

**Port of Skagit County - Taxiway F Site
Public Participation Plan
July 2009**



**Prepared by
Port of Skagit County and Washington State Department of Ecology**

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the Port of Skagit County (Port) have negotiated a legal agreement called an Agreed Order (AO No. 6158) that formally describes their working relationship, outlines the scope of work for development of a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS), and sets a schedule for completion of the RI/FS in order to remediate a former crop-dusting site located adjacent to Taxiway F at the Skagit Regional Airport. The Agreed Order requires the Port to complete the RI/FS for cleanup of the site.

Ecology, in cooperation with the Port, has developed this public participation plan pursuant to the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA), to promote meaningful community involvement in development of the RI/FS.

PREPARATION OF THE RI/FS

The RI/FS will consist of an RI that will delineate the nature and extent of contamination, and an FS that will establish proposed cleanup levels for future cleanup actions at the site. The RI will use existing groundwater, surface water, and soil sampling data and collect new groundwater and soil sampling data to delineate the nature and extent of contamination at the site. The FS will use the results of the RI to establish proposed cleanup levels for future cleanup actions at the site. An RI/FS Work Plan has been prepared detailing the scope of this work and establishing preliminary groundwater and soil cleanup levels for the site. It is anticipated that the preliminary cleanup levels presented in the RI/FS Work Plan will provide the basis for most of the proposed cleanup levels to be established in the FS. The FS will develop and evaluate cleanup action alternatives for contaminated media so that appropriate cleanup actions may be selected. Specifically, the FS will:

- Establish proposed cleanup levels and points of compliance, and, as necessary, establish remediation levels;
- Delineate affected media where evaluation of cleanup action is appropriate;
- Develop cleanup action objectives; and
- Screen and evaluate specific cleanup alternatives and recommend a preferred alternative.

Cleanup alternatives will be developed for each environmental medium of concern. Remediation technologies may include institutional controls, containment or other engineering controls, removal, in-situ treatment and natural attenuation.

SITE LOCATION

The site is situated within the fenced and locked airport security area of the Skagit Regional Airport, which is approximately 4 miles west of Burlington, Washington, in the northeast quarter of Section 4, Township 34N, Range 3E. The site is located on Port-owned tax parcel P21099, and consists of a 2.2-acre historical operations area (where former crop dusting operations occurred) and affected adjacent areas to the east and southeast. The site includes a 7,800-square-foot hangar building, a paved taxiway and apron area immediately north of the hangar building,

and adjacent undeveloped areas to the north, south, and east. The west side of the historical operations area is bounded by Taxiway F of the Skagit Regional Airport. A barbed wire fence separates the historical operations area from adjacent open pastureland to the north and south, and from a wooded area to the east. These vegetated areas are on Port-owned property. The wooded area to the east consists of second-growth mixed coniferous and deciduous forest. Four wetlands have been delineated at the site or in the immediate vicinity of the site, including a forested wetland within the wooded area to the east of the historical operations area.

PROJECT BACKGROUND AND SITE MAP

The site is located adjacent to Taxiway F near the western edge of the Skagit Regional Airport and consists of a paved taxiway and apron area, a hangar/storage building, and adjacent undeveloped areas.

Taxiway F was constructed in 1933 as the original runway of a one-runway airfield constructed by Federal New Deal agencies for light airplanes. In 1943 the U.S. Navy constructed the existing two-runway system still in use today at the Skagit Regional Airport as an alternate training field for the Whidbey Island Naval Air Station. After World War II, the federal government continued to operate the airport, primarily for the Civil Air Patrol, until transferring the property to Skagit County in 1958. The Port assumed full ownership and operation of the airport in 1975.

Starting in 1978, the Port leased the portion of the site immediately adjacent to the taxiway to a series of individuals and companies engaged in the business of crop dusting. As part of the crop dusting operations, the hangar/storage building was constructed on the site and used for aircraft parking and materials storage, including storage of chemicals used for crop dusting.

As part of the crop dusting operations at the site, pesticides and herbicides were stored in the hangar/storage building and handled including the process of loading the chemicals onto crop dusting aircraft.

The Port discovered stained soils at the site in 2000 and began the process of soil and groundwater sampling to characterize the site contamination. The results were summarized in a series of soil and groundwater sampling reports generated between 2001 and 2004. From 2006 to 2008, the Port conducted what it described for internal administrative purposes as an independent “Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study”, and developed what it described for internal administrative purposes as a “Cleanup Action Plan” and supporting documents. The investigation documented the presence of pesticides and herbicides at the site with concentrations exceeding MTCA Method-A and/or Method-B soil and groundwater cleanup levels.

Previous site investigations were conducted under Ecology’s Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP). The Port entered into the VCP in May 2004. Because Ecology and the Port have now negotiated an Agreed Order to remediate the site under the formal program, the site was removed from the VCP on February 3, 2009.



Crop-dusting operations were based at a hangar next to Taxiway F at the Skagit Regional Airport

CONTAMINANTS OF CONCERN

Previous sampling at the site has resulted in detections of the following contaminants:

- chlorinated and organophosphate pesticides
- herbicides
- arsenic
- volatile organic carbons (VOCs).

