



## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN**

**Superlon Plastics  
2116 Taylor Way  
Tacoma, WA**

Washington State Department of Ecology  
Southwest Regional Office  
Toxics Cleanup Program  
300 Desmond Drive  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7775

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

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**INTRODUCTION** .....3

**SITE BACKGROUND AND CURRENT ACTIVITY**..... 3

**MODEL TOXICS CONTROL ACT**..... 3

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**..... 5

**FIGURES**

    Figure 1. Site location ..... 7

    Figure 2. Steps in Model Toxics Control Act Formal Cleanup ..... 8

## INTRODUCTION

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The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has developed this public participation plan in cooperation with pursuant to the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) and Agreed Order No. DE 5940 to promote meaningful community involvement during the investigation and cleanup of Superlon Plastics Site. This plan outlines and describes the tools that Ecology uses to inform the public about Site activities and identifies opportunities for the community to become involved.

## SITE BACKGROUND

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The 3.1 acre site is located at 2116 Taylor Way in Tacoma between the Blair and Hylebos Waterways. From 1925 to 1951, the property was used to produce and warehouse lead-arsenate pesticides. In 1951, the site was sold and operated as a lumber company and wood treatment facility until 1972. Superlon Plastics purchased the site to manufacture plastic piping from 1972 to present. The company is still in operation.

In 1990, an Ecology site investigation led to the discovery of 34 corroded drums on the dirt floor in one of the building basements. Several contaminants were detected above state standards in soil, groundwater and standing water. Contaminants include arsenic, cadmium, lead, mercury, gasoline and oil range hydrocarbons, pentachlorophenol, tetrachloroethylene, trichloroethylene, cis-1,2-dichloroethylene, vinyl chloride, and chloromethane.

Ecology referred the site to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In 1991, EPA performed an investigation of the site and recommended further investigation to determine if there was a need for removal of contamination.

As part of the Governor's 2007 Puget Sound Initiative, an effort to restore the health of Puget Sound by 2020, Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program received resources to accelerate cleanups within 1/2 mile of the Sound. Ecology began to reevaluate sites within this area where there had been no action due to lack of resources. Superlon, and several other sites, were evaluated and became high priority sites.

In 2007, Ecology staff investigated the site and discovered the corroded drums were still on the site and found no evidence of cleanup. White Birch Group, LLC and E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company and Ecology began negotiating the Agreed Order to begin cleanup.

Superlon has been working with Washington State Labor & Industries to ensure the safety and health of their employees. Several steps have been taken to make sure employee health is protected.

The Washington State Department of Ecology, White Birch Group, LLC and E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company entered into a legal agreement to begin cleanup of contamination at the Superlon Plastics property in Tacoma in June 2009 after a 30 day public comment period.

The Agreed Order requires White Birch Group, LLC and E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company to:

- Conduct a Remedial Investigation to determine the nature and extent of contamination.
- Conduct a Feasibility Study to examine possible cleanup options.

## **CURRENT ACTIVITY**

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The PLPs have drafted two work plans to begin the Remedial Investigation and complete an Interim Action:

- A Remedial Investigation Work Plan which details what steps will be taken to investigate and determine the full extent of contamination.
- An Interim Action Work Plan which describes several steps that will be taken to immediately address contamination (including building demolition, soil removal and capping).

In addition, the PLPs did a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review of the Interim Action to make sure the proposed activities would not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Ecology reviewed the SEPA checklist and made a Determination of Non-Significance.

## **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 8 details these stages.

Some steps described in the chart include “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 steps 1 through 5 (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 addresses how Ecology will share information and receive public comments and community input on the Site activities.

### ***Public Involvement Activities***

Ecology uses a variety of activities to facilitate public participation in the investigation and cleanup of MTCA Sites. 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 this Site cleanup.

### ***Public Meetings and Hearings***

Public meetings may be held during the investigation and cleanup process as required by WAC 173-340-600. 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. If 10 or more people request a public meeting, one will be scheduled. Otherwise, meetings will be scheduled as needed.

### ***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 four repositories for the Superlon Plastics cleanup project. Documents available for public review and comment can be found here:

- Washington State Department of Ecology, Southwest Regional Office, 300 Desmond Drive, Lacey, WA 98516. Please call (360) 407-6045 for an appointment.
- Tacoma Public Library, 1102 Tacoma Avenue South, Tacoma, WA 98402  
Phone: (253) 591-5666
- Citizens for a Healthy Bay, 917 Pacific Avenue, Suite 100, Tacoma, WA, 98402  
Phone 253/383-2429
- Ecology's web Site  
[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/SuperlonPlastics/SupPlas\\_hp.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/SuperlonPlastics/SupPlas_hp.html)

### ***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](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 Southwest Regional Office and will be updated as needed.

