

## **Proposed Interim Cleanup ready for public review**

The Port of Bellingham (Port) is proposing to conduct an interim cleanup action, under Department of Ecology (Ecology) oversight, at its Westman Marine Site. The cleanup will address contamination found during construction of a new building.

Ecology and the Port entered into a legal agreement, called an agreed order, early in 2013. That agreement authorized the Port to conduct an environmental investigation of the site, which is ongoing. During the course of the investigation, Port consultants discovered that a Port tenant, Boundary Fish, was beginning construction on a building for its operations. The building footprint lies partially within the boundaries for the Westman site investigation.

Surface soil samples were taken from the Boundary Fish building footprint. Contaminants levels were low, but did exceed State environmental limits. Contamination at this portion of the Westman Marine Site must be addressed, and the existing cleanup action plan will likely take several more years to complete. Therefore this interim action is being proposed.

Ecology invites the public to review the proposed interim action, and submit comments from January 13 - February 12, 2014. (See right for details).

### **Site history, location and contaminants**

The Westman Marine Site is located in the southeastern portion of the Blaine Harbor industrial area in Blaine, Washington. All or most of the site is owned by the Port. Prior to 1949, the aquatic lands were dredged to create a small boat harbor and marina. The upland industrial area was also created at that time and using hydraulic fill with timber bulkheads along the shoreline.

Between 1961 and 1969 the marina was expanded several times since its original construction, but the footprint of the upland industrial area has remained the same.

Boatyard/shipyard operations started with Berg Shipbuilding Company in 1949. The Site has been leased by several tenants since that time, including Westman Marine from 1989 to 2011. The Site is currently leased by Walsh Marine.

### **Public Comment Period**

**Comments accepted:**  
January 13 – February 12, 2014

#### **Submit comments and technical questions to:**

Jing Liu, Site Manager  
WA Department of Ecology  
3190 160<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE  
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452  
Phone: 425-649-4310  
Email: Jing.Liu@ecy.wa.gov

#### **Document at these review locations:**

Department of Ecology  
Bellingham Field office  
1440 10<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 102  
Bellingham, WA  
By appointment. Call Lindsay Albin at  
360-715-5200.

Blaine Public Library  
610 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Blaine, WA  
Phone: 360-305-3600  
Hours: Mon.-Tues. 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.  
Wed.– Sat. 10 a.m.- 6 p.m.  
Sun. closed.

Department of Ecology  
Northwest Regional Office  
3190 160<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE  
Bellevue, WA  
By appointment. Call Sally Perkins:  
425-649-7190

#### **Ecology's Westman Marine Site web page:**

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=2205>

Facility Site ID: #66519819  
Cleanup Site ID: #2205

### Background at Boundary Fish lease area

While mobilizing for investigation at the Site, Landau Associates discovered that initial construction activities were underway for a new building in the Boundary Fish lease area. Upon discovery, the Port, working with Ecology, collected surface soil samples within the proposed new building footprint to determine if soil contamination was present. The contaminant concentrations were generally low, but there were a number of samples over State cleanup levels for metals, and carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (cPAHs).

Based on the sample results indicating that soil contamination was present in a portion of the building site, the Port and Ecology decided to remove and safely stockpile approximately 230 cubic yards of contaminated soil from the building footprint. During the removal, evidence of the boatyard historical sidetracks was uncovered, and a concrete vault was encountered within the building footprint. The concrete vault did not have a bottom and diesel-contaminated soil was found below the base of the vault. The vault and the diesel-contaminated soil was removed. Upon removal, soil samples were collected and analyzed for gasoline- and diesel-range total petroleum hydrocarbons, PAHs, heavy metals, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

The analytical results for soil monitoring indicated that petroleum hydrocarbon concentrations in the soil in the vicinity of the former vault location were below State cleanup limits. Concentrations of heavy metals – copper, mercury, and zinc – were still above cleanup levels. Further characterization during the overall Westman site investigation is needed to determine whether these represent a threat to human health and the environment.

### Proposed interim action

The soil removed from the Boundary Fish building footprint has been stockpiled, and must be removed and properly disposed. This cannot wait for the overall investigation and cleanup action at the Westman site. Therefore this proposed interim cleanup action is necessary to immediately reduce the threat to human health and the environment by removing contaminated soil from the building footprint.

### Public comment invited

You are invited to:

- **Review** the proposed interim action.
- **Send** your comments to Ecology (address on page 1). **Written comments will be accepted Jan. 13-Feb.12, 2014.**
- **To get more detailed information**, review the supporting documents at the locations listed in on Page 1.

