



**Port of Skagit County - Taxiway F Site
Public Participation Plan
Updated April 2011**



**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 a Consent Decree (Decree) that formally describes their working relationship and outlines the scope of work and schedule for completing and implementing the Decree's Cleanup Action Plan (CAP). This CAP is to cleanup a former crop-dusting site adjacent to Taxiway F of the Skagit Regional Airport. The Consent Decree, which will be entered in Skagit County Superior Court, requires the Port to complete the cleanup of the Skagit County Port-Taxiway F Site (Site).

Ecology, in cooperation with the Port, has developed this public participation plan following the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA), to promote meaningful community involvement in completing and implementing the CAP.

COMPLETION OF THE CLEANUP ACTION PLAN

The CAP is part of the Consent Decree and a legally binding document. The CAP:

- summarizes the nature and extent of contamination
- summarizes the proposed cleanup levels for cleanup actions at the Site
- evaluates cleanup action alternatives in the previously prepared Feasibility Study (FS)
- outlines the proposed cleanup action tasks for the Site
- proposes compliance monitoring to confirm cleanup is complete
- summarizes wetland and forest vegetation restoration

The Draft CAP will be finalized following a public review period.

OUTREACH SCHEDULE FOR THE CLEANUP ACTION PLAN

Milestone	Schedule	Public Outreach Activities
Complete and implement the Cleanup Action Plan	Spring 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Public Notice▪ Public Comment Period▪ Fact Sheet
Removal from the Hazardous Sites List	Completion of Compliance Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Public Notice▪ Public Comment Period▪ Fact Sheet

SITE LOCATION

The Site is situated within the fenced and locked airport security area of the Skagit Regional Airport. The Site is approximately 4 miles west of Burlington, Washington, in the northeast quarter of Section 4, Township 34N, Range 3E (see map on page 5). 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 of forest and forested wetland 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. It consists of a paved taxiway and apron area, a hangar/storage building, and adjacent undeveloped areas.

Taxiway F was constructed in 1933 as part of the Federal New Deal. It served as a one-runway airfield 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 agricultural 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 for crop dusting application to agriculture lands.

The Port discovered stained soils at the Site in 2000 and began the process of soil and groundwater investigation including characterize the Site contamination. The results were summarized in a series of 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 (RI/FS),” and developed what it described for internal administrative purposes as a “Cleanup Action Plan” and supporting documents. This work documented the presence of pesticides and herbicides at the Site at concentrations exceeding state cleanup standards for soil and groundwater.

Site investigations completed prior to 2009 were conducted under Ecology’s Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) from 2004 to 2009. Ecology and the Port negotiated an Agreed Order (AO No. 6158) to complete the RI/FS under Ecology’s formal cleanup program. The Site was removed from the VCP to the formal cleanup program in February 3, 2009.

The Agreed Order required additional work to complete the RI/FS in 2010 (GeoEngineers, 2011). The RI used groundwater, surface water, and soil sampling data to delineate the nature and extent of contamination at the Site. The RI/FS included the development of proposed cleanup levels for future cleanup actions at the Site. The cleanup levels developed in the RI/FS provide the basis for the proposed cleanup levels presented in the CAP.

The Agreed Order FS evaluated cleanup action alternatives for contamination at the Site and recommended a preferred alternative. The preferred alternative is excavation and off-site disposal. This alternative will remove soil throughout the Site containing concentrations of chemicals of concern that exceed the proposed cleanup levels, and thus remove the source of contamination.



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

CONTAMINANTS OF CONCERN

- Based on the work completed during the Remedial Investigation, the contaminants of concern at the Site are the chemicals from the crop dusting and include chlorinated pesticides, organophosphate pesticides, herbicides and thiodan (trade name for endosulfan).

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 part of the Port's Skagit Regional Airport and Bayview Business Park properties. It is on a restricted-access part of the airport. The surrounding areas are industrial land, rural residential, and wetlands. The Burlington Country Club neighborhood is located approximately 1 mile east of the property. The rural village of Bay View is located approximately 1 mile west of the Site. Padilla Bay is located approximately 1.5 miles west of the Site.

KEY COMMUNITY CONCERNS

The key community concerns are public safety, water quality, wildlife protection, and fiscal responsibility. These are being addressed by removing the contaminated soil from the site. This will remove the source of contamination and hence protect the public, water quality, and wildlife protection. The cleanup actions were chosen to completely clean up the site and ensure there are no long-term costs.

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 Ecology's website for the Taxiway F Site. These tools will be used as appropriate.

Ecology and the Port urge the public to become involved in 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: david.south@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: nancy.lui@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 Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) requirements. Ecology, with the participation of the Port, will conduct public comment periods as required by MTCA, including soliciting, receiving and considering comments, making decisions, and preparing a responsiveness summary (A summary of all the comments received during a public comment period and Ecology's response).

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 a Site 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 a comment period, 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 to review the significant changes. 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 written 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

Please call Sally Perkins to schedule an appointment.

Telephone #: (425) 649-7190

Fax#: (425) 649-4450

E-mail: sally.perkins@ecy.wa.gov

Hours: Tuesday – Thursday

8:00 am – 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm

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, please call (360) 407-6000. The Site Register is available on Ecology's website at: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/pub_inv/pub_inv2.html

The Public Involvement Calendar is available on Ecology's website at: <http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/pubcalendar/calendar.asp>

Mailing List

Ecology compiles and maintains a list of interested parties, organizations and residents living in proximity to the Site. This list will be used to 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 nancy.lui@ecy.wa.gov and in the subject line, please indicate Taxiway F Site mailing list.

Taxiway F Site Website

Information on the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (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

Please note that this website address may change in the future.

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 L. 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.

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. Please call Ecology's Taxiway F Site Manager, David L. South, if you have questions. His contact information is on page 7.

6.0 REFERENCE

GeoEngineers, Inc., "Draft Final Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, Taxiway F Site, Skagit Regional Airport, Ecology Agreed Order No. 6158, dated January 10, 2011.