



## **Public Participation Plan**

**Arkema Inc**  
**2901 Taylor Way, Tacoma**

### **Toxics Cleanup Program**

Washington State Department of Ecology

Southwest Region Office

Olympia, Washington

December 2025



## Publication Information

This document is available on the Department of Ecology's [Arkema Inc cleanup site page](#).<sup>1</sup>

Cover photo credit: [Ecology Coastal Atlas](#),<sup>2</sup> July 2016

### Related Information

- Cleanup site ID: 3405
- Facility site ID: 1220

## Contact Information

### [Toxics Cleanup Program](#)<sup>3</sup>

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Lacey, WA 98503  
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## Language Access

The Department of Ecology offers free translation and interpretation services. If you need help in your preferred language, please call Sam Meng at 360-999-9587 and request an interpreter, or email [Sam.Meng@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Sam.Meng@ecy.wa.gov).

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<sup>1</sup> <https://go.ecology.wa.gov/3405>

<sup>2</sup> [https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/shorephotoviewer/?CustomMap=y&photo=160729\\_04295&vintage=2016](https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/shorephotoviewer/?CustomMap=y&photo=160729_04295&vintage=2016)

<sup>3</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Who-we-are/Our-Programs/Toxics-Cleanup>

<sup>4</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/ADA>

# Department of Ecology's Region Offices

## Map of Counties Served



<b>Southwest Region</b> 360-407-6300	<b>Northwest Region</b> 206-594-0000	<b>Central Region</b> 509-575-2490	<b>Eastern Region</b> 509-329-3400
-----------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	---------------------------------------

Region	Counties served	Mailing Address	Phone
<b>Southwest</b>	Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, Wahkiakum	PO Box 47775 Olympia, WA 98504	360-407-6300
<b>Northwest</b>	Island, King, Kitsap, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom	PO Box 330316 Shoreline, WA 98133	206-594-0000
<b>Central</b>	Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan, Yakima	1250 W Alder St Union Gap, WA 98903	509-575-2490
<b>Eastern</b>	Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman	4601 N Monroe Spokane, WA 99205	509-329-3400
<b>Headquarters</b>	Across Washington	PO Box 47600 Olympia, WA 98504	360-407-6000

# Public Participation Plan

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**Arkema Inc**  
**2901 Taylor Way, Tacoma**

Toxics Cleanup Program  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
Southwest Region Office  
Olympia, Washington

**December 2025**



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

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# Public Involvement in Contamination Cleanup

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) developed this Public Participation Plan in collaboration with the Port of Tacoma, the party responsible for cleanup costs. The goal of this plan is to ensure meaningful community involvement throughout the cleanup of the Arkema Inc cleanup site.

This plan outlines how Ecology will keep the public informed about contamination investigations and cleanup options at each stage of the process. Please review Appendix A for more information about the cleanup process. The plan also details when and how the community can participate in the cleanup process. We encourage the public to engage with the decision-making opportunities and provide input.

The Arkema Inc public participation plan was originally created in 2011 and was updated in December of 2025. The document was updated to reflect Ecology's updated accessibility standards and to correct outdated information. The update was not significant enough from the previous version to warrant putting the public participation plan out for public comment again.

## Site contacts

To be included in the site record, comments about the cleanup process must be submitted during comment periods. Questions and informal comments or information about the site's history are welcome anytime.

### Ecology

#### Southwest Region Office

300 Desmond Drive SE  
Lacey, WA 98503

Sam Meng, site manager

[Sam.Meng@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Sam.Meng@ecy.wa.gov)

360-999-9587

Abby Zabrodsky, public involvement  
coordinator

[Abby.Zabrodsky@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Abby.Zabrodsky@ecy.wa.gov)

564-250-0561,

### Potentially Liable Party

#### Port of Tacoma

P.O. Box 1837  
Tacoma, WA 98401

Scott Hooton, program manager

[shooton@portoftacoma.com](mailto:shooton@portoftacoma.com)

253-383-9428

If you are unable to reach these contacts, please visit the [cleanup site page](#)<sup>5</sup> for up-to-date contact information.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://go.ecology.wa.gov/3405>

# Public Participation Activities

Members of the public may ask questions, submit informal comments, or share site information at any time. Interested parties do not need to wait for a formal public comment period to contact Ecology.

