



Environmental report ready for public review

The City of Bellingham has identified a cleanup solution for contamination at the RG Haley site on the Bellingham waterfront. The city first investigated contamination at the site and evaluated cleanup options to determine this cleanup alternative, all with Ecology oversight. Ecology is making this information available for public review in a draft Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Report (RI/FS).

Historical contamination on the waterfront

Extensive sampling across the RG Haley site has found petroleum hydrocarbons, pentachlorophenol, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), dioxins/furans, and wood waste.

These contaminants are present in soil, groundwater, sediment, and soil vapor, and are associated with historical shipping, lumber milling and wood-treating operations at the property. Other contaminants from nearby overlapping sites were also found. They include mercury in sediment from the Whatcom Waterway site, and municipal refuse, phthalates, and metals from the Cornwall Landfill site (see figure page 3).

These contaminants are present at potentially harmful levels and must be addressed under Washington's cleanup law, the Model Toxics Control Act.

Public Comment Period

August 31 – October 14, 2015

Public Meeting:

September 17, 2015; 6-8PM

Fireplace Mtng. Room

Bellingham Municipal Court Bldg.

625 Halleck Street

Bellingham, WA 98225

Send comments/questions to:

Mark Adams – Site Manager

WA Department of Ecology

3190 160th Avenue SE

Bellevue, WA 98008-5452

Phone: (425) 649-7107

Email: mark.adams@ecy.wa.gov

Review documents at:

Bellingham – Ecology Office

1440 10th St., Suite 102

Bellingham, WA

By appointment. Call Linsay Albin at

360-715-5200.

Bellingham Public Library

210 Central Ave.

Bellingham, WA

Phone: 360-778-7323

Bellevue – Ecology Office

3190 160th Ave. SE

Bellevue, WA

By appointment; call: 425-649-7190

Ecology's RG Haley web page:

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites

Search Site Name: RG Haley

Site History

The RG Haley site was originally tideland and open waters of Bellingham Bay. Historical near-shore filling with soil, wood waste, and debris created dry land property. Various companies treated wood at the property. RG Haley International was the last, from 1955 to 1985. The preservative used in the wood-treating operations was pentachlorophenol mixed with diesel-like carrier oil. Dioxins/furans are a known contaminant in commercial grade pentachlorophenol. Other current and historical sources of dioxins/furans exist in the Bellingham Bay area, including former pulp and paper mills and on-going burning activities.

Environmental investigation

In addition to conducting chemical and biological tests on soil, groundwater, soil vapor, and sediment at the site, the environmental investigation compiled and evaluated other information including:

Physical conditions: such as groundwater occurrence and flow, stormwater drainage, historic and cultural resources, and land and navigation uses.

Exposure pathways: how people, plants and animals are, or could be, exposed to contaminants—and the levels of cleanup needed to protect those that could be exposed.

Site boundaries: where contaminants exist at levels requiring cleanup.

Cleanup alternatives

After investigating the site, an evaluation identified a number of technologies that could clean up the contamination. These were then combined into six different options for the upland portion of the site (Upland Unit), and six options for the marine sediment portion (Marine Unit). Next, the options were evaluated through a disproportionate cost analysis, which identified a preferred option for each unit (see figure page 4).

You are invited to review & submit your comments on the draft RI/FS report from August 31 to October 14, 2015. In addition, Ecology will host a public meeting on September 17, 2015 from 6-8pm. See the box on page 1 for details. Ecology will review & consider all comments and respond.

If comments result in significant changes to the report, Ecology will issue a revised version for a second 30-day comment period.

Preferred cleanup option

The overall preferred option is a combination of the preferred options for the Upland and Marine Units.

The Upland Unit option includes:

- Solidifying the most contaminated soils near the shoreline - about 15,000 cubic yards - to permanently encase the contamination;
- Placing a low-permeability cap on the upland portion of the site – about 7 acres - to prevent human contact and eliminate rainfall infiltration;
- Monitoring following construction to ensure the cleanup action is working;
- Placing restrictions on the property that would allow development as a park, but prohibit activities that could disturb the capped areas.

The Marine Unit option includes:

- Removing the most contaminated sediment from the beach/intertidal area - about 7,700 cubic yards – from an excavation; placing the excavated sediment in an upland area beneath the cap; refilling the excavation with a sand cap;
- Placing a two-foot thick sand cap over the lowest intertidal and shallow subtidal areas;
- Placing 6 inches of sand beyond the shallow subtidal cap to enhance natural recovery;
- Using monitored natural recovery to confirm the sediment reaches cleanup levels in deep waters.
- Monitoring following construction to ensure the cleanup action is working;
- Placing restrictions on the property that would allow development as a park, but prohibit activities that could disturb the capped areas.

