

New Agreed Order Public Comment Period and Open House

Public Comment Invited

Department of Ecology and Rayonier Properties LLC (Rayonier) are entering into an Agreed Order (legal agreement). The agreement is to complete studies and plan clean up of the Study Area (see page 3) of the Port Angeles Rayonier Mill site. The site is generally located at 700 N. Ennis St.

Rayonier must complete five major tasks, including investigation and planning for cleanup of the Study Area. The enforceable schedule gives three years to complete the work. The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe concurs with the tasks in the Agreed Order, but is concerned about the length of time to complete them.

This Agreed Order addresses the Study Area, which is only a portion of the site. If other areas were contaminated by the former mill operation, Rayonier would be required to conduct final cleanup under a separate agreement.

Ecology is accepting comments on the Agreed Order and updated Public Participation Plan. Ecology is also asking for public input on removing a restrictive covenant that is no longer needed (see page 4). The box to the right lists where to view these and related documents and how to submit your comments. Please submit comments by March 5, 2010.



Aerial view of the Rayonier Mill property and dock

Comments Accepted

February 1– March 5, 2010

Submit Comments and Technical Questions to:

Marian Abbett, Project Manager
WA Department of Ecology
Toxics Cleanup Program, SWRO
P.O. Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775
Phone: (360) 407-6247
E-mail: marian.abbett@ecy.wa.gov

Public Involvement Contact:

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

DOCUMENT REVIEW LOCATIONS

Port Angeles Library
2210 South Peabody Street
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: (360) 417-8500

Peninsula College Library
1502 E. Lauridsen Blvd.
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: (360) 417-6280

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

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

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Web site

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/rayonier/rayonier_hp.htm

Facility Site ID #: 19

What is in the Agreed Order?

This Agreed Order replaces several older agreements for the Rayonier Mill site. It accounts for the past work done by Rayonier and asks the company to compile existing information in several reports. The Agreed Order details some additional sampling to fill data gaps identified by Ecology. The existing and new information will be used to establish preliminary cleanup levels, determine what cleanup is needed, and evaluate cleanup methods.

Under the new Agreed Order, Rayonier will complete the following tasks for the Study Area:

- **Task 1**—Collect soil and groundwater data on the upland portion.
- **Task 2**—Develop a report describing all data for the upland.
- **Task 3**—Develop a report describing all data for the marine portion.
- **Task 4**—Evaluate different options for cleaning up both the upland and marine portions.
- **Task 5**—Develop a cleanup plan for the entire Study Area. This work will be called an Interim Action because it only addresses part of the overall site.

The tasks are described in more detail in Section VII of the Agreed Order. This section also details an enforceable schedule for when documents are due and when they will be reviewed.

Site History

Rayonier operated a specialty pulp mill on the property from 1930 until 1997. Sulfite and acid were used to break down wood to extract the cellulose fibers. The pulp from the mill was sold to companies that made photographic film, fabrics, and plastics.

Contamination: The sulfite pulp-making process generated various waste materials. Until the 1970s,

when the mill began treating waste water, liquid wastes and other byproducts were discharged directly into Port Angeles Harbor. The mill also burned wood chips and sludge to generate steam and electricity. This created air emissions, which included dioxins and furans. Additional contamination came from fuel, electrical equipment, and other mill operations.

Early investigation: After closing, the mill was dismantled. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) sampled the upland soils, groundwater, and sediments. They discovered chemical byproducts of the mill operations, including dioxins, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and metals.

Site management: In 1999, Ecology and the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe signed an agreement that gives the tribe a formal concurrence role in the cleanup process. Part of the mill property was the site of a former Klallam settlement. The area has many cultural resources and natural resources important to the Lower Elwha and other tribes in the region.

USEPA officially gave cleanup oversight to Ecology in 2000. The Ecology Solid Waste Program managed initial cleanup efforts from 2000 to the end of

Need more information?

Port Angeles Rayonier Mill

For more background on the site and access to cleanup documents, visit Ecology's Web site:

