

Agreed Order for Cleanup Available for Public Comment

The Department of Ecology is entering into an Agreed Order with the Port of Tacoma (port) for cleanup of the Arkema Inc. site. The Agreed Order is a legal agreement requiring the port to investigate contamination and plan for cleanup. Ecology invites you to comment on the Agreed Order and Public Participation Plan from **June 16 to July 18, 2011**. The box at the right shows where to find the documents and how to submit your comments.

The Arkema Inc. site was formerly a chemical plant, in the past called Atofina Chemicals, Elf Atochem, and Pennwalt. It is located at 2901 Taylor Way, on the shore of the Hylebos Waterway (map on page 3).

The Port of Tacoma bought the property in 2007 and has done some independent sampling work. The port will now begin investigation and cleanup work under Ecology oversight.

Why Cleanup Matters

Chemical plant activities contaminated soil and groundwater at the site with toxics like sodium chlorate and arsenic (see below). Groundwater at the site connects to the Hylebos Waterway. The waterway sediments were cleaned up under the federal Superfund program. A sheet pile wall currently blocks groundwater flowing off the site and into the Hylebos. However, there is a risk of the site recontaminating the sediments and posing a threat to human health and the environment.

Site Contamination

The Arkema Inc. site was formerly a chloro-alkali plant. It produced a variety of chemicals, including:

- **Chlorine**—used as a bleach and disinfectant, and for making pesticides, rubber, and solvents.
- **Sodium hydroxide** (caustic soda)—used to make soaps, rayon, paper, explosives, dyes, and petroleum products.
- **Sodium chlorate**—an herbicide.
- **Hydrochloric acid**—used in making fertilizers and dyes, and in the electroplating, textile, and rubber industries.
- **Penite**—an herbicide containing arsenic.

Comments Accepted

June 16 to July 18, 2011

Submit Comments and Technical Questions to:

Dom Reale, Site Manager
Toxics Cleanup Program, SWRO
P.O. Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775
Phone: (360) 407-6266
E-mail: Dom.Reale@ecy.wa.gov

Public Involvement Questions:

Hannah Aoyagi
Phone: (360) 407-6790
E-mail: Hannah.Aoyagi@ecy.wa.gov

DOCUMENT REVIEW LOCATIONS

Tacoma Public Library

1102 Tacoma Avenue
Tacoma, WA 98402
Phone: (253) 591-5666

Citizens for a Healthy Bay

535 Dock Street, Suite 213
Tacoma, WA 98402
Phone: (253) 383-2429

WA Department of Ecology Southwest Regional Office

300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503

By appointment only:

Contact Debbie Nelson,
Debbie.Nelson@ecy.wa.gov or
(360) 407-6365

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup website

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=3405>

Facility Site ID #: 1220



The chemical company disposed of some of the waste from making these chemicals on the property. The “Penite Pits” held sludge that leached arsenic in the groundwater below. Other ponds held different kinds of waste, like asbestos and sodium hydroxide. In 1985, a storage tank leaked sodium chlorate and highly toxic hexavalent chromium.

History of Cleanup

Arkema began investigating the site in 1981. In 1987, Arkema entered into a cleanup agreement with Ecology, but the cleanup done was not complete. The company took a number of cleanup actions, including:

- Digging up and treating soil from the 1985 sodium chlorate and chromium spill.
- Removing 3,000 cubic yards (about 600 dump truck loads) of arsenic-laden Penite sludge.
- Installing a sheet pile wall to block contaminated groundwater from going into the Hylebos Waterway.
- Pumping groundwater to reduce its flow to the Hylebos Waterway and to remove arsenic and volatile organic compounds.

The port did some independent cleanup (not under an Ecology legal agreement) in 2008. Much work still remains.

The Cleanup Process

Under the Agreed Order, the port must complete the following work:

- **Remedial Investigation**—Describes the nature and extent of contamination (what chemicals, how deep, and how far across). The port must fill data gaps from past sampling.
- **Interim Actions**—The port plans to clean up an area of the site before drafting the final cleanup plan (see box to right).

- **Feasibility Study**—Compares possible cleanup options.
- **Draft Cleanup Action Plan**—Describes the proposed cleanup actions for the site.

What Happens Next

At the end of the comment period, Ecology will respond to public comments and questions. The agency can make changes to the Agreed Order based on public comment. If there are no major changes, Ecology will sign the agreement and the port can begin work.

You will have a chance to comment on all future cleanup plans. Ecology will put the draft Cleanup Action Plan out for public comment.



