

B&L Woodwaste Cleanup Site History

The B& L Woodwaste landfill was used from mid 1970's until the early 1980's. Woodwaste, mixed with soil and Asarco slag, originating from log sort yards in Commencement Bay were taken to this site for disposal. The Asarco slag leached arsenic into the soils and groundwater.

In **1982**, the Commencement Bay Nearshore/Tideflats area, including Hylebos Waterway and the B&L Woodwaste site, were added to the National Priorities List by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The B&L Woodwaste site, which includes the landfill and surrounding ditches and wetlands, was named as a source of arsenic, copper and lead.

In **1992**, Ecology issued an Enforcement Order requiring Asarco, Inc. and other responsible parties (Murray Pacific, Louisiana-Pacific and Executive Bark) to do the following:

- Consolidate woodwaste on the 18 acre property into an 11 acre landfill.
- Construct a multi-layer capping system to prevent rain from flushing contamination from the waste.
- Install and operate a groundwater monitoring well system.
- Create a plan to address any failure of the remedy.

In response to a discovery of elevated arsenic in groundwater at the site, Ecology completed an extensive study of the wetland area and found:

- Dissolved arsenic levels in the groundwater in a nearby wetland were above cleanup standards.
- Some waste at the bottom of the landfill was in contact with the water table during the winter months.
- Plants and animals in the nearby wetland did not appear to be experiencing any toxic effects.

In **2002**, Asarco's funds became unavailable and they were unable to complete the rest of the Cleanup Action Plan. In **2005**, Ecology amended the original Enforcement Order and required the liable parties (PLPs) to complete:

- An evaluation of potential remedies to contain the release of contaminated groundwater from the site.
- An investigation of the wetland area to determine what remedial action is needed.

In **2005**, Asarco entered into bankruptcy proceedings and has not contributed towards cleanup efforts since that time. Murray Pacific has contributed to the evaluation of potential remedies and preparation of the Cleanup Action Plan.

In July **2007**, the draft Cleanup Action Plan (CAP) was finalized after a public comment period. Ecology entered into bankruptcy court proceedings with Asarco and settlement negotiations with Asarco, Murray Pacific, Wasser and Winters and Louisiana Pacific related to those proceedings.

In **2008**, Ecology and Murray Pacific Corp (Murray Pacific) entered into a Consent Decree requiring Murray Pacific to implement the Cleanup Action Plan which required:

- Completion of an archeological survey of the area to determine if cultural artifacts are present.
- Design and construction of the cleanup remedy detailed in the CAP.

- Starting up and performing initial operation and maintenance of the cleanup remedies.

A second Consent Decree, between Ecology and Wasser and Winters Company and Louisiana Pacific Corporation (Louisiana Pacific), required partial funding for the cleanup. The Louisiana Pacific Consent Decree requires payment of \$1 million to help fund the implementation of the cleanup action plan.

Ecology (using funds from the settlement) agreed to take on the responsibility for the long-term maintenance and operation of the cleanup systems after installation, start up and initial operations are completed.

In **2009**, Murray Pacific developed an Engineering Design Report to describe in detail how the first phase of the final cleanup action plan would be implemented and maintained.

In **2010**, the landfill cap was rebuilt over the barrier wall. A clay bentonite and soil slurry wall was built to help contain contaminated groundwater and soil in the landfill.