



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

## **Draft PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN**

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**Port of Seattle Terminal 30  
1901 East Marginal Way South  
Seattle, Washington**

**Prepared by**  
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## Table of Contents

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<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Site Background.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Next Steps .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Model Toxics Control Act Cleanup Stages.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Public Involvement Responsibilities and Activities.....</b>	<b>6</b>

## Figures

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<b>Figure 1. Terminal 30 Site Location .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Figure 2. Steps in the Model Toxics Control Act Formal Cleanup Process.....</b>	<b>11</b>

## **Introduction**

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The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has developed this public participation plan according to the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) to promote meaningful community involvement during the investigation and cleanup of the Port of Seattle Terminal 30 Site. The Site is located in Seattle, Washington next to the East Waterway at the mouth of the Lower Duwamish Waterway (LDW). This plan describes the tools Ecology will use to inform the public about site cleanup activities and identifies opportunities for the community to become involved.

## **Site Background**

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The Site is part of the over 30-acre container terminal called Terminal 30, located at 1901 East Marginal Way South in Seattle, Washington across the East Waterway from Harbor Island (see figure on page 10). The East Waterway is part of the Harbor Island Superfund Site regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Terminal 30 Site's northern border is a stretch of public shoreline access to the East Waterway. The Terminal 30 property extends beyond the southern boundary of the Site. East Marginal Way South forms the Site's eastern boundary. The primary land use around the site is industrial.

Before the 1900s, the land where the site is located was part of the Elliot Bay tide flats. In order to enable development in the area, the flats were filled with various materials including dredged soils. One of the first industrial operations on the site was the Standard Oil Company (now Chevron) bulk fuel terminal, located in the northern portion site in 1905. During this time, a variety of fuels and petroleum products were stored at the site. Until 1950, the southern portion was used for a variety of purposes including a lumber yard, a machine shop, and a shipyard. In 1950, Chevron expanded the Fuel Terminal to the southern portion of the site.

In 1985, the Port of Seattle purchased the site from Chevron and redeveloped the site as a container terminal. From 1999-2008 the site included a cruise ship terminal. Terminal 30 currently operates as a freight terminal and also provides temporary freight storage.

### **Contamination and Cleanup History**

Contamination at this site is primarily due to its historic use as a fuel terminal. Leaks, spills, and other discharges and releases of petroleum from above-ground petroleum storage tanks, piping and equipment resulted in contamination of the site's groundwater and soil.

Cleanup work on the site began in the 1980s when Chevron discovered petroleum contamination in the soil and groundwater.

- In 1984, Chevron installed the first set of monitoring wells on the site to determine the extent of contamination.
- In 1985, the Port of Seattle purchased the site and entered into an agreement with Ecology that established cleanup criteria.
- In 1991, Ecology determined that the provisions of the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) required additional study and cleanup on the Site. Ecology and the Port of Seattle entered into a new legal agreement called an Agreed Order. The 1991 Agreed Order instructed the Port of Seattle to undertake additional remedial investigation and a feasibility study of remedial (cleanup) alternatives for the Site.

The current contaminants of concern at the Site include soil and groundwater contaminants.

Contaminants in the soil include:

- Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH).

Contaminants in the groundwater include:

- Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH), including gasoline, diesel, and motor oil range hydrocarbons.

- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) including benzene.
- Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs).

An on-site stormwater management system treats stormwater runoff using oil/water separators and filters before discharging the water into the East Waterway. Contaminated groundwater does not enter the on-site stormwater system.

## **Next Steps**

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Ecology will hold a 30-day public comment period for an amendment to the 1991 Agreed Order. The amendment will require the preparation of a draft Cleanup Action Plan by the Port of Seattle for the Terminal 30 Site. At the end of the public comment period, Ecology will draft a Responsiveness Summary document that will contain all of the comments received and Ecology's responses to them. This will be sent to all who commented and posted on Ecology's website.

After the proposed amendment is approved, the Port of Seattle will submit a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) report and a draft CAP to Ecology. The RI/FS updates and replaces an earlier RI/FS report prepared in the 1990s (as part of the first Agreed Order). The 2013 RI/FS includes the most up to date information about contamination on the site and evaluates potential cleanup actions.

