

## Agreed Order for Investigation and Cleanup Available for Public Review and Comment

### Public Comment Invited

The Washington State Department of Ecology is entering into an Agreed Order (legal agreement) with USG, formerly US Gypsum. Under this legal agreement, USG will investigate and clean up contamination at the USG Highway 99 site. The address is 7110 Pacific Highway East in Milton, but the cleanup *site* includes all areas affected by contamination. USG is agreeing to:

- Investigate the nature and extent of pollution at the site.
- Evaluate possible cleanup options; and
- Propose a cleanup of the site which meets state standards under the Model Toxics Control Act (RCW 70.105D).

The Agreed Order and Public Participation Plan are now available for your review and comment. The box to the right has information on where to review these documents and how to submit your comments. Please submit comments from September 14 to October 15, 2009.

### Site Background and Contamination

The USG Highway 99 site is located on the banks of the Hylebos Creek. The creek flows into the Hylebos Waterway and then into Commencement Bay. Before 1985, USG used the site for disposing of waste from their rock wool manufacturing plant in Tacoma.

Rock wool is made by blowing air through molten rock, which produces a mass of fine fibers. These fibers are used as insulation and fire-proofing. Slag, a waste from the former Tacoma



### Protecting Puget Sound

This cleanup is part of Governor Gregoire's effort to help protect and restore Puget Sound. The USG Highway 99 site is located on Hylebos Creek, which is connected to Puget Sound through the Hylebos Waterway. Cleaning up the land around the creek is an important step in making this waterway safer and healthier for humans and wildlife.

### Comments Accepted

September 14– October 15, 2009

#### 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

#### Pierce County Library

1000 Laurel Street  
Milton, WA 98354  
Phone: (253) 922-2870

#### 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/USG\\_Hwy\\_99/USG\\_hwy\\_99\\_hp.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/USG_Hwy_99/USG_hwy_99_hp.htm)

Facility Site ID #: 84531356



Asarco copper smelter was used as raw material for the rock wool. The slag contained arsenic – a toxic metal (see box to the right). Waste from USG’s Tacoma plant disposed on the site before 1973 contained arsenic.


USG removed waste from the site in 1984 and disposed of it in a licensed landfill. However, not all of the waste was removed. Arsenic in groundwater exceeds the state cleanup standard and further cleanup must be done.

### Why This Cleanup Matters

Arsenic contamination could travel from the site and pollute Hylebos Creek. This would pose a risk to human health and the environment. This is a good opportunity for USG to clean up an old dump site and eliminate future sources of pollution.

### What Happens Next?

You will be invited to review and comment on the investigation and cleanup documents as the cleanup moves forward (see box below). Your comments will be considered before the Agreed



**Arsenic**

Arsenic is a toxic metal. It can occur naturally in the soil or can come from industrial processes such as metal smelting, pesticide production, and wood treatment.

Arsenic poisoning can cause nausea, vomiting, and anemia. Being exposed to arsenic for a long time can lead to heart disease, diabetes, and certain cancers.

For more information about arsenic, visit [www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts2.html](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts2.html).

For more information about the former Asarco smelter in Tacoma, please visit [http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/tacoma\\_smelter/ts\\_hp.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/tacoma_smelter/ts_hp.htm).

Order is finalized and the investigation begins. Ecology will respond to public comments in a responsiveness summary, which will be made available at the locations listed on page one.



