



# **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN**

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**Arkema Inc. Site  
2901 Taylor Way  
Tacoma, Washington**

**Prepared by**  
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Southwest Regional Office  
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300 Desmond Drive  
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## INTRODUCTION

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The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has developed this public participation plan to promote meaningful community involvement during the cleanup of the Arkema Inc. site. This plan describes the tools that Ecology uses to inform the public about site activities and identify opportunities for the community involvement.

The Port of Tacoma (port) and Arkema Inc. (Arkema) are the potentially liable persons (PLPs) responsible for the cleanup of this site. The Port will begin the cleanup process with a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (see page 7) under an Agreed Order (legal agreement) with Ecology.

## LOCATION AND SITE BACKGROUND

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The Arkema site is located at 2901 Taylor Way in Tacoma (see page 6 for a map). The property sits on the shore of the Hylebos Waterway and is bordered to the south by the Atofina Chem 3009 Taylor Way Log Yard cleanup site. The former plant made chemicals such as chlorine, sodium hydroxide (caustic soda), hydrochloric acid, and Penite (an herbicide containing arsenic). Production stopped in 1997 and most of the buildings were torn down. The port bought the property in 2007, taking on liability for the cleanup.

### Site Contamination

Wastes created during Penite production were dumped into pits. Arsenic leached from the pits into soil and groundwater beneath the site, and into nearby sediments. Wastewater from the plant was released into two areas of the site. One area, "Taylor Lake", contained several ponds. Some ponds are highly caustic (high pH), while others have high levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and other contaminants. A 1985 storage tank rupture contaminated soil with sodium chlorate and hexavalent chromium.

- **Arsenic** is a toxic metal. It can occur naturally in the soil and can come from industrial processes such as metal smelting, pesticide production, and wood treatment. More information can be found at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts2.html>.
- **Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)** are gases emitted from certain solids or liquids. They can also be dissolved into groundwater. VOCs can come from fuel, automotive products, paints, and other industrial and household products.
- **Sodium chlorate** is white powder salt. It is used as an herbicide, and to create chlorine dioxide for paper pulp bleaching. Sodium chlorate can cause skin and eye irritation, and possible liver damage at high doses. It is not known to cause cancer.
- **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. More information can be found at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts7.html>.

## **Cleanup Activities**

Arkema began cleanup under an old legal agreement, but did not finish. Past cleanup activities included:

- Digging up and treating or disposing of contaminated soils.
- Putting in a sheet pile wall along the shoreline to reduce the flow of contaminated groundwater into the Hylebos Waterway.
- Installing a VOC treatment system.
- Installing a pump and treat system to remove arsenic from groundwater.

Under the 2011 Agreed Order, the cleanup process (see page 7) begins with a Remedial Investigation to determine types of contamination and where they are on the site. The Feasibility Study will use that information to evaluate possible cleanup methods. The selected methods will be described in the Cleanup Action Plan, which will go out for public comment.

Interim Actions are partial cleanup actions that can be completed before the final cleanup. They are used to reduce immediate threats, and to address areas that could become worse over time. Any proposed Interim Actions will be made available for public comment and will require a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

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The purpose of this Public Participation Plan is to promote public understanding and participation in the MTCA activities planned for this site. This section of the plan addresses how Ecology will share information and receive public comments and community input on the site activities. Ecology uses a variety of activities to increase public participation in the investigation and cleanup of MTCA sites. Ecology will use input provided by the community whenever possible. The following is a list of the public involvement activities that Ecology will use, their purposes, and descriptions of when and how they will be used during the Arkema cleanup.

### **Public Comment Periods and Public Review**

Comment periods are the main way Ecology gets feedback from the public on investigations like this. Comment periods usually last 30 days and are required at key points during the investigation, before final decisions are made.

During a comment period, the public can comment in writing. Ecology can only take verbal comments if it holds a public hearing. After formal comment periods, Ecology reviews all comments received and may respond in a document called a Responsiveness Summary.

Ecology will consider the need for changes or revisions based on input from the public. If significant changes are made, then a second comment period may be held. If no significant changes are made, then the draft document(s) will be finalized.

## **Public Meetings and Hearings**

Public meetings may be held at key points during the investigation and cleanup process. Ecology also may offer public meetings for actions expected to be of particular interest to the community. These meetings will be held at locations convenient to the community.

## **Information Repositories**

Information repositories are places where the public may read and review site information, including documents that are the subject of public comment. Ecology has three repositories for the Arkema site:

- Tacoma Public Library, 1102 Tacoma Avenue, Tacoma, WA 98402, (253) 591-5666.
- Citizens for a Healthy Bay, 535 Dock St., Suite 213, Tacoma, WA 98402, (253) 383-2429.
- Washington State Department of Ecology, 300 Desmond Drive, Lacey, WA 98516. Please call (360) 407-6045 for an appointment.

Site information also will be posted on Ecology's website at:

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

## **Site Register**

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program uses its bimonthly Site Register to announce public meetings and comment periods, and many other activities. It is available 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**

The mailing list for the site includes individuals, groups, public agencies, elected officials, private businesses, and other interested parties. The list will be maintained at Ecology's Southwest Regional Office and will be updated when individuals request to be added or removed. Contact Hannah Aoyagi at (360) 407-6790 or by e-mail at [hannah.aoyagi@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:hannah.aoyagi@ecy.wa.gov) to have your address added to or deleted from this mailing list.

## **Fact Sheets**

Ecology will mail fact sheets to persons and organizations interested in the Arkema cleanup to inform them of public meetings and comment opportunities and important site activities. Ecology also may mail fact sheets about the progress of site activities.

