



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

Atofina Chem 3009 Taylor Way Log Yard

Tacoma, Washington

Prepared by
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October / 2008

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Location and Map	1
Background	2
Public Participation Activities and Responsibilities	2
Public Comment Periods	2
Public Meetings and Hearings	3
Information Repositories	3
Site Register	3
Mailing List	3
Fact Sheets	3
Web Site	4
Newspaper Display Ads	4
Plan Updates	4
Contacts	4
Glossary	4

INTRODUCTION

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has developed this public participation plan to promote meaningful community involvement during the cleanup of the Atofina Chem 3009 Taylor Way Log Yard site (Atofina Chem site). The cleanup is taking place under the Model Toxics Control Act (70.105D RCW), which requires public participation at key stages of the cleanup process. This plan describes the tools that Ecology uses to inform the public about site activities and identify opportunities for the community involvement.

LOCATION AND MAP

The Atofina Chem site is located at 3009 Taylor Way in the Tacoma Tideflats (see map below). 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.



— Atofina Chem 3009 Taylor Way Log Yard property, 3009 Taylor Way, Tacoma

BACKGROUND

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.

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.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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 addresses how Ecology will share information and receive public comments and community input on the site activities.

Ecology uses a variety of activities to increase public participation in the investigation and cleanup of MTCA sites. Ecology will use input provided by the community whenever possible. The following is a list of the public involvement activities that Ecology will use, their purposes, and descriptions of when and how they will be used during the Atofina Chem site cleanup.

Public Comment Periods

Comment periods are the main way Ecology gets feedback from the public on investigations like this. Comment periods usually last 30 days and are required at key points during the investigation, before final decisions are made.

During a comment period, the public can comment in writing. Verbal comments are taken if a public hearing is held. 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 finalized.

Public comment periods will be held for:

- The Agreed Order for cleanup and the Interim Action.
- The Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study report and final Cleanup Action Plan.
- Removing the site from the Hazardous Sites List when cleanup is complete.

Public Meetings and Hearings

Public meetings may be held at key points during the investigation and cleanup process. Ecology also may offer public meetings for actions expected to be of particular interest to the community. These meetings will be held at locations convenient to the community. A public meeting will also be scheduled if ten or more people request one.

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 three repositories for the Atofina Chem site:

- Tacoma Public Library, 1102 Tacoma Ave, Tacoma WA 98402, (253) 383-2429
- Citizens for a Healthy Bay, 917 Pacific Ave., Suite 100, Tacoma WA 98402, (253) 383-2429
- Washington State Department of Ecology, 300 Desmond Drive, Lacey, WA 98516. Please call (360) 407-6045 for an appointment.

Site information also will be posted on Ecology's Web site at http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/atofinaChem/atofina_hp.htm.

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 Linda Thompson at (360) 407-6069 or by e-mail at Ltho461@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.

Mailing List

Ecology is compiling a mailing list for the site. It includes individuals, groups, public agencies, elected officials, private businesses, and other known interested parties. The list will be maintained at Ecology's Southwest Regional Office and will be updated when individuals request to be added or removed.

Ecology sent out a large mailing about Toxics Cleanup Program investigation and cleanup activities in the Port of Tacoma area. The mailing targeted residents, property owners, and business owners within a half mile of the Port of Tacoma area. Anyone may call or e-mail to opt in to the mailing list.

Please contact Hannah Aoyagi at (360) 407-6790 or by e-mail at haoy461@ecy.wa.gov if you would like to be involved or have your address added to or deleted from this mailing list.

Fact Sheets

Ecology will mail fact sheets to persons and organizations interested in the Atofina Chem 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.

Web Site

The Atofina Chem 3009 Taylor Way Log Yard Web site will have information about public comment periods, investigation progress, and future work.

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

Newspaper Display Ads

Ecology will place ads in the Tacoma News Tribune to announce public comment periods and public meetings or hearings for the site.

Plan Update

This public participation plan may be updated as the project proceeds. If an update is necessary, the revised plan will be submitted to the public for comment.

Contacts

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

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GLOSSARY

Comment Period: A time period during which the public can review and comment on various documents and proposed actions. For example, a comment period may be provided to allow community members to review and comment on proposed studies or draft reports.

Contaminant: Any hazardous substance that does not occur naturally or occurs at greater than natural background levels

Information Repository: A file containing current information, technical reports, and reference documents available for public review. The information repository is usually located in a public building that is convenient for local residents such as a public school, city hall, or library.

Public Notice: At a minimum, adequate notice mailed to all persons who have made a timely request of Ecology and to persons residing in the potentially affected vicinity of the proposed action; mailed to appropriate news media; published in the local (city and county) newspaper of largest circulation; and the opportunity for the interested persons to comment.

Public Participation Plan: A plan prepared to encourage coordinated and effective public involvement designed to the public's needs at a particular site.

Responsiveness Summary: A summary of oral and/or written public comments received by Ecology during a comment period on key documents, and Ecology's responses to those comments. The responsiveness summary is especially valuable during the Cleanup Action Plan phase at a site when it highlights community concerns.

Risk: The probability that a hazardous substance, when released into the environment, will cause an adverse effect in the exposed humans or living organisms.

Toxicity: The degree to which a substance at a particular concentration is capable of causing harm to living organisms, including people, plants and animals.