

Toxics Cleanup Program**July 2012**

Public comment sought on proposed interim cleanup action

The Washington Department of Ecology, Port of Bellingham and city of Bellingham propose to remove a pocket of old petroleum contamination at the Central Waterfront cleanup site on Bellingham's waterfront as soon as possible, while work continues toward cleanup of the full site.

In February 2012, Ecology and Port of Bellingham site managers discovered an oily sheen on Whatcom Waterway. An investigation showed that a failing bulkhead is allowing water at high tide to saturate the shoreline and draw out the historical contamination.

Removal of petroleum contamination along the small shoreline area would be done as an interim action. It would be considered interim because it wouldn't address the entire site.

The proposed interim action is described in an amendment to a 2006 legal agreement among Ecology, the port and the city. The amendment also includes general language providing for potential future interim actions. All interim actions would be subject to public review.

The proposed amendment will be available for public review from July 17 to Aug. 15, 2012. (See column at right for details.)

The port and city would do this cleanup work under Ecology's supervision. All cleanup work will be done according to the state's cleanup law, the Model Toxics Control Act.

Site history, location, contaminants and interim action area

The Central Waterfront cleanup site is about 55 acres on the downtown Bellingham waterfront. The site is between the

Comments accepted

July 17 through Aug. 15, 2012**Submit comments and technical questions to:**

Brian Sato, site manager
WA Department of Ecology
Toxics Cleanup Program
3190 160th Ave. SE
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452

Phone: 425-649-7265
E-mail: brian.sato@ecy.wa.gov

Documents available for review at these locations by July 17, 2012:

**Department of Ecology
Bellingham Field Office**
1440 10th St., Ste., 102
Bellingham, WA

By appointment: Call Lindsay Albin
at 360-715-5200

Bellingham Public Library
210 Central Ave.
Bellingham, WA

Phone: 360-778-7323

**Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office**
3190 160th Ave., SE
Bellevue, WA

By appointment: Call Sally Perkins
at 425-649-7190

**Ecology's Toxics Cleanup
Website:**
<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=3418>

Facility Site ID #: 2864

Central Waterfront

I & J Waterway and Whatcom Waterway, and between the former Georgia-Pacific industrial wastewater treatment lagoon and Roeder Avenue. (See Figure 1 on Page 3.)

The site has been the location of a variety of industrial operations, including a municipal landfill, a rock-crushing plant, a boatyard and a bulk fuel storage and distribution facility.

Investigations to date have found contaminants, including solid waste, landfill gases, metals and petroleum related compounds resulting from these past industrial activities. This contamination must be addressed under the state's cleanup law.

The Central Waterfront site is one of 12 cleanup sites in the Bellingham Bay Demonstration Pilot, a multi-agency collaborative effort to clean up contamination, control pollution sources, restore habitat and carry out land use plans.

Proposed interim action

The interim action is proposed for a pocket smaller than 5,000 square feet along the Whatcom Waterway shoreline near the south end of C Street. (See Figure 1 on Page 3.)

Investigations show soil and sediment in the area were contaminated by petroleum during operations at the former Chevron fuel terminal. The terminal operated there from 1904 to 1987.

Chevron removed tanks and performed some voluntary cleanup work in the area, including excavation of contaminated soil. However, some remaining petroleum recently started to seep from the shoreline.

The interim action is intended to stop further releases of petroleum to Whatcom Waterway.

The proposed interim action would involve removing about 800 cubic yards of petroleum-contaminated soil and sediment from the shoreline and rebuilding the excavated area with clean sand and rock. It also would involve installing a barrier into the soil inland of the excavated area to prevent recontamination of the newly rebuilt shoreline.

Meanwhile, work would continue on an environmental investigation of the full site (called a remedial investigation), and an analysis of cleanup options (called a feasibility study). Ecology expects to release a draft remedial investigation and feasibility study report for public review in 2013.

Public comment invited

You are invited to:

- **Review** the proposed amendment to the agreed order.
- **Send** your comments to Ecology for consideration. **Comments will be accepted July 17 through Aug. 15, 2012.**

See the box at the right of Page 1 for details about where to review documents and how to submit comments.

The port is conducting a separate public comment period on its determination of non-significance under the State Environmental Policy Act for this interim action. More details on that process are available on the port's website:

<http://www.portofbellingham.com/index.aspx?nid=93>.

Central Waterfront

What happens next

Once the public comment period ends, Ecology will review and consider all comments it receives. The proposed amendment to the agreed order may be modified based upon your comments. If there are significant changes, Ecology will issue the amendment again for public review.