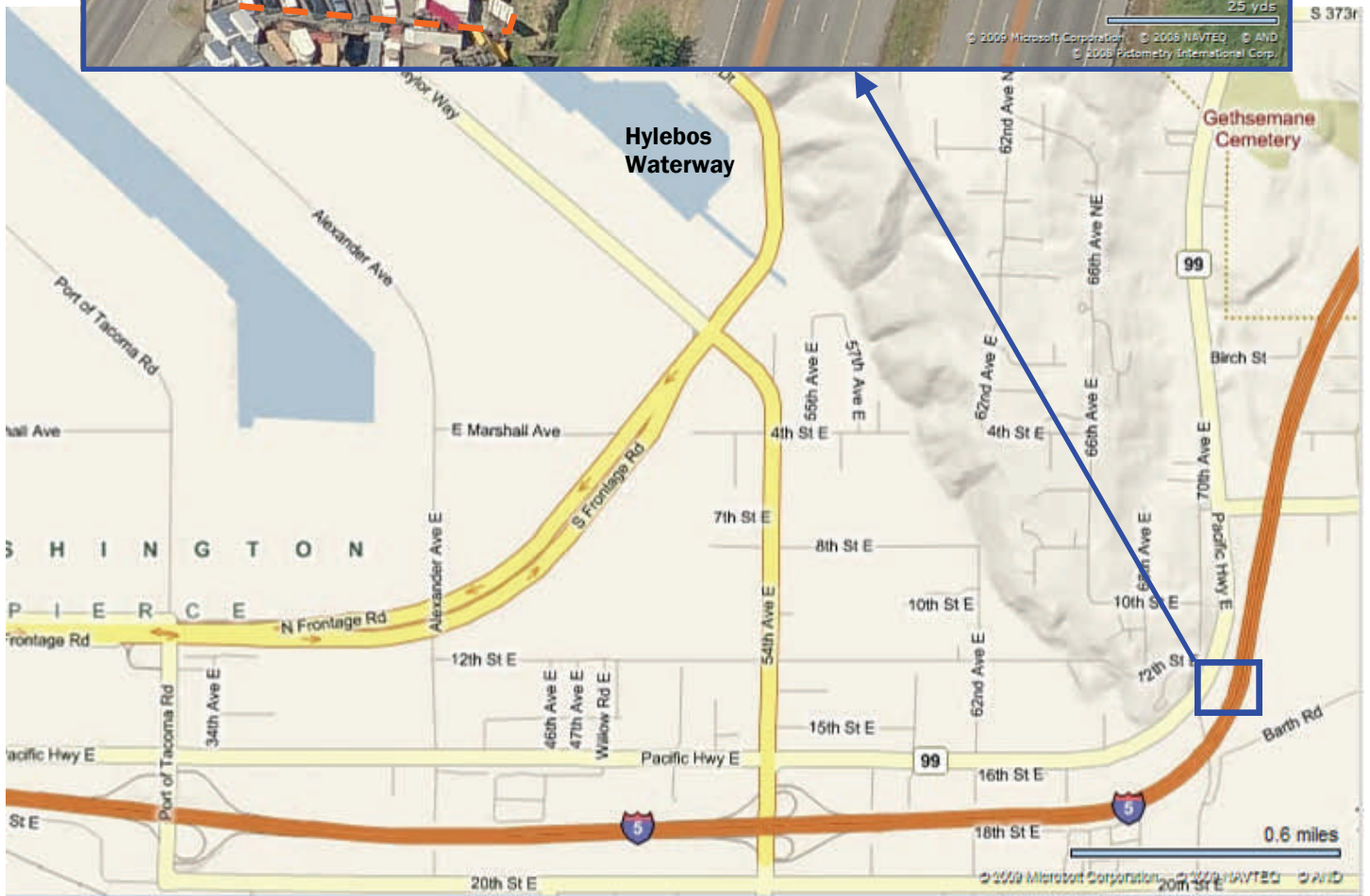
### How does a polluted site get cleaned up?

1. The **Remedial Investigation & Feasibility Study (RI/FS)** looks at the extent and type of pollution. It evaluates possible human health and environmental impacts, and to find cleanup alternatives. Ecology may allow **Interim Actions** to partially clean up a site before a final cleanup plan is complete. Interim Action plans are made available for public comment.
2. The **Cleanup Action Plan (CAP)** describes the cleanup methods and how they will meet Ecology’s cleanup standards. The RI/FS report and draft CAP are made available for public comment.
3. **Cleanup** - Toxic substances are removed from the site, contained on the site, or treated to make them less toxic. Ecology oversees the cleanup and can require that the site be monitored. USG will clean up this site under a new legal agreement, once the requirements of the current Agreed Order are complete.
4. **Delisting** - Ecology keeps track of toxic cleanup sites on the Hazardous Sites List (HSL). Once the cleanup is complete, the public will have a chance to comment before the site is taken off the HSL.

For more information about the cleanup process, please visit [http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/cu\\_support/cu\\_process\\_steps\\_defns.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/cu_support/cu_process_steps_defns.htm).



Approximate property boundary of 7110 Pacific Highway East, Milton. The full site will be defined during the Remedial Investigation.





DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**

State of Washington

PO Box 47775

Olympia, WA 98504-7775

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## **USG Highway 99 Site Pierce County, WA**

### **Agreed Order for Investigation and Cleanup**

Public Comment Period:  
September 14 through October 15, 2009

Facility Site ID #: 84531356

If you need this publication in an alternative format, call reception at (360) 407-6300. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with speech disability call 877-833-6341.



#### **Why did I receive this mailing?**

This fact sheet was sent to inform residents and property owners about the USG Highway 99 cleanup site at 7110 Pacific Highway East. It is also available to agencies, organizations, and other members of the public.



#### **Why should I care?**

This site is polluted with arsenic, which may also affect Hylebos Creek and pose a risk to human health and the environment. The company USG is now planning to clean up the site.



#### **What can I do?**

Please contact Ecology if you have comments about this cleanup or information about the site. (See page 1 for how to review documents and submit comments.)



#### **How can I be removed from the mailing list?**

Call Hannah Aoyagi, Public Involvement Coordinator, at (360) 407-6790 or e-mail [haoy461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:haoy461@ecy.wa.gov).