Once Ecology has reviewed the RI/FS and draft CAP, a 30-day public comment period will be held to give the public the opportunity to review and comment on the RI/FS and draft CAP. Ecology anticipates the process will take less than a year.

## **Model Toxics Control Act Cleanup Stages**

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The Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) defines each stage of the cleanup process to protect human health and the environment. Figure 2 on page 11 details these stages. Some steps described in the chart include legal documents called agreed orders or consent decrees. These are agreements between Ecology and the parties responsible for cleanup of the pollution. In addition to the steps in the chart, interim actions may be taken during the investigation to reduce or eliminate pollution that poses an immediate threat to human health or the environment.

The cleanup process is complex. Issues often arise that require more attention or evaluation, and may lead to changes in the steps or schedule. Every effort will be made to keep the public well informed of changes.

## **Public Involvement Responsibilities and Activities**

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The purpose of this Public Participation Plan is to promote public understanding and participation in the MTCA activities planned for this site. This section of the plan describes how Ecology will share information and receive public comments and community input on the site activities. Ecology will integrate public input into its decisions as much as is feasible.

The following is a list of Ecology's public involvement activities, their purposes, and descriptions of when and how they will be used during this site's investigation and cleanup.

### **Formal Public Comment Periods**

Comment periods are the primary method Ecology uses to get feedback from the public on proposed investigation and cleanup decisions. Comment periods usually last 30 days and are required at key points during the investigation and cleanup process before final decisions are made.

During a comment period, the public can submit comments in writing, orally, and via e-mail. After formal comment periods, Ecology reviews all comments received and may respond in a document called a Responsiveness Summary.

Ecology will consider the need for changes or revisions based on input from the public. If significant changes are made, then a second comment period may be held. If no significant changes are made, then the draft document(s) will be accepted and finalized. Future public comment periods will be held for other documents and legal agreements that are developed for the site.

### **Public Meetings and Hearings**

Public meetings, workshops, open houses and public hearings are held based upon the level of community interest. If ten or more persons request a public meeting or hearing based on the subject of the public notice, Ecology will hold a meeting or hearing and gather comments. These meetings will be held at locations convenient to the community. Public meetings must be held in a facility that meets the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

### **Information Repositories**

Information repositories are places where the public may read and review site information, including documents that are the subject of public comment.

Ecology has established two repositories for the Terminal 30 Site:

**Seattle Public Library  
Beacon Hill Branch**  
2821 Beacon Ave. S.  
Seattle, WA 98144  
(206) 684-4711

**Washington State Department of Ecology**  
Northwest Regional Office  
3190 160th Avenue SE  
Bellevue, WA 98008  
(425) 649-7190  
Please call for an appointment.

Site information also will be posted on Ecology's web site at:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=4394>

**Site Register**

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program uses its bimonthly *Site Register* to announce all of its public meetings and comment periods, as well as many other activities. To receive the *Site Register* in electronic or hard copy format, contact Seth Preston at (360) 407-6848 or by e-mail at [seth.preston@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:seth.preston@ecy.wa.gov). It is also available on Ecology's web site at: [http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/pub\\_inv/pub\\_inv2.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/pub_inv/pub_inv2.html)

**Mailing List**

Ecology has compiled a mailing list for the site. The list includes individuals, groups, public agencies, elected officials, private businesses, potentially affected parties, and other known interested parties. The list will be maintained at Ecology's Northwest Regional Office and will be updated as needed.

Please contact Cassandra Garcia at (425) 649-7052 or [cassandra.garcia@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:cassandra.garcia@ecy.wa.gov) if you would like to have your mailing address or email address added to either list.

**Fact Sheets**

Ecology will mail fact sheets to persons and organizations interested in the Terminal 30 Site to inform them of public meetings and comment opportunities and important site activities. Ecology also may mail fact sheets about the progress of site activities.

**Newspaper Display Ads**

Ecology may place ads in the *Seattle Times* and other appropriate newspapers, to announce public comment periods and public meetings or hearings for the site.

**Ecology Press Releases**

Ecology may release information to the *Seattle Times* and other appropriate press to announce public comment periods, public meetings, hearings, or other information for the site.

**Public Participation Plan Update**

This public participation plan may be updated as the project proceeds.



