



# **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN**

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## **Former Irondale Iron and Steel Plant**

**Irondale, Washington**

**Prepared by**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	3
<b>SITE BACKGROUND</b> .....	3
Site Description .....	3
Site History .....	3
Current Activity .....	3
<b>MODEL TOXICS CONTROL ACT</b> .....	4
<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES</b> .....	6
Public Involvement Activities .....	6
Information Repositories .....	6
Points of Contact.....	8
<b>FIGURES</b>	
Figure 1. Model Toxics Control Act Cleanup Process .....	5
Figure 2. Former Irondale Iron and Steel Site Location.....	9
Figure 3. Former Irondale Historic Features. ....	10
Figure 4. Former Irondale Site.....	10

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has developed this public participation plan pursuant to the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) to promote meaningful community involvement during the investigation and cleanup of the Former Irondale Iron and Steel Plant. This plan outlines and describes the tools that Ecology uses to inform the public about site activities and identifies opportunities for the community to become involved.

## **SITE BACKGROUND AND LOCATION**

The Former Irondale Iron and Steel site is located at 526 Moore Street in Irondale. From 1881 to 1919, iron and steel were produced at the site by various owners. Steel plant operation during this time resulted in contamination of soil, sediment and potentially groundwater.

In 1919, the plant closed and the equipment was removed from the site. The site was not cleaned up after closing, slag and other debris are still present. Some building foundations and the concrete walls of an above-ground fuel tank remain on site.

From 1919 until 2001, the site changed ownership several times but no additional waste was produced. Most recently (1977-1999), the site was used as a log storage yard by a nearby chipping facility.

Jefferson County purchased the site in 2001 to be used as a recreation area. An initial investigation revealed evidence of a potential release of hazardous materials. Ecology then conducted a site hazard investigation. Analysis of samples taken during this study indicated that contamination was not present at a level above Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) cleanup standards for total petroleum hydrocarbons and metals. It was concluded that the site did not pose a significant threat to human health or the environment.

In November 2005, a park visitor notified Ecology about an oily residue on the beach at this site. After an initial investigation, Ecology determined that there was evidence of contamination along the beach. Jefferson county closed the beach and began an investigation of this report. In 2007, Jefferson County sampled along the beach area and near the above-ground fuel tank and found levels of petroleum contamination and metals in soil that exceeded MTCA cleanup standards. Investigations from 2007-09, revealed evidence of soil, sediment and groundwater contamination. Contamination was found at locations of former buildings and industrial activities and in an area surrounding a former ground fuel storage tank.

## **CURRENT SITE ACTIVITY**

Ecology completed a Remedial Investigation to determine the full extent of contamination and a Feasibility Study to examine possible cleanup options. In 2009, Ecology developed a Cleanup Action Plan based on this study. A comment period on the plan was held from December 2009 - January 2010. Ecology has now drafted an Engineering Design Report that describes in detail how final cleanup actions will be implemented and maintained.

## **MODEL TOXICS CONTROL ACT CLEANUP STAGES**

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The Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) defines each stage of the cleanup process to protect human health and the environment. Figure 1 on page 8 details these stages.

Some steps described in the chart include “agreed orders” or “consent decrees”. These are agreements between Ecology and the parties responsible for cleanup of the pollution. In addition to the steps in the chart, “interim actions” may be taken during steps 1 through 5 (the investigation) to reduce or eliminate pollution that poses an immediate threat to human health or the environment.

The cleanup process is complex. Issues often arise that require more attention or evaluation, and may lead to changes in the steps or schedule. Every effort will be made to keep the public well-informed of changes.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The purpose of this Public Participation Plan is to promote public understanding and participation in the cleanup process for this site. This section of the plan addresses how Ecology will keep the public informed about site activity and provide opportunity for comment and involvement.

Ecology will use a variety of tools to facilitate public participation in the planning and cleanup of this MTCA site. Ecology will consider and implement input provided by the community whenever possible. The following is a list of the public involvement activities that Ecology will use, their purpose and a description of when and how they will be used in this site cleanup.

### **Formal Public Comment Period**

Comment periods are the primary method Ecology uses to get feedback from the public on proposed cleanup decisions. Comment periods usually last for 30 days and are required at key points during this cleanup process before final decisions are made. During a comment period, the public can comment in writing (email or letter) or in person (during a public meeting or hearing).

### **Public Meetings and Hearings**

Public meetings may be held at key points during the investigation and cleanup process. Ecology may also offer public meetings for actions expected to be of particular interest to the community. Also, if ten or more people request a public hearing during the 30 day comment period, Ecology will hold a public hearing for the purpose of taking oral comments on draft documents.

