

FORMER PACIFIC WOOD TREATING

WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF
E C O L O G Y

Agreed Order for Interim Action Proposed

The Washington Department of Ecology and the Port of Ridgefield have agreed to a Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA, Chapter 70.105D RCW) order to conduct an interim action of contaminated soil and groundwater in the tank area at the former Pacific Wood Treating site. An agreed order is a legal document formalizing an agreement between Ecology and potentially liable persons (PLP's), to ensure that proposed site cleanup activities are conducted in a timely fashion, in accordance with MTCA and other applicable laws and regulations.

Your comments on the proposed agreed order are welcome through **September 21, 2001**. The box to the right provides information about where to review the agreed order, as well as where to submit comments.

Site Background

The former Pacific Wood Treating facility, about 41 acres, is located at 111 West Division in Ridgefield. It is bounded to the east by the Burlington Northern Railroad and to the west by Lake River. North of the site is the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge and Carty Lake. To the south is the Ridgefield Marina. The City of Ridgefield sewage treatment plant is located within site boundaries. The facility

was constructed on lowlands associated with the Columbia River and its sloughs.

Pacific Wood Treating used wood preservatives at its facility from 1964 to 1993. Pacific Wood Treating pressure-treated specialty wood products with creosote, pentachlorophenol (penta or PCP), or copper/chromium/arsenic (CCA) solutions. Pacific Wood Treating stopped wood treating operations in 1993, when the company declared bankruptcy.

The treatment chemicals were used in and around the tanks and drip pads where wood treating was conducted. Releases of hazardous constituents occurred in various ways, including dripping treatment solutions onto the ground, spilling creosote or treatment solutions onto the ground, spilling granular PCP and stored wastewater onto the ground, and discharging and leaking wastewater, stormwater run-off, and materials from the buried drain system.

The release and threatened release of these chemicals led EPA and Pacific Wood Treating to enter into a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) agreed consent order in 1991, which required Pacific Wood Treating to characterize and remediate these releases. Pacific Wood Treating stopped conducting any work under the 1991 agreed order in 1993. The Port of Ridgefield, which had

August 2001

FACT SHEET

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Toxics Cleanup Program
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P.O. Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775
(360) 407-6300 (voice)
(360) 407-6306 (TDD)
e-mail dale461@ecy.wa.gov

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON AGREED ORDER:

August 20, 2001 to
September 21, 2001

Comments and requests for updates should be directed to Dan Alexanian, Site Manager, at the Ecology address listed above or at (360) 407-6249.

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

The agreed order can be reviewed at the following locations:

Ecology Southwest Regional Office
address listed above

Ridgefield Library
210 North Main Street
Ridgefield, WA 98642-9394
(360) 887-8281

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If you have special accommodation needs, please call (360) 407-6300 or (360) 407-6306 (TDD).

leased the property to Pacific Wood Treating for 30 years, acquired Pacific Wood Treating's buildings and equipment when Pacific Wood Treating declared bankruptcy. The wood treating chemicals (some 160,000 gallons) stored in tanks on-site were sold to another wood treating operation. The Port of Ridgefield sold the wood treating equipment in 1994.

In June and July 1995, EPA conducted site soil and groundwater sampling. The sampling confirmed contamination of soil and groundwater by wood treating chemicals, including pentachlorophenol, metals, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH's). These compounds were found above Washington State cleanup levels in some areas of the site. Dioxin (commonly associated with wood treating chemicals is a by-product of pentachlorophenol) has been detected in soil at levels exceeding state cleanup standards.

In September 1996, Ecology and the Port of Ridgefield agreed to conduct further interim actions and to clean up the most highly-contaminated area of the site, the tank farm. This agreed order supersedes the earlier agreed order, although some of the requirements are on-going. The Port has completed upgrading the stormwater system, demolishing and removing tanks, and disposing of all chemicals. The Port removed 100 tons of solid waste, 4500 gallons of hazardous waste, and 158,000 gallons of wood treating chemicals. The Port characterized the extent of *light non-aqueous phase liquids* (LNAPL or "floating product") associated with releases from the former tank farm area and assessed potential impacts to the deep aquifer beneath the site as well as potential sources of soil and groundwater contamination. The granular penta spill and accessible contaminated soil was removed by the Port in July 1998.

The extent of contamination is greater than first thought. Groundwater deeper than 60 feet is contaminated. Sampling results from April 2001 showed that the plume of contaminated groundwater extends into the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. The aquifer beneath Carty Lake is contaminated with wood treating chemicals at low levels as well.

What Is Being Done?

The agreed order requires the Port of Ridgefield, in order to prevent/reduce further contamination of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge and Lake River, to take the following interim actions:

- ▶ clean up the worst of the contamination in the former tank farm area and between the former tank farm area and the wildlife refuge;
- ▶ remove free product and soil and groundwater contamination in the former tank farm area and between the former tank farm area and the wildlife refuge;
- ▶ improve stormwater quality;
- ▶ demolish some structures/buildings to provide access to those areas so that contamination can be identified and cleanup made easier.

