



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Public Participation Plan

Former Reynolds Metals Aluminum Smelter
Longview, WA

Washington State Department of Ecology
Industrial Section

December 2011

Introduction

The Reynolds Metals Company owned and operated an aluminum smelter in Longview Washington from 1941 to 2000. The smelter was permanently shut down in 2001. The Department of Ecology (Ecology) is working with the current owner and operator to investigate and cleanup the site under the State's Model Toxics Control Act.

Site Background

The facility site covers approximately 416 acres with about 100 acres of developed land including six aluminum reduction "potlines", a cable plant, a cryolite recovery plant, a cast house, and numerous industrial landfills and waste impoundments. The current property owner and site operator – Northwest Alloys (a subsidiary of Alcoa) and Millennium Bulk Terminals, respectively – are in the process of decommissioning the facility and completing a site-wide cleanup. The site is currently used for off-loading alumina from ships and as a dry bulk storage facility.

Contamination varies across the Site. While the Site is still under investigation, typical contaminants of concern found at aluminum smelting facilities include:

- PAHs - polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in soils from coal tar pitch and wet air emission control equipment sludge.
- Cyanide and fluoride contamination in soils and groundwater from management of spent potliner.
- PCBs - polychlorinated biphenyls in soils from transformers and high voltage electrical switching equipment.
- Petroleum hydrocarbons in soils and groundwater from spills at vehicle refueling stations.
- General industrial solid waste in old plant landfills.

Public Involvement Activities

Ecology will use a variety of methods to keep community members and stakeholders informed and involved in the cleanup of the Reynolds Metals Site. The goal of this plan is to help interested community members understand how they can access information and stay involved. We will continue to try and find new ways to effectively share project information and expand our audience and will update this plan as needed.

Public involvement activities will include the following:

Public Comment Periods

Comment periods are the main way Ecology gets feedback from the public on issues at cleanup sites. Comment periods are at least 30 days long and are required at key points during the cleanup process, prior to final decisions that are made by Ecology. During the comment periods, the public can comment in writing or verbally during public hearings.

For the Reynolds Metals site formal comment periods will be held for the:

- Proposed Agreed Order requiring the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study
- Proposed final Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study
- Proposed Cleanup Action Plan and Consent Decree

In addition to the formal comment periods above, Ecology will provide notice to interested parties when we receive the Revised Draft Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study and invite community input.

Public Meetings and Hearings

Ecology will hold a joint meeting/hearing during the comment periods on the Draft Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study, and the proposed Cleanup Action Plan/Consent Decree. The meetings will be held in the Longview Washington community. At the public meetings members of the community can meet and speak with Ecology staff and local stakeholders and learn more about the cleanup process. The typical format of a public meeting is to hold an open house where a short presentation is given about the particular action about which we're seeking public input. The public is invited to speak and ask questions about the presentation and related documents. The meeting may be followed by a public hearing to accept formal comment on the action. The public may also submit formal comments in writing at the meeting or later by mail or e-mail.

Responsiveness Summary

After formal comment periods, Ecology reviews all written comments and responds to major issues in a responsiveness summary. The Responsiveness Summary will include all comments received. Ecology will write general responses to major issues raised during the comment period but not necessarily to each individual comment received.

Document Revisions

Ecology will consider the need for changes or revisions to the cleanup decision documents, based on input received during the comment period. If significant changes are made to the documents, then a second comment period may be held. If no significant changes are made, then the draft documents will become final.

Information Repositories

Information repositories are places where the public may review site information, including documents that are the subject of public comment. Ecology plans information repositories in Longview and Lacey, Washington. In addition, all documents will be available on Ecology's Reynolds cleanup web site. The two information repositories are:

Longview Public Library
1600 Louisiana St.
Longview, WA

Department of Ecology
Industrial Section
300 Desmond Dr.
Lacey, WA

Ecology's Industrial Section in Lacey, Washington has regulated the Reynolds site since the early 1980s and has access to complete environmental files. A file review can be scheduled to view the detailed site records.

Site Register

Ecology uses its bimonthly *Site Register* to announce public meetings and comment periods, as well as other cleanup related activities state wide. The *Site Register* is available at: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/pub_inv/pub_inv2.html

Interested parties can sign-up to receive e-mail notice of new editions of the *Site Register* on the listserv at: <http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=siteregister&A=1>

Mailing List

Ecology has compiled and is continually updating a mailing list for the site. The mailing list includes individuals, groups, public agencies, elected officials, private businesses, and other known interested parties. The list is maintained by Ecology's Industrial Section and individuals can request to be added or removed from it. Please contact Angie Fritz at (360) 407-7393 or Angela.Fritz@ecy.wa.gov if you would like to have your mailing address and/or e-mail added or removed from this mailing list.

Fact Sheets

Ecology will mail or e-mail fact sheets to people and organizations interested in the cleanup of the Reynolds Metals site. The fact sheets will inform interested parties of upcoming public meetings and hearings, comment opportunities, and important site milestones. Ecology uses its Industrial Section mailing list to mail fact sheets.

Website

Ecology will regularly update its website for the Reynolds Metals site and will use it as a resource for the public to access current information and electronic documents related to the cleanup project. The website includes the following resources:

- Public comment period documents
- Cleanup submittals
- Activities currently happening at the site

The website can be found at: <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=2497>.

Ecology also advertises public comment periods and meetings and hearings on its agency-wide public calendar at: <http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/pubcalendar/calendar.asp>.

Newspaper Legal Ads and Display Ads

Ecology will place legal ads in The Daily News (Longview) to announce public comment periods, meetings and hearings for the Reynolds Metals site cleanup. Ecology may also use display ads in The Daily News and other community publications to let the public know about upcoming public meetings and hearings.

Community Group Meetings

Ecology staff will present information about the cleanup project to interested community groups or neighborhood associations as resources allow. Residents can request an Ecology presentation for their community group or association by calling or e-mailing Angie Fritz at (360) 407-7393 or Angela.Fritz@ecy.wa.gov.

Coordination of Public Participation Requirements

When other laws require public notice and input, Ecology will coordinate the public notice requirements where possible. Examples of this include State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) or National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements for cleanup actions.

Plan Updates

This Plan is intended to be a living document. Ecology will update this public participation plan as the project proceeds through cleanup. We are very interested in making sure the public has access to the information they need to stay involved in the cleanup process. If you have ideas on how we can improve our outreach and involvement opportunities, please let us know. If substantial changes to the Plan are made, it will be announced on the *Site Register* and website.

Points of Contact

If you have questions or need more information about the Former Reynolds Smelter cleanup, please contact:

For information about public involvement:

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For technical information about the cleanup project:

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