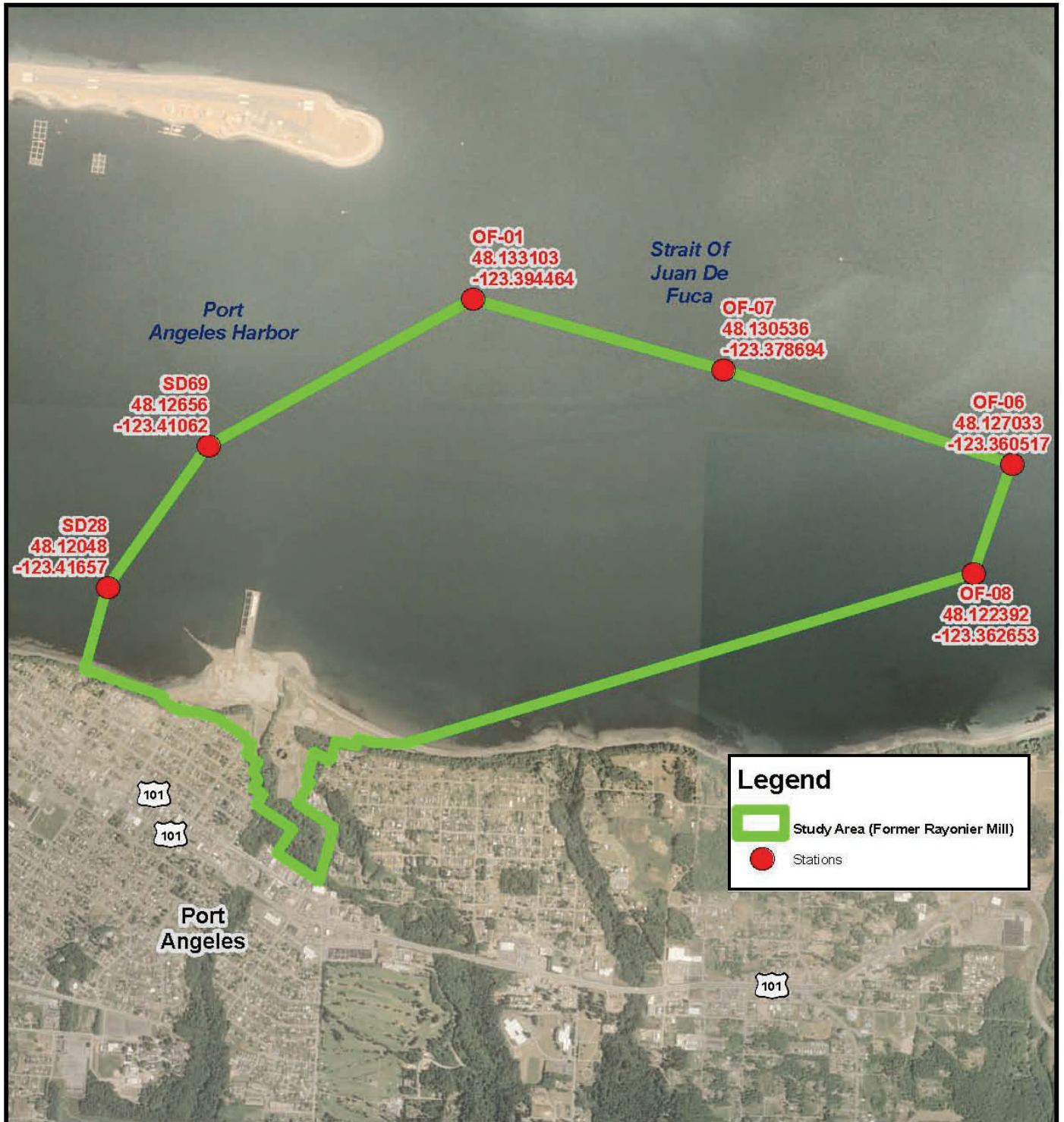
http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/rayonier/rayonier_hp.htm

Other Port Angeles Cleanups and Investigations

Ecology is working on several other cleanup projects, and two major investigations related to the Rayonier site. The Port Angeles Bay-wide Web site provides links to these projects:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/psi/portAngeles/psi_portAngeles_bay.html





Port Angeles Rayonier Mill Study Area

The former Rayonier Mill facility is located at 700 N. Ennis St. in Port Angeles. The map (Agreed Order Exhibit A) shows the proposed Study Area—an area Rayonier will investigate and clean up first. The full site will be defined by the complete extent of contamination.

2007. Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program has managed the cleanup since then. The program spent the past two years investigating Port Angeles Harbor and off-property soils, and developing a new cleanup approach for the Rayonier Mill site.

In 2002, Rayonier and Ecology signed an Agreed Order to investigate the upland portion of the site. A second agreement was signed in 2004 to determine the extent of contamination in the nearby marine areas. The original goal of the two orders was to define the full extent of contamination by investigating the upland and marine portions of the site. The two old orders are in effect until this new Agreed Order is signed by Ecology.

Work Completed at the Site

Rayonier has done several Interim Actions (partial cleanups) at the site. Work began in 1998, removing petroleum and PCB contaminated soil and sediments from the Ennis Creek area. Between 1998 and 2006, Rayonier did more soil removal from fuel tank areas and the former machine shop and wood mill.

