Tribal Engagement Plan
Rogers Brothers Seed

308 E. 3rd St., Colfax, Whitman County
Facility Site ID: 59563493, Cleanup Site ID: 17434

Toxics Cleanup Program, Eastern Region

Washington Department of Ecology
Spokane, Washington

September 2026

Document Information

This document is available on the Department of Ecology's Rogers Brothers Seed cleanup site page.[1]

Related Information

- Cleanup site ID: 17434
- Facility site ID: 59563493

Contact Information

Toxics Cleanup Program[2]

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The Department of Ecology offers free translation and interpretation services. If you need help in your preferred language, please call Erika Beresovoy at 509-385-2290 and request an interpreter, or email erika.beresovoy@ecy.wa.gov.

[1] https://go.ecology.wa.gov/RogersBrosSeed
[2] https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Who-we-are/Our-Programs/Toxics-Cleanup

Tribal engagement in contamination cleanup

The purpose of this Tribal Engagement Plan (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

Rogers Brothers Seed
308 E. 3rd St.
Colfax, WA, 99224

This is an Ecology-supervised cleanup.

Facility Site ID: 6332493, Cleanup Site ID: 16774

Ecology's Rogers Brothers Seed cleanup site page[3]

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[4] 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.

[3] https://go.ecology.wa.gov/RogersBrosSeed
[4] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/document/138781

Ecology's proposed Tribal engagement 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, page 4.
- Communicate project timelines, review timeframes, and comment period deadlines.[5]
- 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.

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]

[5] Ecology aims to finalize documents shortly after the close of comment periods.
[6] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/4121

