

Responsiveness Summary
Hambleton Bros Log Yard Site
July 2, 2013

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) received two written responses during the 30-day public comment period ending June 26, 2013 for the Hambleton Bros Log Yard. Since both comments were similar Ecology will make one response.

Comment

Mr. Barrett,

Thank you for holding the June 11th open house on the Hambleton Bros log yard cleanup. Although I didn't complete one of your open house feedback forms, your team did a great job, providing good information and doing your best to answer every question. I believe the small public turnout was not a reflection of local apathy about the cleanup and future of this precious waterfront area, but more a sign of confidence in the Port of Camas-Washougal to do the job right.

I am very supportive of the planned cleanup effort and wish it to go smoothly and with a great long term impact on our community. I want to present for the record my comments on the subject, most relayed to you in person at the open house.

My primary comment/concern centers around reports of electrical transformers buried on the site. I first heard of this during the Port's Oct. 26th 2011 open house on the future of this area. Rod Morris, at the time a Washougal City Councilman, told of a friend who claimed that electrical transformers were buried near the pile of dirt in the southeast corner of the property. I believe efforts were made to follow up on this report during the pre cleanup site evaluation. Nothing was found.

Then last August during a class reunion, I overheard a conversation where one of my former school mates, David McCuiston, was talking about witnessing the burial of transformers while an employee at Hambleton Lumber. I quickly entered that conversation, and afterwards I drove down to the site with David and he pointed out his best recollection of the location, just west of, or under the dirt pile. He described watching as a large track excavator dug down as far as it could reach, his estimate was 20' or more, and then a bundle of transformers were chained together and lowered into the hole. His work station was one of few with a view of this corner of the property and he was told that he didn't see anything, or else he wouldn't have a job. I have relayed David's story to the Port, along with his offer to walk the ground with the appropriate people to give them his recollections firsthand. I'm unsure if additional investigation was done in response to David's information, but I know nothing has been found to date.

Based on two different reports from sources with good credibility (I have known David since grade school and will vouch for him) I firmly believe those transformers are there. My worst fear would be that they would not be found during the cleanup process, but then become a serious problem after the area has been developed. Those transformers are there. There is information in the community that they are there. There is knowledge in the community that might help insure complete cleanup. I have encouraged David to submit his own firsthand account and believe he will do so. Please consider his information a recourse that could help ensure that this former lumber mill site will be rid of this serious potential source of contamination.

David also has knowledge of locations where waste oil was disposed of for years, some of which may not have been detected by the efforts to date. He is not after notoriety. His first question to me was "I'm not going to get my name in the paper, am I?" I assume that David will submit his own comments and include contact information, but either way, I encourage the Department of Ecology and the Port to reach out to him to learn what he knows. His mailing address is 40021 SE Moffett Rd Washougal WA, 98671. If I may be of assistance, please call, email or write me.

Thank you,
Richard Hamby
360-772-8107 cell
37015 SE Gibson Rd
Washougal, WA 98671
richardhamby@earthlink.net

Comment

Mr Barrett my name is David McCuiston I was asked by Richard Hamby to tell you about the things I had seen while working for Hambleton Bros Lumber CO. for 30 + years. I have seen Chemicals dumped over the bank I did witness the burial of the large transformers 1 was busted open with oil leaking out. they had a large drain pipe installed on the site that over flow water & diesel oil would drain across the property & drain out under the sticker bushes into the river. there was oil dumped on site after oil changes for years & large gear boxes that leaked for years into the ground they were in my area when inspectors came from time to time they were steered clear of the area. Richard hamby was worried about the clean up so I promised to write you. Everything I have said is true I know for a fact those transformers are there. If you want to talk I will gladly meet with you or persons who might want to look at the site.

David L McCuiston

6-23-2013

Ecology Response

Thank you for taking the time to respond to Ecology's public comment period for the Hambleton Bros Log Yard cleanup proposal and your support. The Washington State Department of Ecology has been working with the owners of

the Hambleton Bros Log Yard to finalize an agreed order. The order, signed in 2013, requires the current owners, the Port of Camas-Washougal, to implement the cleanup action plan.

The cleanup action plan requires removal of log pond water (if present) for proper disposal, stockpiling of impacted soil into the log pond, backfilling of the log pond, and capping of the log pond, mill area, and aggregate recycling area with 2 feet of clean, imported backfill after installation of a geotextile demarcation layer.

Groundwater monitoring and recording of an environmental covenant will also occur. The cap and other soil will be maintained to prevent erosion. A periodic review every five years will ensure continued protection of human health and the environment. This balanced approach will meet the requirements of the Model Toxics Control Act, Chapter 70.105D RCW.

In response to your comments, the Port of Camas-Washougal will invite you to show them the areas of concern during a site visit. The Port will then run a magnetometer survey and possibly other additional investigation to determine if hazardous substances exist in those areas. Results will be posted to Ecology's website for this Site.