

Spokane River Metals Harvard Road North Site



Comments Sought on Construction, SEPA, and Substantive Requirement Documents

River Recreation and Access Area Closed During Cleanup

The Washington Department of Ecology proposes to clean up lead, arsenic, zinc, and cadmium at the Harvard Road North site. The site covers less than one acre and lies along the northern bank of the Spokane River in Spokane County, Washington. It is nearly 3 miles west of the Idaho state line and immediately west of the Harvard Road Bridge. The proposed cleanup will begin summer 2008 and end by October 31, 2008. The area will be closed to the public during construction.



Looking North Toward the Site from the Harvard Road Bridge

Why Cleanup is Necessary

Historic mining practices in the Coeur d'Alene basin resulted in contaminants known as heavy metals washing downstream from Idaho. The metals contamination includes lead, arsenic, zinc, and cadmium. These heavy metals settled in soil and sediments at certain shoreline areas along the Spokane River.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted a study of mining contaminants in the Coeur d'Alene Basin. As part of that study, and additional testing by Ecology, nine shoreline areas in Washington state were identified for cleanup (Figure 2). Ecology and EPA cleaned up Starr Road in 2006. Ecology completed cleanup at Island Complex and Murray Road in 2007. During 2008, Ecology will complete work at the Harvard Road North site.

The Harvard Road North project is being conducted for the following reasons:

- Contamination levels exceed standards established for protection of human health and the environment.
- Cleanup improves fish habitat at this location.
- Cleanup improves protection for children and adults recreating in this area.

Ecology Invites Your Comments

You may review and comment on documents associated with the Harvard Road North project April 30 through May 30, 2008.

The box at the right provides locations for reviewing documents

Fact Sheet April 2008

Comments Accepted

April 30 through May 30, 2008

Para asistencia en Español:

Sr. Gregory Bohn 509/454-4174

Если вам нужно помощь по русскому, звоните:

Tatyana Bistresky 509/477-3881

Document Review Locations

WA Department of Ecology
4601 N. Monroe, Spokane, WA 99205
Mrs. Johnnie Landis 509/329-3415

Argonne County Library

4322 N. Argonne, Spokane, WA 99206
509/893-8260

Spokane Valley Library

12004 E. Main,
Spokane Valley, WA 99216
509/893-8400

Spokane Public Library

906 W. Main, Spokane, WA 99201
509/444-5300

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup

Website: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/harvardRoadN/hrn_hp.htm

Comments and Technical Questions

Mr. Zach Hedgpeth, P.E.
Ecology Toxics Cleanup Program
4601 N. Monroe, Spokane, WA 99205
509/329-3484
E-mail: zahe461@ecy.wa.gov

Community Outreach Questions

Ms. Carol Bergin
Ecology Toxics Cleanup Program
509/329-3546
E-mail: cabe461@ecy.wa.gov

Facility Site ID No. 615198
Publication No. 08-09-026

and submitting comments. Documents available for review include:

- Draft Construction Specifications and Design Drawings.
- State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Checklist SEPA Determination of Non-Significance (DNS).
- Substantive Permit Requirements.

The State Environmental Policy Act, known as SEPA, requires government agencies to consider potential environmental impacts of a project before beginning the cleanup. A Determination of Non-Significance indicates the proposed actions will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment.

- After review of an environmental checklist and other site-specific information, Ecology determined the cleanup of lead, arsenic, zinc, and cadmium in sediments will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment.
- This action will benefit the environment by reducing the release of toxic chemicals from the site and reducing exposure pathways.
- Therefore, Ecology has issued a Determination of Non-Significance (DNS).

Proposed Construction

The Harvard Road North area is used for recreation and access to the Spokane River. The boundaries of the site are the Harvard Bridge on the east and the second set of white boulders on the west, shown in the figure below (Figure 1). Signs will be placed near the site to alert the public about the project and safety issues. The site will be closed to the public during construction. Precautions will be taken to minimize dust and disturbance to large pine trees near the parking area.

Water levels at the site fluctuate throughout the year. During summer and early fall the water levels are low and the river bank is dry. Other times of the year water covers the major portions of the site. Construction will be completed during the low water level times in summer and early fall.

Proposed Restoration Improvements

- Contaminated sediments along the upper portion of the river bank will be removed, and the area will be backfilled with clean sand and gravel. Contaminated sediments will be disposed of at an approved landfill.
- A protective cap of clean sand and gravel will be placed on the lower portion of the river bank where contaminants will not be removed.
- The cap will eliminate the exposure pathway for humans and wildlife.
- A new gravel boat launch will be installed.
- Gravel mix will be placed at important fish habitat locations.
- Signs and physical barriers such as fences and boulders will be installed. This will help define the launch ramp, parking, and pedestrian access areas.



What Happens Next

Ecology will respond to questions or comments submitted by the public. Ecology may modify the proposed work, if appropriate. Construction will begin in the summer 2008 and be completed by October 31, 2008.

