

Response to Public Comments and Final Interim Action Plan Available

The Interim Action Plan for the Tacoma Smelter Plume is now final. It explains how the Department of Ecology (Ecology) will manage risk and clean up arsenic and lead contamination. Funding for this work comes from a \$94 million settlement with Asarco.

The comment period for the draft Interim Action Plan ran October 20—December 20, 2012. We received 55 letters and used many of the comments to revise parts of the plan. A responsiveness summary lists all of the comments, provides responses, and explains some of the changes to the plan.

The final plan and responsiveness summary are available at our website, listed to the right.

Public Comment Highlights

The following topics had some of the strongest public interest:

- **Yard cleanups for the most contaminated areas.** We heard support for starting with the worst contamination and areas where children play. Many people had questions about the details of the cleanup program. We will address these issues during the design process and ask for public input before starting cleanup (see page 2).
- **Expanding the Soil Safety Program.** Commenters asked about cleanup for play areas at preschools, private parks, places of worship, and community centers. We plan to re-search the number of play areas and how we can fit them into our cleanup plan.
- **Encouraging cleanup during development projects.** We heard support for cleanup during development, but also concerns about the cost. We now offer free technical assistance for Tacoma Smelter Plume cleanups in the Voluntary Cleanup Program (see page 2). There is no new cost to Ecology to provide this service because the settlement already pays for technical assistance staff.
- **Providing outreach during real estate sales.** Because of strong public interest, we are starting outreach sooner than we planned. Outreach tools may include brochures, maps, and trainings for real estate agents.

Ecology Contacts



Questions about Ecology's plan

Hannah Aoyagi
Phone: (360) 407-6790
E-mail: Hannah.Aoyagi@ecy.wa.gov

Soil Safety Program for childcare, school, and park cleanups

Amy Hargrove
Phone: (360) 407-6262
E-mail: Amy.Hargrove@ecy.wa.gov

Technical assistance for local governments and developers

Elizabeth Weldin
Phone: (360) 407-7094
E-mail: Elizabeth.Weldin@ecy.wa.gov

Where to find the final Interim Action Plan and Responsiveness Summary

Ecology's website:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/toxics/tacoma-smelter.html>

SW Regional Office, Dept. of Ecology
300 Desmond Drive, Lacey, WA
Contact Debbie Nelson at Debbie.Nelson@ecy.wa.gov or (360) 407-6365

Your local library will have a hard copy or can help you find it online.

Facility Site ID #: 89267963

Yard Cleanup Program Next Steps

We are in the middle of designing the program. The design, which will be available for public comment around the end of 2012, will explain details like:

- How we will contact people who might be eligible for this free program.
- How we will use soil sampling to find yards that need cleanup.
- Options for cleaning up and restoring yards.
- Outreach for people who don't qualify for cleanup, but still have some contamination in their yards.

Soil Sampling and Cleanup Guidance Available

The Tacoma Smelter Plume Model Remedies are ready to use. They provide guidelines for soil sampling and cleanup on properties within the Tacoma Smelter Plume.

Projects following the model remedies can get written approval from Ecology through the Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP). VCP staff can provide technical assistance on how to meet state

cleanup standards. They can also provide written opinions on whether a project meets those standards.

The VCP is now **free** for cleanup projects with only Tacoma Smelter Plume contamination.

Contact Elizabeth Weldin (page 1) for more information. The guidance is also available on our Technical Assistance webpage:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites_brochure/tacoma_smelter/2011/techAssist.html

Play Area Cleanups Continue

The Asarco settlement is paying for cleaning up play areas at dozens of childcares and parks this year. A few of our summer/fall 2012 park projects include:

- Dockton Park on Maury Island
- Lake Grove Park in Federal Way
- Dottie Harper Park in Burien

Many parks will also receive signs letting people know about arsenic and lead in wooded areas that we cannot clean up.

How can I find out what's in my soil?

Whether you know what's in your soil or not, we recommend covering bare patches of dirt, maintaining good grass cover, and growing vegetables in garden boxes.



- **King County:** This summer, Ecology is starting a free home soil testing program in King County. Please contact Diana Smith at Diana.Smith@ecy.wa.gov or (360) 407-6255 to sign up.
- **Pierce County:** The Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department offers free home soil testing. Please contact Glenn Rollins at DirtAlert@tpchd.org or (253) 798-3503.

The home soil testing service area is shown on page 3.

Home Soil Testing Service Area

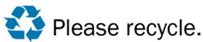




DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

PO Box 47775

Olympia, WA 98504-7775



Tacoma Smelter Plume King, Pierce, Thurston, and Kitsap Counties, WA

Response to Comments and Final Interim Action Plan Available

Facility Site ID #: 89267963

If you need this publication in an alternative format, call reception at (360) 407-6300. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with speech disability call 877-833-6341.

What is the Tacoma Smelter Plume?

Asarco's former copper smelter in north Tacoma emitted arsenic, lead, and other heavy metals. These pollutants were carried by the wind and settled on surface soils, creating the Tacoma Smelter Plume.

In 2009, the State of Washington received a settlement from Asarco for environmental damages. Ecology plans to use \$94 million over 10 years, to manage risk and do cleanup within the Tacoma Smelter Plume.

Why does it matter?

The plume covers over 1,000 square miles. If you live inside the plume, you could be at risk. Arsenic and lead are toxic and children are at highest risk. They play in the dirt and put dirty hands in their mouths, plus their small bodies are also still developing.