

# Tacoma Metals



## Comments accepted:

April 27, 2020-May 26, 2020

## Submit comments:

Online at

<http://tcp.ecology.wa.gov/commenting/?id=i8tRY>

Or by mail to:

Andy Smith, PE  
Department of Ecology  
Toxics Cleanup Program  
PO Box 47775  
Olympia, WA 98504  
(360) 407-6316  
Andrew.Smith@ecy.wa.gov

## Site info<sup>1</sup>:

Facility Site ID: 1257  
Site Cleanup ID: 3910

Due to COVID-19, site documents for the Tacoma Metals cleanup site will not be available at repositories or by mail. If you are unable to view information online at the Ecology website and have questions, please feel free to contact Andy Smith, Cleanup Project Manager or Sheila Coughlan, Public Involvement Coordinator at (360) 407-6255.

## Public comment period

**The public comment period begins on April 27, 2020 and ends on May 26, 2020.**

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) invites the public to comment on an Agreed Order and an Enforcement Order for the Tacoma Metals site. These legal agreements require four Potentially Liable Parties (PLPs) to write a work plan, carry out a supplemental Remedial Investigation (RI), and update the 2018 Feasibility Study (FS) so that cleanup can move forward.

The legal agreements and PLPs are:

- Agreed Order No. 17989 with International Paper Company and General Metals of Tacoma.
- Enforcement Order No. 17990 with the Estate of Sophie Sussman and Tacoma Metals.

A Public Participation Plan is also available for comment. The plan describes how Ecology will inform the community about site activities and opportunities to engage in the process.

You can review all site documents on [Ecology's website<sup>1</sup>](#).

## Work to be completed

Ecology is directing the PLPs to further study the soil and groundwater on the western part of the site and areas outside of the site boundary that were affected by the former creosoting plant (See Figure 1). Contaminants include petroleum products and creosote (total petroleum hydrocarbons as diesel and oil range organics, total polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, and/or total Naphthalene).

The PLPs will investigate and find cleanup alternatives for:

- Soils near the City of Tacoma Right of Way and the former Simpson Property.
- Soils beneath an area where a former 450,000 gallon above ground storage tank was located and northeast of that area (toward the Puyallup River).
- Groundwater beneath the site in the area of City of Tacoma right-of-way and in the northeast portion of the site.

