



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

**Port of Tacoma Kaiser Site
3400 Taylor Way
Tacoma, Washington**

Prepared by
Washington State Department of Ecology
Southwest Regional Office
Toxics Cleanup Program
PO Box 47775
Olympia, Washington 98504-7775

June / 2016

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	3
LOCATION AND SITE BACKGROUND	3
Site Contamination	3
Cleanup Activities.....	3
SITE CLEANUP PROCESS.....	4
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.....	4
Formal Public Comment Periods.....	5
Public Meetings and Hearings	5
Information Repositories	5
Site Register.....	5
Mailing List	5
Fact Sheets	6
Newspaper Display Ads.....	6
Plan Update	6
Contacts	6
GLOSSARY	8

INTRODUCTION

Department of Ecology has developed this Public Participation Plan to promote meaningful community involvement during the investigation and cleanup of the Port of Tacoma Kaiser site. This plan describes the tools that Ecology uses to inform the public about site activities and identify opportunities for the community involvement.

LOCATION AND SITE BACKGROUND

The Kaiser site consists of 96 acres in the Tacoma tideflats, at 3400 Taylor Way (see map on page 6). The Department of Defense and Kaiser Aluminum Company operated an aluminum smelter and manufacturing plant on the property for over 60 years. During that time contaminants were released to soil, air and water. From about the 1950's to when the plant closed in 2002, Kaiser Aluminum installed many pollution control systems and performed several cleanups called Interim Actions. In 2003, the Port of Tacoma bought the site. Since 2003 the Port of Tacoma (Port) has demolished the smelter, performed additional interim cleanup work and filled approximately 80 of the 96 acres. The port is now finishing the cleanup actions so the site can be put back into productive use.

Site Contamination

The aluminum smelting process created several kinds of contamination around the site (see map on page 6 for three of those areas). Spent pot liner is the major contaminant remaining on the site. Kaiser smelted aluminum in large metal pots lined with an asphalt-like substance. Over time, the lining broke down and had to be replaced. This spent pot liner was put on the bare ground, leaving polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon and cyanide contamination in the soil. The Port will be addressing this area during the cleanup actions.

Two other areas of the site include:

- **Rectifier yard:** Electrical equipment in this area leaked transformer oil which contained small amounts of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). PCBs are a mix of chemicals no longer made in the United States. However, they do not break down easily and stay in the environment for a long time.
- **Rod mill:** Kaiser formed some of their aluminum into continuously formed rods, as a value added product for sale. This was done at the rod mill. The Port removed over 1,000 tons of contaminated soils from parts of the rod mill area in 2008. The rod mill area also contains a small landfill created by Kaiser. The landfill will be addressed by the Port during the final cleanup actions.

Cleanup Activities

Cleanup activities at the Kaiser site fall under Washington's Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) and accompanying regulations. MTCA has procedures for the cleanup of

contaminated sites to standards that are safe for both human health and the environment. Ecology is responsible for implementing and enforcing MTCA. For more information, visit Ecology's website: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/ftc94129.html>.

Under the current Agreed Order with Ecology, the Port of Tacoma will finish investigating contamination at the site, with a focus on the spent pot liner contamination. The port must then write a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study report, which describes all contamination at the site and evaluates cleanup options. This report will include information from the spent pot liner and rod mill areas, and the rectifier yard. The port will then draft a Cleanup Action Plan, which outlines the final cleanup steps.

SITE CLEANUP PROCESS

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/FS looks at the extent and type of pollution on the site. It is used to evaluate possible human health and environmental impacts, and to find cleanup alternatives.

Interim Actions - Ecology may sometimes take Interim Actions to partially 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 - Toxic substances are removed from the site, contained on the site, or treated to make them less toxic. Ecology will make sure that the CAP has been followed and can require that the site be monitored. Major changes to the CAP require a public notice before they can be finalized.

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 a site is taken off the list.

More information about toxic cleanups is available on Ecology's Web site: 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 activities planned for this site. This section of the plan describes how Ecology will share information and receive public comments on the site

activities. The following is a list of the public involvement activities that Ecology will use, their purposes, and descriptions of when and how they will be used during cleanup of the Kaiser site.