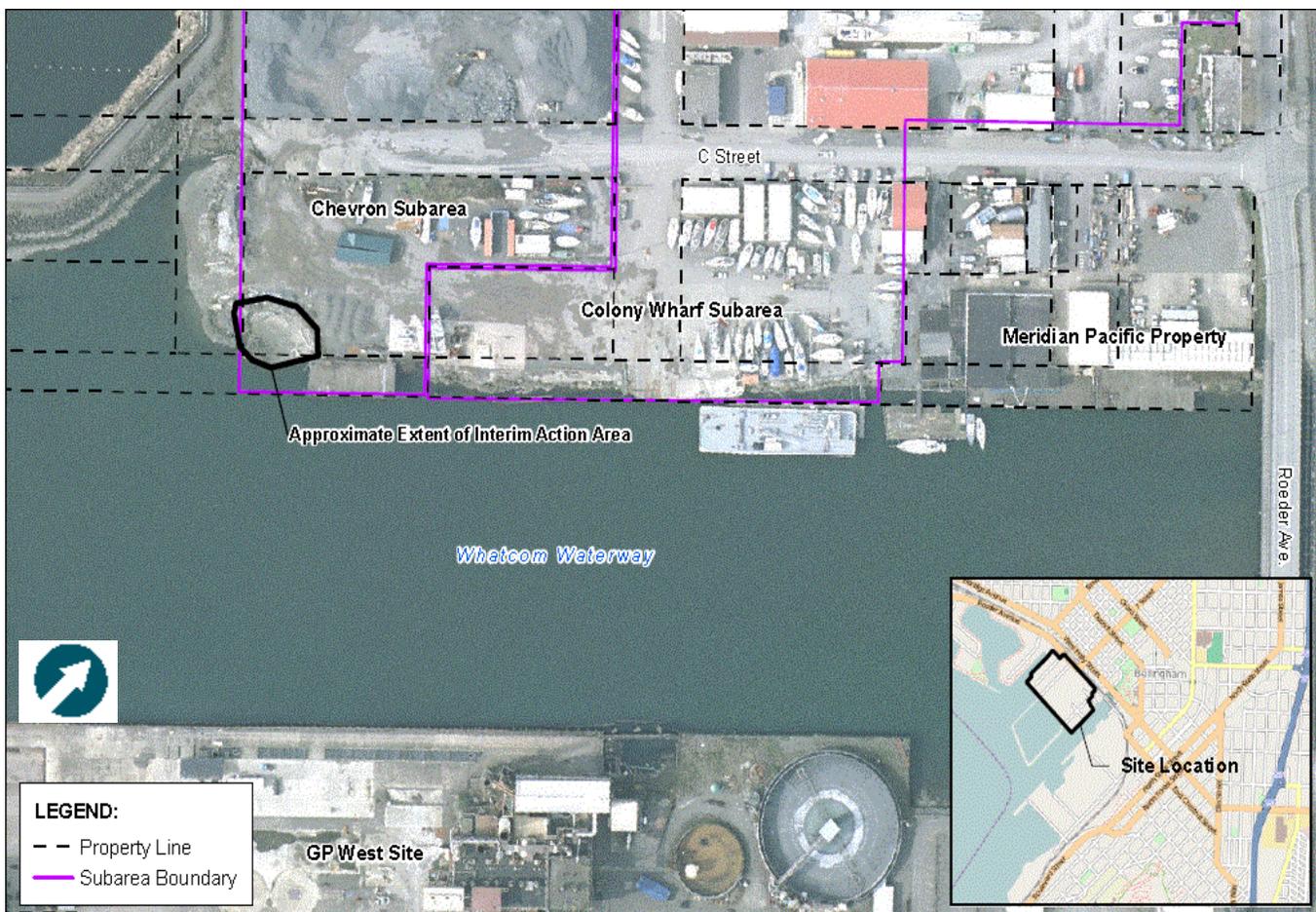
As future documents about the site are developed, Ecology will notify the public of additional comment periods.

Why this cleanup matters

Cleaning up the Central Waterfront site is necessary to protect people, plants, fish, birds and other life from exposure to harmful levels of contamination.

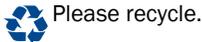
All phases of the cleanup, including development of the agreed order amendment, will be conducted under the Model Toxics Control Act, passed by citizen initiative in 1988 and enacted in 1989.

Figure 1 – Approximate Central Waterfront site location and proposed interim action area





1440 10th St., Ste. 102
Bellingham, WA 98225-7028



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Central Waterfront site, Bellingham, WA

Ecology seeks public comment on proposed interim cleanup action

Public comment period: July 17 through Aug. 15, 2012

Facility Site ID #: 2864

Help with other formats?

If you need this document in a format for the visually impaired, call Katie Skipper at Ecology's Bellingham office, 360-715-5205.

Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service.

Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

Información en español: El Departamento de Ecología del Estado de Washington (Ecología) solicita sus comentarios sobre una propuesta de una acción provisional para el sitio de limpieza del paseo marítimo central en Bellingham. Usted está invitado a revisar y comentar sobre la enmienda al acuerdo legal, llamado una orden acordada. Ecología aceptará comentarios desde el 17 de julio al 15 de agosto de 2012.

Para más información en español, favor de comunicarse con Richelle Pérez a 360-407-7528 o por correo electrónico a richelle.perez@ecy.wa.gov. Refiere al sitio de limpieza del paseo marítimo central.