Tribal Engagement Plan
Rainier Mall

4208 Rainier Ave S, Seattle, King County
Facility Site ID: 88987973, Cleanup Site ID: 4187

Toxics Cleanup Program, Northwest Region

Washington State Department of Ecology
Shoreline, Washington

July 2026

Document Information

This document is available on the Department of Ecology's Rainier Mall cleanup site page.[1]

Related Information

- Facility Site ID: **88987973**
- Cleanup Site ID: **4187**

Contact Information

Toxics Cleanup Program

Northwest Region Office
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Website: Washington State Department of Ecology[2]

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[1] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/4187
[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

Rainier Mall
4208 Rainier Ave S
Seattle, WA 98118

This is an Ecology-supervised cleanup site.

Facility Site ID: 88987973, Cleanup Site ID: 4187

Ecology's Rainier Mall cleanup site page[4]

Tribes

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

Muckleshoot Indian Tribe

- Talise Rey, Habitat Program Assistant Director talise.rey@muckleshoot.nsn.us
- Kelsey van der Elst, Fisheries Division kelsey.vanderelst@muckleshoot.nsn.us

Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians

- Jody Brown, Water Resources Program Manager jbrown@stillaguamish.com
- Rainer Luhrs, Natural Resources Technician Specialist 2 rluhrs@stillaguamish.com

And CC'ed to:

- Sara Thitipraserth, Natural Resources Director sthitipra@stillaguamish.com

[4] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/4187

Snoqualmie Indian Tribe

- Matthew Baerwalde, Senior Environmental Policy Analyst Mattb@snoqualmietribe.us
- Environmental Review Team enrreview@snoqualmietribe.us

Squaxin Island Tribe

- Leila Whitener, Brownsfield Coordinator lwhitener@squaxin.us

And CC'ed to:

- Scott Steltzner, Environmental Manager ssteltzner@squaxin.us

Suquamish Tribe

- Alison O'Sullivan, Ecosystem Recovery Program Manager aosullivan@suquamish.nsn.us
- Denice Taylor, Senior Biologist dtaylor@suquamish.nsn.us
- Shawn Blocker, Superfund Sites Project Manager sblocker@suquamish.nsn.us

Tulalip Tribes

- Kurt Nelson, Environmental Department Director knelson@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov
- Todd Gray, Environmental Protection Ecologist toddgray@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov
- Todd Zackey, Nearshore Program Manager tzackey@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov

And CC'ed to:

- Jason Gobin, Executive Director of NCR jasongobin@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov
- Aaron Jones, NCR Director aaronjones@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov

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.

[5] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/document/110516

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)