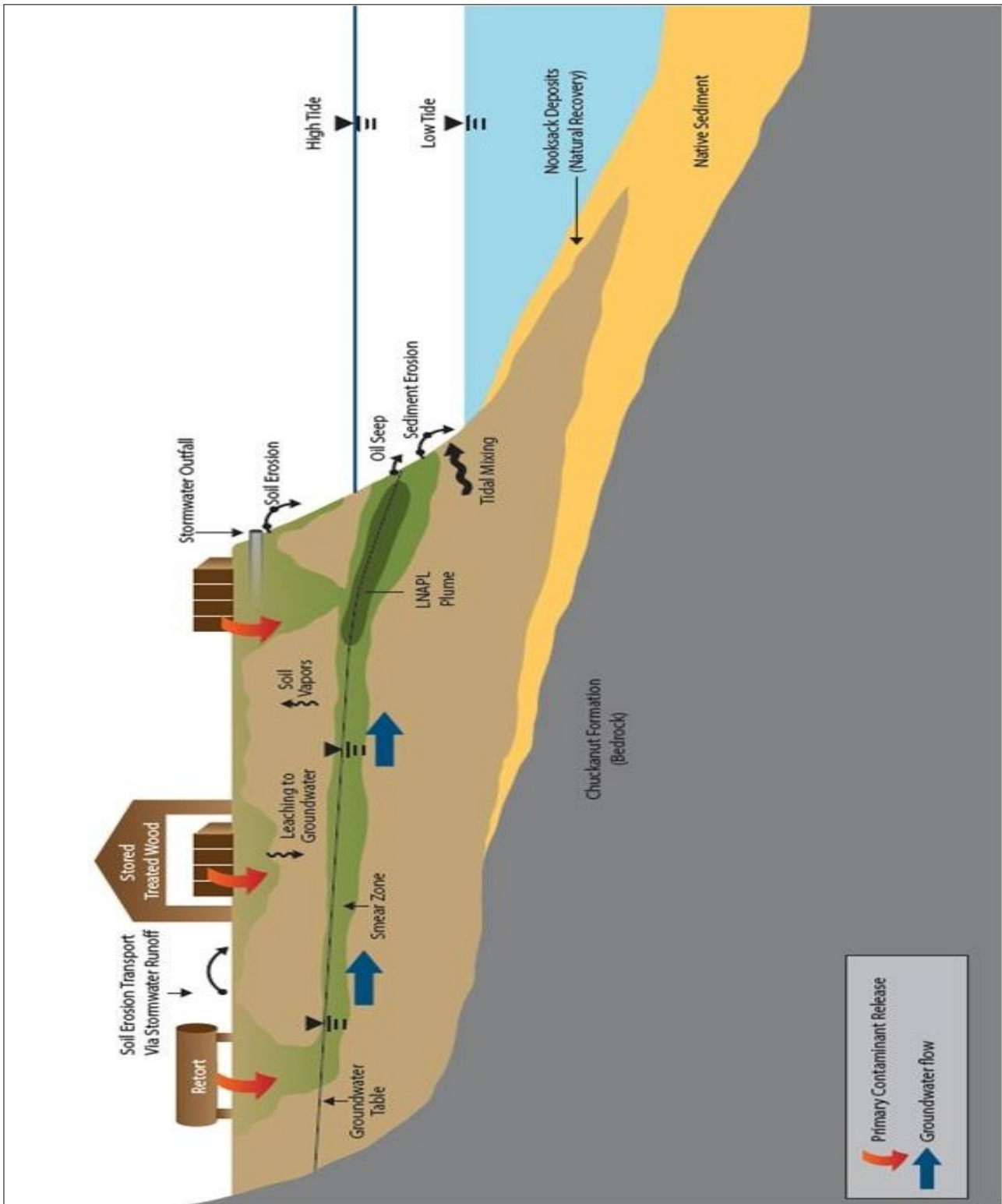
Cost and funding

The cleanup is expected to cost about \$16 million. Ecology will reimburse the City up to ½ the cost of cleanup through the state’s Remedial Action Grant Program, which helps pay for the cleanup of publicly owned sites. The Legislature funds the grant program with revenues from a tax on hazardous substances.

