# Update on the Lora Lake Apartments Cleanup Site

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DEPARTMENT OF **ECOLOGY** State of Washington

# Major points:

- Dioxin is widespread in the environment and comes from many different sources.
- The Lora Lake Apartments Site does not appear to contribute significant amounts of dioxin to Miller Creek.
- Lora Lake Apartments contamination will be cleaned up by a combination of excavation and capping.

## **Project Process**

- A draft report on site conditions and cleanup approaches is currently in review. This report is called the draft Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study.
- The purpose of the draft RI/FS is to provide sufficient information for Ecology to select a cleanup action for the site. The draft RI/FS is not a decision document.
- The Cleanup Action Plan will describe the selected cleanup actions. The Cleanup Action Plan will be Ecology's decision document.
- The draft RI/FS and the Cleanup Action Plan will be issued for a 30-day public comment period before they are finalized.



The Lora Lake Apartment parcel is at the intersection of SR 518 and Des Moines Memorial Drive.

Two other areas of interest are Lora Lake and an area where sediment dredged from Lora Lake in 1982 was disposed of, the Dredged Material Containment Area.

## The Northeast Redevelopment Area Boundary





The Apartment site had residences and trees.

Excavation of the peat mine that would become Lora Lake had not begun. A barrel-washing operation was located on the Apartment site. Lora Lake had been created by peat mining.

# 1946



Burien Auto Wrecking occupied the site from the 1950s to the 1980s.

Lora Lake was surrounded by homes.



In the 1980s a developer bought the site and cleared it to construct the Lora Lake Apartments.

In 1982 King County dredged the lake because residents were complaining of siltation. The dredge material was placed on airport land to the north of the lake, now called the DMCA.



The Port acquired the Lora Lake Apartments property in the late 1990s as part of their planning for construction of the Third Runway.

Part of the Apartment property is within the area needed for the Runway Protection Zone.

# What are dioxins and furans?

 Dioxins and furans are double benzene rings with chlorine atoms attached at various points. They are not just one chemical composition.

### **DIOXIN AND FURAN STRUCTURE**



Dioxin

Furan

9

8

7



2,3,7,8 — Tetrachlorodibenzo(p)dioxin



2,3,7,8 — Tetrachlorodibenzofuran

#### There are 210 different congener configurations.

From: http://www.ejnet.org/dioxin/dioxinpr2.pdf

Different congeners have different toxicities. 2,3,7,8 TCDD is the most toxic.

Dioxin/furan concentrations are reported as Toxicity Equivalent Quotients (TEQ).

Environmental studies normally look at 17 congeners.

# Dioxins form when organic matter is burned in the presence of chlorine.

### **Natural Sources**

• Forest Fires



Volcanos



### **Some Man-Made Sources**

- Residential wood burning
- Backyard burn barrels
- Chlorinated chemical production
- Diesel exhaust
- Chlorine bleaching of pulp
- Burning salt-laden wood in hog-fuel boilers
- Waste incineration
- Cement kilns
- Crematoriums







## Example: Backyard Burn Barrels

#### Sources of Dioxins and Furans in the US (2002-2004)

#### Other Sources including:

residential and industrial wood burning, utilities, smelting/sintering, cement kilns, sewage sludge incineration, municipal/medical/hazard ous waste incineration, paper industry, vehicles, cigarette smoke and others 43%

Backyard Barrel Burning 57%

#### Source: New York Department of Environmental Conservation

## Example: Sources of dioxin to San Francisco Bay



See: http://www.epa.gov/region9/water/dioxin/sfbay.html#whataresources

## Point 1:

• Dioxin is widespread in the environment and comes from many different sources.

### How do dioxins behave in the environment?

- Dioxins are PERSISTENT: They last a long time when released to the environment.
- Dioxins have LOW VOLATILITY.
- Dioxins have VERY LOW SOLUBILITY in water.
- Dioxins have VERY LOW MOBILITY. They tend to attach to soil particles.
- Dioxins are BIOACCUMULATIVE. When ingested (say by a big fish that eats a small fish that has fed on small critters living in contaminated sediment), they will dissolve in the lipids (fats) and accumulate in the food chain.

## Note:

- This cleanup is addressing dioxin and related contamination from historic industrial operations at the Lora Lake Apartments Site that ended long ago.
- This dioxin contamination is likely from dioxin impurities in the chlorinated chemicals that were washed out of the barrels during cleaning, particularly pentachlorophenol.

### Data have been collected in several environmental media



Soil



Storm water and storm drain solids



**Ground water** 

Lora Lake sediment

# The apartment parcel is mostly paved or covered by foundations.



Within the Lora Lake Apartments Parcel dioxin soil contamination is highest at and downhill from the old barrel cleanout area. Over much of the western part of the property dioxin concentrations are < 100 ppt.



#### Cross-section view.





# What is the occurrence of dioxin in urban Seattle soils?



Ecology recently completed a study of dioxin concentrations in Seattle neighborhoods. Concentrations ranged from 2 to 114 ppt.

One of the challenges at Lora Lake is to know when to stop.

Cleanup Level = 11 ppt

### Dioxin in catch-basin solids (ppt) The catch basin solids were removed in 2010



### Dioxin in in-line solids traps (ppt)



### **Dioxin in Storm Water**

# Upstream and downstream stations were statistically the same



### Water cleanup levels

- 30 ppq Safe Drinking Water Act (Federal)
- 5.83 ppq MTCA Drinking water standard (State)
- 1 6 ppq limits of detectability; depends upon what else is in the water.
- 0.005 ppq Protective for fish
  consumption combined with
  drinking the water the fish are
  in.

