

Cleanup plan ready for review

The Port of Bellingham and Department of Ecology will begin a \$25 million project this summer to clean up contamination along the Whatcom Waterway on Bellingham's waterfront. Before starting construction, Ecology is making the recently completed cleanup plan (known as an engineering design report) available for public review and comment through March 27, 2013.

Construction begins this summer

The first of two phases of construction is expected to begin in July. During this phase of work, crews will remove contaminated sediment, cover contaminated sediment with clean material, remove abandoned structures and debris, improve retaining walls, and flatten shoreline slopes.



Contaminated waterway

Decades of heavy industrial use along the Whatcom Waterway have left the area littered with debris and contaminated with pollutants.

In the 1960s and 70s, Georgia Pacific, a former pulp mill on the Bellingham waterfront, used mercury as part of its pulping process and then dumped the wastewater directly into the bay.

Below the surface of the water are acres of contaminated sea floor sediment. Shorelines are littered with concrete and asphalt rubble, abandoned docks and pilings, and scrap metal.

Public meeting

6 to 8 p.m.
March 6, 2013
Technology Development Center
Douglas G Smith Conference Room
1000 F Street, Bellingham

Comments accepted

Feb. 26 to March 27, 2013

Submit comments

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Bellevue, WA 98008-5452
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E-mail: Lucy.McInerney@ecy.wa.gov

Review documents

Dept. of Ecology, Bellingham
Bellingham Field Office
1440 10th St., Ste., 102
Bellingham, WA
By appointment: call Linsay Albin at
360-715-5200

Bellingham Public Library
210 Central Ave.
Bellingham, WA
Phone: 360-778-7323
Hours: Mon.-Tues. 10 a.m.-8 p.m.,
Wed.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.,
Sun. closed.

Dept. of Ecology, Bellevue
Northwest Regional Office
3190 160th Ave. SE
Bellevue, WA
By appointment: call Sally Perkins at
425-649-7190

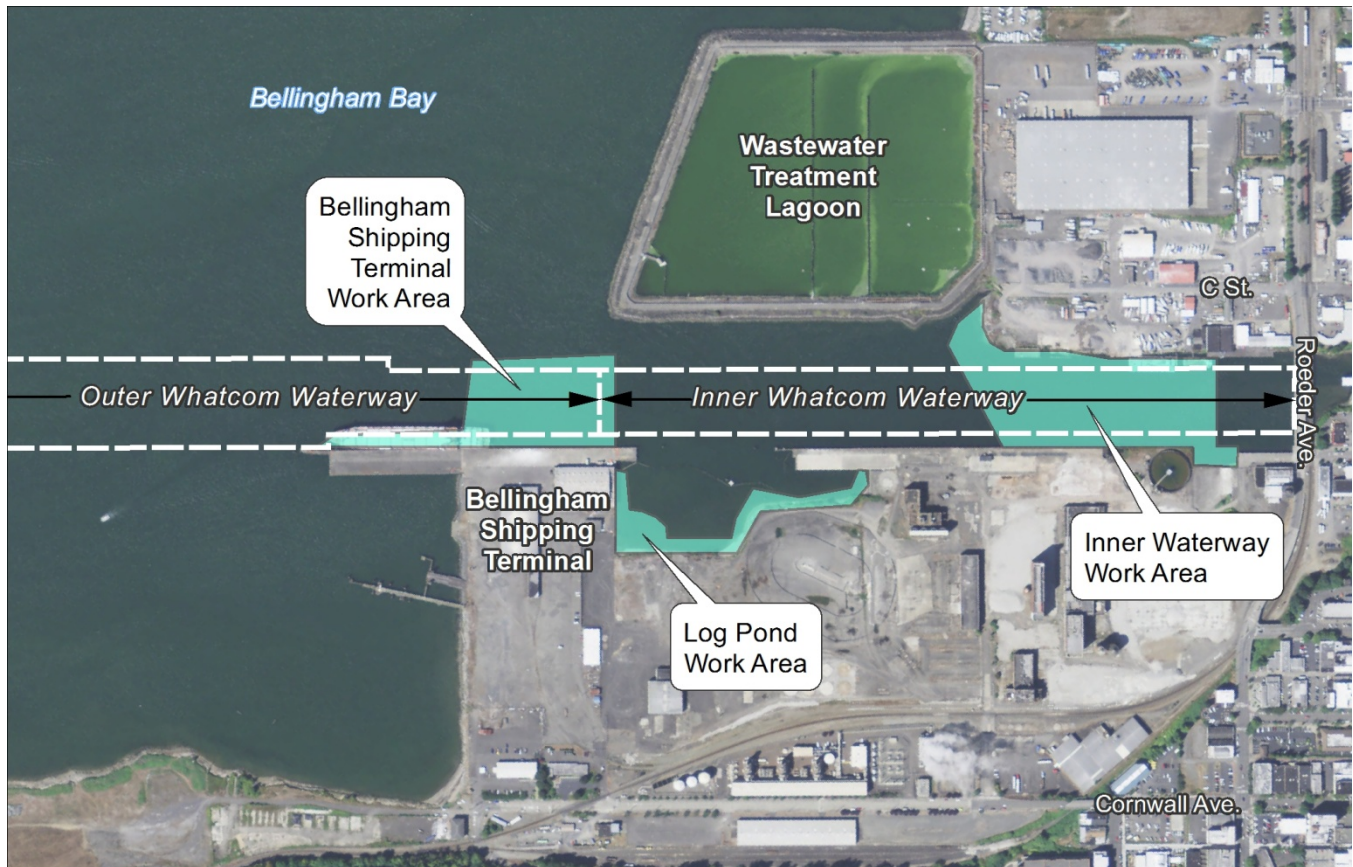
Ecology's website
www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites
Site name: Whatcom Waterway
Cleanup site ID: 219
Facility site ID: 2899

Whatcom Waterway

Cleanup areas

The areas of focus during this first phase of cleanup are known as the Bellingham Shipping Terminal, Log Pond and Inner Waterway.