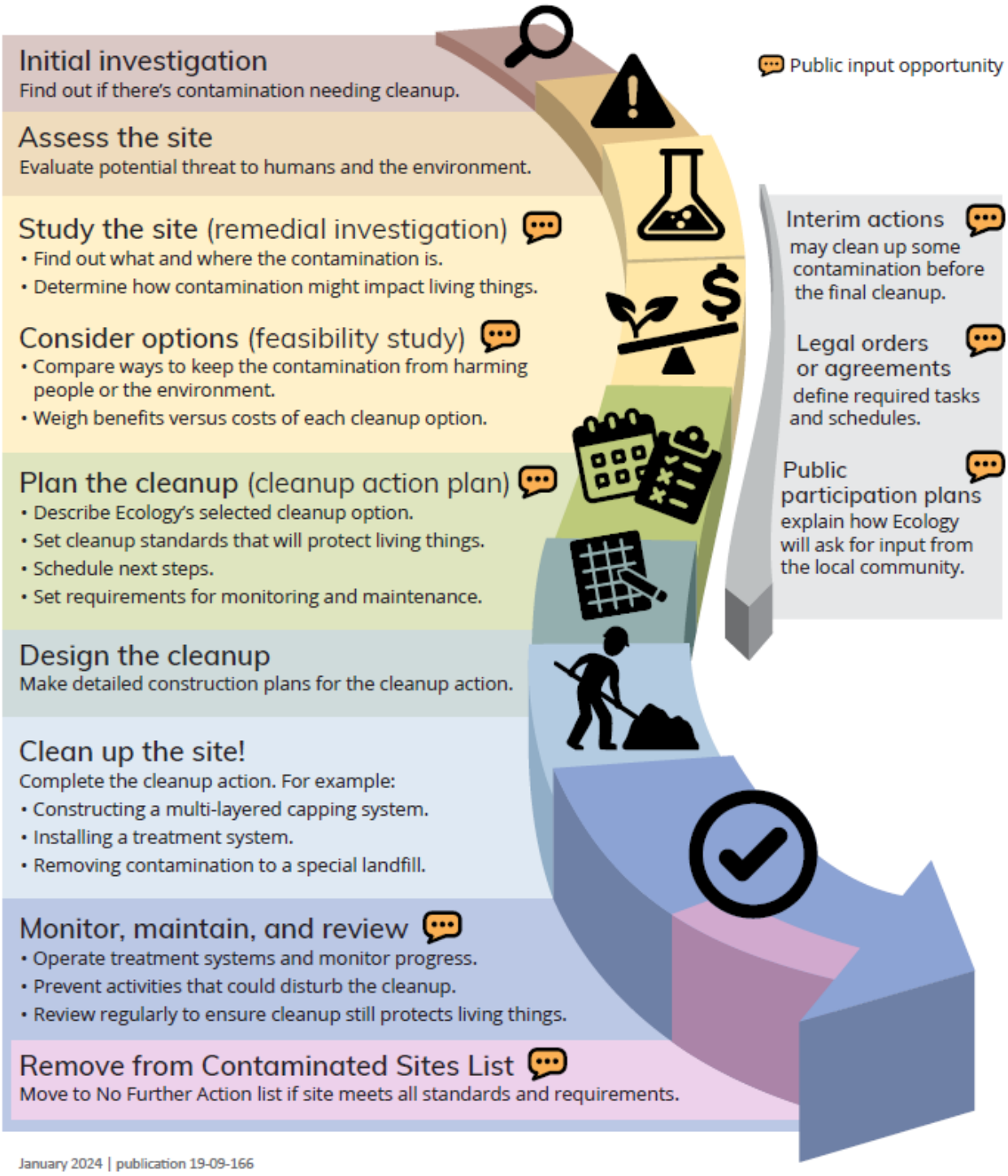

Figure 1. Washington's Cleanup Process under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)[7]

[7] https://ecology.wa.gov/spills-cleanup/contamination-cleanup/cleanup-process

Table 1: Documents and cleanup actions where Tribes will be invited to review and comment.

	Document or Action
	Interim action plans
	Legal Orders or Agreements • Consent decrees & amendments • Agreed orders & amendments • Enforcement orders & amendments
	Remedial investigation reports
	Feasibility study reports
	Cleanup action plans (CAPs) *(which may or may not include institutional controls*[8])
	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

[8] 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.

Tribes

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

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Department of Natural Resources
Nixyaawii Governance Center
46411 Ti'mine Way
Pendleton, OR 97801
Email: NaturalResources@ctuir.org
Phone: 541-276-3447

Eric Quaempts, Director
Email: ericquaempts@ctuir.org

Brian Fullen, Environmental Health & Safety Officer
Email: brianfullen@ctuir.org

Marty King, Water Quality Specialist
Email: martyking@ctuir.org

Nez Perce Tribe

Aaron Miles, Director of Natural Resources
PO Box 365
Lapwai, ID 83540
Email: 2moon@nezperce.org
Phone: 208-621-3845

Spokane Tribe of Indians

Chad McCrea, Department of Natural Resources Director
Email: chadm@SpokaneTribe.com
Phone: 509-626-4420

Brian Crossley, Water & Fish Program Manager
Email: crossley@SpokaneTribe.com
Phone: 509-626-4408

Fred Kirschner, Tribal Consultant
Email: fred.kirschner@spokanetribe.com
Phone: 509-924-0184

Yakama Nation

Philip Rigdon, Department of Natural Resources Deputy Director
401 Fort Road
Toppenish, WA 98948
Email: phil_rigdon@yakama.com
Phone: 509-865-5121 Ext. 4648

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.[9]
- Identifying and analyzing environmental impacts associated with governmental decisions as required by the State Environmental Policy Act[10] (SEPA) and associated SEPA rules.[11]
- Implementing Washington's Environmental Justice Law (HEAL Act).[12]

[9] https://ecology.wa.gov/about-us/payments-contracts-grants/grants-loans/find-a-grant-or-loan/area-wide-groundwater-investigation-grants/cultural-resources-review
[10] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review
[11] https://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=197-11
[12] https://ecology.wa.gov/about-us/who-we-are/environmental-justice/heal