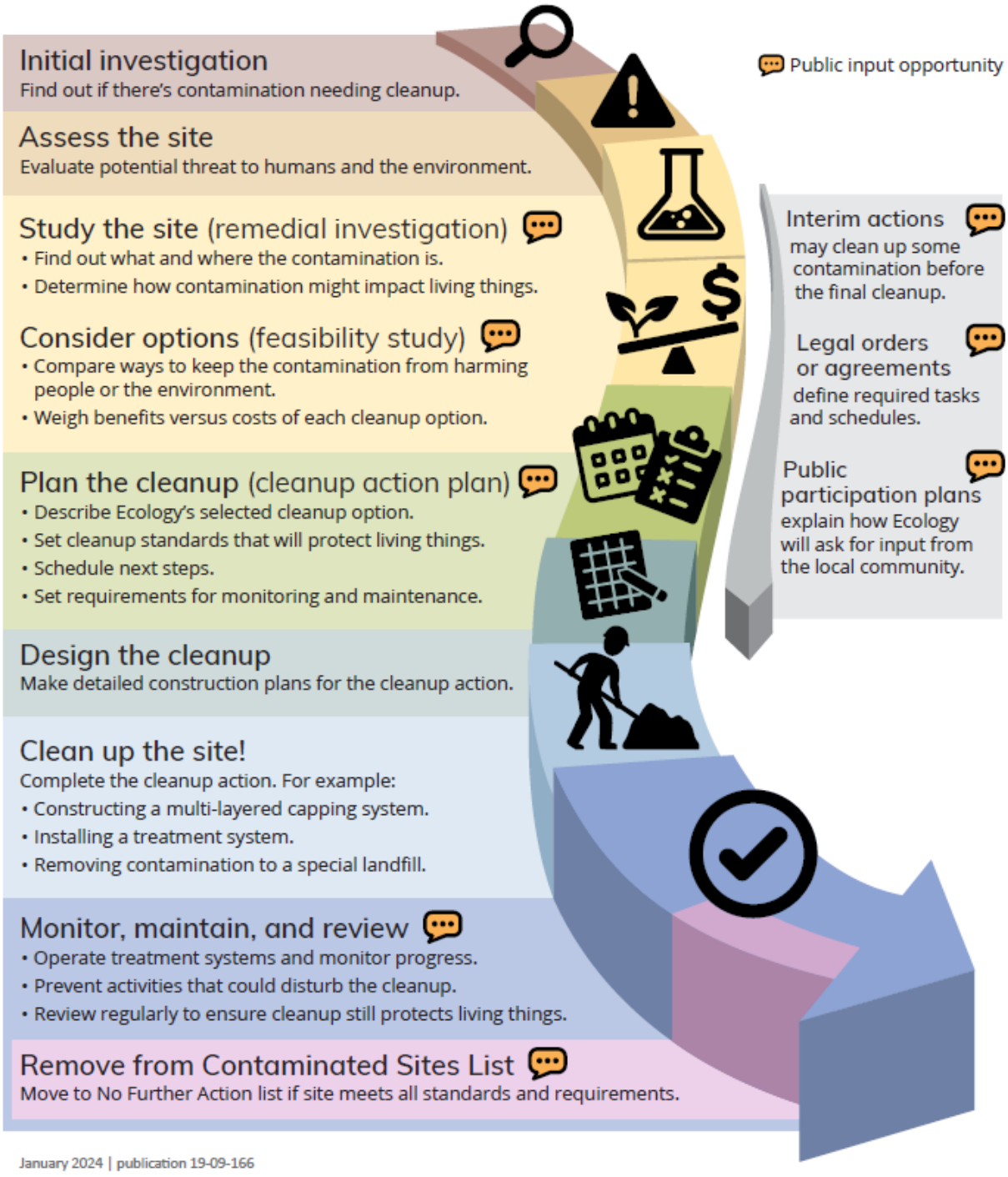
Ecology will initiate engagement with affected Tribes before a remedial investigation or an interim action at a site, or as early in the investigation and cleanup process as possible.

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

This Tribal Engagement Plan is publicly available on the cleanup site page.[6]

[6] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/4187

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 actions:

- Invite 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 Tribes for review and comment.
- Tribes, at any time, may propose any changes to this Tribal Engagement Plan.
- Notify Tribes when Ecology identifies a potentially liable person under WAC 173-340-500.
- Provide early notifications and opportunities for collaboration and input at specific points in the cleanup process, including Remedial Investigation Work Plans (see Table 1).
- Provide Tribes at least as much time to offer input as provided to the public in each stage in the process, when possible, more time will be provided (30 extra days prior to public comment period).
- Meet with Tribes upon request.
- Keep effective communication open throughout the cleanup process including communicating project timelines, reviewing timeframes, and comment period deadlines[8].
- If long-term monitoring is required for the cleanup, learn from the Tribes what level of engagement is preferred during monitoring.
- Assess and make adjustments as needed to the engagement process in collaboration with each Tribe as follows:
    - Muckleshoot Indian Tribe via annual meeting
    - Squaxin Island Tribe via annual meeting
    - Tulalip Tribes via annual meeting
    - Suquamish Tribe via annual email with offer for a meeting if needed
    - Snoqualmie Indian Tribe whenever a need is identified by the tribe or Ecology
    - Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians when needed.
- 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: The Tribes will be informed of and invited to review and comment on the following Ecology documents and cleanup actions:

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

[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 Act[11] (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