



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

Hambleton Bros Log Yard Washougal, Washington

Prepared by
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Southwest Regional Office
Toxics Cleanup Program
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INTRODUCTION

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has developed this public participation plan pursuant to the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) to promote meaningful community involvement during the cleanup of the Hambleton Bros Log Yard site.. This plan outlines and describes the tools that Ecology uses to inform the public about site activities and identifies opportunities for the community to become involved.

SITE LOCATION

The site is located in south Washougal. It is bounded on the north by State Route 14 and on the south by the Columbia River. Sixth Street is the closest road to the east and 2nd Street runs along the western boundary. An aerial map of the site and vicinity is show in Figure 1., below.



Figure 1. Hambleton Bros Log Yard Site Location

SITE BACKGROUND

A lumber mill operated on the property from approximately 1948 to 2010.

At one time, the property contained an equipment mechanical shop, a chemical storage shed, a single-family residence, a mill, a debarker, and a planer building.

The debarker burned to the ground in 2009 and the other structures on the property have been removed since the facility closed in 2010.

Activities at the site included log storage, milling, planing, lumber storage and shipping, and other operations ancillary to lumber mill operations. Wood-treating activities were not conducted on the property.

The property is surfaced with asphalt and gravel; however, areas of the Property are covered in woody debris from log storage.

Historical site assessments identified hazardous substances, including metals, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and petroleum .

SITE CONTAMINATION

In 2011, Ecology awarded the port a \$100,000 Integrated Planning Grant. The grant funded the investigation of contamination and options for cleanup.

Environmental assessments and investigations were completed at the site from 2002 through 2009. The following contaminants in soil were higher than MTCA cleanup levels:

- Total petroleum hydrocarbons
- Carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (cPAHs)
- Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
- Lead
- Mercury

Investigators did not find contamination from the site in either Columbia River sediment or groundwater, except slightly elevated levels of petroleum hydrocarbons in groundwater near the log pond.

CURRENT ACTIVITY

Ecology and the Port of Camas-Washougal (port) are entering into an Agreed Order. This Agreed Order is a legal agreement for the cleanup of the Hambleton Bros Log Yard site.

Ecology will hold a 30-day public comment period on the Agreed Order. Ecology will review and consider all public comments received. If appropriate, changes will be made to the Agreed Order. If there are no major changes, Ecology will sign the agreement and the port will begin work.

For the 2013-15 period, the port will receive a \$300,000 Remedial Action Grant from Ecology for the cleanup.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The purpose of this Public Participation Plan is to promote public understanding and participation in the cleanup process for this site. This section of the plan addresses how Ecology will keep the public informed about site activity and provide opportunity for comment and involvement. The following is a list of the public involvement activities that Ecology will use, their purpose and a description of when and how they will be used in this site cleanup.

Formal Public Comment Period

Comment periods are the primary method Ecology uses to get feedback from the public on proposed cleanup decisions. Comment periods usually last 30 days and are required under WAC 173-340-600 at key points during the investigation and cleanup process. See Figure 2 on page 7 for an outline of cleanup process and information about comment periods.

During a comment period, the public can comment in writing. Verbal comments are taken if a public hearing is held. After comment periods, Ecology reviews all comments received and may respond in a document called a responsiveness summary. Ecology will consider the need for changes or revisions to a document or decision based on input from the public. If significant changes are made, then a second comment period may be held. If no significant changes are made, then the draft document(s) will be finalized.

Public Meetings and Hearings

Public meetings may be held at key points during the investigation and cleanup process. Ecology may also offer public meetings for actions expected to be of particular interest to the community. These meetings will be held at locations convenient to the community. A public meeting will also be scheduled if 10 or more people request one.

Information Repositories

Information repositories are places where the public may read and review site information, including documents that are the subject of public comment. Ecology has established the following repositories for this site:

- Washington State Department of Ecology, Southwest Regional Office, 300 Desmond Drive, Lacey, WA 98516. Please call (360) 407-6045 for an appointment.
- Washougal Community Library, 1661 C Street, Washougal, WA 98671 (360) 835-5393.
- Camas Public Library, 625 NE 4th Avenue, Camas, WA 98607.

Site information will also be posted on Ecology's website:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=2482>

Site Register

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program uses its bimonthly Site Register to announce all of its public meetings and comment periods, as well as many other activities. To receive the Site Register in electronic or hard copy format, contact Seth Preston at (360) 407-6848 or by e-mail at Seth.Preston@ecy.wa.gov. It

Mailing list

Ecology has compiled a list of interested parties and organizations and residents living in proximity to the cleanup site. This list will be used to disseminate information via mail (fact sheets, site updates, public notices). If you wish to be added to the mail list, please contact Michael Bergman at 360-407-0067 or Michael.Bergman@ecy.wa.gov.