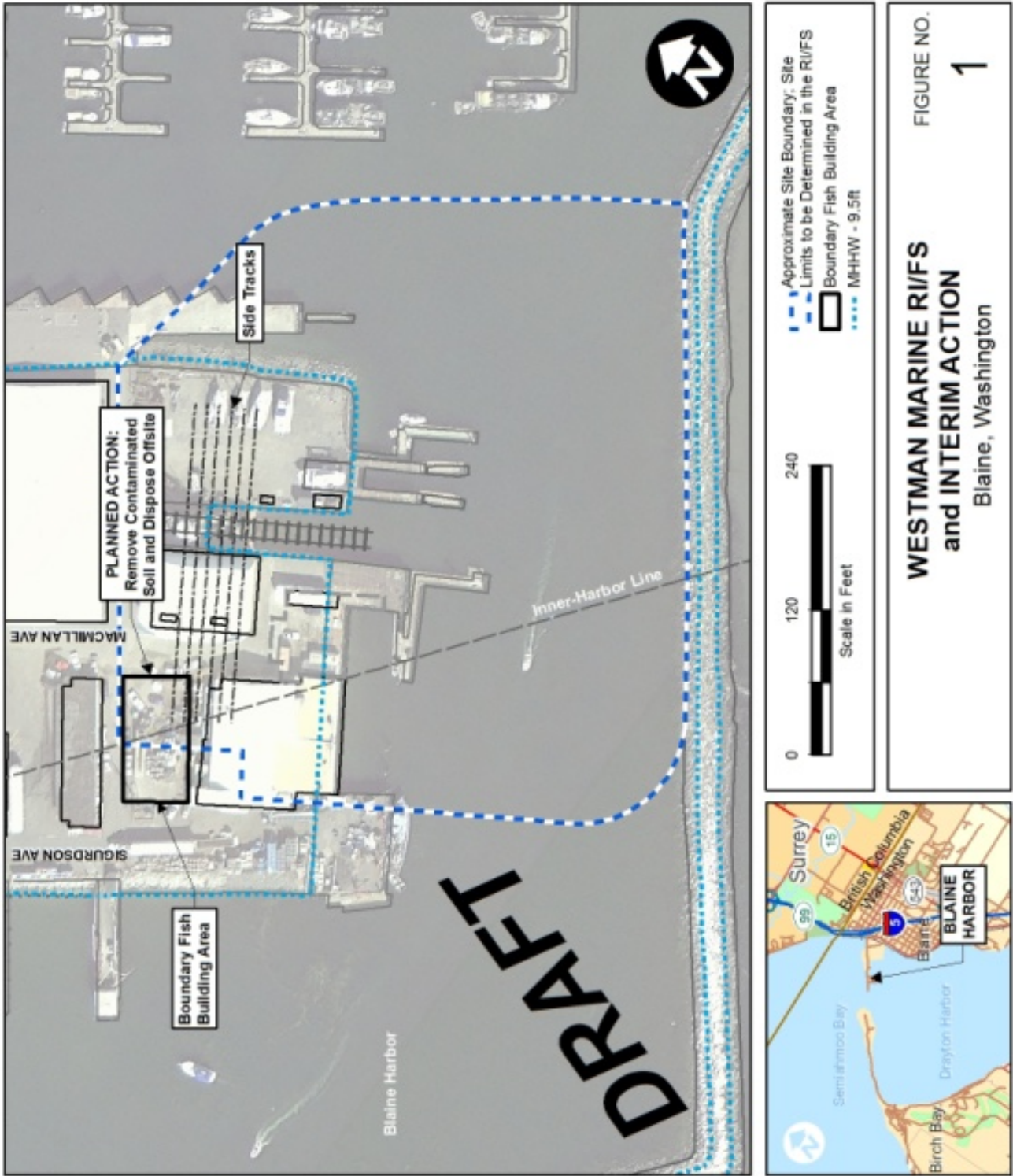
### What happens next?

Once the public comment period ends, Ecology will review and consider all comments. If there are significant changes, Ecology will hold a second 30 day comment period and ask for public comments.

### Why this cleanup matters

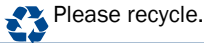
Cleanup of the Westman Marine site is necessary to protect people, plants, birds and other life from exposure to harmful levels of contamination, based upon the intended uses of the site. All phases of the cleanup will be conducted under the Model Toxics Control Act, passed by citizen initiative in 1988 and enacted in 1989.







3190 160<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE  
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452



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Westman Marine, Blaine, WA

## **Ecology seeks public comment on an interim action plan**

Public comment period: January 13 – February 12, 2014

Facility Site ID #: 66519819

### **Help with other formats?**

To ask about obtaining this document in a version for the visually impaired, call Brad Petrovich at Ecology, 425-533-5537.

Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service.

Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

**Información en español:** El Departamento de Ecología (Ecología) del Estado de Washington está aceptando comentarios sobre la limpieza, conocido como “una acción preliminar”, el sitio de la Marina “Westman”. Este documento describiría un estudio ambiental y de limpieza para el sitio de “Westman Marine.” Ecología aceptará los comentarios del 13 de enero – el 12 de febrero, 2014 . Favor de mandar sus comentarios por correo a Jing Liu, Department of Ecology, 3190 160th Avenue SE, Bellevue, WA 98008-5452.

Para más información en español, favor de contactar a Gregorio Bohn a 509-454-4174 o por correo electrónico a [gboh461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:gboh461@ecy.wa.gov). Refiere al sitio de “Westman Marine.”

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