

Tacoma Coal Gas Plant



General area of Tacoma Coal Gas site

CONTACT & INFORMATION

Comments accepted:

August 5 – September 3, 2018

Submit comments online at:

<http://wt.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=hQADK>

Or by mail to:

Marv Coleman
Cleanup Project Manager
WA Department of Ecology
PO Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775

Document review locations:

Tacoma Public Library
1102 Tacoma Avenue S.
Tacoma, WA 98402
(253) 292-2001

Citizens for a Healthy Bay
535 Dock Street, Suite 213
Tacoma, WA 98402
(253) 383-2429

Ecology – Lacey Office
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503
By appointment, call (360) 407-6365

Website:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=3675>

Facility Site ID: 1249
Site Cleanup ID: 3675

Draft legal agreement available for public comment

Ecology is working with current and past owners of a historic coal gasification facility to study contamination at the site.

The site is located at 22nd and A Street in Tacoma. Elevated portions of I-705 freeway (including piers, abutments and retaining walls), closed South A Street, Dock Street, and a railroad corridor now partly cover the area.

Ecology will enter into a formal legal agreement called an Agreed Order with Washington Department of Transportation, City of Tacoma, Puget Sound Energy, and PacifiCorp. The Order requires them to:

- Describe the types and extent of contamination, and consider and compare cleanup options through a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study.
- Choose cleanup methods in a draft Cleanup Action Plan.

The Agreed Order also allows the property owners to clean up parts of the site before the final cleanup plan is complete. We will hold a public comment period if any partial cleanups (called interim actions) are proposed.

Ecology wants to hear from you!

We invite you to comment on the draft Agreed Order and a draft Public Participation Plan. The plan describes how Ecology will inform the community about site activities and opportunities to be involved in the cleanup process.

Site history

The Tacoma Coal Gas plant, located at the head of the Thea Foss Waterway, operated between 1884 and 1924. During that time, gas manufactured from coal lit city streets and provided energy

for industrial manufacturing. After it closed, property owners removed above-ground structures and covered the site with fill. Contamination was discovered on the site in 1984 during geotechnical drilling for construction of I-705.

Contamination

Manufacturing operations contaminated soil and groundwater. Most of the remaining buried structures and some of the contaminated soils were removed from within the right-of-way during construction of I-705 and SR-509 and sewer installation along Dock Street. Contaminated soils outside of the right-of-way were identified but not removed. Remaining contaminants in soil and groundwater are typical of coal gasification plants and include:

- Polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)
- BTEX (benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene).

Long-term exposure to these chemicals can be harmful to human health and the environment.

Cleanup that's already been completed

In 1993, a previous Agreed Order was signed to stop contamination from moving into the Thea Foss Waterway. During site investigations, it was discovered that some of the contamination was from another source. The source was identified as the Standard Chemical Company, a coal tar distillation facility, which operated just northeast of the Tacoma Coal Gas plant.

Cleanup activities were completed separately on the Standard Chemical site. Ecology removed contaminants that impacted upland soils and groundwater as well as sediments and surface water in the Thea Foss Waterway. The Tacoma Coal Gas Agreed Order was amended to redefine the site boundaries and to include for cleanup actions to protect the Thea Foss Waterway.

Next steps

Ecology will consider your comments before the draft Agreed Order is finalized and the property owners begin the investigation. We will reply to comments in a responsiveness summary, which you can review at the locations listed on the first page. As cleanup moves forward, you will be invited to comment on the remedial investigation, feasibility study, and cleanup plan.

En Español

Orden Acordada

Una limpieza ambiental se está llevando a cabo en Tacoma Coal Gas. El borrador de un documento legal está disponible para comentario público. El documento describe quién es responsable de limpiar la contaminación y qué deben hacer para limpiarla.

Plan de participación del público

Una limpieza ambiental se está llevando a cabo en Tacoma Coal Gas. Un plan para la participación del público está disponible para comentario público. Este plan describe las herramientas que Ecología utilizará para informar al público y obtener comentarios públicos sobre documentos y decisiones de la limpieza.

Unáse al diálogo sobre Tacoma Coal Gas. Cuando el período de comentarios termine, revisaremos los

comentarios y haremos cambios antes de finalizar los documentos. Para más información en su idioma llame al (360) 407-6300 y solicite un intérprete. El borrador del documento en inglés está disponible en <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=3675> or at Citizens for a Healthy Bay or Tacoma Public Library in English.

Tacoma Coal Gas site map



Key	
Standard Chemical site	  
Tacoma Coal Gas site	  



PO Box 47775

Olympia, WA 98504-7775

Ecology wants your comments on draft Agreed Order and Public Participation Plan for Tacoma Coal Gas site



Public comment period:

August 5 – September 3, 2018

Información en Español incluida.

Special accommodations

To request materials in a format for the visually impaired, visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>, call Ecology at 360-407-6300, Relay Service 711, or TTY 877-833-6341.