Please contact Meg Bommarito at (360) 407-6255 or mbom461@ecy.wa.gov if you would like to have your address added to or deleted from this mailing list.

### *Newspaper Display Ads*

Ecology may place ads in *The 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, and constitutes a substantial change in the plan, it will be announced via site register and the web site.

### *Points of Contact*

If you have questions or need more information about this plan or the Superlon Plastics cleanup project, please contact the following:

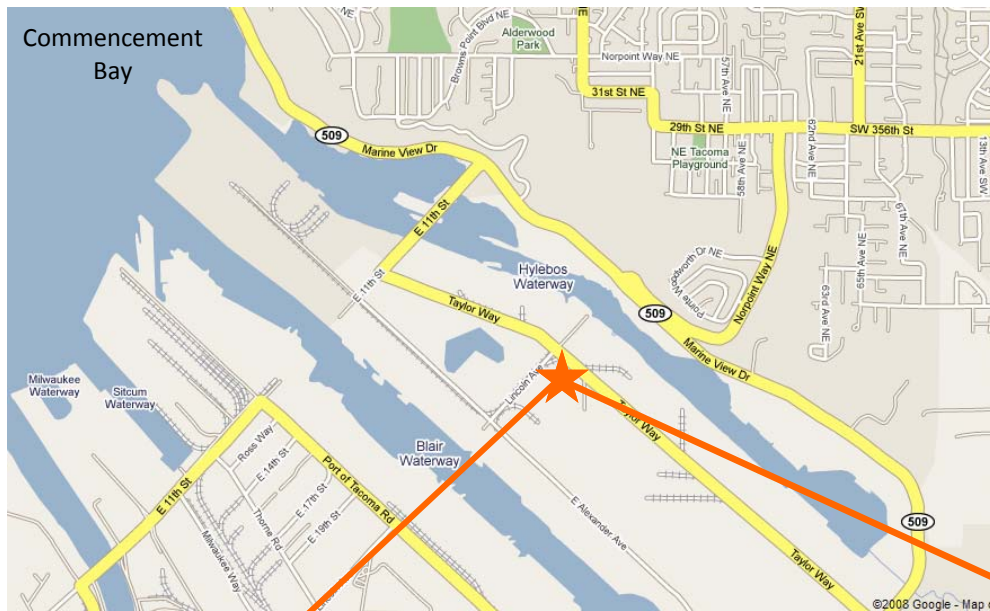
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**Figure 1. Superlon Plastics Site location.**







# Steps in the Model Toxics Control Act Cleanup Process

## STEP 1: SITE DISCOVERY AND INVESTIGATION

Sites may be discovered in a variety of ways. These include reports from the owner, an employee, or concerned citizens. Following discovery, an initial investigation is conducted to determine whether or not a site needs further investigation.

## STEP 2: SITE HAZARD ASSESSMENT AND HAZARD RANKING

Ecology confirms the presence of hazardous substances and determines the relative threat the site poses to human health and the environment. The site is then ranked from 1 (highest) to 5 (lowest).

## INTERIM ACTIONS

Actions can be taken at any time during the cleanup process to reduce risk to human health and the environment.

## STEP 4: FEASIBILITY STUDY

The feasibility study takes the information from the remedial investigation and identifies and analyzes cleanup alternatives.

**30 Day Public Comment Period**

## STEP 3: REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION

A remedial investigation defines the nature, extent, and magnitude of pollution at a site. Before a remedial investigation starts, a detailed work plan is prepared which describes how the investigation will be done.

**30 Day Public Comment Period**

## STEP 5: CLEANUP ACTION PLAN

Ecology develops a cleanup action plan using information gathered in the remedial investigation and feasibility study. The plan specifies cleanup standards and methods. It describes the steps to be taken, including any additional environmental monitoring required during and after the cleanup, and the schedule.

**30 Day Public Comment Period**

## STEP 6: CLEANUP!

Implementation of the cleanup action plan includes design, construction, operations and monitoring. A site may be taken off the Hazardous Sites List after cleanup is completed and Ecology determines cleanup standards have been met.