

## Interim Action Cleanup Plan Available for Public Review and Comment



A PUGET SOUND INITIATIVE Site

Reaching the goal of a healthy, sustainable  
Puget Sound.

### Ecology Wants Your Input!

The Department of Ecology is asking for your comments on an Interim Action Cleanup Plan for a site on Puget Sound. The Custom Plywood Mill Site is one of several properties located on the waterfront in Anacortes. Ecology is conducting the cleanup for a portion of this Site under the state's Puget Sound Initiative. It is located on the west shore of Fidalgo Bay, near 35th Street in Anacortes. The property can be seen from the water and from the Tommy Thompson hiking trail.

You are invited to comment on documents for the interim action at the Custom Plywood Mill Site. These include:

- Draft Remedial Investigation (RI)/Feasibility Study (FS)
- Draft Cleanup Action Plan (CAP) and Engineering Design Report for the upland cleanup
- State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Checklist and Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance for this action

Ecology will accept comments from February 15 to March 17, 2011. See the box on the right for details about where to review documents and submit comments. An open house will be held on February 24 from 4:30-6:30 pm at the City Council Chambers, located at 6th Street and Q Avenue in Anacortes.

### Site Background

The northern part of the Custom Plywood Mill Site is currently used for temporary boat storage. The rest of the property is vacant with abandoned building remnants and debris. Wetlands

### Comments Invited

**February 15 to March 17, 2011**

#### Send comments to:

Hun Seak Park - Site Manager  
WA Department of Ecology  
Toxics Cleanup Program  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600  
Phone: (360) 407-7189  
E-mail: HunSeak.Park@ecy.wa.gov

#### Open House and Public Meeting:

**February 24, 2011**

4:30-6:30 pm, presentation at 5:15 pm  
City Council Chambers  
6th Street and Q Avenue  
Anacortes, WA 98221

#### To review documents:

##### Anacortes Public Library

1220 10th Street  
Anacortes, WA 98221  
Phone: (360) 293-1910  
Hours: Mon-Thurs 11am-8 pm  
Fri. 11am-5pm, Sat-Sun noon-5pm

##### WA Department of Ecology

##### Headquarters

300 Desmond Drive SE  
Lacey, WA 98503  
By appointment only:  
Contact Carol Dorn,  
Carol.Dorn@ecy.wa.gov or  
(360) 407-7224

#### Ecology's Website

[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/custom\\_ply/custom\\_ply\\_hp.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/custom_ply/custom_ply_hp.htm)

**Facility Site ID #: 6858**

are present on the Site. The property has historically been a sawmill and wood box factory and then a plywood mill. Mill features included:

- Hog-fuel boiler (which burned wood scraps to produce energy).
- Drum and tank storage area.
- Transformer yard.
- Above-ground storage tanks containing fuel oil, gasoline, diesel and propane.
- Phenol formaldehyde resin and caustic storage tanks (for making plywood glue).
- Machine shop and metal shop.
- Area for spraying paint and oil.

### Investigation of Contamination

The Draft RI was prepared by the current property owner under an Agreed Order with Ecology. The RI describes the nature and extent of contamination in upland soil and groundwater, and sediments in the in-water portions of the Site.

Soils in the upland portion of the Site have elevated concentrations of arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, nickel, selenium, silver, zinc, oil-range petroleum hydrocarbons, dioxins, and furans.

Groundwater beneath the Site does not meet drinking water standards due to tidal influence. It also has elevated concentrations of arsenic, copper, and nickel. Marine sediments are contaminated with dioxins and wood debris and some biological test failures also occurred

### Feasibility Study

The Draft FS evaluates possible cleanup options for the upland and in-water

portions of the site. It evaluates four cleanup options for the upland portion of the Site and five options for the in-water portion of the Site. Ecology's proposed cleanup actions are described below.

### What Will Cleanup Look Like?

The Interim Action Workplan, Draft CAP, and Engineering Design Report describe the cleanup in detail. In summary, the cleanup is divided as follows:

#### Upland Cleanup (cleanup begins 2011)

- Remove pilings and other structures, where needed, to allow excavation.
- Excavate contaminated soil up to 15 feet below ground surface in affected areas.
- Dispose of contaminated soil, pilings and structures off-site.
- Mitigate impacts to existing upland wetlands.
- Start groundwater monitoring and institutional controls.

#### In-Water Cleanup (cleanup begins 2012)

- Remove pilings and other marine structures, where needed, to allow excavation.
- Excavate and dredge contaminated sediment up to 6 feet below sediment-water interface in the nearshore and inter-tidal areas up to 2 feet below sediment-water interface in shallow offshore areas.
- Dispose of contaminated sediment off-site.
- Place a thin-layer cap on non-dredged areas for enhanced natural recovery.

### Sediment Investigation

Previous investigations in Fidalgo Bay identified sediment contamination near the former Custom Plywood Mill Site. The purpose of this study was to understand contaminants including Dioxins levels near the Site, and determine background concentrations in Fidalgo and Padilla Bays.

Ecology collected and analyzed surface sediment and clam tissue samples from the Custom Plywood Mill Site.

