



## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN**

**Cascade Pole  
1412 North Washington Street  
Olympia, WA**

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

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## **INTRODUCTION**

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The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has developed this public participation plan in cooperation with the Port of Olympia pursuant to the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) and Agreed Order No. DE OOTCPSR-753 to promote meaningful community involvement during the investigation and cleanup of Cascade Pole 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 Cascade Pole cleanup site is located at 1100 North Washington Street at the northern tip of the Port of Olympia (Port). From 1957 to 1986, the Cascade Pole Company operated a wood treatment facility on property leased from the Port of Olympia.

During upland investigations of the site, a variety of contaminants were discovered, including polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and pentachlorophenol (PCP), both are chemicals used in the wood-treating process. Dioxins and other volatile chemical compounds were also found. Many of these substances were found at elevated levels in soil, groundwater, surface water, sediments and marine organisms on and adjacent to the site.

In May 1990, Ecology, Cascade Pole and the Port of Olympia entered into a Consent Decree to begin cleanup of the upland and sediment portions of the contaminated property. The Consent Decree required a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study of the sediment and upland areas of the site. A draft Cleanup Action Plan was also required for the upland portion.

Since that time, several cleanup actions have been taken including;

- Installation and operation of a groundwater pump and treat system to treat contaminated water.
- Construction of a sheet pile wall along the shoreline to prevent additional releases of wood-treating products into Budd Inlet
- Construction of a slurry wall and sheet pile barrier around the near-shore contaminated area.
- Dredging of contaminated sediments and creation of a upland containment cell to hold contaminated sediments
- Paving of upland area.

Ecology and the Port have entered into several additional legal agreements to define required cleanup actions. For a detailed history of site cleanup, see Appendix 1 on page 10. Results of the first five-year monitoring event has shown that treatment and containment on the site have been effective to-date.

## **CURRENT ACTIVITY**

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The Port and Ecology are proposing to amend the existing Agreed Order to complete an Interim Action at the site. This legal agreement requires the Port to excavate soil from the North Point Area (see map on page 8).

## **MODEL TOXICS CONTROL ACT CLEANUP STAGES**

The Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) defines each stage of the cleanup process to protect human health and the environment. Figure 3 on page 9 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 to reduce or eliminate pollution that poses an immediate threat to human health or the environment. Interim Actions may be taken at any time during the cleanup process.

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.

### ***Formal 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 30 days and are required under WAC 173-340-600 at certain points during the investigation and cleanup process. See Figure 3 for an outline of cleanup process and information about comment periods.

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 draft remedial investigation/feasibility study reports, draft cleanup action plans, future agreed orders or consent decrees that are developed for the Site.

### ***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 Cascade Pole 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.
- Olympia Timberland Library, 313 8th Avenue SE, Olympia. (360) 352-0595.
- Ecology's Web Site [http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/cascade\\_pole/Cascade\\_Pole\\_hp.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/cascade_pole/Cascade_Pole_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](mailto: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](mailto:mbom461@ecy.wa.gov) if you would like to 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 Cascade Pole cleanup project 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.

### ***Newspaper Display Ads***

Ecology may place ads in *The Olympian* 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.

### ***Public Participation Grants***

As part of the Model Toxics Control Act, Ecology developed a public participation grant program to promote public participation during cleanups. Public Participation Grants provide funding to community groups to help involve the public in the investigation and cleanup of contaminated properties. The grants also help develop and carry out programs that promote the state's solid or hazardous waste management priorities.

For cleanup sites, non-profit groups or groups of three or more unrelated individuals can apply for grants to fund outreach and education efforts for the community that is impacted by the cleanup. Past projects have helped people understand the cleanup and how to comment on cleanup proposals during public comment periods. Grant funds may be used to pay for technical experts who help people understand cleanup issues. They can also be used to hold meetings, workshops and other events that help to inform people. In addition, printing and distribution of reports, brochures and other materials may be covered.

For more information about this grant program, visit  
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/grants/ppg.html>

***Points of Contact***

If you have questions or need more information about this plan or the Cascade Pole cleanup project, please contact:

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**Figure 2. Historic and Proposed Cleanup Activities.**



### **Cleanup Actions Taken from 1990 - 2008**

- A** **Sediment Cleanup Area:** Dredging approximately 40,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediments from **Area A**.
- B** **Inner and Outer Sheet Pile Walls:** Installing two steel walls to stop the flow of contamination into Budd Inlet (shown in **Area B**).
- C** **Sediment Containment Cell:** Moving dredged sediments from **Area A** to **Area C** and capping them with pavement. The pavement stops rain water from entering the containment cell.
- D** **Slurry Wall:** Installing (1) a bentonite clay wall to stop the movement of contamination off-site.  
(2) a groundwater treatment system to remove some contamination and keep contamination from moving outside the containment area.