However, to be included in the formal site record, comments about the site investigation, cleanup alternatives, or cleanups must be submitted during formal comment periods. In addition, the public is invited to review site documents before they become final. This is the most direct and influential way to learn more about the site and be involved in the cleanup's decision-making.

## How we share information with the community

During specific stages of the cleanup, Ecology will mail notices about public comment periods to addresses surrounding the site. The mailing list area will vary depending on the type of contamination and where it's located. However, the list will include addresses within at least a 1/4-mile radius of the site and other interested organizations and individuals. These notices will provide general information about the site, contact information for submitting comments, and times and locations of public meetings or hearings, or how to request one if not yet scheduled.

Comment period notices will be available online and at document repositories (for example at the library closest to the site). Notices may also be posted in various locations throughout the community (for example, local businesses, schools, or post offices).

Ecology may also develop documents outside of comment periods to keep the community updated on the site's status. These informational documents will be available online and print copies may be mailed to the nearby community if we feel the message warrants the associated cost and resources.

## Postal mailing list

Ecology maintains a mailing list that includes addresses within a roughly 1/2-mile radius of the site and relevant local, state, and federal government contacts.

People on the mailing list receive public comment notices when draft documents are available.

We will add additional individuals, organizations, and other interested parties to the mailing list as requested. If you would like to be added to the mailing list for this site, please contact Sam Meng at 360-999-9587 or [Sam.Meng@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Sam.Meng@ecy.wa.gov).

## Contaminated Site Register

Public comment periods, events, and other cleanup notices are published in Ecology's [Contaminated Site Register](#).<sup>6</sup> To receive the *Contaminated Site Register* by email, please [subscribe online](#),<sup>7</sup> or contact Sarah Kellington at [sarah.kellington@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:sarah.kellington@ecy.wa.gov) or 360-280-3167.

## Newspaper display ads or legal notices

We announce public comment periods and events for this site in ads or notices published in Tacoma News Tribune. We will also publish notice on our [Public Input & Events Listing](#).<sup>8</sup>

## Email lists

Ecology maintains an email list to update interested people about this cleanup and others in the region. If you would like to be added to the email list for this site, please [subscribe online](#),<sup>9</sup> or contact Sam Meng at 360-999-9587 or [Sam.Meng@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Sam.Meng@ecy.wa.gov).

## Ecology's website and social media platforms

We maintain a website for the [Arkema Inc site](#).<sup>10</sup> The website provides site information, and you may download cleanup documents.

We may also share information about cleanup sites through [news releases, our blog, and social media](#).<sup>11</sup>

## Automatic site updates

You can subscribe to this site from our Arkema Inc webpage. You'll receive a weekly email if we change the site's status, add documents to the site's webpage, or have an open comment period.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Site-Register-lists-and-data>

<sup>7</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/site-register>

<sup>8</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Events/Search/Listing>

<sup>9</sup> [https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAECY/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=WAECY\\_33](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAECY/subscriber/new?topic_id=WAECY_33)

<sup>10</sup> <https://go.ecology.wa.gov/3405>

<sup>11</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Get-to-know-us/News>

## Places to see print documents

During public comment periods, you can find print documents at the following locations:

### **Tacoma Public Library, Main Branch**

1102 Tacoma Avenue  
Tacoma, WA 98402  
253-280-2800

### **Washington Department of Ecology**

Southwest Region Office  
300 Desmond Drive SE  
Lacey, WA 98503

To view print documents at Ecology's repository, you must schedule an appointment ahead of time. To schedule an appointment, please contact Susan Baxter at 360-407-6365 or [PublicDisclosureSWRO@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:PublicDisclosureSWRO@ecy.wa.gov).

## Signs around the cleanup site

We may also install signs displaying information about project status, traffic impacts, and health risks around the cleanup site.

## How you can share information with us

We hold public comment periods and sometimes public events to learn your thoughts, opinions, and concerns about cleanup at a site. We may also identify public concerns and cleanup goals by meeting with and soliciting information from interested community members and organizations. To get involved with us about this site, please contact Sam Meng at 360-999-9587 or [Sam.Meng@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Sam.Meng@ecy.wa.gov).