Fact Sheets

Ecology will mail out fact sheets to persons and organizations interested in the Hambleton site to inform them of public meetings and comment periods as well as important site activities. Ecology may also mail an update about the progress of site activities.

Newspaper Display Ads

Ecology may place ads in the local paper to announce public comment periods and public meetings or hearings for this site. The Camas-Washougal Post-Record will be used to publish information about this site.

Plan Update

This public participation plan may be updated as the cleanup proceeds. If an update is necessary and constitutes a substantial change in the plan, it will be announced via site register and the website.

Public Participation Grants

As part of the Model Toxics Control Act, Ecology developed a public participation grant program to promote public participation during cleanups. Public participation grants provide funding to community groups to help involve the public in the investigation and cleanup of contaminated properties. The grants also help develop and carry out programs that promote the state's solid or hazardous waste management priorities.

For cleanup sites, non-profit groups or groups of three or more unrelated individuals can apply for grants to fund outreach and education efforts for the community that is impacted by the cleanup. Past projects have helped people understand the cleanup and how to comment on cleanup proposals during public comment periods. Grant funds may be used to pay for technical experts who help people understand cleanup issues. They can also be used to hold meetings, workshops and other events that help to inform people. In addition, printing and distribution of reports, brochures and other materials may be covered.

For more information about this grant program, visit <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/grants/ppg.html>.

Translation Service

Ecology will provide translation services to any resident who requests them. This service can include written material, live translation during public meetings or telephone inquiries. Please contact Michael Bergman, Public Involvement Coordinator at (360) 407-0067 or Michael.Bergman@ecy.wa.gov for a translated copy of this or any other documents related to this site.

Points of Contact

If you have questions or need more information about this plan or the Hambleton site, please contact the following:

Guy Barrett, Site Manager

Washington State Department of Ecology

Southwest Regional Office

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Olympia, WA 98504-7775

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Michael Bergman, Public Involvement Coordinator

Washington State Department of Ecology

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Olympia, WA 98504-7775

Phone: (360) 407-0067

Email: Michael.Bergman@ecy.wa.gov

Figure 3. Steps in the Model Toxics Control Act Cleanup Process



GLOSSARY

Agreed Order: A legal agreement between Ecology and a potentially liable person to conduct work toward a cleanup.

Cleanup: Actions taken to deal with a release, or threatened release of hazardous substances that could affect public health and/or the environment. The term "cleanup" is often used broadly to describe various response actions or phases of remedial responses such as the remedial investigation/feasibility study.

Cleanup Action Plan (CAP): A document that explains which cleanup alternative(s) will be used at sites for the cleanup. The cleanup action plan is based on information and technical analysis generated during the remedial investigation/feasibility study and consideration of public comments and community concerns.

Contaminant: Any hazardous substance that does not occur naturally or occurs at greater than natural background levels.

Groundwater: Water found beneath the earth's surface that fills pores between materials such as sand, soil, or gravel. In some aquifers, ground water occurs in sufficient quantities that it can be used for drinking water, irrigation and other purposes.

Information Repository: A file containing current information, technical reports, and reference documents available for public review. The information repository is usually located in a public building that is convenient for local residents such as a public school, city hall, or library.

Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA): Legislation passed by citizens of the State of Washington through an initiative in 1988. Its purpose is to identify, investigate, and clean up facilities where hazardous substances have been released. It defines the role of Ecology and encourages public involvement in the decision making process. MTCA regulations are administered by the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Potentially Liable Person: Any individual(s) or company(s) potentially responsible for, or contributing to, the contamination problems at a site. Whenever possible, Ecology requires these PLPs, through administrative and legal actions, to clean up sites.

Public Notice: At a minimum, adequate notice mailed to all persons who have made a timely request of Ecology and to persons residing in the potentially affected vicinity of the proposed action; mailed to appropriate news media; published in the local (city and county) newspaper of largest circulation; and the opportunity for the interested persons to comment.

Responsiveness Summary: A summary of oral and/or written public comments received by Ecology during a comment period on key documents, and Ecology's responses to those comments. The responsiveness summary is especially valuable during the Cleanup Action Plan phase at a site when it highlights community concerns.

Risk: The probability that a hazardous substance, when released into the environment, will cause an adverse effect in the exposed humans or living organisms.

Sediments: Settled particles located at the bottom of a lake, river or in wetlands. Sediment(s) also includes settled particulate matter exposed by human activity (e.g., dredging) to the biologically active aquatic zone or to the water column.

Toxicity: The degree to which a substance at a particular concentration is capable of causing harm to living organisms, including people, plants and animals.