



## Cleanup plan & associated documents ready for review

A cleanup plan for a portion of the Harris Avenue Shipyard contaminated site in Bellingham is available for public review. The plan is part of an amendment to a legal agreement (called an agreed order) between the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the Port of Bellingham (Port). The plan calls for the Port to remove contaminated sediment and soils, and to remove treated wood structures from a portion of the site while an overall cleanup plan is developed for the entire site. This is called an Interim Action.

**Ecology is making this amendment, a work plan for the Interim Action, and a checklist and determination letter under the State Environmental Policy Act, available for public review from March 9 – April 7, 2015.**

### History and contamination at the shipyard site

The Harris Avenue Shipyard site is located at 201 Harris Avenue in the Fairhaven District of Bellingham. The site consists of approximately 5-acres of contaminated marine sediment and 5-acres of contaminated soil and groundwater. The contamination is the result of ship building and marine maintenance activities performed at the site by various companies since the early 1900s. The Port purchased the property in 1966. The State of Washington also owns a portion of the site.

### Public Comment Period

March 9 – April 7, 2015

**Send comments/questions to:**

John Guenther, LHG – Site Manager  
WA Department of Ecology  
1440 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 102  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
Phone: (360) 715-5213  
Email: john.guenther@ecy.wa.gov

**Review documents at:**

Bellingham – Ecology Office  
1440 10<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 102  
Bellingham, WA  
By appointment. Call Linsay Albin at  
360-715-5200.

Bellingham Public Library  
210 Central Ave.  
Bellingham, WA  
Phone: 360-778-7323

Bellevue – Ecology Office  
3190 160<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE  
Bellevue, WA  
By appointment; call: 425-649-7190

Ecology's Harris Avenue web page:  
[www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites)  
Search Site Name: Harris Avenue

In 2003, Ecology and the Port entered into an Agreed Order to conduct an investigation and evaluate cleanup alternatives at the site. In 2009, they entered into a new Agreed Order to include soils and groundwater in the investigation. Environmental data collected from the site has shown:

- **In sediment:** metals, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), phthalates, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs).
- **In soil:** metals and petroleum hydrocarbons.
- **In groundwater:** dissolved metals and petroleum hydrocarbons.

### Interim action

The interim action will address contamination in upland soils and marine sediments near the main shipyard pier. Old creosote-treated wooden structures that are unsafe and a source of contamination will be removed, allowing access to implement a more permanent sediment cleanup.

The interim action will:

- Remove an estimated 15,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment;
- Remove an estimated 554 treated wood pilings;
- Remove contaminated upland soil, the quantity to be determined prior to and during the cleanup;
- Improve fish habitat by removing approximately 8,400 square feet of structures that shade the water;
- Re-build the main shipyard pier and marine railway access walkways.

As this interim work occurs, an overall cleanup plan for the entire site will continue to be developed. When that plan is ready, Ecology will present it for public review.

### State Environmental Policy Act

Under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), environmental values must be considered by state and local agencies when making decisions. Therefore, the Port has completed a SEPA checklist and Ecology has determined that the interim action is unlikely to have a significant adverse environmental impact.

### Ecology is asking for comments

Ecology is asking for your comments on the amendment, cleanup plan for the interim action, and on the SEPA checklist and determination.

- **You are invited to review these documents and send your comments to Ecology.**
- **Comments will be accepted March 9 – April 7, 2015.**

Once the comment period ends, Ecology will review and consider all comments and respond. If comments result in significant changes to the documents, Ecology will issue a revised version for a second 30-day comment period. In addition, if 10 or more people request a public meeting about this cleanup, Ecology will provide notice and hold a meeting.