<sup>1</sup><https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=3910>

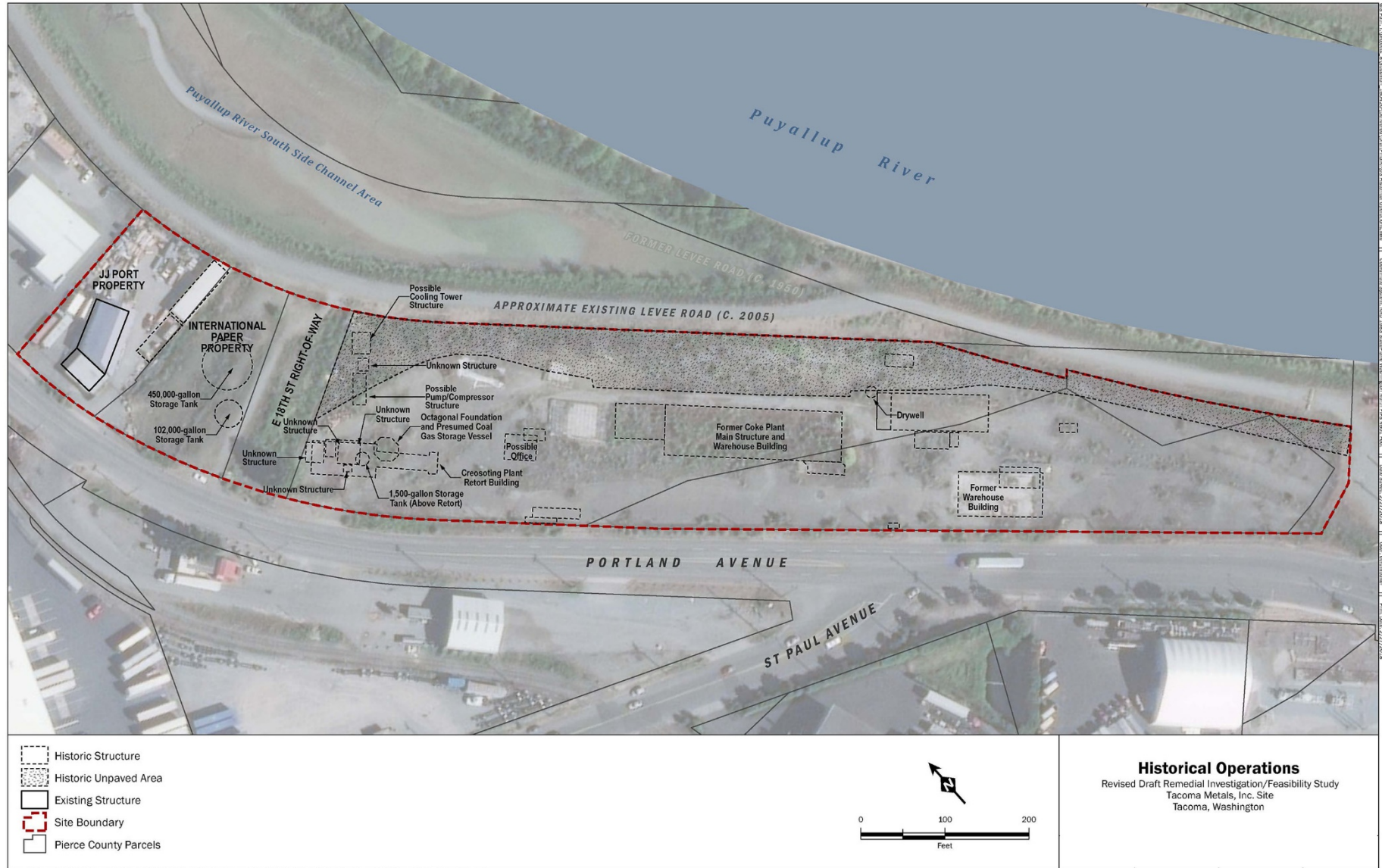


Figure 1 Former Tacoma Metals Site. Source: Aspect Consulting February 2018

In addition, the PLPs will find out whether contaminated groundwater is moving off the site and impacting the Puyallup River. They will recommend monitoring procedures and cleanup alternatives.

## Site background

The Tacoma Metals site is located at 1919 Portland Avenue in the Tacoma Tideflats. The site is bound to the north by the Puyallup River, to the east by the Lincoln Avenue Bridge, to the south by Portland Avenue, and to the west by a City of Tacoma right-of-way and private properties. The site is currently an empty paved lot.

The following industries operated on the site between the early 1900's and 1999:

- Creosoting plant (Figure 2) - 1900s to 1930s
- Coke plant - early 1940s
- Metals recycling facility - 1950s to 1999

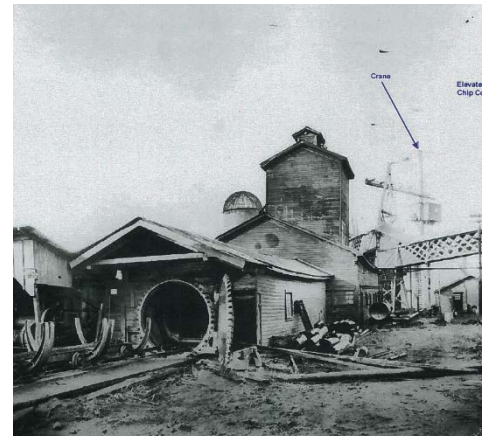



Figure 2. Creosote Retort at the Tacoma Metals site circa 1900's.

The practices and operations of these industries contaminated soil and groundwater. In 1988, Ecology ranked the site as a 2 on the Hazardous Sites List. Site investigations have been ongoing since 1989. Partial cleanups were conducted in 1989 and again between 2005 and 2007 when unexploded military ordnance and other scrap metal were found during the construction of the Puyallup River side channel. Figure 3 shows a timeline of site investigation and cleanup activity.



**What is the Hazardous Sites List?**

The Hazardous Sites List includes sites that Ecology has assessed for their potential threat to human health and the environment. Sites are ranked on a scale of one to five with one representing the highest level of concern and five the lowest.

Sites must go through cleanup and meet state standards before Ecology can remove them from the list.

