

Draft Cleanup Action Plan Available for Public Review and Comment

Department of Ecology would like your comments on the proposed Cleanup Action Plan for the Abitibi Consolidated Sales Corporation (Abitibi) site. As part of this agreement, Abitibi

- Removed soils that contained petroleum hydrocarbons above state standards.
- Allowed natural processes to break down pollutants that remained in groundwater over time.
- Did groundwater monitoring to track pollutant break-down.
- Sampled monitoring wells every three months until state cleanup levels for each contaminant were reached.

Cleanup of contaminated soils and groundwater must meet state standards under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA), Chapter 70.105D.

The box to the right describes where to view a copy of the draft Cleanup Action Plan (CAP) and Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) – the report used to create the draft CAP. An Environmental Covenant notifying future property owners of a small amount of remaining contamination is also available for review. The box provides contact information for submitting your comments. **Please submit your comments January 4 to February 3, 2010.**



Abitibi Consolidated Sales Corporation site

Comments Accepted

January 4 to February 3, 2010

Submit Comments and Technical Questions to:

Marv Coleman, Site Manager
WA Department of Ecology
Toxics Cleanup Program, SWRO
P.O. Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775
Phone: (360) 407-6259
E-mail: mcol461@ecy.wa.gov

Public Involvement Contact:

Hannah Aoyagi
Phone: (360) 407- 6790
E-mail: haoy461@ecy.wa.gov

DOCUMENT REVIEW LOCATIONS

Tacoma Public Library
1102 Tacoma Ave.
Tacoma, WA 98402
Phone: (253) 591-5666

Citizens for a Healthy Bay
917 Pacific Ave. Suite 100
Tacoma, WA 98402
Phone: (253) 383-2429

**WA Department of Ecology
Southwest Regional Office**
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503

By appointment only: Contact Debbie Nelson, dene461@ecy.wa.gov or (360) 407-6365

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Web site
www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/abitibi/abitibi_hp.htm

Facility Site ID #: 57759125

Site Background

The Abitibi site is located at 4302 Chambers Creek Road in Steilacoom (see map on page 3). The site was historically used as a sawmill and paper and pulp mill, beginning in 1919. Abitibi acquired the facility when their parent company merged with Stone Consolidated Corporation in May of 1997. They operated the facility until December of 2000, when it was shut down.

Ecology believes that the site was polluted before Abitibi acquired it. Abitibi did several investigations of the site between January of 2001 and February of 2006. They found petroleum hydrocarbons and benzene in both soil and groundwater. They also found arsenic in groundwater. (See the box to the right for more information about these contaminants.) These pollutants were found at levels above state cleanup standards.

Cleanup Action Plan

Ecology decided to use soil removal and monitored groundwater natural attenuation to clean up the Abitibi site. Petroleum-degrading bacteria in the water have broken down the petroleum hydrocarbons into harmless by-products. The bacteria feed on the chemicals and oxygen in the water. Oxygen from surface water filtering into the groundwater speeds up the cleanup process.

Arsenic: Petroleum hydrocarbon breakdown leads to chemical conditions that will temporarily increase arsenic levels in groundwater. Levels are expected to decrease at the end of biodegradation.

Monitoring: Five monitoring wells installed for the cleanup action were used to track the breakdown of pollutants. These wells were tested once every three months, from October 8, 2006 to April 28, 2008. Monitoring continued until groundwater met state standards for a full year.

Chambers Creek: One well was used to make sure that no pollutants were traveling from the site to nearby Chambers Bay.

Site Contaminants



Petroleum hydrocarbons are a large group of chemicals that come from crude oil. They are found in fuels and other petroleum products, including pesticides. These chemicals can get into soil or groundwater through spills or leaks.

Most petroleum hydrocarbons are not known to cause cancer, but many can affect the central nervous system, immune system, lungs, blood, skin, and eyes. One type—**benzene**—does cause cancer in humans.

For more information, please visit <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts123.pdf>.

Benzene is a colorless liquid that can evaporate quickly in air and dissolve in water. Industrial processes are the main source of benzene in the environment.

Breathing high levels of benzene can cause dizziness, headaches, tremors, unconsciousness, or even death. Long term exposure to high levels harms bone marrow and can cause leukemia—a cancer of the blood or bone marrow. **Benzene at this site is present at low levels, and has not been detected in the air.**

For more information, please visit <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts.pdf>.