Studies have shown mercury, 4-methylphenol and other contaminants in sediment at concentrations that exceed requirements of the state's cleanup law, the Model Toxics Control Act.



Bellingham Shipping Terminal

Crews will remove contaminated seafloor sediment, shoreline debris and upland soil. A layer of clean material will be placed over the shorelines and seafloor to help prevent erosion and recontamination.

Inner Waterway

Crews will remove an existing dock and creosote-treated timber piles, dredge and remove contaminated sediment, install containment walls, cut back contaminated slopes, and place a thick layer of clean material over sediment.

Log Pond

Crews will remove creosote-treated timber piles and bulkheads, as well as concrete, asphalt rubble and metal debris. They will then complete caps (installed as part of a previous project).

Debris, soil and sediment from all three areas will be transported to a disposal facility specifically engineered and permitted for this kind of waste.

Cleanup specifics

The project will:

- Remove 159,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment.
- Remove approximately 263 tons of creosote-treated timber.
- Remove concrete and asphalt rubble and other debris from 46,950 square feet of shoreline and intertidal areas.
- Open 4,300 square feet of shoreline and intertidal area by removing unused structures.
- Place 126,600 cubic yards of clean material.
- Remove three vertical creosote bulkheads and build flatter shorelines.
- Increase the quality and quantity of intertidal and shallow sub-tidal habitat for a variety of fish, including Chinook salmon, and other marine invertebrates.

Why this cleanup matters

Cleaning up the Whatcom Waterway helps protect people, plants, fish, birds and other aquatic and terrestrial life from exposure to harmful levels of contamination, based on the port's intended uses for the site.

The cleanup is being conducted under the Model Toxics Control Act, passed by citizen initiative in 1988 and enacted in 1989.

Legal agreement with the port

In 2007, Ecology entered into a legal agreement (called a consent decree) with the Port of Bellingham and other parties to implement a cleanup plan for Whatcom Waterway. The legal agreement and cleanup plan was amended in 2011 after new contamination was found. Under the terms of the legal agreement, the port prepared the engineering design report and has incorporated Ecology's comments.

Cost and funding

This first phase of work is expected to cost about \$25 million.

Ecology will reimburse up to half the port's costs through the state's remedial action grant program, which helps pay to clean up publicly owned sites. The state Legislature funds the grant program with revenues from a tax on hazardous substances.

Project timeline

- Feb. 2013 – public review
- June 2013 – hire contractor
- July 2013 – begin cleanup
- Spring 2014 – complete cleanup

Next steps

Once the public comment period ends, we will review and consider all comments received. We may modify the engineering report based on feedback received. If there are significant changes, we will issue an updated document for another public review.

Phase two construction

During the second phase of construction, the main areas of focus will be the Outer Whatcom Waterway and the Wastewater Treatment Lagoon. The port will put together a separate engineering design report, and Ecology will issue it for public review prior to construction. Phase two construction is scheduled to begin in 2016.

Contact information

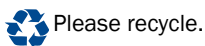
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You may be able to receive this information by email. We are required to use regular mail to reach those who live or work close to cleanup sites. To find out if you can receive these notices electronically, call Dustin Terpening at 360-715-5205 or email Dustin.Terpening@ecy.wa.gov.



Please recycle.

Whatcom Waterway cleanup site, Bellingham, WA

Ecology seeks public review and comment on cleanup plans.

Comment period: Feb. 26 to March 27, 2013.
Public meeting: March 6, 2013.

Help with other formats?

To ask about obtaining this document in a version for the visually impaired, call Dustin Terpening at Ecology's Bellingham office, 360-715-5205.

Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service.

Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

Información en español: Este verano el Puerto de Bellingham y el Departamento de Ecología comenzarán un proyecto de \$25 millones para limpiar la contaminación a lo largo de la Vía Fluvial de Whatcom dentro de la ciudad de Bellingham. Antes de comenzar la construcción, Ecología tiene el plan de limpieza (también conocido como un reporte de diseño de ingeniería que fue completado recientemente) disponible para la revisión y comentarios del público.

Ecología aceptarán los comentarios desde el 25 de febrero hasta el 27 de marzo, 2013. Ecología les invita a una reunión pública con fecha del 6 de marzo a las 6-8 pm para discutir el asunto. La reunión pública estará en el Centro de Desarrollo Técnico, Aula de Conferencia "Douglas G. Smith", con dirección de 1000 F Street (Calle F) en la ciudad de Bellingham.

Para obtener más información, favor de comunicar con Gregorio Bohn al 509-454-4174 o por correo electrónico a gboh461@ecy.wa.gov. Refiere al sitio de la Vía Whatcom.
