



RESPONSIVENESS SUMMARY

Briggs Nursery site

August 13 – Sept 13, 2007 Public Comment Period

Agreed Order for Interim Actions

**Prepared by
Washington State Department of Ecology
Southwest Regional Office, Lacey, Washington**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Site Information	3
Site Map.....	4
Comments Received and Ecology Responses	5
Comment #1: Douglas W. Toms	5
Comment #1B: Douglas W. Toms.....	6
Comment #1C: Douglas W. Toms.....	7
Comment #2: Zandra (Last name was not recorded).....	7

Site Information

Address: 4407 Henderson Blvd., Olympia

Site Manager: Lisa Pearson, P.E.

Public Involvement Coordinator: Meg Bommarito

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) and Hardel Mutual Plywood entered into an Agreed Order to complete Interim Actions at the Briggs Nursery site in Olympia.

The agreement requires Briggs Nursery to complete the following:

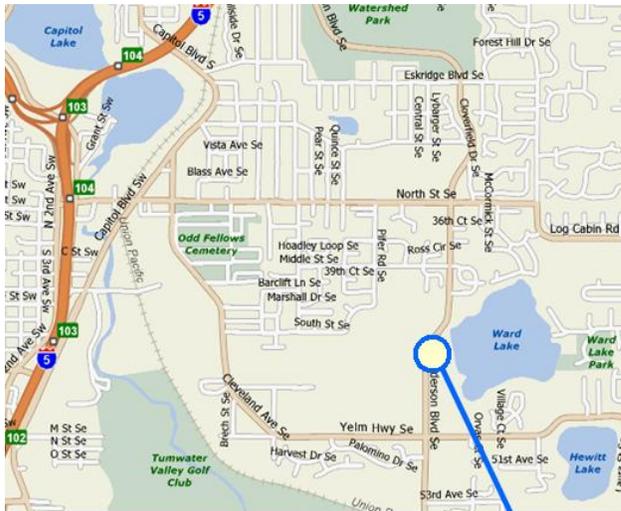
- Excavate and dispose of contaminated soil from Area 3 of the site (See Site Map on page 4).
- Install fencing around the Northeast and Southeast kettles (depressions).

The comment period for this agreed order ran from August 13 – September 13, 2007. Public comments and Ecology’s responses are summarized in this document. An Open House was hosted by Ecology on August 28 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Approximately 14 people attended. Ecology staff members were present to answer questions and discuss site cleanup.

Site Background

The former Briggs Nursery is a 120-acre site located at 4407 Henderson, Boulevard SE. The site is bordered by Ward Lake to the east and Yelm Highway to the south. Gary E. Briggs is the former owner of the property and responsible for all site investigation and cleanup. The former nursery contained areas of undeveloped land, greenhouses, chemical storage and mixing areas, two fertilizer sheds, offices and laboratory space. All structures and hard surfaces have been demolished and septic tanks have been removed. Investigations in Area 3, the last area to be cleaned, have discovered soils containing concentrations of dieldrin and polychlorinated bi-phenyls (PCB) above State Model Toxics Control Act standards for residential areas.

Site Map



Map Key

Site boundary 

Work Area 3 



Comments Received and Ecology Responses

The following comments were received during the August 13 to September 13, 2007 public comment period for the Briggs Nursery site. These comments will be added to the site file and available to the public.

Comment #1: Douglas W. Toms

I live on Ward Lake. For six years in the early 1990's I was a Trustee for the Holiday Hills Neighborhood Association. During that time the Trustees received a report, and a study abstract on a sediment/fish analysis from Ward Lake.

The sediment analysis from the 70 foot level in Ward Lake showed unhealthy levels of pesticides, herbicides, and metals.

The study also analyzed two captured Kokanee trout. It alleged that the metal count in the two fish exceeded the safe eating level. (Rainbow trout that dwell in the thermocline do not appear to be equally effected.)

The Trustees brought this information to the attention of its residents.

On p. 2 of your bulletin, it is stated that Ward Lake was tested in 2006, and no contamination was found. In 2006, was sediment from the bottom of the lake analyzed? With no outlet it is difficult to understand where PCB,s and other contaminants can go once they enter the lake. There is so much stormwater runoff from 42nd St., and Lakehurst Drive that contamination is regularly visible. Swimming has frequently been banned due to excessive coliform counts, and itch epidemics.

I think that Area 3 soil removal at Briggs will have to be delicately removed to prevent runoff into Ward Lake. With the City of Olympia purchasing land at the SE corner of the lake for a public swimming park; water quality is a major concern.

I think that water drainage into Ward Lake from the Briggs Nursery, streets, and homesites around Ward Lake has been a problem for more than 20 years. I have trouble accepting the assertion that "no contamination was found" in Ward Lake. I hate to see Area 3 soil removal, and site preparation begin without addressing the sedimentation question in Ward Lake.

Respectfully Submitted

Douglas W. Toms

Ecology Response

Hello, Tom

Thank you for sending us comments on the Briggs Nursery interim action.