Arsenic is a toxic metal. It can occur naturally in soil and can come from industrial processes such as metal smelting, pesticide production, and wood treatment. **You may have arsenic in your soil from the old Asarco copper smelter in Ruston.**

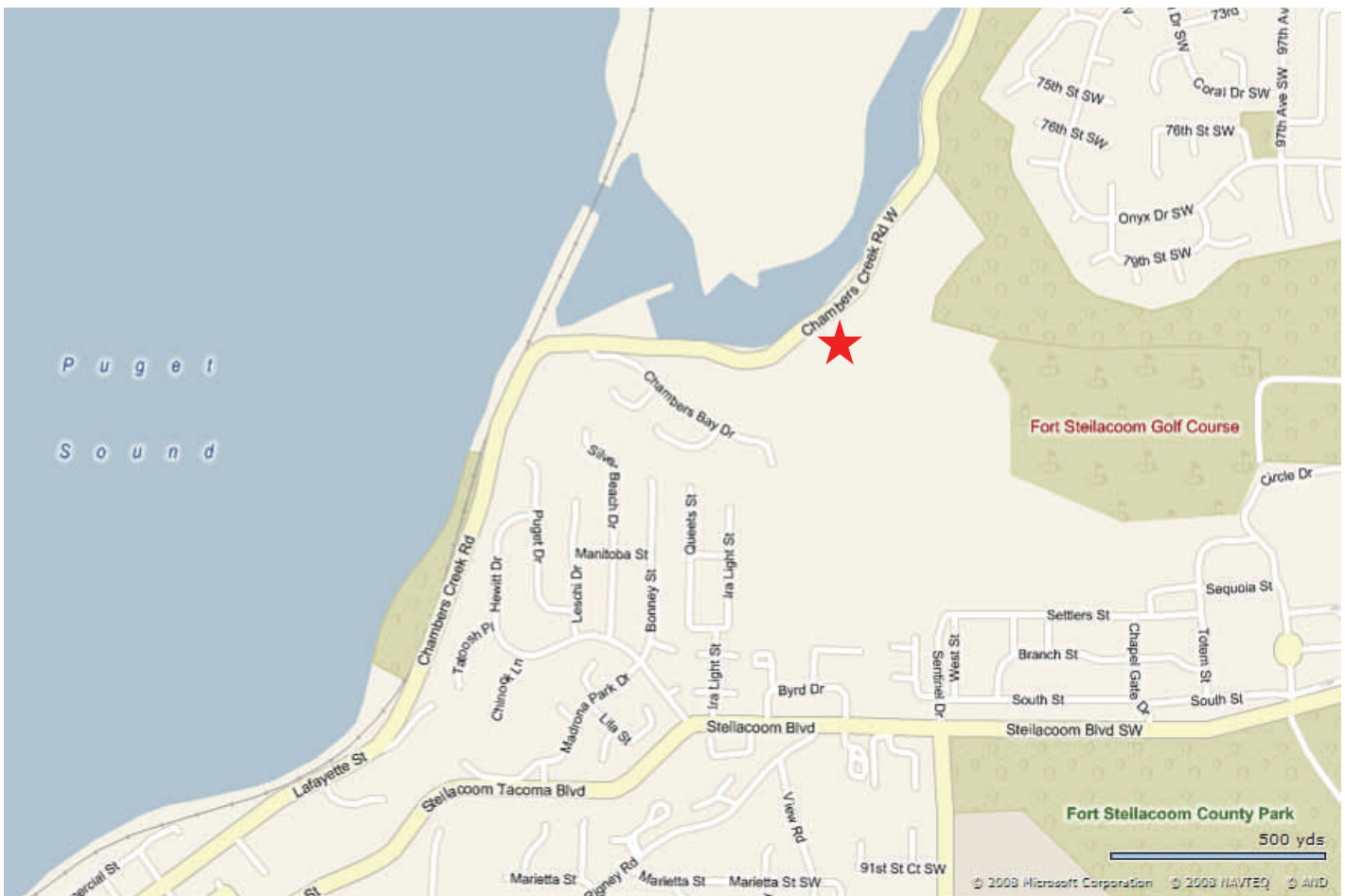
Visit http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/tacoma_smelter/ts_hp.htm for more information or call 253-798-6592 for free home soil testing.

What Happens Next?

Ecology will respond to public comments at the end of the comment period – January 4 to February 3, 2010. Any major changes to the documents will be made available for further public review and comment. Ecology will respond to all comments in a Responsiveness Summary and make it available at the locations on page 1.

Why This Cleanup Matters

This cleanup is part of Governor Gregoire's effort to help protect and restore Puget Sound. Abitibi is located on Chambers Creek, which connects to Puget Sound. Cleaning up the land around Chambers Creek is an important step in making this waterway safer and healthier for humans and wildlife.



Abitibi site – 4203 Chambers Creek Road, Steilacoom

**Abitibi Consolidated Sales
Corporation
Pierce County, WA**

**Ecology Seeks Public Comment on
the Draft Cleanup Action Plan**

Public Comment Period:
January 4 to February 3, 2010

Facility Site ID #: 57759125

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disability call 877-833-6341



Abitibi Consolidated Sales Corporation site, Steilacoom, WA