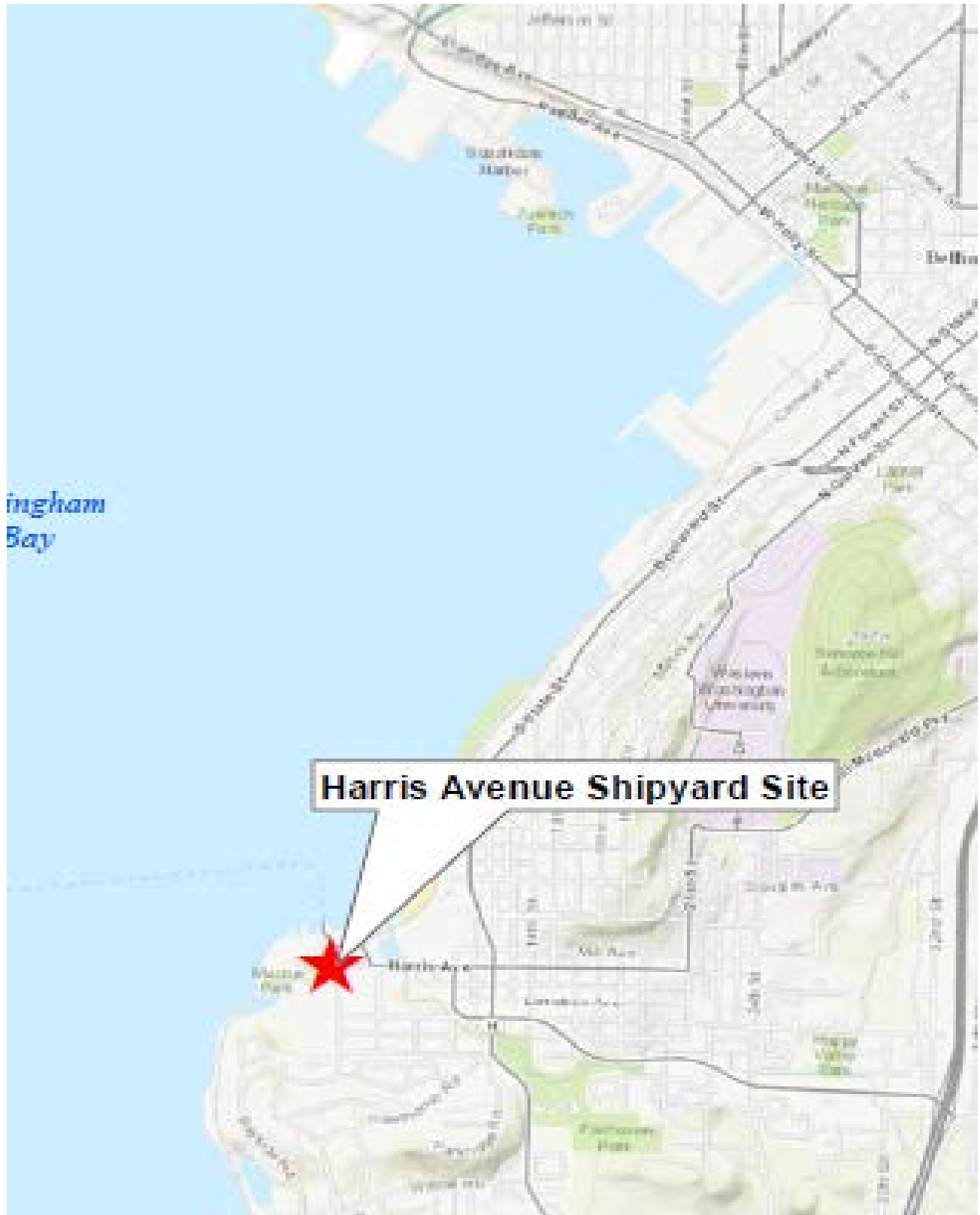
### Cost and funding

The interim action is expected to cost about \$14 million. Ecology will reimburse the Port of Bellingham up to half the cost of cleanup through the state's Remedial Action Grant Program, which helps to pay for the cleanup of publicly owned sites. The Legislature funds the grant program with revenues from a tax on hazardous substances.