## Public comment periods

At a minimum, the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA, see page 9 for more information) requires 30-day comment periods to allow interested members of the public to comment on draft documents, legal agreements, and proposed cleanup actions. If there is significant interest, Ecology may extend the public comment period.

When Ecology oversees State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) determinations (see page 9 for more information), we hold comment periods for at least two weeks and may extend to 30 days or more when other cleanup documents are concurrently available for review.

Following a comment period, we publish all the input we received and respond to significant comments and questions, as appropriate. If the comments result in significant changes to the cleanup documents, then the documents will be revised and re-issued for public review. If the comments do not result in significant changes, the documents will become final.

## Public events

We hold public meetings, workshops, open houses, and hearings based on community interest. At meetings, workshops, and open houses, attendees can ask questions, learn more about the site, and submit written comments when a comment period is open. At a public hearing, verbal

comments are transcribed for the record, and Ecology responds to them after the comment period in our response to comments.

If we have not scheduled an event, we will hold one if 10 people request it. This may cause us to extend a public comment period, so the event occurs during it.

Events are held at locations close to the site that meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards. Public events are always announced in advance using a variety of methods.

## Public Participation Grants

Grants may be available to neighborhood committees, non-profits, and other groups interested in the site. For contaminated sites, these funds can be used to:

- Hire an expert to help interpret technical information
- Conduct activities that enhance the public's understanding of, and participation in, the cleanup process

For more information about public participation grants, please contact Laura Busby at 360-280-5088 or [Laura.Busby@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Laura.Busby@ecy.wa.gov) and Wendy Kovach at 564-250-2909 or [Wendy.Kovach@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Wendy.Kovach@ecy.wa.gov). You may also visit the [Public Participation Grant webpage](#).<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/PPG>

# Site Information

## Historical use

The Arkema Inc. site was formerly a chemical manufacturing plant, in the past called Atofina Chemicals, Elf Atochem, and Pennwalt. The products that were manufactured at the site included chlorine, sodium hydroxide (caustic), sodium chlorate, hydrochloric acid, and sodium arsenite (Penite).

Penite was manufactured between circa 1944 and the early 1970s. The remaining chlorine-based manufacturing facility operations operated from 1927 to 1997, at which time the manufacturing facilities were dismantled and removed from the site.



Figure 1: Site location (yellow outline)

## How the site became contaminated

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.

## Contamination

**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 on the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry [arsenic webpage](#).<sup>13</sup>

**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 known to cause cancer in humans. It is used for chrome plating, dyes, and wood preserving. More information can be found on the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry [chromium webpage](#).<sup>14</sup>

## Cleanup plans

Since the 1980s, several cleanup activities have been completed at the site. These cleanup activities were completed according to the Clean Water Act, CERCLA, and MTCA.

Approximately \$16 million dollars have been spent through February 2021 to investigate and evaluate the site, and approximately \$66 million dollars have been spent through February 2021 to clean up the site.

### Completed remedial cleanup actions include:

- improving previous stormwater and wastewater systems,
- removing soil and sediment,
- installing soil and sediment caps,
- installing a Sheet Pile Wall (SPW),
- installing and operating a Pump & Treat (P&T) system for the main arsenic plume,
- conducting in-situ stabilization for the main arsenic plume,
- remediating volatile organic compound (VOC) source areas, and
- completing remediation for other miscellaneous releases.

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<sup>13</sup> <https://wwwn.cdc.gov/TSP/substances/ToxSubstance.aspx?toxid=3>

<sup>14</sup> <https://wwwn.cdc.gov/TSP/substances/ToxSubstance.aspx?toxid=17>

Contaminants above state cleanup levels still remain at the site. These contaminants will be addressed through future MTCA cleanup actions.

In 2025, an interim (partial) cleanup action was proposed to address the movement of contaminated groundwater at the site. The interim action proposes a way to contain the contamination within the site and prevent future spreading into the Hylebos Waterway. The Port will continue developing their cleanup plans for the entire site while this Interim Action Plan is being enacted. Once completed, the Cleanup Action Plan for the entire site will be made available for public comment before it's finalized and carried out.

