removed by mechanical dredging and will be disposed of at a permitted upland Subtitle D landfill site.

After cleanup construction, performance monitoring within the dredge areas will confirm that the interim action was successful. If residual contaminated sediment is identified during that performance monitoring, Ecology may require contingency redredging in affected areas. A Compliance Monitoring and Contingency Response Plan (CMCRP) in Appendix C of the Interim Action Plan defines the timeline for performance monitoring and contingency redredging.



Proposed interim action sediment removal area.

Source: Interim Action Plan, Figure 3-1.

Capping work

After Ecology determines that the contaminated sediment was successfully removed, a cap of clean material, called a “residuals management cover” (RMC), will be placed over the dredged areas. The RMC will have a 6-inch minimum layer of clear material. This cap will help protect the remaining contamination during the USACE deepening project.

Additional slope backfill materials will also be placed over both Areas A and B. The placement of this additional material will provide additional support to the slope to protect against potential slumping and sediment erosion.

Based on preliminary design assumptions, the total RMC and slope backfill material placement quantity will be approximately 6,500 tons. The final material placement quantities will be determined during the interim action engineering design.

Compliance monitoring will be performed following RMC material placement. This monitoring will confirm that the RMC material placement is successful in keeping any remaining contamination contained. Long-term monitoring will be conducted during the three years following completion of the interim action. That monitoring will be used to verify that the slope backfill materials remain stable and that recontamination is not occurring within the interim action area. Section 3-4 of the Interim Action Plan contains more detailed information about compliance monitoring and contingency responses.

Permitting and engineering design

According to MTCA, cleanup projects under a legal order with the State can be exempt from the procedural requirements of local permits/approvals. These exemptions help the cleanup of contaminated sites move faster. However, the Port will **not** seek exemptions for this interim action cleanup. The Port will follow the permitting process as per usual for this and related projects.

The Interim Action Plan assumes that the interim action will be approved for coverage as a beneficial activity under the Port's Comprehensive Maintenance and Mitigation Program (CMMP) programmatic permits. The Port has submitted this work for regulatory review and coverage under existing CMMP permits. Additionally, since this project involves dredging activities, individual permits will be attained to demonstrate compliance with Hydraulic Project Approval (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife) and Shoreline Substantial Development Permit (City of Tacoma Planning and Development Services Department) permitting.

The Port identified following permits and approvals as required for this project:

- **Clean Water Act Sections 404/10 Permit** (under the CMMP: NWS-2024-446-WRD): Regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.
- **Section 408 Review:** For proposed alteration(s) to a federally authorized project.
- **Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Coordination:** Required because the project is located within a Commencement Bay Superfund Site.
- **Antidegradation Determination:** Evaluates the leave-surface sediment quality.
- **Endangered Species Act (ESA) Compliance** (under CMMP: WCRO-2024-02448 & FWS/R1/2025-0000930): Reviews the potential impacts to ESA-listed species and critical habitat.
- **National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Compliance:** Reviews potential impacts to archaeological, cultural, or historic resources.
- **Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certifications (WQC)** (under CMMP: 23740): Regulates potential water quality impacts from dredging and material placement.
- **Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) Compliance** (under CMMP: 143975): Regulates federally permitted, licensed, or funded projects affecting coastal resources in one or more of Washington's 15 coastal counties.

- **Hydraulic Project Approval:** For activities occurring within waters of the state and includes dredging.
- **SEPA Determination:** For activities requiring environmental review.
- **Shoreline Substantial Development Permit:** Because the project includes dredging.

Table 4-1 of the Interim Action Plan provides additional information regarding these permits and approvals.

Schedule

Interim action construction is proposed to take place during the 2026/2027 fish window (July 15, 2026, to February 15, 2027). This will take place before the USACE FNC Deepening Project. Construction is estimated to take three months and is targeted to occur between December 2026 and February 2027. The Port of Tacoma will submit a Completion Report to Ecology within 120 days of construction completion.

To meet this timeline, the Port completed the design permitting and procurement activities between January 2026 and June 2026. The Port submitted the Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Application (JARPA) and related permitting materials in mid-2026.

Stay informed about Ecology's work at this site

To receive updates about the Tru-Grit cleanup, visit Ecology's [Tru-Grit webpage](#) and click the blue "Subscribe to this site" button in the top right corner.³ Subscribers receive automated email notifications about public comment periods, newly posted documents, and other cleanup-related news. You can read more about this feature on Ecology's [blog](#).⁴

You can also [subscribe](#) to Ecology's email list for updates on work done in the Tacoma Tideflats/Commencement Bay area.⁵

³ <https://go.ecology.wa.gov/1294>

⁴ <https://ecology.wa.gov/blog/may-2025/updates-on-cleanup-sites-in-your-inbox>

⁵ https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAECY/subscriber/new?topic_id=WAECY_33



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

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



Public Comment Period: Tru-Grit Abrasives Inc Cleanup Site

Three documents for this site are ready for your review and feedback: a **draft Interim Action Plan**, **State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Determination**, and **Public Participation Plan**.

Comments accepted: August 10 – September 10, 2026

Submit comments online: go.ecology.wa.gov/comment1294

Contact Ecology:

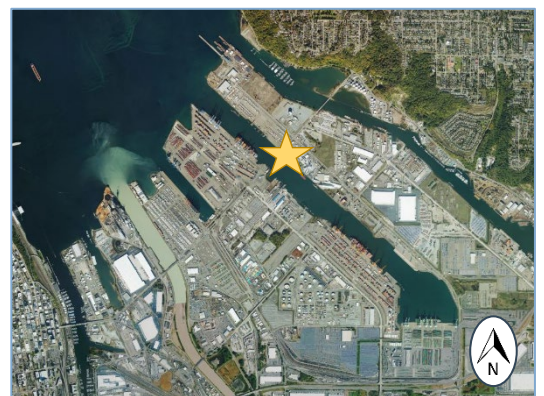
Abby Zabrodsky, Public Involvement Coordinator
Abby.Zabrodsky@ecy.wa.gov

To request a public meeting, please email Abby Zabrodsky. Ecology will hold a meeting if 10 or more people request it.

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.

Language Access: We offer translation and interpretation services at no cost. To request them, email Abby.Zabrodsky@ecy.wa.gov or call 564-250-0561. If you call, ask for an interpreter to be connected with one.



The Tru-Grit cleanup site location in the Tacoma Tideflats (yellow star)