Maximum dioxin concentrations detected in ground water (ppq). Blue lines are ground water elevation contours, wet season. Flow is toward Lora Lake.





Culvert inlet where Lora Lake drains to Miller Creek.



Lora Lake Sediment

Dioxin concentrations in the biologically active zone (ppt)

There are no freshwater chemistry standards.



# What about dioxin in sediment at deeper depths?

Station	Depth	Upper_Depth_ft	Lower_Depth_ft	Dioxin_ppt
LL-SED1	Surface	0.0	0.5	193
LL-SED2	Surface	0.0	0.5	217
LL-SED3	Surface	0.0	0.5	152
LL-SED4	Surface	0.0	0.5	149
LL-SED5	Surface	0.0	0.5	8
MC-SED1	Surface	0.0	0.3	0.4
MC-SED2	Surface	0.0	0.3	0.4
MC-SED3	Surface	0.0	0.3	0.3
LL-SED1	Mid	0.0	1.8	23
LL-SED2	Mid	0.0	1.8	154
LL-SED3	Mid	0.0	1.2	202
LL-SED2	Deeper	1.8	3.7	1
LL-SED3	Deeper	1.2	4.6	1
LL-SED2	Deepest	3.7	5.5	1
LL-SED3	Deepest	4.6	5.5	2

# Lora Lake Bioassay Results

- Scuds and midge larvae were exposed to
  - exposed to sediment from the biologically active zones in Lora Lake and Miller Creek.
- The effect on their growth and mortality was measured.



Scud (Hyalla azteca)



### Midge larvae (Chironomous dilutus)



**Bioassay results:** 

Surface sediments are unlikely to cause adverse effects on biological receptors except in the deepest part of the lake (LL-SED2).

The adverse effect is thought to be due to high sulfides.

P = Pass F = Fail



## Point 2:

 The Lora Lake Apartments Site does not appear to contribute significant amounts of dioxin to Miller Creek.

## **Remediation Goals**

- Protect people from exposure
- Keep contamination contained on site out of the storm drain system.
- Prevent migration of contaminants from the Site.
- Make the Lora Lake Apartments parcel suitable for development.

The RI/FS divides the site into several cleanup areas and evaluates various combinations of soil capping, soil excavation, and sediment capping or sediment dredging.



The FS evaluated 5 cleanup alternatives that spanned the range from no action to complete removal.

- Alternative 1 No Action.
- Alternative 2 Capping, long-term monitoring, and deed covenants restricting property use.
- The Port found that Alternatives 1 and 2 did not meet all of the remediation goals.

Alternative 3 Excavation Extent – Excavates soil with dioxin over **1,000** ppt. Cap other areas, storm drain system improvements, deed covenants, long-term monitoring. **\$7.9 million.** 



Alternative 4 Excavation Extent – Excavates soil with dioxin over **100** ppt. Cap other areas, storm drain system improvements, deed covenants, long-term monitoring. **\$8.1 million** 



# Alternative 5 – All soil with dioxin exceeding **11** ppt is excavated. Lora Lake is dredged. **\$14** million,



Ecology has asked the Port to evaluate two alternatives intermediate between Alternatives 4 and 5.

### Alternative 4+

 This is Alternative 4 except that Lora Lake is dredged instead of having a sand cap placed over the dioxincontaminated sediment.

#### **Alternative 5-**

 This is Alternative 5 except that the DMCA is capped with asphalt or an engineered gravel cap instead of excavated.

<u>UPDATE</u>: The revised draft RI/FS will evaluate each parcel separately instead of combining approaches for the three parcels. This approach makes more sense as cleanup of each parcel is not dependent on what happens on the others.

## Point 3:

 Lora Lake Apartments Cleanup Site contamination will be cleaned up by a combination of excavation and capping.

# When Will Actual Cleanup Start?

### Lora Lake Apts and Dredged Material Containment Area

- By the time we get through developing all the plans and legal documents,
- Holding the public comment period,
- Preparing all the design documents, and
- And the Port bids the job,
- Construction is anticipated to start in the 2014 construction season.

### Lora Lake

- Cleanup of Lora Lake must be coordinated with the Natural Resource Mitigation Area trustees and is on a separate track.
- The Port and Ecology will proceed with a sense of urgency, but the timing depends upon discussions with the trustees.

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# What's next?

- The Port will submit a revised draft RI/FS July 11<sup>th</sup>. This 2<sup>nd</sup> draft is available by public request.
- It will cover the Lora Lake Apartments and DMCA parcels.
- The draft RI/FS for the Lora Lake portion of the site will be submitted by the end of the year. The extra time is needed for increased coordination with other resource agencies, the complexities associated with remediation of the lake sediment, and work within a wetland mitigation area.
- The Port's and Ecology's goal is to bring everything together for the 2014 construction season, but there is not yet sufficient information to firm up the Lora Lake parcel schedule.

The project is dynamic and ongoing.

# Lora Lake Apartments Web Site

## Or search on

Lora Lake Apartments | Cleanup Sites | Washington Department of Ecology Or contact me: David L. South <u>david.south@ecy.wa.gov</u> 425-649-7200

# Questions?