

More Cleanup Work this Summer at the B&L Woodwaste Site

Background

The B & L Woodwaste landfill was used from the mid 1970's until the early 1980's. Woodwaste, mixed with soil and Asarco slag (byproduct of copper smelting operations at the old Tacoma Asarco Plant), from log sort yards in Commencement Bay were taken to this site for disposal. The Asarco slag leached arsenic into the soils and groundwater. The B&L Woodwaste site, which includes the landfill and surrounding ditches and wetlands, was named as a source of arsenic, copper and lead.

Some cleanup activities have already taken place at this site, including consolidation and capping of the waste pile. Ecology is now working with the liable parties to complete additional cleanup work. Work is underway to contain and treat contamination, including the installation of an underground barrier system in 2009. Additional work is planned for the next couple years.

Q: What is happening now?

A: The landfill cap is being rebuilt over the barrier wall. During the construction of the barrier wall last summer, the landfill cap was peeled back around the edges. A layer of plastic was used to cover the landfill during construction. Now that the wall is complete, the cap will be reattached so it meets the edge of the wall and completely contains the contaminated soil below it. See page 2 for diagram.

Q: How will this affect me?

A: You may notice some work noise from 7 am - 7 pm during August this year. There may also be small amounts of dust coming off the site. Ecology will make every effort to minimize impact to homes and businesses near the site. There should be no increase in traffic around the site.

Q: How long will this take?

A: Site work to reinstall the permanent cap will occur from July through the fall of 2010. To help protect the environment, most of the earth work will occur during the dry season (before October). Additional cleanup activities are planned for 2011 and 2012. See box to the right for more information.

For More Site Information

Questions about site cleanup:

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Ecology's Website:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/B_L_Woodwaste/B_L_woodwaste_hp.htm

Next Steps in the Cleanup

Summer - Fall 2010

- Landfill cap restoration
- Groundwater treatment at the end of the plume area (north of the landfill)

2011

- Groundwater treatment system will be installed in a building near the landfill.
- Contaminated groundwater removal wells will be installed in and around the landfill and wetland area.
- Contaminated sediments will be removed from ditches surrounding the wetland.

2012

- Ecology will take responsibility for the operation of groundwater treatment systems

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Toxics Cleanup Program

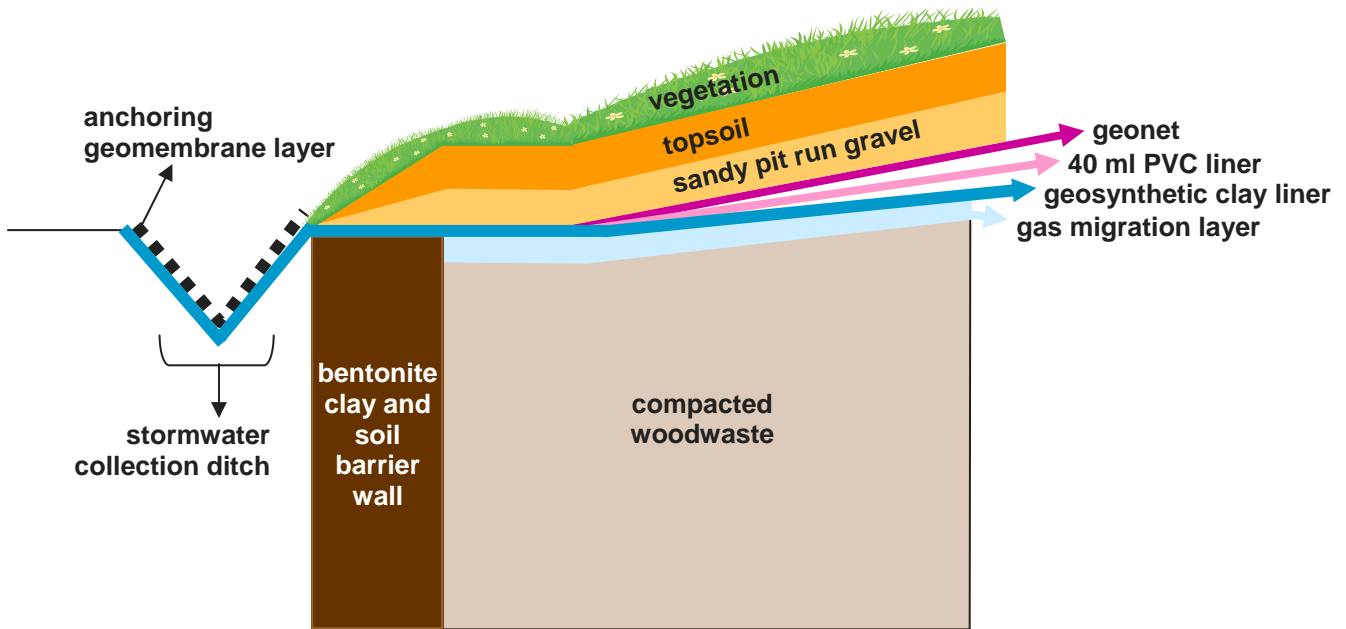
B&L Landfill Cleanup Site



Bentonite clay and soil barrier wall surrounds the woodwaste pile

A multilayer cap covers the woodwaste pile.

Cross section diagram of the woodwaste containment system



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