

Washington's Formal Cleanup Process

Discovery

- Report potential contamination to Ecology.



Initial Investigation

- Determine if contamination requires further action.



Site Hazard Assessment

- Evaluate potential risk to human health and the environment based on exposure potential and severity of hazard.



Remedial Investigation

- Determine the nature and extent of contamination.
- Determine potential impacts to human health and the environment.



Feasibility Study

- Identify methods to eliminate exposure to contamination on the site.
- Assemble methods into a range of cleanup alternatives.
- Use an environmental benefit vs. cost analysis to choose a preferred alternative.



Cleanup Action Plan

- Describe Ecology's selected cleanup action, including:
 - Cleanup standards to protect human health and the environment.
 - Schedule of next steps.
 - Requirements for monitoring, operation, and maintenance.



Engineering Design

- Create detailed design and construction documents for the cleanup action.



Clean up the site!

- Complete the cleanup action. Examples of cleanup actions include:
 - Constructing a protective multi-layered capping system.
 - Treating contamination in place.
 - Removing contamination to a hazardous waste landfill.



Monitoring and Site Use Controls

- Monitor and do on-going operations/maintenance.
- Restrict/prohibit activities that could disturb the cleanup.



Reviews and De-listing

- Hold 5-year periodic reviews to ensure cleanup meets standards.
- Remove site from Hazardous Sites List after it meets all cleanup standards and requirements.

Legal Agreements

- Define cleanup steps required after a Site Hazard Assessment.



Interim Actions

partially address contamination & may occur any time.



Comment

Public Participation

- Encourage community feedback throughout cleanup process.
- Hold public comment periods at key times.



Washington's Cleanup Law

Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)

MTCA defines the cleanup process. This public-initiated environmental law directs upland cleanups (on land or in groundwater) and sediment cleanups (in freshwater or marine environments). Ecology enacts MTCA and regulates the cleanup process.