Formal Public Comment Periods

Comment periods are the primary method Ecology uses to get feedback from the public on proposed cleanup decisions. They usually last 30 days and are required at key points during the investigation and cleanup process before final decisions are made. During a comment period, the public can comment in writing. Verbal comments are taken if a public hearing is held. After comment periods, Ecology reviews all comments received and may respond in a document called a Responsiveness Summary. Ecology considers the need for changes or revisions to a document or decision based on input from the public. If significant changes are made, a second comment period may be held. If no significant changes are made, the draft document(s) will be finalized.

Public Meetings and Hearings

Public meetings may be held at key points during the investigation and cleanup process. Ecology also may offer public meetings for actions expected to be of particular interest to the community. These meetings will be held at locations convenient to the community. A public meeting will also be scheduled if ten or more people request one.

Information Repositories

Information repositories are places where the public may read and review site information, including documents that are the subject of public comment. Ecology has two repositories for the Kaiser cleanup:

- Tacoma Public Library, 1102 Tacoma Avenue, Tacoma, WA 98402, (253) 591-5666.
- Citizens for a Healthy Bay, 917 Pacific Avenue, Suite 100, 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.

Site information also will be posted on Ecology's Web site:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/PortTacomaKaiser/PortTacomaKaiser_hp.html

Site Register

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program uses its bimonthly Site Register to announce all of its public meetings and comment periods, as well as many other activities. It is available on Ecology's Web site: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/pub_inv/pub_inv2.html.

Mailing List

Ecology has compiled a mailing list for the site. It includes neighbors, public agencies, and other known interested parties. The list will be maintained at Ecology's Southwest

Regional Office and will be updated as needed. Please contact Megan MacClellan at (360) 407-0067 or by e-mail at Megan.MacClellan@ecy.wa.gov if you would like to be involved or have your address added to or deleted from this mailing list.

Fact Sheets

Ecology will mail fact sheets to persons and organizations interested in the Kaiser site cleanup to inform them of public meetings and comment opportunities and important site activities. Ecology also may mail fact sheets about cleanup progress.

Newspaper Display Ads

Ecology will place ads in the Tacoma News Tribune to announce public comment periods and public meetings or hearings for the site.

Plan Update

This Public Participation Plan may be updated as the project proceeds. If an update is necessary, the revised plan will be submitted for public comment.

Contacts

For questions or more information about this plan or the Kaiser cleanup, please contact:

Marv Coleman, Site Manager
Washington State Department of Ecology
300 Desmond Drive
Lacey, WA 98503
Tel: (360) 407-6259
Email: Marv.Coleman@ecy.wa.gov

Megan MacClellan, Public Involvement Coordinator
Washington State Department of Ecology
Tel: (360) 407-0067
Email: Megan.MacClellan@ecy.wa.gov