## **Responsiveness Summaries**

After every public comment period, Ecology reviews and may respond to all comments received, both oral and written. This is compiled into a responsiveness summary. Ecology considers changes or revisions based on the input from the public. If significant changes are recommended, then a second comment period is held. If not significant changes are recommended, then the draft documents will be finalized. The responsiveness summary will be available upon request and included with the other pertinent site documents in the Information Repositories listed below.

## **Information Repositories**

Information repositories are convenient places where the public can go to read and review site information. The information repositories are often at libraries or community sites where public has access. During the comment period, the site documents will be available for review at each repository. Each site will have at least two repository sites established. Site information will remain at repositories for the duration of the cleanup. Ecology's Central Files can also make copies of the documents for a fee.

The information repositories for this site are:

### **Washington State Department of Ecology**

Southwest Regional Office  
Toxics Cleanup Program  
300 Desmond Dr.  
Lacey, WA 98503  
(360) 407-6365

### **Jefferson County Library**

620 Cedar Avenue  
Port Hadlock, WA 98339  
(360) 385-6544

### **Jefferson County Department of Public Works**

623 Sheridan Street  
Port Townsend, WA 98638  
(360) 385-9160

## **Mailing List**

Ecology has compiled a list of interested parties and organizations and residents living in proximity to the cleanup site. This list will be used to disseminate information via mail (fact sheets, site updates, public notices). If you are not on a mailing list for a site but wish to be added, please contact Diana Smith at (360) 407-6255 or [Diana.Smith@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Diana.Smith@ecy.wa.gov).

## **Fact Sheets / Updates**

Ecology will mail out fact sheets to persons and organizations interested in the Former Irondale Iron and Steel site to inform them of public meetings and comment periods as well as important site activities. Ecology may also mail an update about the progress of site activities.

## **Newspaper Display Ads**

Ecology may place ads in the local paper to announce public comment periods and public meetings or hearings for this site. The *Peninsula Daily News* will be used to publish information about this site.

## **Ecology Web Site**

Information related to this site and materials available for public comment will be posted on Ecology's web site at <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=4484>.

## **Public Participation Grants**

Grants may be available to neighborhood committees, non-profits, and other groups near the site. These funds may be used to provide additional public involvement, to receive technical assistance, and/or enhance the public's understanding of the cleanup process. For more information, please contact Jason Alberich at (360) 407-6061 or [Jason.Alberich@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Jason.Alberich@ecy.wa.gov), or visit Ecology's Solid Waste and Financial Assistance Program website: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/grants/ppg.html>

## **Translation Service**

Ecology will provide translation services to any resident who requests them. This service can include written material, live translation during public meetings or telephone inquiries. Please contact Diana Smith, Public Involvement Coordinator at (360) 407-6255 or [Diana.Smith@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Diana.Smith@ecy.wa.gov) for a translated copy of this or other documents related to this site.

## **Site Register and Public Events Calendar**

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program uses its bimonthly Site Register and web-based Public Involvement Calendar to announce all of its public meetings and comment periods as well as additional site activities. To receive the Site Register in electronic or hard copy format, contact Seth Preston at (360) 407-6848 or by email at [Seth.Preston@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Seth.Preston@ecy.wa.gov). It is also available on Ecology's website at [http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/pub\\_inv/pub\\_inv2.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/pub_inv/pub_inv2.html).

## **Public Points of Contact**

For project-related questions, please contact Steve Teel, Site Manager, at the Washington State Department of Ecology at (360) 407-6247 or by email at [Steve.Teel@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Steve.Teel@ecy.wa.gov).

For information about public involvement, please contact Diana Smith, Public Involvement Coordinator, at (360) 407-6255 or by email at [Diana.Smith@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Diana.Smith@ecy.wa.gov).

## **Public Participation Grants**

As part of the Model Toxics Control Act, Ecology developed a public participation grant program to promote public participation during cleanups. Public Participation Grants provide funding to community groups to help involve the public in the investigation and cleanup of contaminated properties. The grants also help develop and carry out programs that promote the state's solid or hazardous waste management priorities.

For cleanup sites, non-profit groups or groups of three or more unrelated individuals can apply for grants to fund outreach and education efforts for the community that is impacted by the cleanup. Past projects have helped people understand the cleanup and how to comment on cleanup proposals during public comment periods. Grant funds may be used to pay for technical experts who help people understand cleanup issues. They can also be used to hold meetings, workshops and other events that help to inform people. In addition, printing and distribution of reports, brochures and other materials may be covered.

For more information about this grant program, visit <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/grants/ppg.html>.

## **Plan Updates**

This Public Participation Plan is meant to be a dynamic guide for informing and involving the community in the decision-making process at the site. This plan may be updated as the project proceeds.

**Figure 1. Washington State Model Toxic Cleanup Process**



**Figure 2. Former Irondale Iron and Steel Site Location**



**Figure 3. Former Irondale historic site features. Original buildings are outlined in white. Current site boundary is outlined in yellow.**



**Figure 4. Former Irondale Site**

