

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

1920 Port of Tacoma Road Site
Tacoma, WA

Prepared by
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June 2015

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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 on the 1920 Port of Tacoma Road cleanup site.

SITE LOCATION

The site is located around 1920 Port of Tacoma Road, in Tacoma. It is in the industrial area near the Blair Waterway in the Tacoma Tidelflats.

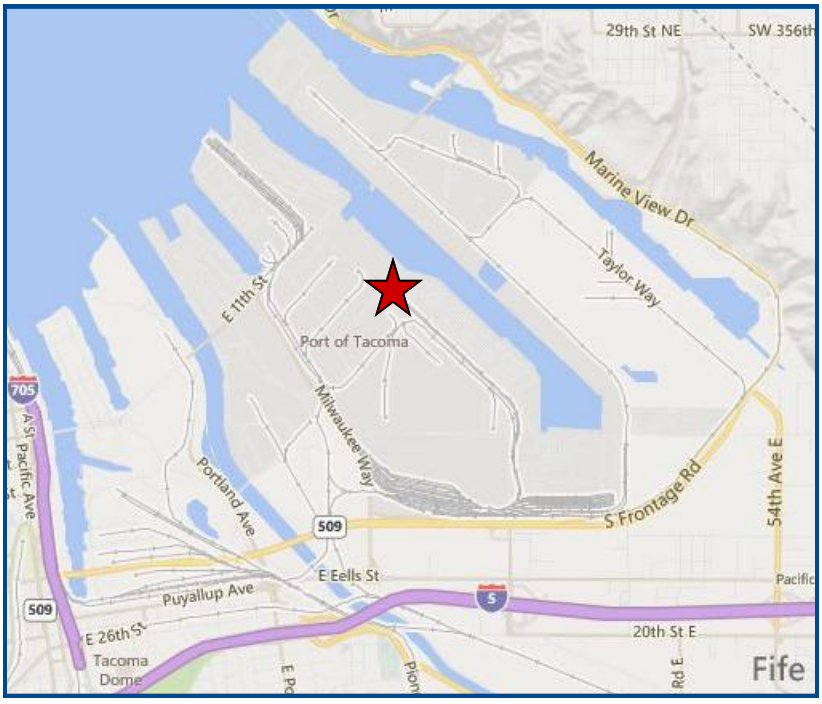


Figure 1. 1920 Port of Tacoma Road Site Location

SITE BACKGROUND

Starting in 1958, U.S. Oil & Refining (USOR) used five pipelines to move petroleum back and forth from their dock on the Blair Waterway to their refinery on Lincoln Avenue. These pipelines leaked petroleum into the surrounding soil, causing contamination.

In 1995, a work crew found contaminated soil. Ecology did sampling and found gasoline-range petroleum hydrocarbons in soil.

In 1998, USOR relocated the refinery-to-dock pipelines. The old lines beneath the roadway were flushed and filled with grout. USRO removed any contamination that they encountered during the relocation.

In 2011, Ecology and USOR entered an agreed order (legal agreement). The agreed order requires USRO to complete:

- A remedial investigation to determine the nature and extent of the contamination.
- A feasibility study to compare cleanup options.

CURRENT ACTIVITY

During the site investigations, it was recognizes that cleanup needs to coordinate with the City of Tacoma's plan to repave Port of Tacoma Road. Ecology has determined that an interim action and monitoring plan is necessary for this site.

The goal of the interim action is to remove the petroleum contaminated soil found under a portion of Port of Tacoma Road. This interim action will be done during the road repaving project summer 2015. This cleanup will allow for current and future repairs to be made to the roadway without being hampered by the presence of contaminated soil.
Objectives of the interim action are to:

- Remove contaminated soil from utility corridors bellow the roadway prior to repaving.
- Reduce the mass of gasoline-related chemicals in soil to reduce them leaching into groundwater.
- Perform groundwater monitoring to make sure cleanup actions are successful.

About 5,000 to 6,000 cubic yards of soil will be removed. Clean compacted sand and gravel will be backfilled. This will provide a sub-base for roadway repaving.

Ecology held a public comment period from May 15 to June 15, 2015, on the draft interim action plan for the site. We received no comments.

SITE CLEANUP PROCESS

Cleanup activities at the 1920 Port of Tacoma Road site fall under Washington's Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) and accompanying regulations (Revised Code of Washington (RCW)

70.105D and Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-340). MTCA has procedures for cleaning up contaminated sites to standards that are safe for both human health and the environment.

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.

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 selects a cleanup action and develops a new legal agreement for cleanup. CAPs require 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.

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 1920 Port of Tacoma Road site 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 three repositories for this site:

- Tacoma Public Library, 1102 Tacoma Ave, 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.

See also Ecology's website: https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=3801

Site Register

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program uses its bimonthly 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. It is also on Ecology's website: 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 Audrey Kuklok at (360) 407-0067 or Audrey.Kuklok@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 *The News Tribune* in Tacoma 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 1920 Port of Tacoma Road cleanup, 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.

Cleanup Action Plan (CAP): A plan that explains which cleanup option(s) will be used at a site. The Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study provide the data and analysis to write a CAP. It also takes into account public comments and public concerns.

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 pores between materials such as sand, soil, or gravel. In some areas, ground water 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 these 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.