Restrictive Covenant

A 1992 Enforcement Order required cleanup in the Finishing Room area along Ennis Creek. As part of the Interim Action, Ecology required Rayonier to place a restrictive covenant on the property to protect the remedy.

Rayonier did further Interim Actions in the area in 1998 and 2002. Now that Rayonier is restarting investigation and cleanup efforts in the Study Area, the restrictive covenant is no longer needed. **Ecology proposes removing the restrictive covenant and is looking for public input during this comment period.**

Investigation of Contamination

Rayonier submitted a Remedial Investigation report for the upland portion of the site in 2006. This report went out for public comment in late 2006. Based on comments and additional review, Ecology deter-

mined that the investigation was incomplete. More data are needed to determine the upland boundary of the site—the nature and full extent of contamination from former mill operations.

Rayonier also collected data on contamination in the marine areas near the mill property. However, more data are needed to determine the boundary of the marine portion of the site.

Both old Agreed Orders and related documents are available on Ecology's archive Web page for the Rayonier site:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/rayonier/2008/archive.htm>

See the **Responsive Summary for the Upland Remedial Investigation** for public comments and Ecology's responses. The document is available on Ecology's Web site and at the repository locations listed on page one.

Why a new Agreed Order?

Rayonier and Ecology have agreed to focus efforts on cleaning up the Study Area (page 3) first. It includes the mill property, which the community wants cleaned up and put into productive use.

The upland portion of the Study Area needs further investigation to fill data gaps before cleanup work can be planned. The Agreed Order gives an enforceable schedule for finishing reports that describe upland and marine contamination within the Study Area. This information will then be used to look at cleanup options.

Final Cleanup

The boundary of the site, as defined by state cleanup law, still must be determined. Ecology will eventually need a full Remedial Investigation for both marine and upland contamination. All remaining contamination would then be cleaned up under a final Cleanup Action Plan.

What Happens Next?

You are invited to review and comment on the following documents:

- Agreed Order
- Updated Public Participation Plan
- Responsiveness Summary for the Upland Remedial Investigation.

Comments will be considered in finalizing the Agreed Order and moving forward with cleanup planning. Ecology will address general public concerns in a responsiveness summary. Due to high public interest in this site, the agency may not be able to respond to individual comments. The responsiveness summary will be available at locations listed on page one.

Once Ecology has signed the Agreed Order, Rayonier will begin work. Tasks in the Agreed Order have an enforceable schedule to ensure progress in the cleanup of the Study Area.

Other Ecology Work

Harbor Investigation—Ecology continues to analyze and review data from the Port Angeles Harbor Sediments Investigation. The agency expects a report to be ready for public comment in 2010.

Dioxin Study—The Rayonier Mill Off-Property Soil Dioxin Study is still in progress. Ecology expects a report in 2010. This report will also go out for public comment.

Providing Effective Public Comment

Q: Why should I comment?

A: This is a chance to have your voice heard and influence the decision-making process. You know about your neighborhood, community and local conditions and how this cleanup may affect them. Although Ecology is bound by existing state and federal laws, your comments can influence how solutions are achieved.

Q: How can I influence Ecology's decisions?

A: Put your comments in writing and submit them at the public open house, or by e-mail or postal mail before the public comment period ends (see page 1 for contact information). Consider the following points when preparing your comments:


- **Review** the regulatory document carefully. Know what the subject is and what is being proposed.
- **Write** comments that are specific, focused and relate to the subject of the document. Refer to section numbers, paragraphs and page numbers of the document in your comments and keep them in order so the reviewer can easily follow your thinking. Explain what you are concerned about. Say "I am concerned about how this will affect residents living near the site because..." rather than just stating "Don't do this."
- **Send** your comments to Ecology **before** the comment period ends.



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

PO Box 47775

Olympia, WA 98504-7775

 Please recycle.

Port Angeles Rayonier Mill Clallam County, WA

Ecology Seeks Public Comment on an Agreed Order

**Public Comment Period:
February 1 through March 5, 2010**

Facility Site ID #: 19

If you need this publication in an alternative format, call reception at (360) 407-6300. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with speech disability call 877-833-6341

Public Open House

February 10, 2010 from 6:30—8:30 p.m.
Port Angeles Senior Center Multipurpose Room
328 E. 7th St., (360) 457-7004

Ecology invites you to a public open house on the next steps for the Rayonier Mill cleanup. Staff will be available to talk one-on-one during the open house sessions. A presentation will be given at 7:00 p.m., followed by a question and answer session.

Agenda

6:30—7:00 p.m.	Open house
7:00—7:30 p.m.	Presentation
7:30—8:00 p.m.	Question and answer
8:00—8:30 p.m.	Open house