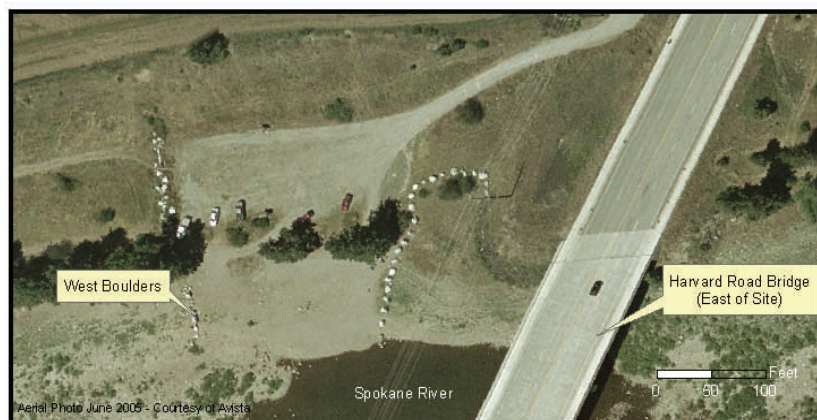


Figure 1

Spokane River Metals Sites

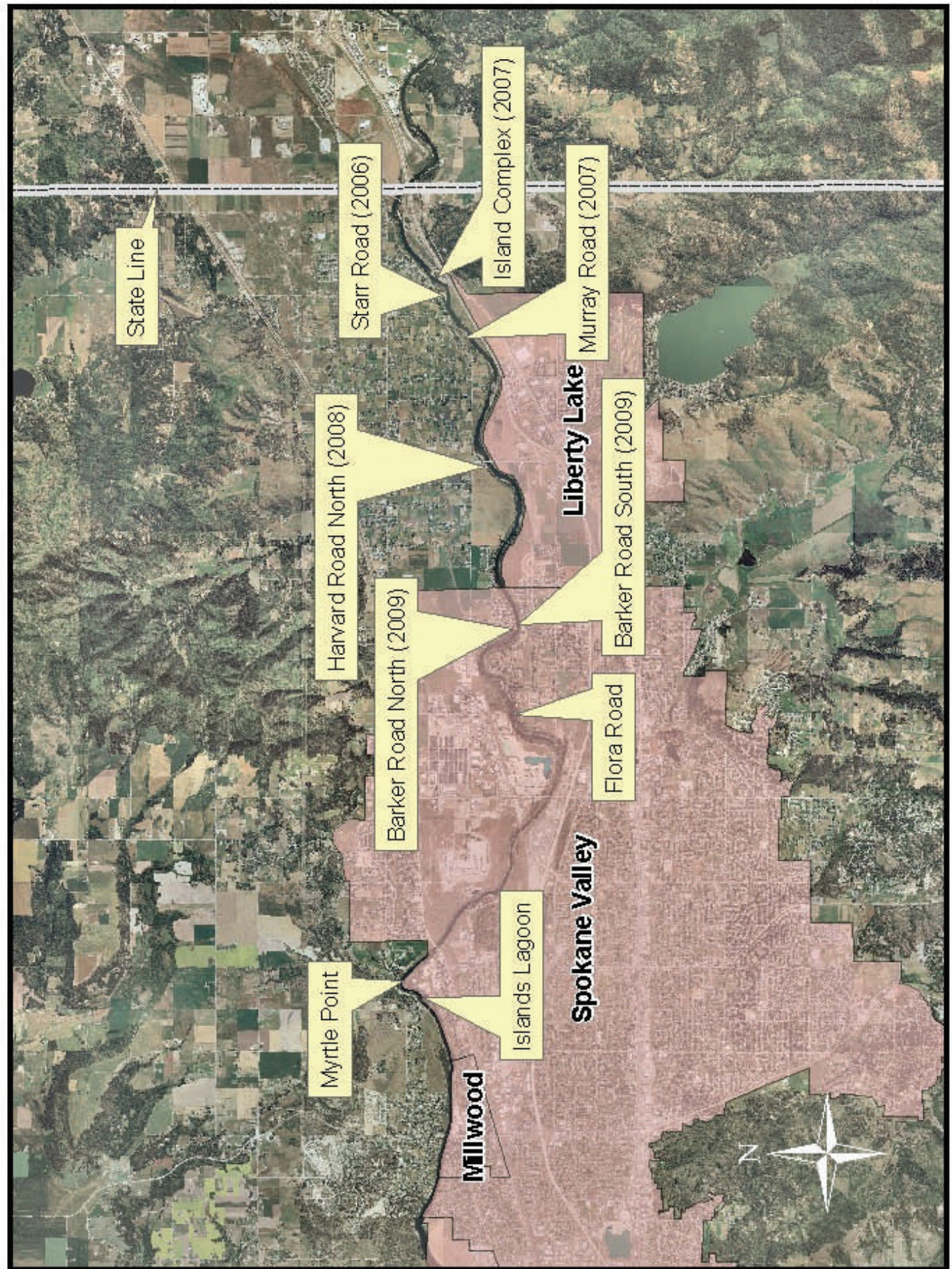


Figure 2



Department of Ecology
Eastern Regional Office
4601 North Monroe
Spokane, WA 99205-1295

**Spokane River Metals
Harvard Road North Site**

April 2008

