

Public comments: South State Street Manufactured Gas Plant site - draft agreed order and draft public participation plan

Following are public comments received during the public comment period about the South State Street Manufactured Gas Plant site draft agreed order and draft public participation plan. The comment period was Feb. 5 through March 8, 2010.

From: BREEMS, JOEL (DNR)
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 2:36 PM
To: O'Herron, Mary (ECY)
Subject: South State Street Manufactured Gas Plant comments

Good Afternoon Mary,

First I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Agreed Order for the Former South State Street Manufactured Gas Plant. While the nature of our comments at this time do not necessitate formal comment we did want to take this opportunity to respond to your request for comments. DNR's comments are based on principles of stewardship and proprietary management derived from our legislatively defined goals to protect State-Owned Aquatic Lands (SOAL) and preserve them for the public's benefit. As such we are supportive of the effort to pursue a the development of an RIFS for this site.

The Preliminary site boundary provided in Exhibit A include aquatic areas which may on SOAL. Should sampling be required on SOAL as part of the RI the appropriate authorization must be secured from DNR. In order to assist in determining if SOAL will be included in this RI DNR would like to request an opportunity to review the proposed sampling locations and SAP as they are developed.

If you would like to discuss these brief comments further please feel free to contact me at Joel.Breems@dnr.wa.gov.

Thank you,

Joel Breems
Sediment Quality Unit
Aquatic Resources
Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Phone: 360-902-1086
joel.breems@dnr.wa.gov
www.dnr.wa.gov

(Note: This comment was received as the e-mail below and by U.S. Mail.)

From: Pat Rowe [mailto:prowe@clearwire.net]
Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 7:26 PM
To: O'Herron, Mary (ECY)
Subject: Facility Site ID #:2865

Mary O'Herron
Site Manager
WA Dept of Ecology
1440 10th St. Ste.102
Bellingham, WA 98225-7028

Dear Ms. O'Herron:

Re: facility Site ID#:2865
S. State St. Manufactured Gas Plant

I live directly across the street from this site. I am writing to recommend that if any vegetation need be removed during the DOE clean up that the vegetation be replaced by trees (etc) that do not grow above the trees height under the power lines. Puget power trims these trees yearly. This would allow us to enjoy the views afforded us. There are many varieties of trees that do not grow tall that will take care of shade, birds, butterflies and all other gods creatures while affording a view as well. There is a vegetation view plan already in place at the City of Bellingham that runs the length of the entire upper Boulevard Park area.

The brick structure adds to the history of this site and should remain. The overlook on top of one of the containers is also a great part of this park area and hopefully can remain after the clean up.

Thank you for your consideration.

Pat Rowe (Ronald Patrick Rowe)
407 South State Street
Bellingham, WA 98225
360.676.9984 (H)
prowe@clearwire.net

From: Edward Wang [mailto:tedwang@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 9:14 AM
To: O'Herron, Mary (ECY)
Subject: S State St. cleanup comment

Ms O'Herron:

Attached is comment from the Whatcom Assn. of Kayak Enthusiasts (WAKE) regarding the South State Street Manufactured Gas Plant Site clean-up. WAKE would appreciate being kept advised on this project, and you can reach me through ted@wakekayak.org.

A hard copy of the letter will be mailed to your offices.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment into the process.

Sincerely:

Ted Wang
WAKE President

(Note: The following letter was received as an attachment to the e-mail above and by U.S. Mail.)



WAKE

Whatcom Association of Kayak Enthusiasts • www.wakekayak.org

P.O. Box 1952, Bellingham WA 98227-1952

March 7, 2010

Mary O'Herron, Site Manager
Washington Dept. of Ecology
1440 10th St., Suite 102
Bellingham, WA 98225

RE: S. State Street Manufactured Gas Plant Site

Dear Ms. O'Herron:

On behalf of the membership of the Whatcom Association of Kayak Enthusiasts (WAKE), the Board of Directors and I wish to comment on the clean-up of the referenced site at and near Boulevard Park in Bellingham. WAKE is a non-profit organization of nearly 150 members who regularly sea kayak and emphasize safe kayaking practices through community outreach and educational programming.

WAKE is glad to hear that remedial action is planned to remove toxic materials from the site and thus prevent them from continuing to enter the bay. At the NE corner of Boulevard Park, there exists a small beach, which is used as a sea kayak launching point. Bellingham Bay can become windswept and hazardous for kayakers, and this location provides a comparatively sheltered place for access and egress. With proximity to restrooms and a parking lot, not to mention hot coffee, this site is a valuable amenity and deserves to be preserved.

Our organization hopes that consideration will be given to maintaining and/or improving this launch site, as the clean-up process is accomplished. We, of course, understand that there could be disruptions during the remediation and ask that, should disruptions occur, communication to the public of that be given in advance.

Thank you for your attention, and please put WAKE on your list for updates on the project.

Sincerely:

Edward "Ted" Wang
President

From: Roger Lamb [mailto:surfski@q.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2010 1:09 PM
To: O'Herron, Mary (ECY)
Subject: North end of Boulevard Park

Dear Ms. O'Herron,

RE: Public Input For The South State Street Manufactured Gas Plant Site

I am writing about preserving or enhancing public shoreline access as it relates to the South State Street Manufactured Gas Plant site. The subject pollution study area includes the frequently used kayak launch beach at the northeast corner of Boulevard Park, west of the BNSF tracks. There are few places to safely launch kayaks on Bellingham Bay. This launch site is ideal since it is somewhat protected from prevailing winds. It has ample parking and restrooms that are open part of the year. I ask that you preserve or enhance this public shoreline access opportunity in the final restoration plan for this area. Please place me on your email list for notices on this project.