2.0 COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

The site is located in Skagit County within a non-municipal urban growth area known as the Bayview Ridge Subarea. The site is on restricted-access airport property and is part of the Port's Skagit Regional Airport and Bayview Business Park properties. The surrounding areas are industrial land and rural residential land. The Burlington Country Club neighborhood is located approximately 1 mile east of the property. The rural village of Bayview is located approximately 1 mile west of the site. Padilla Bay is located approximately 1.5 miles west of the site.

KEY COMMUNITY CONCERNS

- Public safety
- Water quality
- Wildlife protection
- Fiscal responsibility

3.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The purpose of this Public Participation Plan is to promote public understanding and participation in the cleanup process for this site. This section addresses how Ecology will keep the public informed about site activity and provide opportunity for being involved in the cleanup.

Ecology will use a variety of tools to facilitate public participation in the planning and cleanup of this site. These tools include: formal comment periods and responsiveness summaries, fact sheets, public meetings (if required), information repositories, Ecology's Site Register, web tools including a web-based events calendar, display advertisement in a local newspaper, and Taxiway F site website. These tools will be used as appropriate. Ecology will consider and implement constructive input provided by the community whenever possible.

Ecology and the Port urge the public to become involved in the cleanup process. Information will be provided regularly in order to provide many opportunities to review materials and provide comments. This plan is intended to be a flexible working document where activities change as community concerns emerge as well as more information becomes available during the cleanup process. To arrange for a briefing with project staff, ask questions or provide comments on the plan or other aspects of the cleanup, please contact one of the persons listed below.

For technical questions, please contact:

David L. South – Site Manager
Washington State Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office - Toxics Cleanup Program
3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98008
Phone: (425) 649-7200
E-mail: dsou461@ecy.wa.gov

For Community Involvement questions, please contact:

Nancy Lui – Community Outreach Coordinator
Washington State Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office - Toxics Cleanup Program
3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98008
Phone: 425-649-7117
E-mail: nlui461@ecy.wa.gov

Sara Young – Manager of Planning & Environmental Services
Port of Skagit County
15400 Airport Drive
Burlington, WA 98233
Phone: 360-757-0011
E-mail: sara@portofskagit.com

Roles and Responsibilities

Ecology maintains overall responsibility and approval authority for the activities outlined in this plan in accordance with MTCA requirements. Ecology, with the participation of the Port, conducts public comment periods as required by MTCA, including soliciting, receiving and considering comments, making decisions, and preparing responsiveness summaries.

Public Comment Periods

Comment periods are the primary method Ecology uses to get feedback from the public on proposed cleanup decisions. Comment periods usually last for 30 days and are required at key points during the Investigation and cleanup process 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 Meetings and Hearings

Public meetings may be held at key points during the cleanup process. Ecology may also offer public meetings for actions expected to be of particular interest to the community. Also, if ten or more people request a public meeting or hearing during the 30-day comment period, Ecology will hold a public meeting for the purpose of taking oral comments on draft documents.

Information Repositories

Information repositories are convenient places where the public can go to read and review site information. The information repositories are often at libraries or community sites where the public has access. During the comment period, the site documents will be available for review at each repository which is listed below. Documents remain at the repositories for the entire duration of the project.

Repositories for this project include:

Burlington Public Library

820 E. Washington Ave.
Burlington, WA 98233
(360) 755-0760

Skagit Regional Airport

15400 Airport Drive
Burlington, WA 98233
(360) 757-0011

Washington State Department of Ecology

Northwest Regional Office

3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98008
425-649-7000

Site Register and Public Events Calendar

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program uses the Site Register and web-based Public Involvement Calendar to announce all of its public meetings and comment periods as well as additional site activities. To receive the site Register in electronic or hard copy format, contact Linda Thompson at 360-407-6069 or by email at ltho461@ecy.wa.gov. The Public Involvement Calendar is available on Ecology's website at <http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/pubcalendar/calendar.asp>.

Mailing List

Ecology has compiled and maintains a list of interested parties, organizations and residents living in proximity to the site. This list will be used to disseminate information via mail (fact sheets, site updates, public notices, etc.). If you are not on the mailing list for this site and wish to be

added, please contact Nancy Lui at 425-649-7117 or through email at nlui461@ecy.wa.gov. In the subject line, please indicate Taxiway F site mailing list.

Taxiway F site Website

Information on the RI/FS work at the Taxiway F site is also available online. This website includes background information, status updates, and contact information for the site.

Ecology Website:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/skagitCountyPort/skagitCountyPort_hp.html

4.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN AMENDMENTS

The Plan was developed in compliance with the MTCA regulations (Chapter 173-340 WAC). It will be reviewed as cleanup progresses and may be amended if necessary. Amendments may be submitted to Ecology's site manager, David South, for review and consideration. Ecology will determine final approval of the Plan as well as any amendments.

5.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GRANTS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Additionally, citizen groups living near contaminated sites may apply for public participation grants during open application periods. These grants help citizens receive technical assistance in understanding the cleanup process and create additional avenues for public participation.

NOTE: Ecology currently does not have a citizen technical advisor for providing technical assistance to citizens on issues related to the investigation and cleanup of the site.

6.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIMELINE

Milestone	Schedule	Public Outreach Activities
Completion of Draft RI/FS	Summer 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Public Notice▪ Public Comment Period▪ Fact Sheet