The results indicate that the Custom Plywood Mill Site is a likely source of some of the sediment dioxin contamination throughout Fidalgo Bay. Ecology is using the data to determine what cleanup is needed.

### State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Checklist and Determination

SEPA makes sure that environmental values are considered during agency decision-making. Ecology prepared a SEPA checklist to identify potential environmental impacts of the project on the surrounding environment. Ecology determined that any impacts during cleanup actions can be mitigated (Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance). The checklist and determination are both available for public comment.

### Why This Cleanup Matters

#### Protecting and restoring Puget Sound

Governor Gregoire and the Legislature established the Puget Sound Initiative to protect and restore Puget Sound. Ecology has identified several baywide areas as high-priority cleanup areas, including Port Gamble, Dumas Bay, Padilla and Fidalgo

Bays, Port Angeles, Budd Inlet, and Port Gardner Bay.

This work includes cleaning up 50-60 sites within one-half mile of the Sound, including the Custom Plywood Mill Site. These cleanup actions will help to reduce pollution and restore habitat and shorelines in Puget Sound.

For more information about other cleanup sites, go to:

[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/sites\\_information.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/sites_information.html)

### What Happens Next?

Once the public comment period ends on March 17, Ecology will review and consider all comments. Cleanup documents may be modified based on your comments. The Public Participation Plan has been updated and has more information about the cleanup process and how you can get involved. Ecology will notify you about future cleanup work and public comment periods.

For information about other Ecology public comment periods, meetings, and other events, please visit Ecology's public events calendar at: <http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/pubcalendar/calendar.asp>.

### Come to the Open House Feb. 24

A community open house and meeting will be held from 4:30-6:30 pm on Thursday, February 24, 2011.

Come learn about the plan to clean up the Custom Plywood Mill Site and how it fits into an overall plan of restoring the health of Fidalgo Bay.

### Open House & Meeting Location:

City Council Chambers  
6th Street and Q Avenue  
Anacortes, WA 98221

*We hope you can join us,  
and welcome your comments*

### What can you do?

1. Read about the cleanup in this handout.
2. To get more detailed information, review the supporting documents at the locations listed on page one.
3. Write down your comments and questions. Send them to the Department of Ecology at the address shown on page one.

**We appreciate your comments and concerns. *Thank you.***



The Custom Plywood Mill Site is located on the west shore of Fidalgo Bay near 35th Street in Anacortes, WA. Pictured to the left in the foreground (upland area) are remnants of the former press pits used during past industrial operations. In the background are old concrete building structures in the shoreline area of the Site.

The upland cleanup will result in the removal of structures, pilings and contaminated soils. In-water work will address the near-shore and sub-tidal areas at the old Custom Plywood Mill Site.

*Department of Ecology site photo archives*



Toxics Cleanup Program  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

### Help with other languages and formats?

If you need this publication in an alternate format, please call the Toxics Cleanup Program at (360) 407-7170. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call (877) 833-6341.

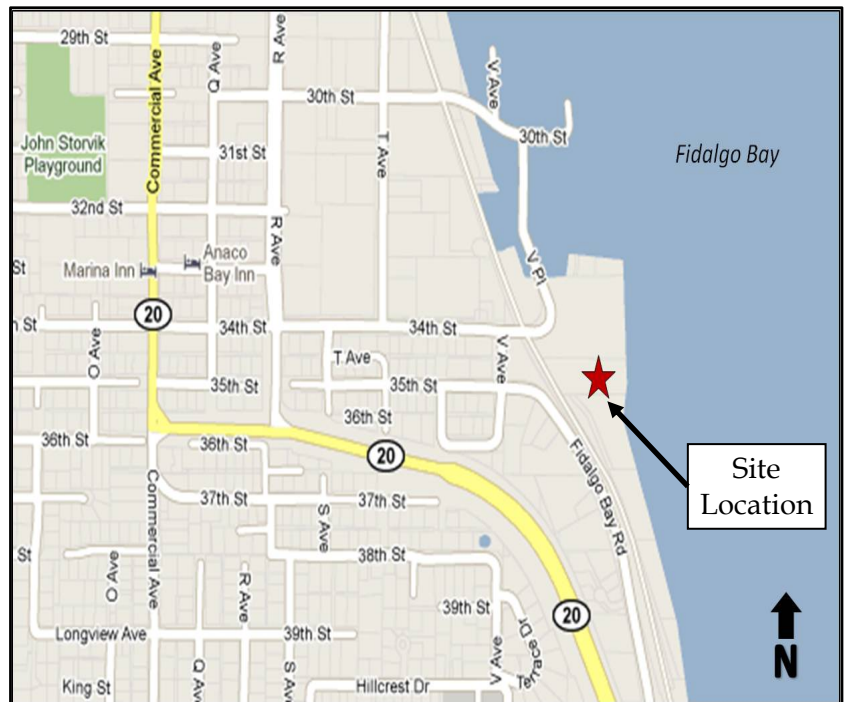
## Custom Plywood Mill Site, Anacortes Skagit County, WA

Ecology Seeks Public Comment on  
Draft Site Cleanup Documents

**Public Comment Period:**  
February 15 to March 17, 2011

**Open House:**  
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Anacortes City Council Chambers  
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Map source: Google maps 2010