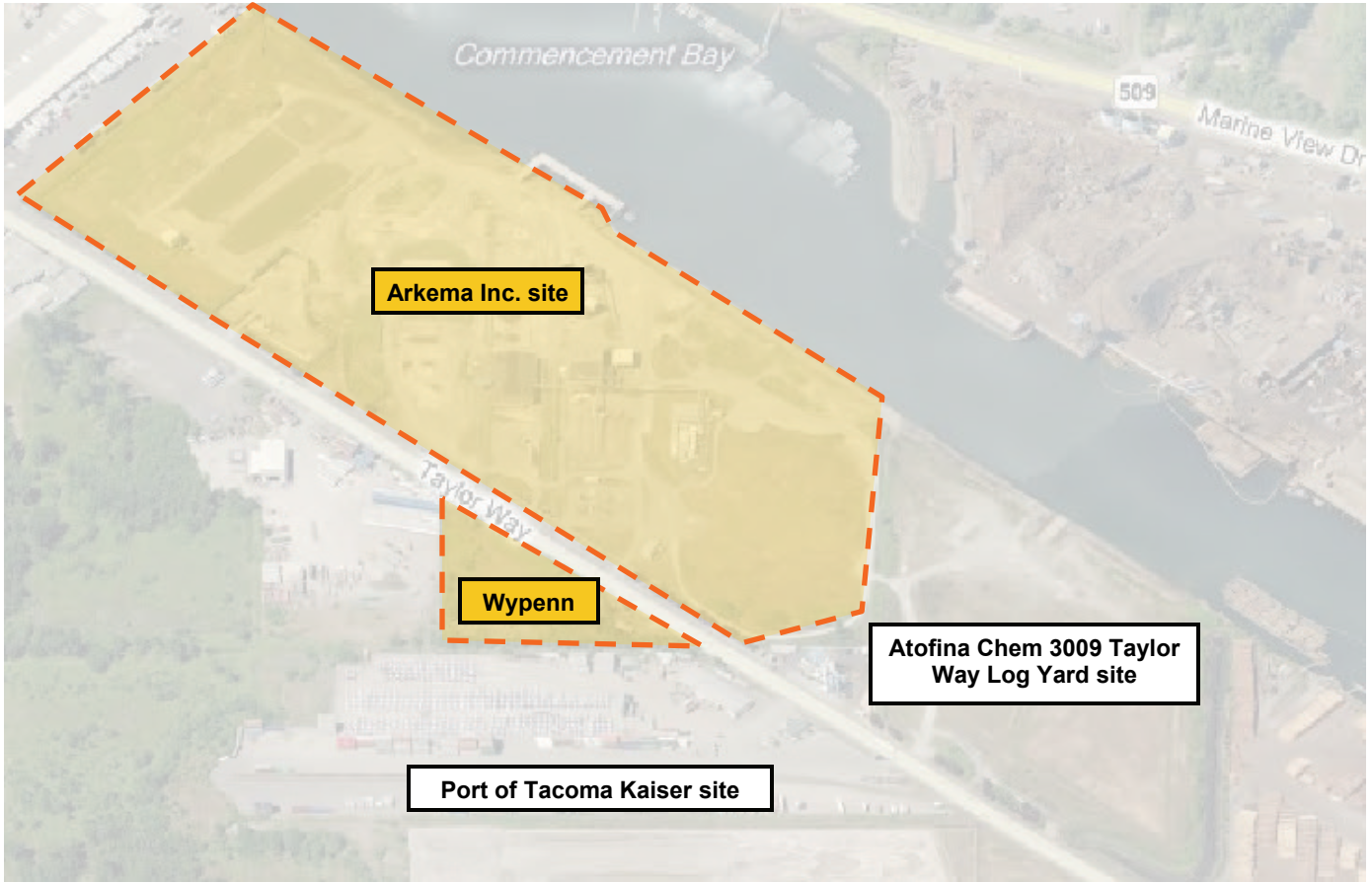
Interim Actions

Interim Actions are partial cleanup actions. They are for problems that pose an immediate threat to human health or the environment. A liable party can do Interim Actions at any point in the cleanup process as long as Ecology agrees.

Wypenn Interim Action

The Wypenn property is a small wedge on the other side of Taylor Way from the main part of the site (see page 3). The Port of Tacoma plans to clean it up using an Interim Action. The port plans to transfer the property to the Puyallup Tribe.

Depending on the results of the investigation, the port may need to take other Interim Actions. The public will have a chance to comment on any cleanup plans.




Arkema Inc. site, 2901 Taylor Way, Tacoma WA



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

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Olympia, WA 98504-7775

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Arkema Inc. Pierce County, WA

Ecology Seeks Public Comment on Agreed Order for Cleanup

Public Comment Period:

June 16–July 18 2011

Facility Site ID #: 1220

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What's inside this fact sheet?

- Information about the public comment period.
- How the site was contaminated.
- Cleanup history.
- The cleanup process.
- Next steps.

To be removed from the mailing list:

Contact Hannah Aoyagi, Public Involvement Coordinator at Hannah.Aoyagi@ecy.wa.gov or 360-407-6790.