## **Newspaper Display Ads**

Ecology will place ads in the Tacoma News Tribune to announce public comment periods and public meetings or hearings for the site.

**Plan Update**

This public participation plan may be updated as the project proceeds. If an update is necessary, the revised plan will be submitted to the public for comment.

**Contacts**

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

Dom Reale, Site Manager  
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## GLOSSARY

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**Comment Period:** A time period during which the public can review and comment on various documents and proposed actions. For example, a comment period may be provided to allow community members to review and comment on proposed studies or draft reports.

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

**Information Repository:** A file containing current information, technical reports, and reference documents available for public review. The information repository is usually located in a public building that is convenient for local residents such as a public school, city hall, or library.

**Public Notice:** At a minimum, adequate notice mailed to all persons who have made a timely request of Ecology and to persons residing in the potentially affected vicinity of the proposed action; mailed to appropriate news media; published in the local (city and county) newspaper of largest circulation; and the opportunity for the interested persons to comment.

**Public Participation Plan:** A plan prepared to encourage coordinated and effective public involvement designed to the public's needs at a particular site.

**Responsiveness Summary:** A summary of oral and/or written public comments received by Ecology during a comment period on key documents, and Ecology's responses to those comments. The responsiveness summary is especially valuable during the Cleanup Action Plan phase at a site when it highlights community concerns.

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

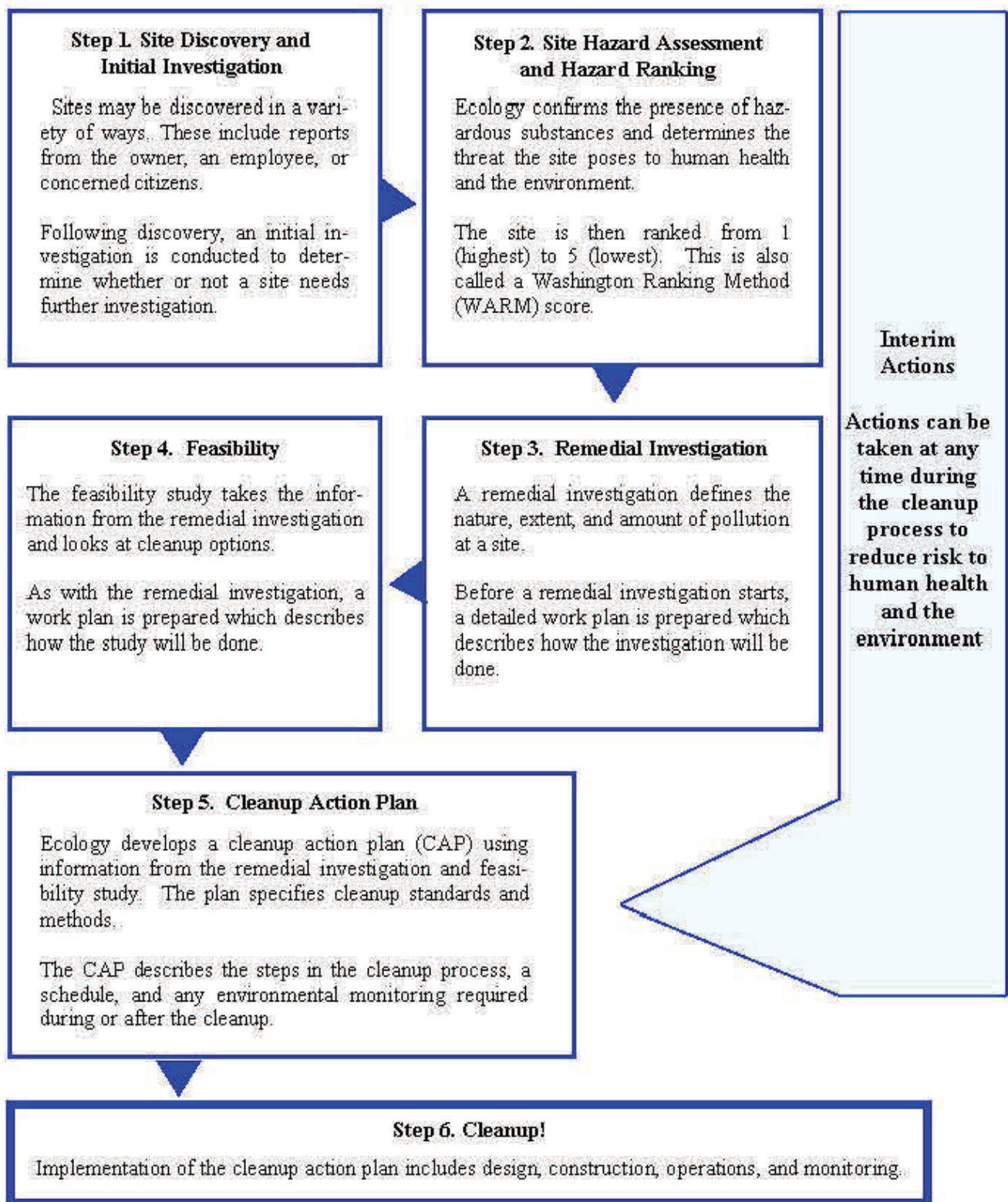
**Sediments:** Settled particles located at the bottom of a lake, river or in wetlands. Sediment(s) also includes settled particulate matter exposed by human activity (e.g., dredging) to the biologically active aquatic zone or to the water column.

**Toxicity:** The degree to which a substance at a particular concentration is capable of causing harm to living organisms, including people, plants and animals.



Arkema Inc. property, 2901 Taylor Way, Tacoma





**Figure 1. Steps in the formal cleanup process**