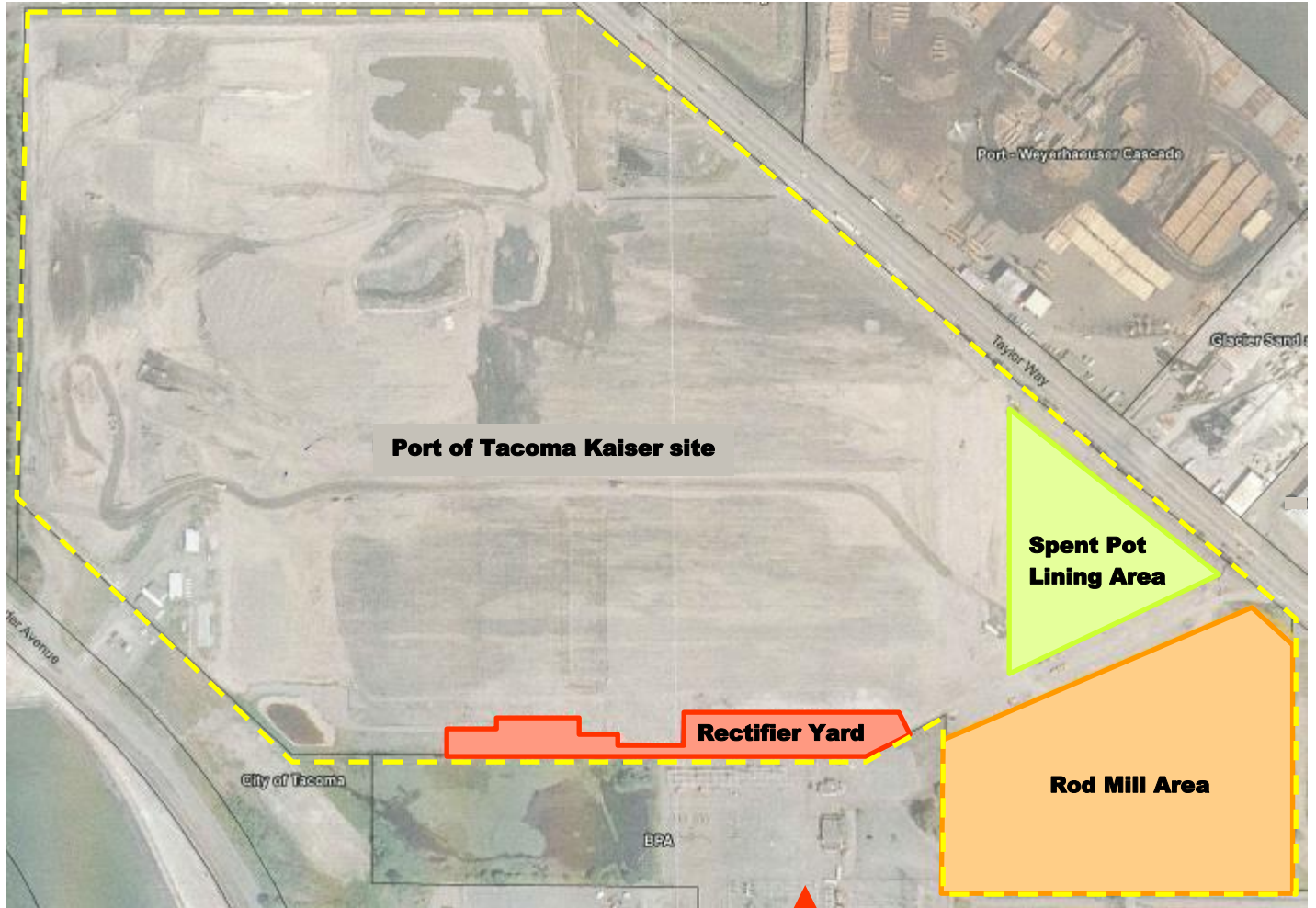


Figure 1. Kaiser Site Map - 3400 Taylor Way, Tacoma, WA
 KAISER, AUGUST 2010

GLOSSARY

Agreed Order: A legal agreement between Ecology and a potentially liable person to conduct work toward a cleanup.

Cleanup: Actions taken to deal with a release, or threatened release of hazardous substances that could affect public health or the environment. The term "cleanup" is often used broadly to describe various response actions or phases of cleanup.

Cleanup Action Plan (CAP): A document that explains which cleanup alternative(s) will be used at sites for the cleanup. The cleanup action plan is based on information and technical analysis generated during the remedial investigation/feasibility study and consideration of public comments and community 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 aquifers, ground water occurs in sufficient quantities that it can be used for drinking water, irrigation and other purposes.

Information Repository: A file containing current information, technical reports, and reference documents available for public review. The information repository is usually located in a public building that is convenient for local residents such as a public school, city hall, or library.

Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA): Legislation passed by citizens of the State of Washington through an initiative in 1988. Its purpose is to identify, investigate, and clean up facilities where hazardous substances have been released. It defines the role of Ecology and encourages public involvement in the decision making process. MTCA regulations are administered by the Washington State Department of Ecology.

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, through administrative and legal actions, 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 building, structure, installation, equipment, pipe or pipeline, well, pit, pond, lagoon, impoundment, ditch, landfill, storage container, motor vehicle, rolling stock, vessel, or aircraft; or any site or area where a hazardous substance, other than a consumer product in consumer use, has been deposited, stored, disposed of, or placed, or otherwise come to be located.

Toxicity: The degree to which a substance at a particular concentration is capable of causing harm to living organisms, including people, plants and animals.