

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN**

**Blaine Marina, Inc. Cleanup Site
Blaine, WA**

**Washington State Department of Ecology**

**Northwest Regional Office**

**Toxics Cleanup Program**

**3190 160th Avenue SE**

**Bellevue, Washington 98008**

***March 2012***

###### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has developed this public participation plan in accordance with the state’s cleanup law, the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA), to promote meaningful community involvement during the cleanup of the Blaine Marina, Inc. site located in the western portion of the Blaine Harbor industrial area at 214 Sigurdson Avenue, Blaine, Washington. This plan describes public involvement activities Ecology will conduct during the cleanup, and identifies opportunities for the community to get involved. It will be updated as needed throughout the cleanup process. Ecology is committed to an open dialogue with the community to ensure that interested parties can receive information as well as provide input during the decision-making process.

###### 2. SITE BACKGROUND

The Blaine Marina site is located in the western portion of the Blaine Harbor industrial area. Most of the site was originally tide flats and sub-tidal areas of Drayton Harbor. Prior to 1949, the aquatic lands were dredged to create a small boat harbor and marina. The upland industrial area was created at that time and was generally constructed of hydraulic fill with timber and riprap bulkheads along the shoreline. The marina was expanded several times since its original construction, but the footprint of the upland industrial area has remained largely unchanged.

The Port has leased this property to Blaine Marina Inc. for use as a tank farm and fueling facility since the 1950’s. In 1955, the tenant installed three aboveground storage tanks to store gasoline and diesel fuel for dispensing at the fueling dock, and also for filling tanker trucks for delivery of home heating oil. At least one documented fuel spill occurred at the site on May 2, 1990. Environmental investigations for the site indicate the presence of hazardous substances in soil and groundwater above state cleanup standards, including gasoline, diesel and oil-range petroleum hydrocarbons and petroleum associated compounds benzene, ethylbenzene, and xylene. These contaminants exceed MTCA standards and must be addressed.

Ecology has determined that a portion of the bulkhead that bounds the site uplands adjacent to marine aquatic lands is at risk of failure, which may result in the release of contaminated site soil and groundwater to marine surface water and sediment. Based on those findings, an interim action is required because the failure of the bulkhead may cause the extent of contamination to become substantially worse and cost substantially more to address if contaminated soil and groundwater are released to the marine environment. Under WAC 173-340-430, an interim action is a remedial action that is technically necessary to reduce a threat to human health or the environment by eliminating or substantially reducing one or more pathways for exposure to a hazardous substance, that corrects a problem that may become substantially worse or cost substantially more to address if the remedial action is delayed, or that is needed to provide for completion of a site hazard assessment, remedial investigation/feasibility study or design of a cleanup action.

Ecology and the Port of Bellingham have negotiated a draft Agreed Order (AO) for the Blaine Marina site. When final, the agreed order will require the Port to:

* Perform an interim action work plan to repair the failing bulkhead;
* Prepare a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) which defines the nature, extent, and magnitude of contamination at the site and identifies and analyzes the cleanup alternatives available;
* Develop a Cleanup Action Plan (CAP) using information gathered in the RI/FS which describes the selected cleanup method(s) and specifies cleanup standards and other requirements.

The draft AO has been issued for public review and comment. This public comment period includes the public review of the proposed interim cleanup action. The draft RI/FS and draft CAP will also be issued for public review and comment when they are completed. Once final, the draft CAP will be incorporated into a final agreement between the port and Ecology, called a Consent Decree (CD).

**Proposed Interim Action**

The proposed interim action includes constructing an approximately 60-foot-long replacement bulkhead behind the failing section of bulkhead using cantilevered steel sheetpiles, and a concrete pile cap on a portion of the sheetpile wall to allow continued access to the fuel dock pier. The fuel office building, which is currently supported by the bulkhead, will be deconstructed to the floor level by the tenant to relieve vertical and lateral loads on the existing bulkhead. Geotechnical and engineering evaluations will be conducted as part of the interim action design and the results will be presented in the interim action work plan, which will be reviewed by Ecology as a deliverable under the Agreed Order. The proposed sheetpile bulkhead will be installed immediately east of the existing bulkhead, running from just north of the building to slightly south of the fuel dock pier. The steel sheetpiles will be driven parallel to Sigurdson Avenue and will be constructed directly adjacent to the existing wall on the upland side. A concrete pile cap will be placed across the top of the sheetpiles at the head of the fuel pier. Existing utilities will be rerouted as necessary. Final design details will be provided to Ecology in the interim action work plan for review and approval.

**3. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES**

Ecology will use a variety of methods to keep community residents and stakeholders informed and involved in the Blaine Marina cleanup project. We will continue to try to find new ways to share project information and expand our audience. This plan will be edited and updated as appropriate.

Public involvement activities include the following:

**Public Meetings and Hearings**

During the public comment period, a public meeting will be scheduled if 10 or more people request it. Otherwise, Ecology will hold public meetings as needed at key points in the cleanup process. These meetings will be held to describe work that is occurring and introduce key staff that will be working on cleanup. Meetings will be held at locations convenient to the community.

**Information Repositories**

Information repositories are places where the public may read and review site information. Ecology can also make copies of documents for a fee.

For this site, the information repositories are:

* Washington Department of Ecology, Northwest Regional Office, 3190 160th Avenue SE, Bellevue, WA 98008. Please call (425) 649-7190 for an appointment.
* Department of Ecology, Bellingham Field Office, 1440 10th Street, Suite 102, Bellingham, WA 98225
* Blaine Public Library, 610 3rd Street, Blaine, WA 98230
* Ecology’s Web Site, https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=63

**Site Register**

Ecology’s Toxic Cleanup Program uses its bimonthly *Site Register* to announce all of its public meetings and comment periods, as well as many other 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 . It is also available on Ecology’s website at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/pub_inv/pub_inv2.html>

**Mailing List**

Ecology has compiled a mailing list for the site. The list includes individuals, groups, public agencies, elected officials, private businesses, and other interested parties. The list will be maintained at Ecology’s Northwest Regional Office and will be updated as needed. Please contact Brad Petrovich at (425) 533-5537 or Brad.Petrovich@ecy.wa.gov to have your address added to or deleted from this mailing list.

**Fact Sheets**

Ecology will mail fact sheets to inform the community and other interested parties of public meetings and important site activities, including project milestones and status updates.

**Community Group Meeting Presentations**

Ecology staff will present information about the Blaine Marina cleanup when requested by the Blaine neighborhood associations or other community groups. Residents can request a presentation by contacting Brad Petrovich at (425) 533-5537 or Brad.Petrovich@ecy.wa.gov .

**Ecology Website**

Ecology will maintain a site webpage at https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=63 . This page will be updated regularly and will hold information available for comments and other relevant documents and information.

**Newspaper Display Ads**

Ecology may place ads in *The Bellingham Herald* to announce public meetings and other events related to the Blaine Marina cleanup.

**Plan Update**

This public participation plan may be updated as the project proceeds. If an update is necessary, and is a substantial change in the plan, it will be announced via site register and the website.

**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>

###### 4. POINTS OF CONTACT

**Public involvement:**

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**General project information or technical questions**

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###### 5. FIGURES

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