The agreed order also requires the Port of Ridgefield to conduct a remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) of contaminated soil and groundwater. The remedial investigation will determine the nature, extent, and magnitude of site contamination. The feasibility study will evaluate site cleanup alternatives. Ecology will oversee the project to ensure that all parts of the agreed order are fulfilled.

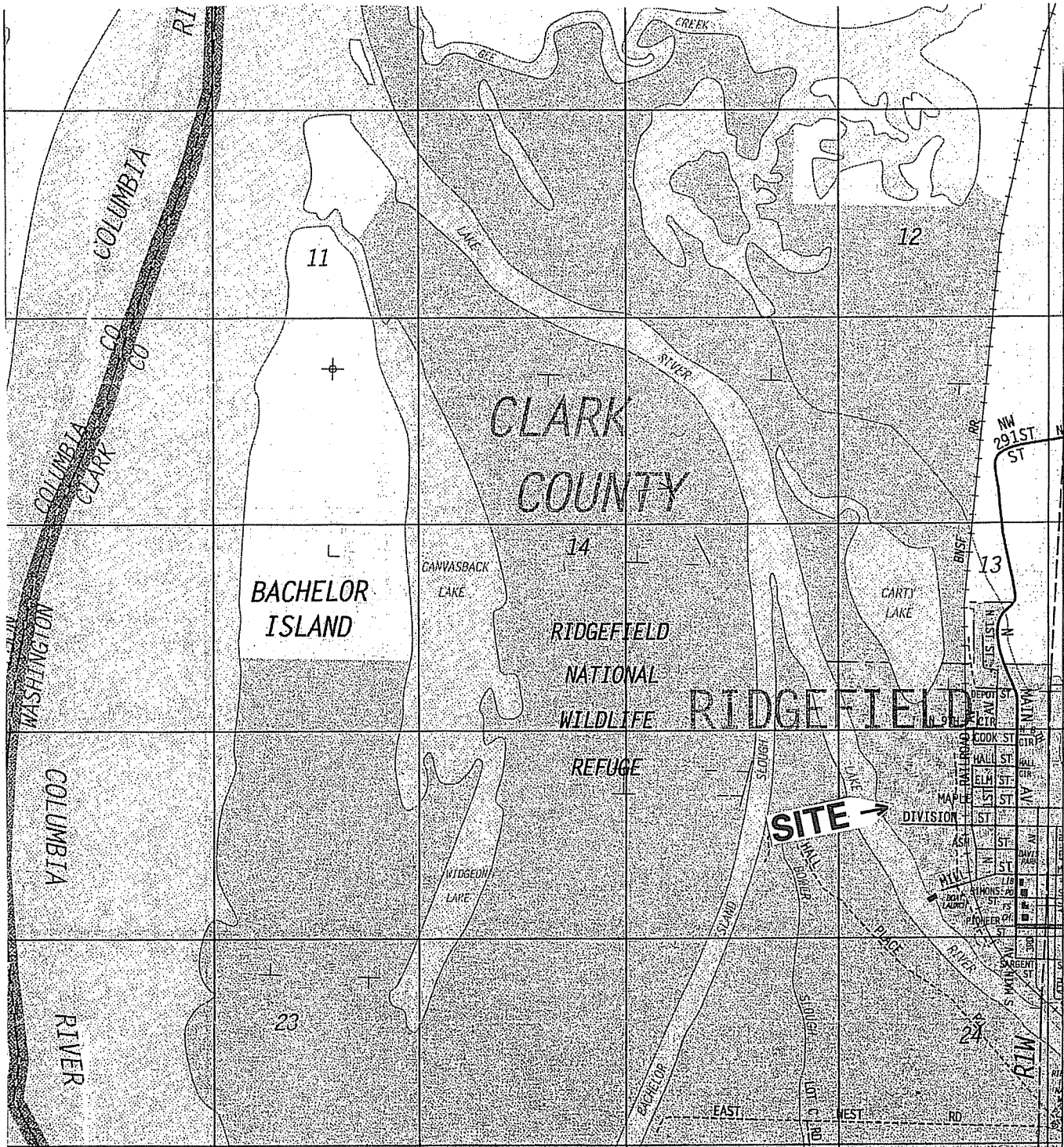
What Happens Next?

Public comment on the proposed agreed order will be considered and the order will be modified, if necessary, based on the comments received. The first phase of the work for the interim action should be completed by July 2003. Further formal public comment periods will occur as additional work is considered necessary.

Ecology Wants Your Comments!

You are invited to review and comment on the proposed agreed order through **September 21, 2001**. The public comment period presents an opportunity to have your ideas and comments heard by Ecology. Information repositories, which include the agreed order, have been set up at the locations listed in the box on page one. To review more detailed site documents than those in the information repositories, contact Ecology's Southwest Regional records center at (360) 407-6365 to schedule an appointment.

Please submit your written comments to Dan Alexanian, Site Manager, at the Ecology address listed in the box on page one. Ecology will review and respond to all comments received, and may revise the agreed order. Updates of site activities will be provided to those who submit comments or request to be placed on the site mailing list. (If you received this fact sheet directly from Ecology, you are already on the site mailing list.)



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