

DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

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**Aladdin Plating  
1657 Center Street  
Tacoma, Washington**

**Facility Site Number 1277  
Cleanup Site Number 3257**

**Prepared by**  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
Southwest Regional Office  
Toxics Cleanup Program  
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## INTRODUCTION

Public participation plans promote meaningful involvement during cleanups. This plan describes the tools the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) will use to inform the public and gather input about the Aladdin Plating cleanup.

## LOCATION AND SITE BACKGROUND

The Aladdin Plating site is located at 1657 Center Street in Tacoma. The property is currently a vacant lot.

From 1958 - 1994, the site was used for commercial electroplating. Chemicals used at the site included chromium, nickel, lead, caustic soda, sulfuric acid, and alkaline cleaners.

In the early 2000s, Pierce County took ownership of the site through a tax foreclosure. Ecology is managing and funding the cleanup. In 2005, Ecology designated Aladdin Plating an orphaned site. We then oversaw the demolition of the former electroplating building and removal of 40 tons of contaminated soil and 47 tons of contaminated concrete.

From 2005 - 2007 and in 2014, studies found metals polluting soil and groundwater both on and off the property. Contaminants still present above state cleanup levels are the toxic metals:

- **Chromium** – Chromium is a metal that can be found in our environment in different forms, some of which are used for chrome plating or for making steel.
- **Hexavalent chromium** – Hexavalent chromium, also called chromium (VI), is a toxic metal and known to cause cancer in humans. It is used for chrome plating, dyes, and wood preserving.
- **Lead** – Lead is especially harmful for children under age six. It can cause permanent damage to the developing nervous system and lead to behavioral problems.
- **Nickel** – Nickel is a commonly-used metal that can cause skin rashes, asthma, and damage to damage to lungs and the nasal sinus.

You can read more about contamination in the draft RI/FS report. More information about pollutants and their health effects is available at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov> and <http://www.epa.gov>.

**Figure 1. Approximate location of the Aladdin Plating cleanup site**



Ecology held a public comment period on:

- The **Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) report**—Describes the nature and extent of contamination and evaluates possible cleanup options.
- The **Draft Cleanup Action Plan (draft CAP)**—Describes how we will clean up the site.
- **State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Determination and Checklist**—Describes the potential environmental impacts of the cleanup work.
- This **Public Participation Plan** – Describes tools we will use to inform the public about, and gather input on, the cleanup.

### **Current Status**

Ecology will hold a public comment period on the Engineering Design Report.

The Engineering Design Report describes in detail how the cleanup will be implemented and maintained. During cleanup, Ecology will:

- Remove and dispose of about 400 cubic yards of soil contaminated with toxic metals.
- Install wells to monitor groundwater. We will monitor to ensure levels of metals in groundwater decrease after the contaminated soil, which is the source of the metals, is removed. Levels should then lower over time.

After the comment period Ecology will respond to comments. After we finalize the cleanup plan, cleanup will start Fall 2015.

The proposed cleanup will protect people who might come into direct contact with contamination. It will also protect future possible use of groundwater as drinking water.

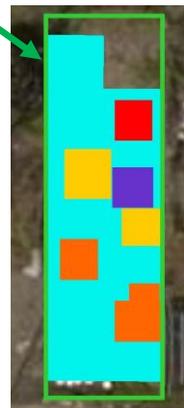
After Ecology determines the cleanup is complete, we will remove the site from the [Hazardous Sites List](#). We will hold a public comment period before removing the site from the list.

**Figure 2. Aladdin Plating contamination and proposed cleanup**



**Aladdin Plating proposed cleanup**

Legend	
<b>Contamination</b>	
Aladdin Plating property boundary	
Groundwater with metals above state cleanup levels	
Soil with metals above state cleanup levels	
<b>Proposed Cleanup</b>	
Excavate to 2.5 feet deep	
Excavate to 5.0 feet deep	
Excavate to 9.0 feet deep	
Excavate to 11.0 feet deep	
Excavate to 16.0 feet deep	



## SITE CLEANUP PROCESS

Washington's Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) requires that cleanups meet standards that are safe for both human health and the environment. For more information on MTCA, please visit Ecology's website at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/ftc94129.html>.

Toxic sites are cleaned up in stages, described below. Each stage has a related report or plan that the public is welcome to review and comment on.

**Remedial Investigation & Feasibility Study (RI/FS)** - The RI looks at the extent and type of pollution on the site. It also looks at possible human health and environmental impacts. The FS identifies and evaluates different cleanup options.

**Interim Actions** - Ecology may allow Interim Actions to partly clean up a site before the final cleanup plan is complete.

**Cleanup Action Plan (CAP)** - The CAP describes the cleanup methods and how they will meet Ecology's cleanup standards. The Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study provide the data and analysis to write a CAP. The CAP also takes into account public comments and concerns.

**Engineering Design Report (EDR)** - The EDR describes in detail how cleanup actions will be implemented. When another party is doing cleanup, Ecology usually approves the EDR without holding a public comment period. However, because we are doing this cleanup, we will hold a public comment period on the draft EDR.