### **2010 Proposed Cleanup Actions**

- E** Removing contaminated soil from **Area E** (North Point Area).
- F** Moving contaminated soil from **Area E** to **Area F**. The soil will be capped with a low-permeability layer to eliminate possible human exposure to contamination and to limit the amount of rain water entering groundwater in the containment area.

**Figure 3. Model Toxics Control Act Cleanup Steps.**



## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Detailed History of the Cascade Pole Site Cleanup**

## Cascade Pole Cleanup Site Timeline of Events

### 1990

- Consent Decree for Interim Actions, Remedial Investigation (RI), Feasibility Study (FS) , Final Cleanup Action Plan and a Sediments RI/FS (separate operable unit)

### 1993

- Groundwater pump and treat system is installed to treat contaminated groundwater
- Sheet pile wall is installed along the shoreline to prevent additional releases of PCP into Budd Inlet

### 1995

- Separate settlement (Consent Decree amendment) between the Port and Cascade Pole for payment for cleanup

### 1996

- Amendment to the 1990 Consent Decree - Cascade Pole removed as defendant, site can be expanded beyond operable units if additional contamination is found, subsurface containment wall around upland containment cell, remediation of stormwater drainage system and soil treatability study.
- Slurry wall was constructed around the near-shore contaminated area

### 1998

- Agreed Order to complete Interim Actions including; create plan for disposal or recycling of recovered contaminants, disposal of product, plan to pave area in the containment wall, install signs on site, plan for dredging

### 2000

- Agreed Order with Port to take sediment remedial actions and interim actions in the upland. Specifically implement what was outlined in the Sediments Cleanup Plan and the Sediments Containment Cell Engineering Design Report
- Upland containment cell for dredge sediments was constructed

### 2001

- Sheet pile barrier was added to the existing slurry wall to form near-shore containment cell
- Groundwater extraction and monitoring well were installed in the near-shore cell
- Near-shore containment cell was capped with a clay liner and clean cover of soil
- 35,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediments were dredged

### 2002

- Uplands containment cell is created for contaminated dredged spoils
- Cell is graded and a drainage system installed then capped

### 2004

- Amendment to the 2000 Agreed Order. The amendment added design and construction of a new groundwater treatment system, site capping and long-term monitoring

### 2007

- Five year monitoring event revealed that all groundwater monitoring wells are under compliance
- Sediment sampling revealed levels of dioxins close to zero up to 23 ppt (21 samples)
- Sediment and groundwater monitoring show that the containment and treatment systems are working effectively

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **Glossary**

## GLOSSARY

**Agreed Order:** A legal agreement between Ecology and a potentially liable person to conduct work toward a cleanup.

**Cleanup:** Actions taken to deal with a release, or threatened release of hazardous substances that could affect public health and/or the environment. The term "cleanup" is often used broadly to describe various response actions or phases of remedial responses such as the remedial investigation/feasibility study.

**Cleanup Action Plan (CAP):** A document that explains which cleanup alternative(s) will be used at sites for the cleanup. The cleanup action plan is based on information and technical analysis generated during the remedial investigation/feasibility study and consideration of public comments and community concerns.

**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 cleanup action alternatives and proposed plans.

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

**Feasibility Study:** This study develops and evaluates cleanup options for a given site.

**Groundwater:** Water found beneath the earth's surface that fills pores between materials such as sand, soil, or gravel. In some aquifers, ground water occurs in sufficient quantities that it can be used for drinking water, irrigation and other purposes.

**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.

**Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA):** Legislation passed by citizens of the State of Washington through an initiative in 1988. Its purpose is to identify, investigate, and clean up facilities where hazardous substances have been released. It defines the role of Ecology and encourages public involvement in the decision making process. MTCA regulations are administered by the Washington State Department of Ecology.

**Potentially Liable Person:** Any individual(s) or company(s) potentially responsible for, or contributing to, the contamination problems at a site. Whenever possible, Ecology requires these PLPs, through administrative and legal actions, to clean up sites.

**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.

**Remedial Investigation:** This study characterizes the site and defines the extent of contamination.

**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.

**Sediments:** Settled particles located at the bottom of a lake, river or in wetlands. Sediment(s) also includes settled particulate matter exposed by human activity (e.g., dredging) to the biologically active aquatic zone or to the water column.

**Site:** Any building, structure, installation, equipment, pipe or pipeline (including any pipe into a sewer or publicly owned treatment works), well, pit, pond, lagoon, impoundment, ditch, landfill, storage container, motor vehicle, rolling stock, vessel, or aircraft; or any site or area where a hazardous substance, other than a consumer product in consumer use, has been deposited, stored, disposed of, or placed, or otherwise come to be located.

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