

Site Cleanup Proposed

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) prepared this fact sheet to provide you with information about the Slag Disposal Beckwith Property cleanup site. This Site is approximately 4.7 acres of vacant land located at the corner of South 218th Street and 90th Avenue South in Kent, Washington.

In 1995, Ecology and the owners of Slag Disposal Beckwith entered into a legal agreement called a Consent Decree. Under this Consent Decree, the owners of Slag Disposal Beckwith agreed to clean up the Site. Several interim cleanup efforts have taken place on the Site in the past. This proposed cleanup action plan will become the permanent cleanup solution.

Site Background

Prior to 1984, the Site was undeveloped and covered with vegetation. As part of proposed Site redevelopment activities, steel slag was used as fill on the Site between 1984 and 1990. The use of slag as fill at the Site was approved by Ecology and the Seattle King County Health Department.

Steel slag is a waste product of recycling steel scrap by melting it down for reuse. The slag contains lime ash that reacts with water to increase the pH, a measure of alkalinity. The water that flows through the slag at the Site has a pH above the regulatory limit. More simply put, when water flows through the lime ash it may become as alkaline as Drano[®] drain cleaner.

Cleanup actions were conducted at the Site in 1995-1996 and 2002 to mitigate the discharge of surface water with a pH above the regulatory limit. In 2007, Ecology confirmed that the requirements of the Consent Decree had been met and that further

For Technical Questions Contact

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

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**Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office**
3190 160th Ave. SE
Bellevue, WA 98008

By appointment only:
Contact Sally Perkins
Email: sper461@ecy.wa.gov
Phone: (425) 649-7190
Hours: Tuesday – Thursday
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
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Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Website

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/slag/slagBeckwith_hp.html

Facility Site ID #: 2270

monitoring was no longer required. Today the Site remains vacant land covered with dense vegetation.

In March 2009, pH levels above the regulatory limit were measured in seeps on the north and northwest sides of the Site. Engineering measures installed in 1996 and 2002 to prevent water from coming into contact with the slag proved insufficient in eliminating this interaction. Based on the pH levels measured in seeps leaving the Site, Ecology required a cleanup action to stop discharge of water with a pH above the regulatory limit draining from the Site into surface water. An interim action was implemented in March and April 2009. A coffer dam, sumps, and a water treatment system were installed at the Site to capture and treat the surface water and discharge it under permit to the City of Kent sanitary sewer system.

Overview of the Work Plan

The Work Plan identifies the approach and overview of the proposed cleanup action that the property owner plans to implement at the Site. The proposed cleanup action includes excavation of slag and offsite disposal at a landfill constructed and permitted to accept such material. Approximately 16,500 cubic yards of slag will be removed. This will reduce the pH of surface water discharging from the Site to less than 8.5, the regulatory limit set for this site.

Construction Schedule and Activities

Starting in July 2010 - Pre-construction activities such as installing temporary fencing,

staking the excavation areas, and installing erosion control features.

Late summer 2010 – The excavation work is anticipated to begin. The work is anticipated to take about four months in total.

Construction Hours - The proposed work hours are Monday through Saturday between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Traffic Plan and Mitigation – The excavated slag will be placed in trucks and transported offsite for disposal. The trucks will follow a traffic mitigation plan to minimize congestion adjacent to the Site. Best management practices including street sweeping, erosion control measures, and dust control measures will be strictly followed throughout the cleanup. Traffic flaggers will be on duty when trucks are hauling from the site.

Site Restoration – Following excavation, the Site will be restored and graded to allow surface water to drain in the same pattern as it did prior to slag removal activities. The elevation of the site will be lowered by about six feet. Site restoration will include hydro seeding areas impacted by construction and construction of surface drainage features.

Why This Cleanup Matters

This cleanup action will permanently remove the slag from the Site. This will protect water quality and aquatic life in streams that receive the surface water discharging from the Site and will protect ground water quality.

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