## Area community

The site is in the Tacoma Tidelands and borders the Hylebos Waterway. It is currently vacant, restricted, and fenced within a highly industrial area. The site and surrounding areas are zoned Port Maritime and Industrial for the foreseeable future.

There are no structures, residents, occupants, or workers (other than periodic remediation workers) at the site. No residential neighborhoods or communities are located adjacent to the site. The closest residential neighborhood is approximately a quarter mile east of the eastern portion of the site.

Ecology will reach out to cultural community organizations as part of our outreach and provide information in other languages according to federal guidance. To request information in another language, call Sam Meng at 360-999-9587 and wait on the line while we connect with an interpreter.

We strive to make our public participation efforts as inclusive as possible and welcome your input about how to best reach the nearby community.

## Tribal engagement

Ecology will reach out to Tribes to offer opportunities to engage in the cleanup process that are separate from the public involvement process. This engagement is described in a site-specific Tribal Engagement Plan, as required by [WAC 173-340-620](https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=173-340-620).<sup>15</sup> We invite Tribal members and other indigenous peoples to engage in the public involvement process as well.

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<sup>15</sup> <https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=173-340-620>

# Washington's Cleanup Laws

Ecology uses the [Model Toxics Control Act \(MTCA\)](#)<sup>16</sup> and accompanying regulations for cleanup activities. Passed in 1989, MTCA provides guidelines for contaminated site cleanup in Washington state. This law sets standards to ensure the cleanup protects people and the environment. MTCA requires the creation of this plan.

## Model Toxics Control Act

MTCA began in 1988 as a citizen-led effort to clean up contaminated sites in Washington state. The law holds property owners or operators responsible for cleaning up contamination on, or coming from, their property.

Ecology carries out MTCA, making sure cleanups happen according to state rules and regulations. These rules are found in [Chapter 173-340 Washington Administrative Code \(WAC\)](#).<sup>17</sup> Ecology investigates reports of contamination, and the property is placed on the [Contaminated Sites List](#)<sup>18</sup> if the pollution is determined to pose a serious risk to human health or the environment. This starts the cleanup process at the site.

The cleanup process under MTCA includes several steps (Appendix A). Public involvement is a key part of MTCA's [cleanup process](#).<sup>19</sup> Nearby residents, businesses, community groups, and other interested parties can review and comment on documents related to steps that make crucial decisions or plans about the cleanup.

## State Environmental Policy Act

MTCA cleanups also require evaluation under the [State Environmental Policy Act \(SEPA\)](#).<sup>20</sup> Under SEPA, the potential for significant adverse environmental impacts from a project or action must be evaluated by state and local agencies when making decisions. This evaluation is subject to public review and comment in parallel with cleanup documents.

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<sup>16</sup> <https://www.ecology.wa.gov/mtca>

<sup>17</sup> <https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=173-340>

<sup>18</sup> <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/reports/cleanup/contaminated>

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.ecology.wa.gov/MTCA-process>

<sup>20</sup> <https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=197-11>

## Plan Amendments

Ecology developed this plan following MTCA regulations (WAC 173-340-600). We review it as the cleanup progresses and amend it as necessary. You may suggest amendments to Sam Meng at 360-999-9587 or [Sam.Meng@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Sam.Meng@ecy.wa.gov).

We intend to provide the public with information on opportunities for public involvement and comments. The outreach activities discussed reflect Ecology's current plans to keep the public informed. It also provides ways for those interested in the site to communicate their concerns and questions to us.

If you feel the planned outreach activities and mechanisms found in this plan are insufficient or would like to modify them in some way, please contact us. We will work to find solutions. We can implement new activities or outreach tools right away, with or without amending this plan.

## Appendix A. Steps in the MTCA cleanup process

The cleanup process is defined in the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA), Washington's cleanup law. See the attached, accessible PDF for details.

# Washington's Cleanup Process



Public participation plans and comment periods are only required for cleanups under a legal agreement with Ecology. Otherwise, all cleanups follow the same steps. The steps are defined by Washington's cleanup law, the Model Toxics Control Act.