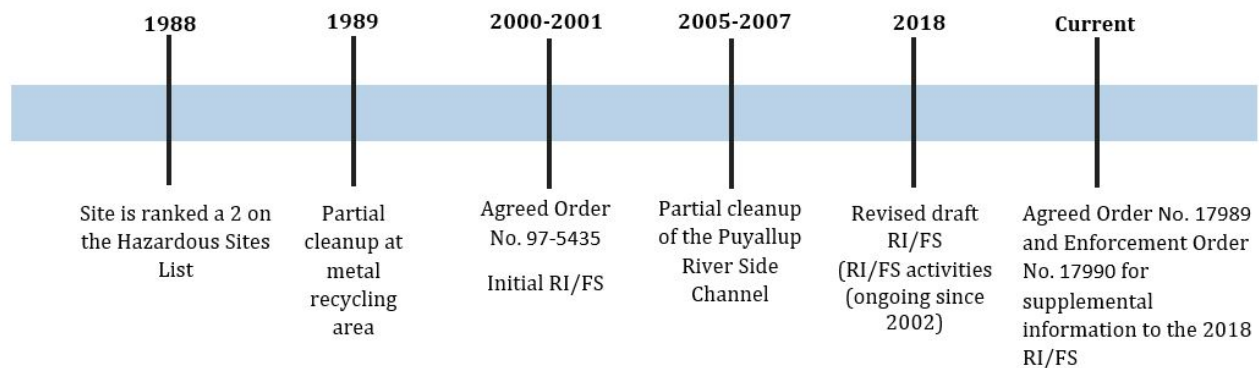


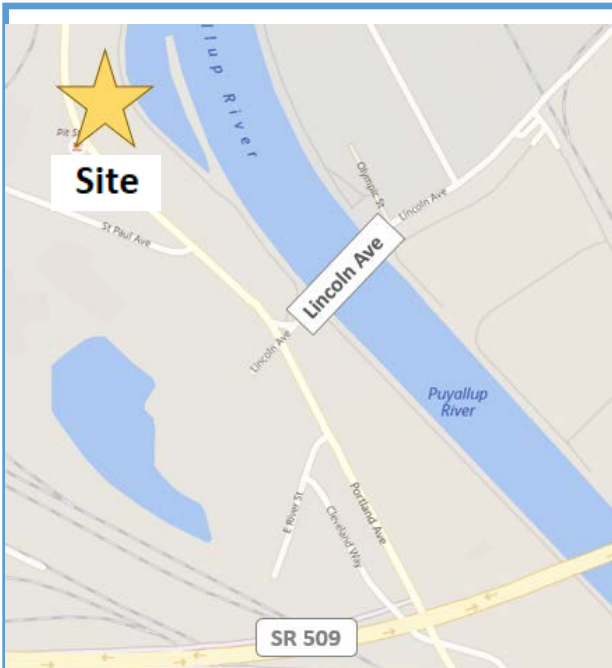
Figure 3. Timeline of site investigation and cleanup activity at the Tacoma Metals site.

## Next steps

At the end of the comment period, Ecology will respond to comments in a responsiveness summary. If there are no substantive comments, the PLPs will implement the RI activities outlined in the Work Plan and update the FS to include alternatives that address all contaminants on the site. The final RI/FS will be available for public comment.

If the PLPs agree on an interim action during the RI, they will submit an Interim Action Work Plan to Ecology. The public will have an opportunity to comment on this document.

Toxics Cleanup Program  
PO Box 47775  
Olympia, WA 98504-7775



## Tacoma Metals

### **Public comment period**

April 27, 2020-May 26, 2020

### **Why did I receive this mailing?**

You live near the Tacoma Metals site or have expressed interest in the cleanup. This fact sheet informs you about the proposed work and the opportunity for public comment.

### **What can I do?**

Please review the site documents and submit your comments, questions, and concerns. To be removed from this mailing list, please call Sheila Coughlan at (360) 407-6255 or email [Sheila.Coughlan@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Sheila.Coughlan@ecy.wa.gov)

### **¿Habla Español?**

Unáse al diálogo sobre Tacoma Metals. Cuando el período de comentarios termine, revisaremos los comentarios y haremos

cambios antes de finalizar los documentos. Para más información en español llame al (360) 407-6255 y solicite un intérprete.

**Accommodation Requests:** To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology (360) 407-6831 or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at (877) 833-6341