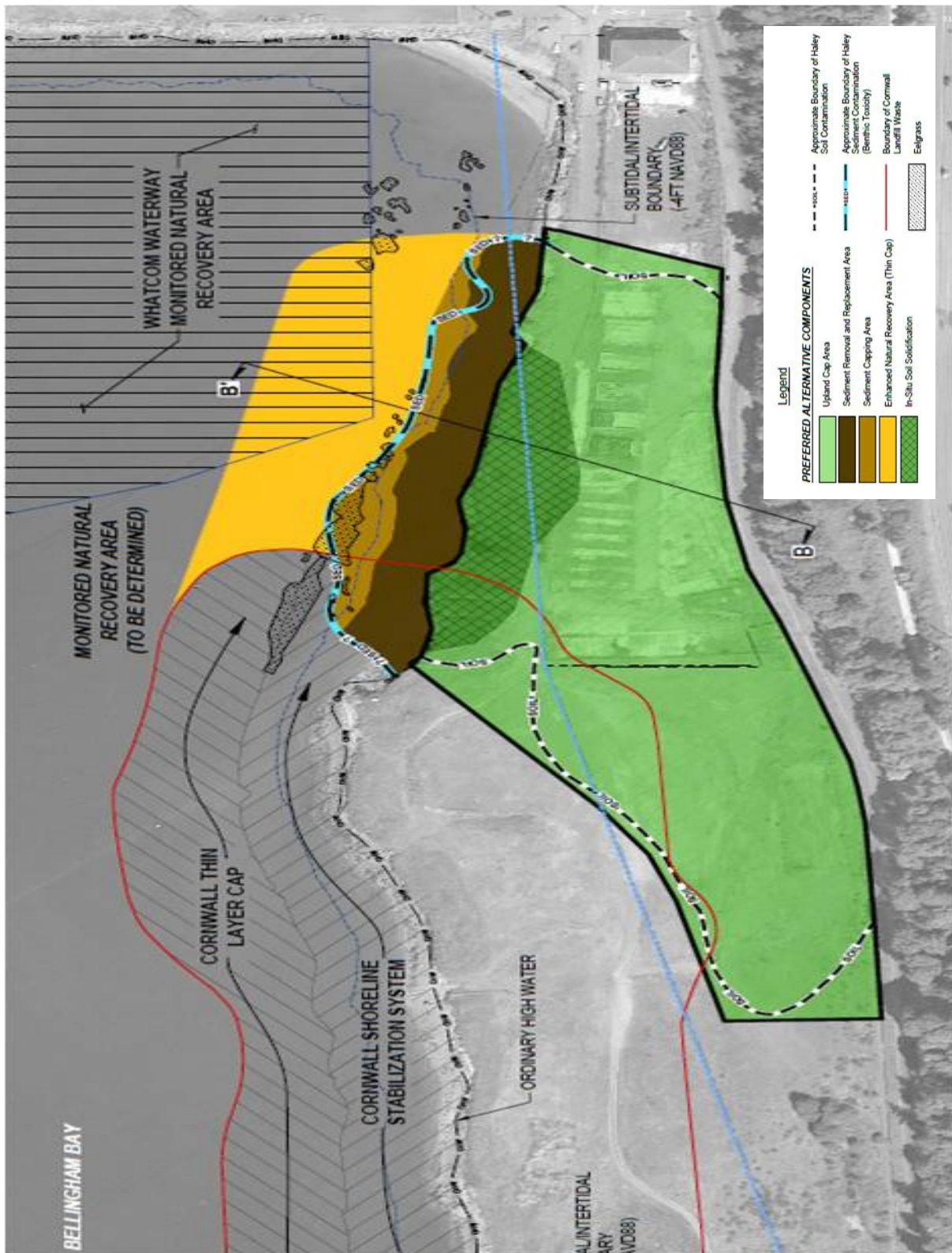
Project timeline

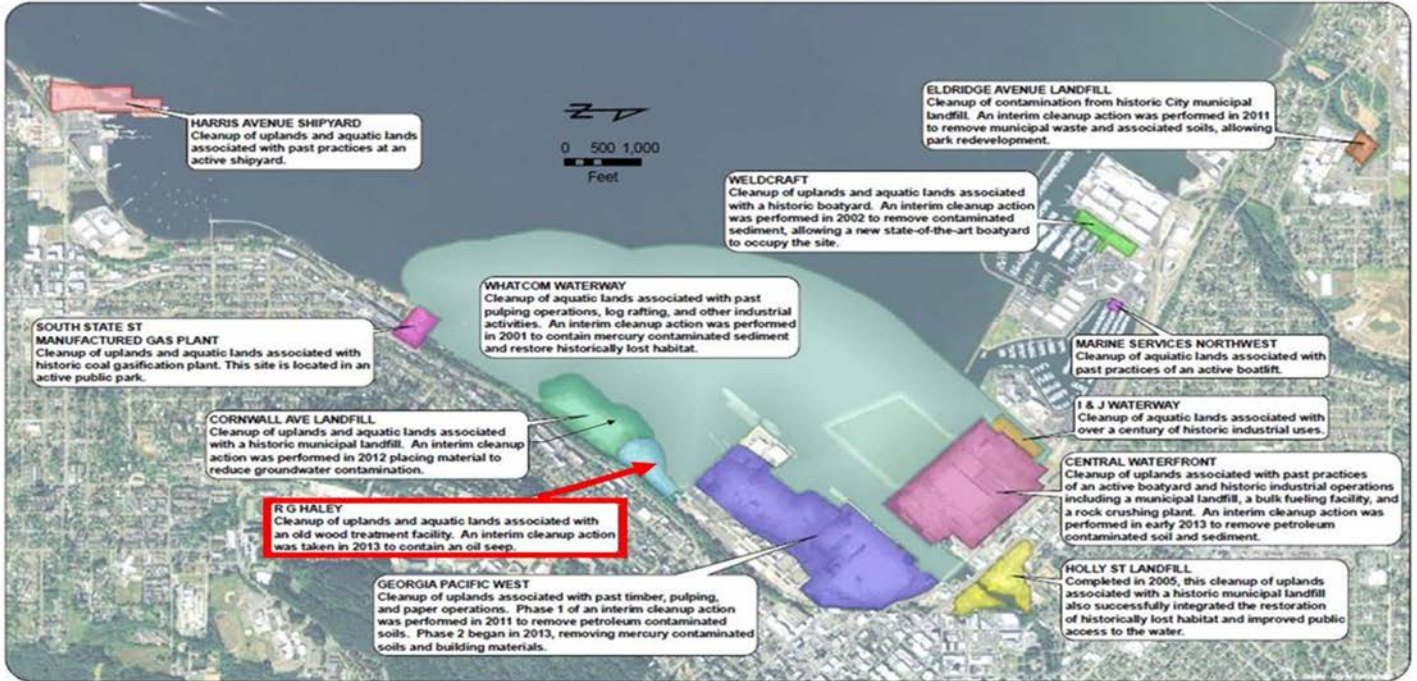
- ✓ Aug. 31-Oct. 14: public comment period
- ✓ Late 2015: issue final RI/FS Report
- ✓ 2016: public review of Cleanup Action Plan
- ✓ 2017: begin construction

RG Haley – contamination model:



RG Haley – preferred cleanup option:





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Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service.

Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341

Información en español:

El Departamento de Ecología está solicitando comentarios del público sobre un reporte ambiental acerca del Sitio de Limpieza R.G. Haley localizado en Bellingham. El reporte contiene información sobre la contaminación existente en el sitio y presenta la alternativa preferida para limpiarla. El sitio está localizado en el área de los muelles en Bellingham en la intersección entre Cornwall Avenue y Wharf Street.

El reporte ya está disponible para la revisión del público. Se puede encontrar en la página web de Ecología:

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites -buscando por el nombre del sitio, RG Haley. Ecología estará aceptando comentarios sobre el reporte desde agosto 31 a octubre 14, 2015. Por favor envíe sus preguntas o comentarios a Mark Adams, Departamento de Ecología al (425) 649-7107, o por correo electrónico a mark.adams@ecy.wa.gov.

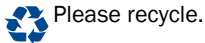
Ecología llevará a cabo una audiencia pública acerca del sitio el 17 de septiembre, 2015 de 6 a 8 pm en:

**Fireplace Meeting Room
Bellingham Municipal Court Building
625 Halleck Street
Bellingham, WA 98225**

Para información en español, comuníquese por teléfono con Sonia Fernández al (425) 649-7233 o por correo electrónico a sofe461@ecy.wa.gov.



3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452



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RG Haley Cleanup Site Bellingham, WA

An environmental report that details contamination and a preferred cleanup option at the RG Haley site on Bellingham's waterfront is now available for review.

Sampling across the site found contamination in soil, groundwater, sediment, and soil vapor. To prevent people, plants and animals from being exposed to contaminants, a number of cleanup options were evaluated, and a preferred option was identified.

Ecology will accept comments on the report from August 31 to October 14, 2015. Ecology will also host a public meeting on September 17, 2015 to present the report and preferred cleanup option. See inside for more details about the meeting and how to submit comments on the report.



Scan this QR Code with your smartphone to visit Ecology's website for more information!

Or:

*www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp
Search Site Name: RG Haley*