Please allow me to clarify. Through extensive investigation at the Briggs Nursery site we discovered a chlorinated pesticide (dieldrin) in surficial soils in certain areas of the nursery, and we found dioxin/furan compounds in the site kettles due to stormwater input from nearby roads.

All the stormwater that enters Ward Lake from Henderson Boulevard and the Briggs site goes through what we call the Northeast Kettle, which is located adjacent to Ward Lake and north of Area 3. Since the kettle represents the pathway of water from the site to the lake it was tested for pesticides and dioxin, of which only dioxin was found in concentrations of concern. Since we found dioxin on the path the water must travel to the lake, we tested the lake for dioxin to see whether the discharge from the kettle has resulted in dioxin being transported into the lake.

A topographic study was done of the lake bottom and 4 areas were tested where it would be most likely for sediment particulate to settle out, since dioxin is transported by clinging to the sediment in the water stream. The good news we were trying to get across with our statement in question is that we did not find any dioxin of concern in Ward Lake. Our testing was limited to what could have been put into the lake from Briggs property.

Sorry for the confusion, please feel free to contact me if you have any other concerns or questions.

Comment #1B: Douglas W. Toms

Dear Ms. Pearson

Thank you for the Ward Lake response, and dioxin explanation. I will convey this information to my neighbors.

Since: Ward Lake has no inlet or outlet; our kids spend a lot of time in the water; and we all eat the fish that we catch; we are concerned about maintaining and improving water quality. Anything that we as citizens and residents can do we want to do.

Where you can; please keep us informed. If you can provide us with reputable sources of information on Ward Lake's water quality, we would like to have it.

Sincerely -- D. W. Toms

Ecology Response

Sure, Tom.

Thurston county regularly tracks the water quality in Ward Lake, they keep the info online....although the online info tends to be a little behind the monitoring. You can contact them directly to get the most up to date information. That is, Public Health and Social Services Dept, Environmental Health Division (360) 754-4111.

Ecology has done some studies of Ward Lake associated with its' listing on the 303(d) list of endangered water bodies. All samples of fish tissue exceeded the toxic criterion for polychlorinated bi-phenyls (PCB). You can review that data online at:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/99338.html> (In case the link does not work it is publication number 99-338, you can search for it on our web site)

Ecology has collected other toxics data from Ward Lake and you can view that data here: <http://askgeorge.wa.gov/ecy/query.html?qt=Ward+Lake&col=ecy&pw=70%25&style=ecology&nh=7&origin=ecy&qp=url%3Aiblio+%2B+url%3Alaws-rules+%2B+url%3Apubs>

or by going to Ecology's web site and clicking on Environmental Assessment (EAP) from the left hand column, clicking on 'focused studies', clicking on 'full list of environmental assessment studies', and then you can search at the top for, "Ward Lake". The results of the search will produce several studies of water quality for Ward Lake. Some of the studies are for more than one lake, but go to the table of contents and you should be able to just pull out what you need.

You may want to consult the Department of Health to find out whether eating fish from Ward Lake is appropriate, since past studies have documented PCBs in tissue from fish in the lake. I do not know of any concerns regarding swimming in the lake, it is Public Health (above) who is responsible for making that determination.

With the ensuing development of Henderson Boulevard and the Briggs Village, a huge portion of the stormwater that used to run to Ward Lake is being re-directed which is a significant load off, if you will. It has become increasingly up to nearby residents to be stewards to maintain and improve the quality of water in Ward Lake. Septic systems-especially failing or substandard, yard products and household products that go down the drain (to the septic system) are all very taxing on relatively stagnant water body. Good stewardship and careful consumerism will be rewarding in the effort to keep Ward Lake beautiful and healthy indefinitely.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions or comments.

Comment #1C: Douglas W. Toms

Dear Ms. Pearson

My special thanks for your response. You've provided me with the sources of information that I have been interested in getting. I appreciate. You have been very helpful to me.

D. W. Toms

Comment #2: Zandra (Last name was not recorded)

Hi Lisa - I received a call from Zandra (didn't catch the last name) this am about the Briggs site. She had the following concerns/comments:

- 1. She's seen an increase in the number of rats since work on the site (and housing) began. Is concerned that this number will increase again with additional work in the area.**
- 2. Increase in traffic due to additional houses being developed in Area 3. She realizes that this might be more of a city planning issue and wondered if we had the number for a contact with Olympia city planning**
- 3. Was wondering about the status of the hiking trails and arboretum that were promised in the Ward Lake area. She wanted to know if the fencing would be there permanently or just temporarily. It almost sounded like she thought the fenced kettles would preclude development of hiking trails or somehow interfere with their development?**

Meg Bommarito
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Toxics Cleanup Program
Southwest Regional Office
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Ecology Response

Thank you for taking the time to contact us about the Briggs Nursery cleanup. Questions regarding traffic, the arboretum and associated hiking trails can be answered by the City of Olympia, at (360) 753-8048. For additional information or to have concerns about rats addressed, you may contact either Thurston County, Environmental Health at (360) 754-4111.