DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington

RG Haley Cleanup Site

2017 photo looking east

CONTACT & INFORMATION

Comments accepted:
February 20 – March 21, 2018

Submit comments online at:
bit.ly/RGHaley-CAP-comments

Or by mail to:
Mark Adams, Site Manager
WA Department of Ecology
3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452
Phone: 425-649-7107
Email: Mark.Adams@ecy.wa.gov

Document review locations:
Bellingham Public Library
210 Central Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98225
Phone: 360-778-7323

Ecology-Bellingham Office
913 Squalicum Way, Unit 101
Bellingham, WA 98225
By appointment, call 360-255-4400

Ecology-Bellevue Office
3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452
By appointment, call 360-649-7190

Website: bit.ly/EcologyRGHaley

Facility Site ID: 2870

Site Cleanup ID: 3928

Cleanup plan ready for review

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) invites you to review a cleanup plan, and associated documents, for the RG Haley Cleanup Site on the Bellingham waterfront. The plan is part of a legal agreement between Ecology and the City of Bellingham (City) that requires the City to design the cleanup work described in the plan. A future legal agreement will require the City to carry out the cleanup work described in the plan. The following documents are available for review:

- **Cleanup Action Plan:** describes the cleanup work to address contamination at the site.
- **Agreed Order:** a legal agreement between Ecology and the City that requires the City to develop detailed design documents for the cleanup work.
- **Public Participation Plan:** updates an existing plan that explains how people can become involved in the cleanup process.
- **State Environmental Policy Act-Determination of Non-Significance:** Ecology determination that the cleanup work is not likely to harm the environment.

Ecology will host a public meeting to provide information & take comments

Wednesday, February 28, 2018
6 - 8pm
Department of Ecology - Bellingham Field Office
913 Squalicum Way, Unit 101
Bellingham WA 98225

Publication 18-09-151 February 2018

Background

The RG Haley site was originally tideland and open waters of Bellingham Bay. Historical near-shore filling with soil, wood waste, and debris created dry land property. Various companies treated wood at the property. RG Haley International was the last, from 1955 to 1985. The preservative used in the wood-treating operations was pentachlorophenol mixed with a diesel-like carrier oil.

In 2015, the City, with Ecology oversight, completed an environmental investigation of the site, and evaluated a range of cleanup options. The investigation found petroleum hydrocarbons, pentachlorophenol, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and dioxins/furans, at harmful levels. These contaminants are present in soil, groundwater, sediment, and soil vapor.

Other contaminants from nearby overlapping sites are also present. They include mercury in sediment from the Whatcom Waterway site, and municipal refuse, phthalates, metals and PCB's from the Cornwall Landfill site. Ecology is overseeing cleanup-related activities at these sites as well.

RG Haley Site aerial photo-1953

Cleanup plan

To address the contamination found at the site, a number of appropriate technologies were combined into six different cleanup options for the upland portion of the site (Upland Unit), and six different cleanup options for the marine sediment portion (Marine Unit). The options then went through a cost/benefit analysis, which identified a preferred cleanup option for each unit.

RG Haley Site looking northeast - 2016

Since completing the investigation and evaluation work, the City performed an additional sediment investigation at the site. Based on the results, the footprint of the preferred cleanup option for the Marine Unit expanded. The cleanup option itself did not change.

Based on the comprehensive work performed by the City, Ecology has chosen a cleanup alternative and prepared a cleanup plan for the RG Haley site. It reflects the City's preferred cleanup options for the Upland and Marine Units of the site and will (see figure on page 5):

Upland Unit:

- Solidify the most contaminated soils near the shoreline (about 15,000 cubic yards) to permanently encase the contamination;
- Place a low-permeability cap on the upland portion of the site (about 7 acres) to prevent human contact and reduce rainfall infiltration;
- Monitor following construction to ensure the cleanup action is working;
- Place restrictions that would allow development as a park, but prohibit activities that could disturb the capped areas without prior Ecology approval.

