

Agreed Order for Cleanup Available for Public Review and Comment

Public Comment Invited

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the Port of Tacoma (Port) are entering into an agreement to clean up part of the Atofina Chem 3009 Taylor Way Log Yard site. Under the proposed Agreed Order (legal agreement), the Port will complete the following steps:

- An Interim Action (partial cleanup) to clean up a toxic waste landfill. The landfill currently holds contaminated soil, woodwaste, and slag.
- A Remedial Investigation to determine the nature and extent of contamination on the site.
- A Feasibility Study to evaluate possible final cleanup options.
- A Draft Cleanup Action Plan that outlines the final cleanup actions.

The box to the right lists where to view the Agreed Order, and how to submit your comments. **Work will be done concurrently with the public comment period.**

Site Description

The Atofina Chem site is located at 3009 Taylor Way in the Tacoma Tideflats (map on page three). It was formerly known as **Elf Atochem 3009 Taylor Way** and **Pennwalt 3009 Taylor Way Dunlap Towing**. The property sits between Taylor Way and the Hylebos Waterway. The Arkema Inc. cleanup site (the former chemical manufacturing plant) located at 2901 Taylor Way is directly to the north. Cleanup is also being planned for this site.



Port of Tacoma Cleanup

The Port of Tacoma has purchased several contaminated properties as part of a terminal expansion project. These properties are cleanup sites and must be cleaned up to meet state standards under the Model Toxics Control Act. Ecology will oversee this process to ensure that human health and the environment are protected.

For questions about the Port of Tacoma expansion, please contact:

Scott Hooton at 253-383-9428 or by e-mail at shooton@portoftacoma.com.

Comments Accepted

November 10 to December 10, 2008

Submit Comments and Technical Questions to:

Dom Reale, Site Manager
WA Department of Ecology
Toxics Cleanup Program, SWRO
P.O. Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775
Phone: (360) 407-6266
E-mail: drea461@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 Avenue
Tacoma, WA 98402
Phone: (253) 591-5666

Citizens for a Healthy Bay
917 Pacific Avenue, 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

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/atofinaChem/atofina_hp.htm

Facility Site ID #: 1219

Former owners of the Atofina Chem site included Dunlap Towing Co., Echo Lumber Co., and Arkema Chemical Inc. The Atofina Chem site was used as a log sort yard until the mid-1980s. It was sold to the Port with two other properties in 2007. The Port is the Potentially Liable Person (PLP) responsible for cleanup.

Site Contamination

The log sort yard was originally contaminated with wood waste and heavy metals. Slag from the former Asarco smelter in North Tacoma was used to build the road bed for the log sort yard. The slag leached heavy metals such as arsenic, copper, lead, and zinc into the soil.

In 1992, Arkema's parent company, Pennwalt Chemicals, created a landfill for the contaminated soils, wood waste, and slag. This was done under a Consent Decree (legal agreement) with Ecology. The landfill was lined with heavy plastic and covered over to keep contaminants from escaping.

Interim Action

Ecology and the Port would now like to remove the waste from the onsite landfill. The waste would go to a permitted landfill off site. There are two major benefits:

- 1) The current landfill is less than 100 feet from the Hylebos Waterway. Moving it would better protect human health and the local environment.
- 2) In the 1990s, the waste would have gone to a hazardous waste landfill. The fees would have been very expensive. Under new regulations, this waste can go to a regular (Subtitle D) landfill.

What Happens Next

You are invited to review and comment on the investigation and cleanup documents for the Atofina Chem 3009 Taylor Way Log Yard site:



State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Determination of Non-Significance

Environmental cleanup projects must be reviewed to see if they will have negative impacts such as:

- Harm to human health or the environment.
- Harm to endangered species and their habitats.
- Increased traffic or noise.

The Port of Tacoma (Port) has determined that the proposed interim cleanup at the Atofina Chem site is not expected to negatively impact the environment or surrounding community.

The SEPA checklist and determination are available through Scott Hooton at the Port of Tacoma (253-383-9428 or shooton@portoftacoma.com).

- Proposed Agreed Order and Scope of Work.
- Public Participation Plan

Your comments will be considered in finalizing the Agreed Order and moving forward with the Interim Action. Ecology will respond to your comments in a responsiveness summary, which will be available at locations listed on page one.

Once the Port has completed the work required by this Agreed Order, Ecology will write a final Cleanup Action Plan and put it out for public comment. The Port and Ecology will need to sign a new legal agreement requiring the Port to complete the final cleanup. To **finish cleanup** at the site, all soil, sediments, and groundwater must meet state cleanup standards.

Atofina Chem 3009 Taylor Way Log Yard



- Atofina Chem 3009 Taylor Way Log Yard property, 3009 Taylor Way, Tacoma
- Arkema Inc. cleanup site (former chemical manufacturing plant), 2901 Taylor Way
(This site will be undergoing cleanup soon—more information can be found at http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/arkema/arkema_hp.htm)



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

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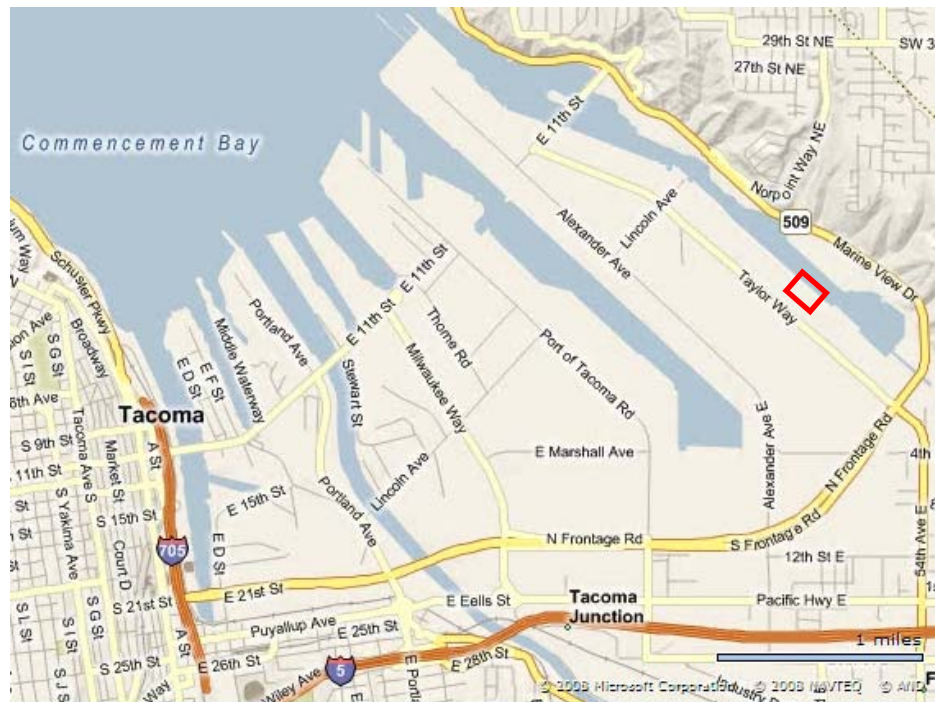
Atofina Chem 3009 Taylor Way Log Yard Pierce County, WA

Ecology Seeks Public Comment on an Agreed Order for a Proposed Cleanup Action

Public Comment Period:
November 10 through December 10,
2008

Facility Site ID #: 1219

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Atofina Chem 3009 Taylor Way, Tacoma (approximately inside the red box)