Engineering design report ready for review

Comment period: December 18, 2017 – January 31, 2018

The Department of Ecology invites you to comment on an engineering design report for the cleanup of a portion of the Cornwall Avenue Landfill Cleanup Site (Site) on the Bellingham waterfront. The report provides the preliminary design for isolating contamination and controlling landfill gas. The report was prepared by the Port of Bellingham (Port), the City of Bellingham (City) and the State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), with Ecology oversight.

Ecology will accept comments on the report from December 18, 2017—January 31, 2018. If ten or more persons request a public meeting about the report, we will provide notice and hold a meeting. For more information, visit the Cornwall Avenue Landfill webpage listed on the left.

Background
The Site is on Bellingham’s downtown waterfront, at the south end of Cornwall Avenue. Property within the Site is owned by the City and DNR. From 1888 to 1965, the Site and surrounding tidelands were filled with an estimated 295,000 cubic yards of refuse and 94,000 cubic yards of wood waste. Contaminants associated with this waste include: metals, ammonia, petroleum compounds, polychlorinated biphenyls, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. Other contaminants from the neighboring RG Haley and Whatcom Waterway cleanup sites are also present within the Site. These will be addressed as part of cleanup activities at all three sites.

After a public comment period in 2014, Ecology finalized a cleanup plan for the upland and shallow in-water portion of the Site. The Port, City, and DNR are required to design and implement the cleanup work described in the plan. A future cleanup plan will address the deep in-water portion of the Site.

The Cornwall Avenue Landfill site is one of 12 cleanup sites in the Bellingham Bay Demonstration Pilot project, a coordinated bay-wide effort by federal, tribal, state and local governments to clean up contamination, control pollution sources and restore habitat, with consideration for land and water uses.
Engineering design report

The report calls for a landfill capping system, a shoreline stabilization system, and a thin layer sediment cap.
Public Comment Notice

These measures will:
- Prevent the harmful buildup of explosive gases;
- Limit rainwater from flowing through refuse and wood waste and carrying contaminants into groundwater and Bellingham Bay;
- Prevent people, plants and animals from contact with and exposure to contaminated sediment, refuse, and wood waste;
- Prevent refuse and wood waste from eroding into Bellingham Bay.

Next steps
- **2018:** Respond to comments received and finalize the engineering design report
- **2018-2019:** Prepare construction plans and specifications
- **2019/2020:** Begin construction

Costs and funding
The cleanup work described in the engineering design report is expected to cost the Port and City about $9 million. Ecology may reimburse up to half of this cost through a remedial action grant program, which helps to pay to clean up publicly-owned sites. The Legislature funds the grant program with revenues from a tax on hazardous substances.

En Español
El Departamento de Ecología está anunciando el periodo de comentario público referente de Cornwall Avenue Landfill Cleanup Site en Bellingham.

Si le gustaría obtener este documento, o más información sobre este sitio, en español, favor de comunicarse con Gretchen Newman al: 360-407-6097, o preguntas@ecy.wa.gov.
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December 18, 2017— January 31, 2018

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See page one for information about where to review the report and where to send comments.

Historic photo of Cornwall Avenue Landfill (1954-1965)