



Harris Avenue Shipyard Bellingham Bay

Agreed order available for review

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the Port of Bellingham (Port) have agreed to complete a study of contaminated sediments at the Harris Avenue Shipyard site located at 201 Harris Avenue in Bellingham. The agreement to conduct this study has been formalized in a legal document called an *agreed order*. The agreed order outlines the work to be performed and ensures that the site investigation and cleanup activities are conducted in a timely fashion in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

A draft *sampling action plan* (SAP) is included in the agreed order and identifies sampling needed to supplement existing site data. Actions specified in the SAP are proposed to take place during summer 2003. The agreed order also includes a *public participation plan* which outlines opportunities throughout the process for the public to provide input.

The agreed order is currently available for public review and comment through July 9, 2003. The box at the right contains information on where to view the document and how to submit comments. Ecology will respond in writing to all comments received and may make changes to the agreed order as a result of them. If these changes are significant, the revised agreed order will once again be made available for public review.

Site Background

The Harris Avenue Shipyard is located on Post Point in Bellingham (see map on back). The Shipyard has been used by various parties for shipbuilding and ship maintenance since the early 1900s. In 1966, the Port of Bellingham purchased the property and has leased it to several different companies for use as a shipyard. The site is currently being leased by Puglia Engineering, doing business as Fairhaven Shipyards, and All American Marine (these companies are not responsible for the contamination at the site).

The Shipyard is one of 12 cleanup sites around Bellingham Bay identified through the Bellingham Bay Demonstration Pilot Project, a coordinated effort to clean up contaminated sites around the Bay. The Shipyard was identified as a high priority by Ecology in 2000 in a comprehensive strategy developed in cooperation with the Bellingham Bay Demonstration Pilot Work Group, a partnership of 15 federal, tribal, state and local organizations. The comprehensive strategy was designed to provide information to decision makers and citizens about sediment cleanup and disposal, pollution prevention, habitat restoration and land use from a bay-wide perspective.

Sampling has been performed at the site over the past several years, and the Port will update data in a more thorough site investigation. To date, the main contaminants of concern include copper, zinc, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and phenol.

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study

The agreed order requires the Port of Bellingham to complete a *remedial investigation/feasibility study*. This study will describe the type and extent of contamination in the sediments at the site and will identify potential cleanup alternatives. Ecology will make the draft available to the public for review and comment and will hold a public meeting to discuss the documents. The study is expected to be available for public review by winter 2003.

June 2003

Comment Period:

June 10, 2003 to July 9, 2003

Documents are available for review at:

Department of Ecology website:
www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/sites_information.html

Department of Ecology
Bellingham Field Office
1204 Railroad Avenue, Ste 200
(360) 738-6250

Bellingham Public Library
210 Central Avenue, Bellingham

Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office
3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98008

Send comments to:

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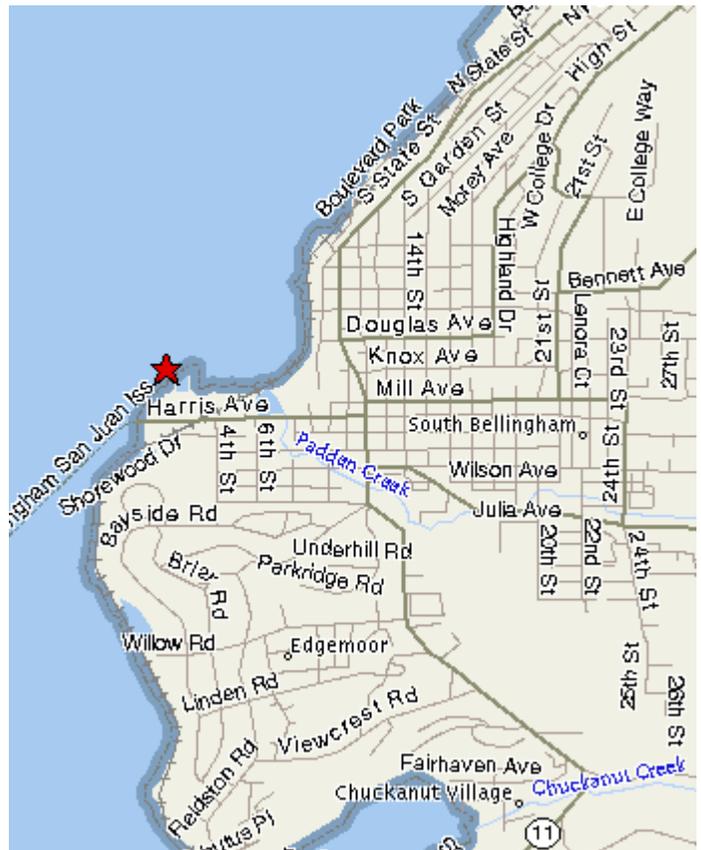
Questions? Contact:

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If you require this document in alternative format, please contact Jessica Paige at 738-6280(Voice) or 711 or 1-800-833-6388 (TTY).

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