Marine Unit:

- Move the most contaminated sediment from the beach/intertidal area (about 7,700 cubic yards) to beneath the Upland Unit cap; refill the sediment removal area with a clean sand cap;
- Place a two-foot thick sand cap over the lowest intertidal and shallow subtidal areas;
- Place 6 inches of sand beyond the shallow subtidal cap to help naturally-accumulating sediment;
- Monitor naturally-accumulating sediment beyond the 6 inch subtidal cap to confirm that contaminant levels continue to decline;
- Monitor following construction to ensure the cleanup action is working;
- Place restrictions that would allow development as a park, but prohibit activities that could disturb the capped areas without prior Ecology approval.

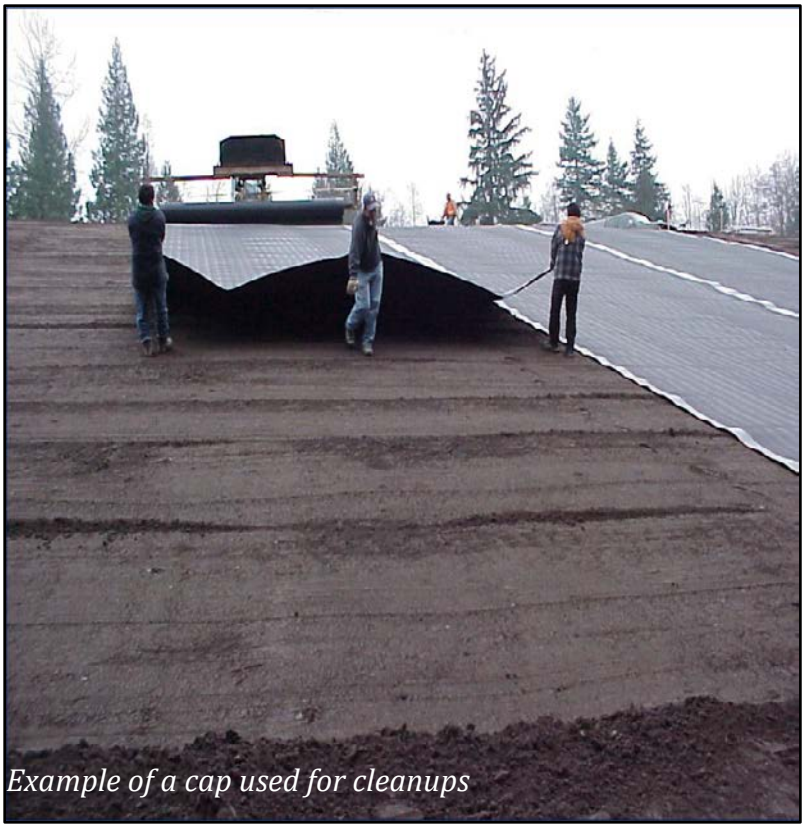
Design of the cleanup

The legal agreement between Ecology and the City requires the City to design the cleanup work described in the plan. The City will:

- Develop an engineering design report that incorporates information from the sampling and the results of engineering evaluations;
- Prepare construction plans and specifications;
- Begin the permitting process for construction.

Timeline

Design of the cleanup work is expected to take about 2 years, although related permitting activities may extend this timeframe. Implementation of the cleanup will occur under a future separate legal agreement.



