

Draft legal agreement for site study ready for public review

The Washington Department of Ecology and the Port of Bellingham have completed a draft legal agreement for the Georgia-Pacific West site in Bellingham.

When final, the agreement will require the port to conduct an environmental study and analysis (called a remedial investigation/feasibility study) of the site, with Ecology oversight.

A final agreement is a required step toward cleaning up toxic contamination in the environment under the state's toxic cleanup law, the Model Toxic Control Act.

The draft legal agreement is available for public review and comment.

G-P West site and contaminants

The G-P West property is about 64 acres on the Bellingham Bay waterfront, 300 W. Laurel St. It is bordered by the Whatcom Waterway, Cornwall Avenue, East Chestnut Street and the Bellingham Shipping Terminal.

The Port of Bellingham purchased the property from Georgia-Pacific LLC in 2005.

Portions of the property are contaminated at levels that exceed standards under the state's toxic cleanup law. These contaminated areas make up the G-P West site.

The site was used to manufacture paper products from 1925 through 2007.

The Port of Bellingham and the state of Washington own portions of the site. Contamination may extend onto other properties.

Past investigations in the area found petroleum hydrocarbons, metals, dioxins, furans, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and volatile organic compounds in soils and groundwater. These contaminants are in concentrations that exceed standards under the state's toxic cleanup law and must be addressed.

G-P and the port already have studied and cleaned up some portions of the site.

Comments accepted

June 15 – July 15, 2009

Submit comments and technical questions to:

Lucille T. McInerney, P.E.

Site Manager

WA Department of Ecology

3190 160th Ave. SE

Bellevue, WA 98008-5452

Phone: 425-649-7272

E-mail: lpeb461@ecy.wa.gov

Document review locations

Department of Ecology

Bellingham Field Office

1440 10th St., Ste. 102

Bellingham, WA

Phone: 360-715-5200

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Bellingham Public Library

210 Central Ave.

Bellingham, WA 98227

Phone: 360-778-7323

Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Fri.-

Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. 1-5 p.m.

Department of Ecology

Northwest Regional office

3190 160th Ave. SE

Bellevue, WA 98008-5452

By appointment. Call Sally Perkins: 425-649-7190.

Ecology's toxics cleanup Web site:

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/blhm_bay/sites/gpWest/gpWest_hp.htm

Or: Go to www.ecy.wa.gov, click on Cleanup, Site list by county, scroll to Whatcom County, then click Georgia-Pacific West.

Facility Site ID #: 14

This remedial investigation will build on previous studies.

Public comment invited

Ecology is asking for your comments on the draft agreed order, the legal agreement that will require the port to complete an environmental study and analysis of the site, and a draft public participation plan.

You are invited to:

- **Review** the agreed order and public participation plan.
- **Send** your comments to Ecology for consideration. **Comments will be accepted June 15 through July 15, 2009.**

See the box at the right of Page 1 for details about where to review documents and submit comments.

Overview of the agreed order

The proposed agreed order is a legal agreement between Ecology and the port.

It describes the studies that the port agrees to perform on the site. The agreed order covers the following studies and documents:

- Remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) work plan. It explains the work needed to look for and analyze contamination in soil and groundwater, and to evaluate potential effects on Bellingham Bay.
- RI/FS report. It presents the results of the study, proposes alternatives for cleanup actions, and identifies a preferred cleanup action.

The purpose of the agreed order is to direct actions that will lead to a cleanup that protects human health and the environment. It ensures that the work happens in a timely manner and according to the state's cleanup law.

Overview of the draft public participation plan

Ecology is committed to providing the public with information about cleanup activities and opportunities to participate. As part of this commitment, Ecology has prepared a draft public participation plan. This plan outlines how citizens and interested parties can learn about and provide input.

Your comments and ideas are needed to help inform cleanup activities. The public participation plan explains how Ecology will:

- Notify the public when and where documents are available for review and comment.
- Notify the public about how to become involved.
- Provide public participation opportunities.
- Respond to public comments.

What happens next?

Once the public comment period ends, Ecology will review and consider all comments it receives. The draft agreed order and public participation plan may be modified based upon your comments. If there are significant changes, Ecology will issue the documents again for public review.

As future documents about the site are developed, Ecology will notify the public of additional comment periods.

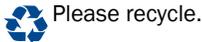
Why this cleanup matters

Cleaning up the G-P West site is necessary to protect people, plants, fish, birds and other life from exposure to harmful levels of contamination.

All phases of the cleanup, including development of the agreed order, will be conducted under the Model Toxics Control Act, passed by citizen initiative in 1988 and enacted in 1989.







Georgia-Pacific West Bellingham, WA

Ecology seeks public comment on draft legal agreement for site study

**Public comment period:
June 15 – July 15, 2009**

Facility Site ID #: 14

Help with other formats?

To ask about the availability of this document in a version for the visually impaired, call Katie Skipper at Ecology's Bellingham Field Office, 360-715-5205.

Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

Information in Spanish: El borrador de la Orden Acordada y el Plan de la Participación Pública están disponibles para revisión. El Departamento de Ecología del Estado de Washington aceptará comentarios públicos desde del 15 de junio hasta el 15 de julio, 2009. Cuando finalizado, la Orden Acordada requerirá que el Puerto de Bellingham conduzca un estudio del sitio, bajo la supervisión de Ecología. Para obtener más información en español, favor de llamar al tel: 360-407-6971, o mandar un e-mail al: rdeg461@ecy.wa.gov, y referenciar Georgia-Pacific West.

Information in Vietnamese: Một bản thảo sắc lệnh thỏa hiệp và bản thảo kế hoạch tham gia công cộng đang có sẵn cho quý vị duyệt xét. Bộ Môi Sinh tiểu bang Washington đang thu nhận ý kiến phê bình từ ngày 15 tháng 6 năm 2009 đến ngày 15 tháng 7 năm 2009. Bản thảo thỏa hiệp cuối cùng sẽ qui định cảng Bellingham thực thi cuộc nghiên cứu địa điểm này dưới sự giám sát của bộ Môi Sinh. Muốn thêm tin tức bằng tiếng Việt, xin liên lạc với Lê Teddy số 360-407-6948, hoặc bằng điện thư tele461@ecy.wa.gov, liên quan đến đề mục tham khảo Georgia Pacific West.