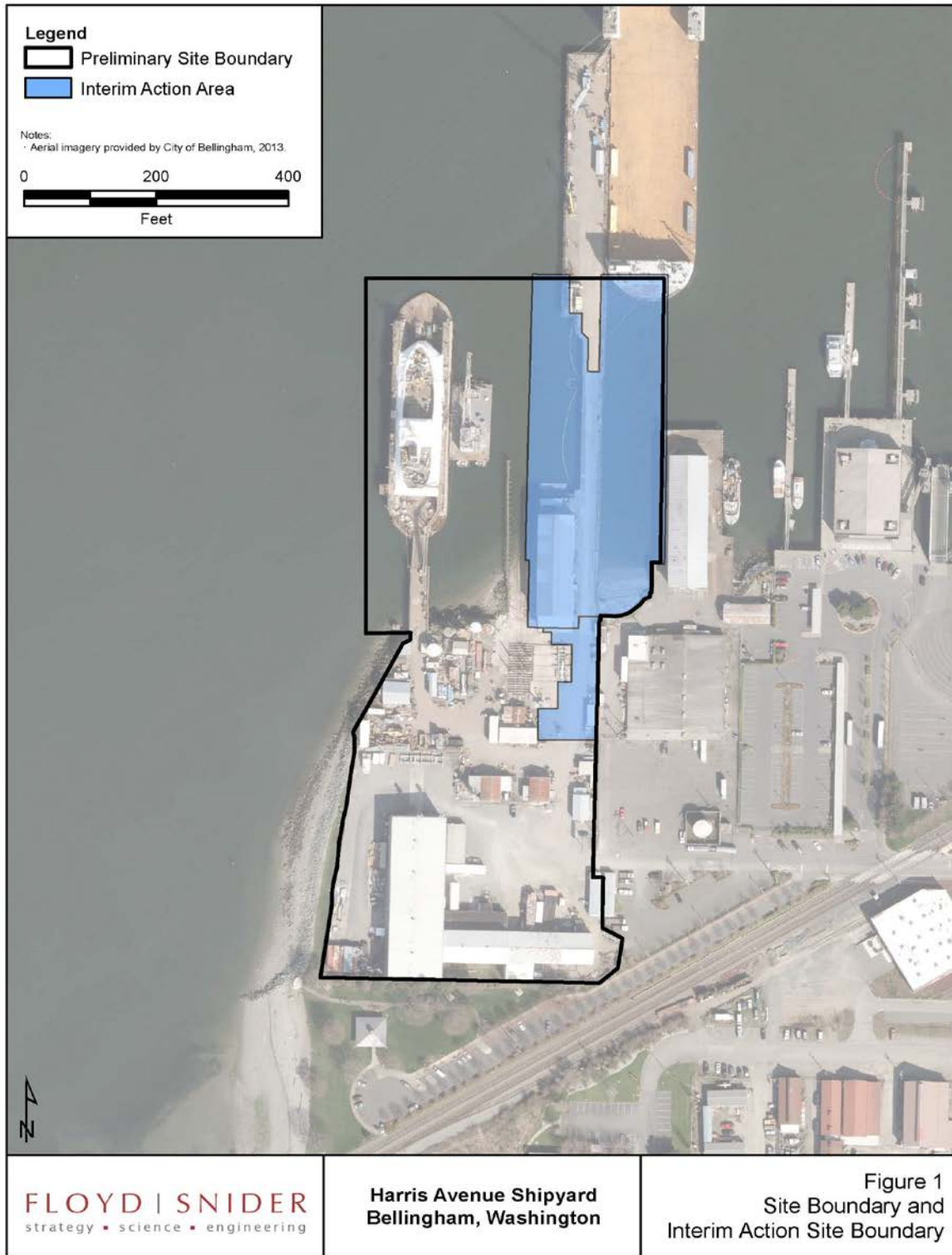
### Project timeline

- ✓ Aug. 2015: Begin Interim Action
- ✓ Dec. 2016: Complete Interim Action
- ✓ Dec. 2015: Complete Site Investigation & Cleanup Alternatives Report

# Harris Avenue Shipyard



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Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service.

Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341

#### Información en español:

El Departamento de Ecología tiene documentos ambientales disponibles al público para examinar. Estos documentos detallan una limpieza provisional para el sitio contaminado del Astillero por Avenida Harris en Bellingham.

Los datos del muestreo para este sitio descubrieron contaminación en los sedimentos marinos, la tierra, y el agua subterránea. Para prevenir exposición a gente, plantas, y animales desde la contaminación, una limpieza provisional es propuesta ser hecho por una parte del sitio, mientras que el Plan de Acción para la Limpieza sobre todo el sitio es desarrollado.

Más información sobre este sitio contaminado al Astillero por Avenida Harris es disponible al sitio Web del Departamento de Ecología:

[www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp)

Busca el Sitio por Nombre: Harris Ave

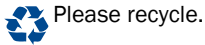
El Departamento de Ecología aceptará comentarios sobre estos documentos desde el 9 de marzo hasta el 7 de abril, 2015.

Comentarios o preguntas pueden ser presentado a Juan Guenther, el Departamento de Ecología, a 360-715-5213, o por el correo electrónico at [john.guenther@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:john.guenther@ecy.wa.gov)

Para más información en español por favor contacta a: Gretchen Newman, el Departamento de Ecología, a 360-407-6097 o [preguntas@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:preguntas@ecy.wa.gov)



3190 160<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE  
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452



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## Harris Avenue Shipyard Cleanup Site Bellingham, WA

**Environmental documents that detail an interim cleanup for the Harris Avenue Shipyard site in Bellingham are available for review and comment.**

**Sampling across the site found contamination in the marine sediment, soils, and groundwater. To prevent people, plants and animals from being exposed to contaminants, cleanup of a portion of the site is proposed to be done before an overall cleanup plan is completed for the entire site.**

**Ecology will accept comments on the documents from March 9 – April 7, 2015. See inside for more details about how to review documents and submit comments.**



*Scan this QR Code with your smartphone to visit Ecology's website for more information!*

*Or:*

*[www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp)*

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