



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

**Weyerhaeuser Sawmill Aberdeen
500 North Custer Street
Aberdeen, WA 98520**

Prepared by
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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 Weyerhaeuser Sawmill Aberdeen site cleanup.

SITE LOCATION

The Weyerhaeuser Sawmill Aberdeen site generally is located at 500 North Custer Street in Aberdeen.

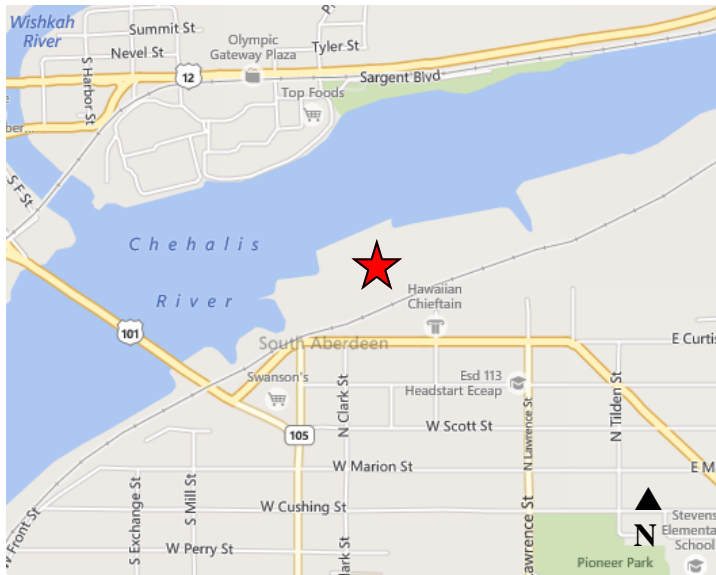


Figure 1. Weyerhaeuser Sawmill Aberdeen Site Location



Figure 2. Weyerhaeuser Sawmill Aberdeen Site Tidelands Study Area

SITE BACKGROUND

The property has been used for sawmill and other forest product industries since the early 1900s. Weyerhaeuser Company operated the mill facilities between 1955 and 2009. In 1924, a mill called the “Big Mill” was constructed on pilings and decking over the tidelands area. The Big Mill was originally used to manufacture shingles and slats for housing construction. During World War II it was used for manufacturing ship keels for the war effort. The Big Mill closed in 2006 and was removed by 2010.

Past operations contaminated the site with dioxins, mercury, petroleum hydrocarbons, and polychlorinated biphenyls. Woodwaste was also found in sediments beneath the former over water mill structures.

Grays Harbor Historical Seaport Authority bought the former sawmill complex from Weyerhaeuser in 2013. Part of the agreement was that GHHSA would take responsibility for cleaning up the tidelands adjacent to the property.

The Tidelands Study Area

There are 14.48 acres of state owned tidelands on the north side of the site along the Chehalis River (see Figure 2 on page 3). The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages the tidelands. GHHSA subleased the tidelands from Weyerhaeuser in 2013 and are currently negotiating with DNR for a new lease.

CURRENT ACTIVITY

Ecology is entering into an agreed order with GHHSA to clean up the tidelands study area of the Weyerhaeuser Sawmill Aberdeen site.

In June 2015, Ecology is holding a public comment period on a legal agreement that will require GHHSA to:

- Conduct an investigation of the tidelands study area, which will describe the nature and extent of contamination in the tidelands.
- Develop a Study Area Investigation and Alternatives Analysis Report, which will summarize the investigation results and evaluate cleanup options for the study area. Any cleanup done for only the tidelands of the site would be considered interim actions because they only address part of the site.

At the end of the comment period, Ecology will respond to comments.

SITE CLEANUP PROCESS

Cleanup activities at the Weyerhaeuser Sawmill Aberdeen 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 Weyerhaeuser Sawmill Aberdeen 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:

- Aberdeen Timberland Library, 121 East Market Street, Aberdeen, WA 98520. (360) 533-2360
- 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=4987>.

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. You can also read it on Ecology's website at 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 Daily World* 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 Weyerhaeuser Sawmill Aberdeen 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.

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.

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 cleanup action alternatives and proposed plans.

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

Feasibility Study: This study develops and evaluates cleanup options for a given site.

Groundwater: Water found beneath the earth's surface that fills spaces between materials such as sand, soil, or gravel. In some aquifers, 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 PLPs to clean up sites.

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.

Remedial Investigation: This study characterizes the site and defines the extent of contamination.

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study: Two distinct but related studies. They are usually performed at the same time, and together referred to as the "RI/FS." They are intended to:

- Gather the data necessary to determine the type and extent of contamination;
- Establish criteria for cleaning up the site;
- Identify and screen cleanup alternatives for remedial action; and
- Analyze in detail the technology and costs of the alternatives.

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.

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.