Thank you,
Roger Lamb

1503 4th St
Bellingham
WA 98225

From: Roger Lamb [mailto:surfski@q.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2010 12:00 PM
To: O'Herron, Mary (ECY)
Subject: Beach at Boulevard Park

I regularly launch my kayak on the beach at the north end of Boulevard Park in Bellingham.

Because of the parking, lawns and restrooms, Blvd. Park and Marine Park are the two perfect places in town for hand-carried boats.

Please maintain, or improve, this jewel in the crown of the Bellingham Bay park system.
Thank you,

Roger Lamb
1504 4th St
Bellingham
WA 98225

From: Tom Fawell [mailto:tfawell@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2010 12:01 PM
To: O'Herron, Mary (ECY)
Subject: preserve kayak access at Blvd. Park

I would ask that the shoreline access for human powered watercraft (kayaks, surfskis, rowboats, ect) that currently exists at Boulevard Park be preserved and improved as the The South State Street Manufactured Gas Plant Site study/restoration project goes forward.

Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,

Tom Fawell
Bellingham, WA

From: Kenni B. Merritt [mailto:kenni.merritt@crowedunlevy.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2010 8:50 AM
To: O'Herron, Mary (ECY)
Subject: Please keep beach access in Bellingham's Boulevard Park

Ms. O'Herron:

As you're working on the restoration plan for the South State Street Manufactured Gas Plant site in Bellingham, please preserve and protect the public's access to the beach at the northeast corner of Boulevard Park, just west of the railroad tracks. This beach is heavily used by families and kayakers. We don't have many points of access to the shoreline in Bellingham and this is a very important one to keep.

Thank you,

Kenni B. Merritt
1304 39th Street
Bellingham, WA 98229

From: Tom Barrett [mailto:barretttom@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 11:57 AM
To: O'Herron, Mary (ECY)
Cc: Norm Nielsen; Mac Carter; gaustin@cob.org; Ed Alm; Gene Davis
Subject: Public Input: South State Street Manufactured Gas Plant Site

RE: Public Input For The South State Street Manufactured Gas Plant Site

I am writing about preserving or enhancing public shoreline access as it relates to the South State Street Manufactured Gas Plant site. The subject pollution study area includes the frequently used kayak launch beach at the northeast corner of Boulevard Park, west of the BNSF tracks.

There are few places to safely launch kayaks on Bellingham Bay. This launch site is ideal since it is somewhat protected from prevailing winds. It has ample parking and restrooms that are open part of the year. I ask that you preserve or enhance this public shoreline access opportunity in the final restoration plan for this area. Please place me on your email list for notices on this project.

Thank you.

Tom Barrett
Bellingham, WA
barrettom@comcast.net

From: Almost Ray [mailto:almostray@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2010 1:49 PM
To: O'Herron, Mary (ECY)
Subject: "South State Street Manufactured Gas Plant."

mary.oherron@ecy.wa.gov

Subject; "South State Street Manufactured Gas Plant."

Mary Oherron,

DOE should research for :

Medical waste including radioactive waste.

and

Cesium and Tritium found near this site by a 1996 Port of Bellingham Study.

See: <http://www.98225questions.blogspot.com> for Port Study on rad waste.

Thank you.

Ray

-----Original Message-----

From: David Caulfield [mailto:caulfield32@comcast.net]

Sent: Friday, February 05, 2010 11:21 AM

To: O'Herron, Mary (ECY)

Subject: Re: Gas plant cleanup site

Mary,

This is a resubmission of my e-mail.

> -----Original Message-----

> From: David Caulfield [mailto:caulfield32@comcast.net]

> Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2010 12:22 PM

> To: O'Herron, Mary (ECY)

> Cc: ebaunach@q.com; johnkrantz@jkrantz.com; morganmccartor@yahoo.com

> Subject: Gas plant cleanup site

>

>

> Mary O'Herron

> Site Manager

> WA Department of Ecology

Dear Mary,

> I live in a condo at Spinnaker Reach. I have a few comments and some
> questions about the planned cleanup. We have had many residents of
> Spinnaker who have lived here over thirty years. Most of our residents
> live healthy lives right up into their late eighties or nineties. They
> are healthy hale and hearty with no mental decline. Within the
> boundaries of the cleanup site I have seen rabbits, crows, seagulls,
> raccoons. I am not a wildlife expert, but they all look healthy to
> me. The flora and fauna are thriving and I have eaten blackberries
> from there for ten years with no ill effects. I have never seen
> children playing in that area and seldom have seen adults sit on the
> grass. Most people just walk on by. I have dug the dirt in that area
> and even the worms, who live in soil, look healthy.

>

> Now for the questions: When will testing start? If the area is
> contaminated, when will cleanup start? How far down will they replace
> the contaminated soil? Will they test the soil on the Spinnaker Reach
> Site? How far down do you anticipate the soil to be contaminated? Who
> pays for the cleanup? In the testing that has been done, how far down
> was the soil contaminated? Thank you for any information you can give
> me Mary. PS the people I have Cc'd are our board president and board
> members of the Spinnaker Reach Condominium Association If you would
> send your answers to them also, that would be great.

> David Caulfield

> caulfield32@comcast.net