**Cleanup** - Cleanup removes contaminants from the site, contains them on the site, or treats them to make them less toxic. Based on the information in the RI/FS, Ecology selected a cleanup action. The cleanup action plan requires a public comment period.

**Delisting** - Ecology keeps track of toxic cleanup sites on the Hazardous Sites List. Once cleanup is complete, the public will have a chance to comment before Ecology takes a site off the list.

You can find more information about toxic cleanups on Ecology's website:  
[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/cu\\_support/cu\\_process\\_steps\\_defns.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/cu_support/cu_process_steps_defns.htm).

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The purpose of this Public Participation Plan is to promote public understanding and participation in the cleanup. This section of the plan describes how Ecology will share information and receive public comments on cleanup activities. Ecology will use the following public involvement activities during the Aladdin Plating cleanup:

### **Formal 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 30 days. WAC 173-340-600 requires them at key points during the investigation and cleanup process, before final decisions are made. During a comment period, the public can comment in writing. Ecology can only take verbal comments during a public hearing.

After comment periods, Ecology reviews all comments and may respond in a document called a responsiveness summary. Ecology considers whether a document or decision needs to be changed or revised based on public input. If there are major changes, Ecology may hold a second comment period. If there are no major changes, Ecology finalizes the draft document(s).

### **Public Meetings and Hearings**

Ecology may hold public meetings at key points during the investigation and cleanup. Ecology also may offer public meetings for actions expected to be of particular interest to the community. Ecology will also hold a public meeting if ten or more people request one. These meetings will be at places and times convenient to the public.

### **Information Repositories**

These are places where the public can read and review site information, including public comment period documents. Ecology has two repositories for this site:

- Tacoma Public Library, 1102 Tacoma Avenue, Tacoma 98402. (253) 591-5666.
- Washington State Department of Ecology, 300 Desmond Drive, Lacey 98516. Please call (360) 407-6365 for an appointment.

See also Ecology's website: <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=3257>

### **Site Register**

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program uses its twice monthly Site Register to announce public meetings and comment periods, and many other activities. To receive the Site Register by e-mail, contact Seth Preston at (360) 407-6848 or [Seth.Preston@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Seth.Preston@ecy.wa.gov). You can also read it on Ecology's website at [http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/pub\\_inv/pub\\_inv2.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/pub_inv/pub_inv2.html).

### **Mailing List**

Ecology's mailing list for this site includes neighboring landowners and businesses, public agencies, and other known interested parties. Ecology's Southwest Regional Office maintains the list and will update it as needed. Please contact Stacy Galleher at (360) 407-7529 or [Stacy.Galleher@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Stacy.Galleher@ecy.wa.gov) if you would like to have your address added to or deleted from this mailing list.

### **Fact Sheets**

Ecology will mail fact sheets to people and groups interested in this cleanup. Fact sheets will announce comment periods and public meetings. Ecology also may mail fact sheets with updates on cleanup progress.

### **Newspaper Display Ads**

Ecology will place ads in *The News Tribune* to announce public comment periods and public meetings for the site.

### **Plan Update**

Ecology may update this Public Participation Plan as the project moves forward. The public will have a chance to comment on any major changes to the plan.

**Contacts**

If you have questions or need more information about this plan or the Industrial Petroleum cleanup site, please contact:

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## **GLOSSARY**

**Agreed Order:** A legal agreement between Ecology and a Potentially Liable Person (see below) to conduct work toward a cleanup.

**Cleanup:** Actions that deal with a release or threatened release of hazardous substances that could affect public health or the environment. Ecology often uses the term "cleanup" broadly to describe response actions or phases of cleanup, such as the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study.

**Contaminant:** Any hazardous substance that does not occur naturally or occurs at greater than natural background levels.

**Groundwater:** Water found beneath the earth's surface that fills spaces between materials such as sand, soil, or gravel. In some areas, groundwater occurs in large enough amounts to be used for drinking water, irrigation and other purposes.

**Information Repository:** A file containing site information and reports for public review. It is usually located in a public building convenient for local residents, such as a public school, city hall, or library.

**Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA):** A law passed by Washington voter initiative in 1988. Its purpose is to find, investigate, and clean up places where hazardous substances have been released. It defines Ecology's role and encourages public involvement in cleanup decisions.

**Potentially Liable Person:** Any individual(s) or company(s) potentially responsible for, or contributing to, the contamination problems at a site. Whenever possible, Ecology requires PLPs to clean up sites.

**Risk:** The probability that a hazardous substance, when released into the environment, will cause an adverse effect in the exposed humans or living organisms.

**Site:** Any area where a hazardous substance, other than a consumer product in consumer use, has come to be located.

**Toxicity:** How much harm a substance causes to living organisms, including people, plants and animals, at a certain concentration.

**Voluntary Cleanup Program:** An option for cleaning up hazardous waste sites. The program allows a party to clean up a site independently with technical assistance and written opinions from the Department of Ecology on the cleanup.