## **Point of Contact**

If you have questions or need more information about this plan or the Terminal 30 site, please contact:

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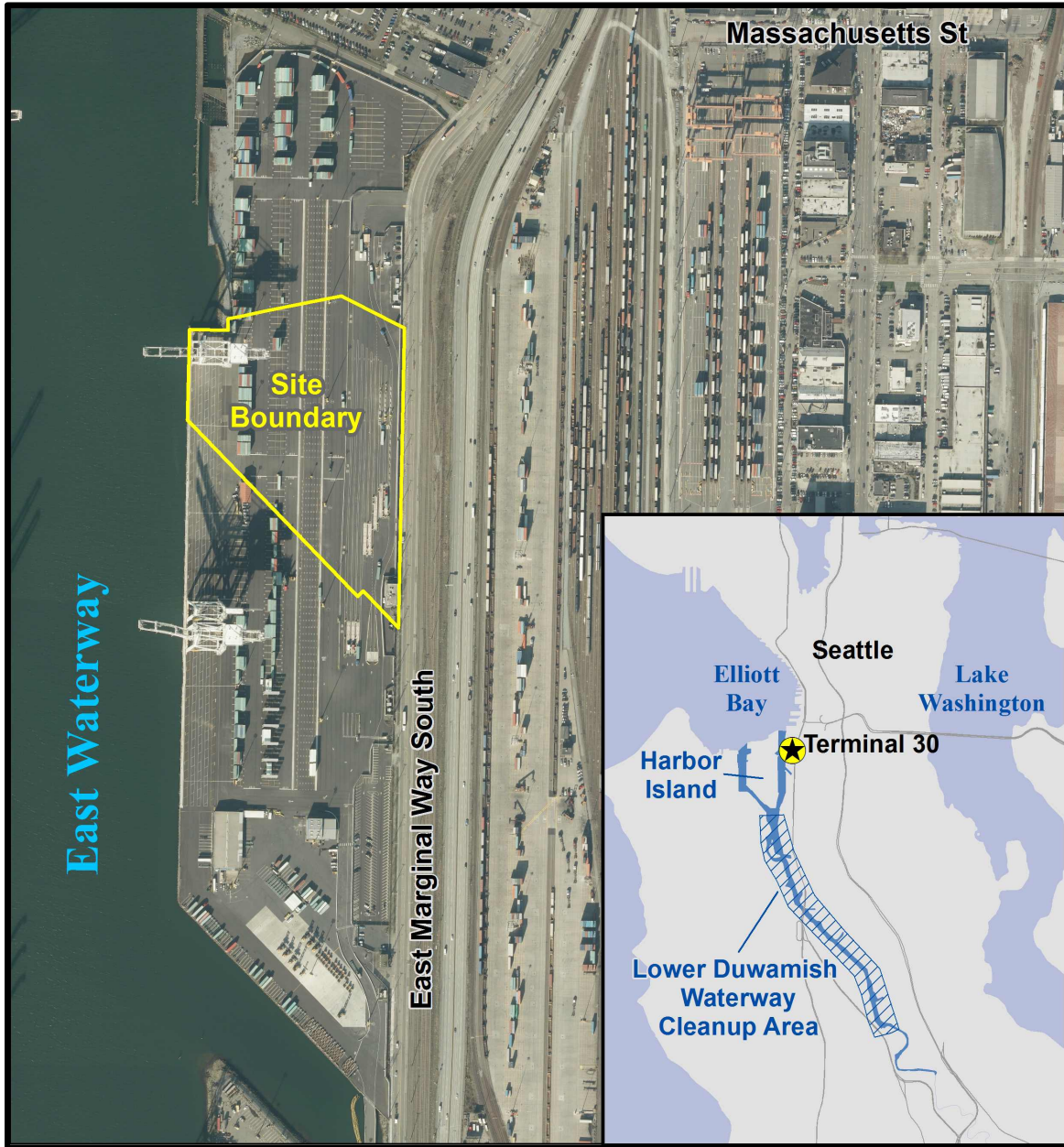
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Figure 1. Terminal 30 Site Location



**Figure 2. Steps in the Model Toxics Control Act Formal Cleanup Process**