Example of a cap used for cleanups

Example of sediment cleanup

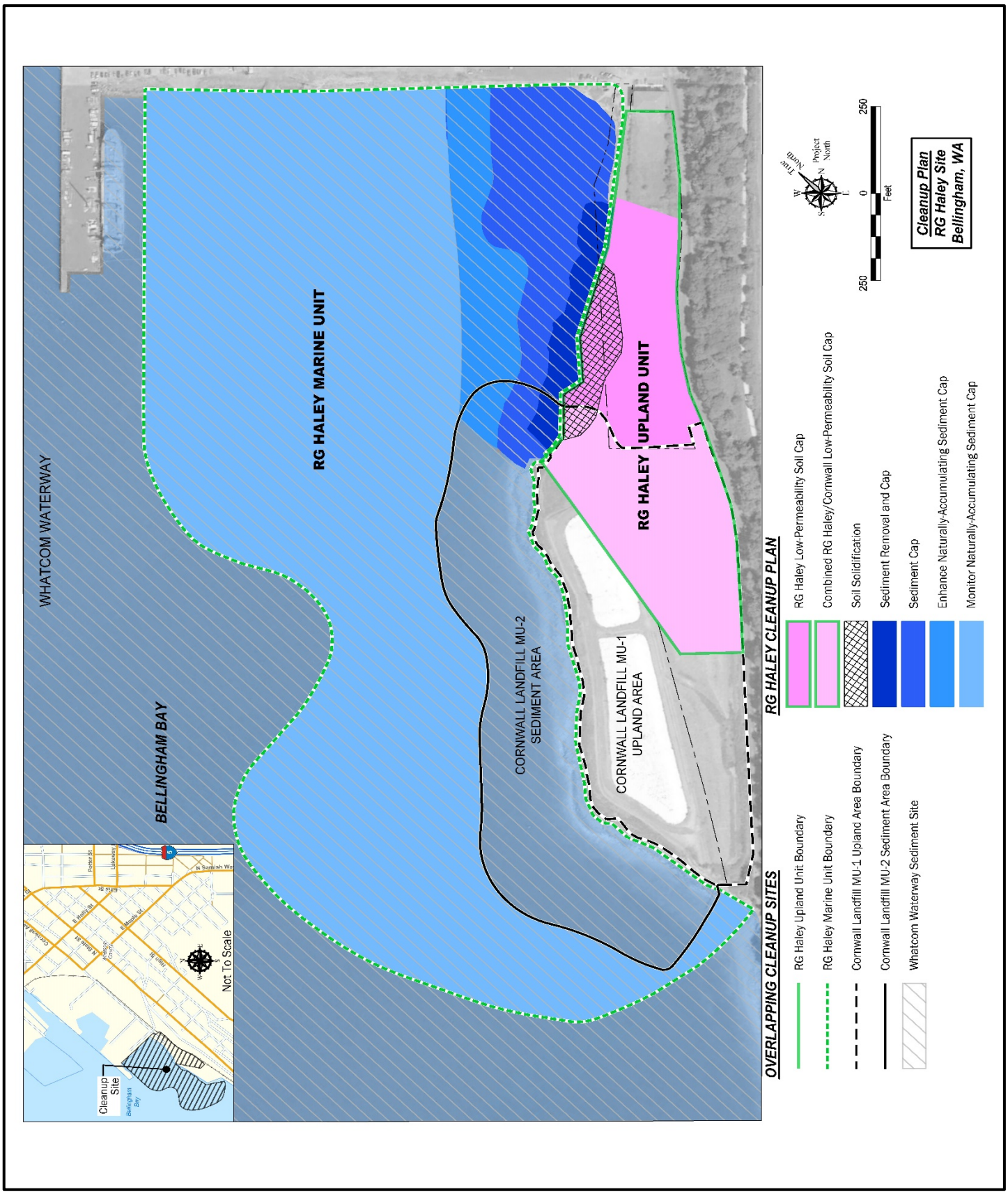
Costs and funding

The design of the cleanup work is expected to cost about $1.4 million. Ecology will reimburse up to half the City's costs through the state's 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 le invita a comentar sobre un reporte ambiental para el sitio que está contaminado RG Haley en Bellingham. Si le gustaría recibir este documento en español, por favor llame a Gretchen Newman al 360-407-6097 o envíe un correo electrónico a preguntas@ecy.wa.gov. Traducciones de avisos públicos para los sitios de limpieza de la Bahía de Bellingham se preparan bajo solicitud.

RG Haley Site Cleanup Plan



DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Toxics Cleanup Program
3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452

RG Haley Cleanup Site plan ready for review

Public Comment Period

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Bit.ly/EcologyRGHaley

Public meeting to comment

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Ecology Bellingham Office
913 Squalicum Way, Unit 101
Belllingham, WA 98225

Special accommodations

To request ADA accommodation for disabilities, contact Hanna Waterstrat at hwat461@ecy.wa.gov or 360-407-7668, or visit https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility . Persons with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. Persons with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.