



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Public Participation Plan

Chevron 97502 Cleanup Site Sedro-Woolley, WA

Facility Site ID: 61112475

Cleanup Site ID: 6368

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Publication and Contact Information

This document is available on the Department of Ecology's Chevron 97502 website at:
<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=6368>

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**Public Participation Plan
Chevron 97502 Cleanup Site
Sedro-Woolley, WA**

*Facility Site ID: 61112475
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Washington State Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office
Toxics Cleanup Program
Bellevue, Washington

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Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
List of Figures	vi
Introduction.....	1
Washington’s Cleanup Law	1
Site Information	4
Location, history, and ownership.....	4
Contamination.....	5
Previous cleanup work	5
Status of cleanup	5
Area community.....	6
Public Involvement Activities.....	9
How we share information with the community.....	9
How to share information with us.....	11
Public participation grants	12
Plan Amendments/Updates	12

List of Figures

Page

Figures

Figure 1: Steps in Washington's Cleanup Process	3
Figure 2: Aerial view of Chevron 97502 property, July 2018.....	4
Figure 3: 1960s picture of the Sedro-Wooley service station (then referred to as “Gateway Chevron Service”) and the location of the current cleanup site. (Skagit River Journal)	4
Figure 4: Chevron 97502 cleanup site in Sedro-Woolley, May 2019	5
Figure 5: Hammer Heritage Park, May 2019.....	6
Figure 6: City of Sedro-Woolley Zoning Map	6
Figure 7: Map of Census Tracts 53057951500 & 53057951400 near cleanup site (US Census Bureau).....	7
Figure 8: Census Tract 53057951500 population percentages	7
Figure 10: Census Tract 5306104020 population percentages	8

Introduction

The City of Sedro-Wooley (City) and Chevron USA, Inc. (Chevron) are addressing soil and groundwater contamination at the Chevron 97502 Cleanup Site (Site) under a legal agreement with the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology). The contamination is from former gas station operations and is present at concentrations above cleanup levels which could be potentially harmful, if people or the environment were exposed. In order to protect human health and the environment, the contamination must be addressed in accordance with Washington's cleanup law, the Model Toxics Control Act.

Ecology developed this public participation plan (plan) as required under the MTCA, to promote meaningful community involvement in the Site cleanup process. The plan first discusses the MTCA and the cleanup process, then provides information about the Site. Next it describes planned public involvement activities and then addresses plan updates and amendments.

Washington's Cleanup Law

Ecology derives its authority to require cleanup of contamination from the state Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA; [Chapter 70.105D Revised Code of Washington \(RCW\)](#)¹). The MTCA provides requirements for contaminated site cleanup in Washington State and sets standards to ensure the cleanup protects human health and the environment. Standards for sediment cleanup are established in the state Sediment Management Standards, [Chapter 173-204 Washington Administrative Code \(WAC\)](#)².

The MTCA began as a grassroots citizen's initiative in 1988, and started the process of systematically cleaning up contaminated sites in Washington. Under the MTCA, anyone with a current or past relationship with a contaminated site may be held responsible for cleaning it up to standards established to protect human health and the environment.

Ecology enacts the MTCA and oversees cleanups in the state and issues regulations and guidance governing those cleanups. The regulations are found in [Chapter 173-340 WAC](#)³. Ecology investigates reports of contamination, and if it poses a significant threat to human health or the environment, the site is placed on the Confirmed and Suspected Contaminated Sites List for further assessment. The cleanup process can begin at any time after a release of a hazardous substance to the environment has been discovered.

Public participation is an important part of cleanup under the MTCA. Participation needs are assessed at each cleanup site according to the level of public interest and the degree of risk posed

¹ <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/publications/9406.pdf>

² <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-204>

³ <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-340>

Washington's Cleanup Law

by the contamination. Individuals who live near the site, community groups, businesses, government, other organizations, and interested parties have the opportunity to get involved by commenting during the cleanup process.

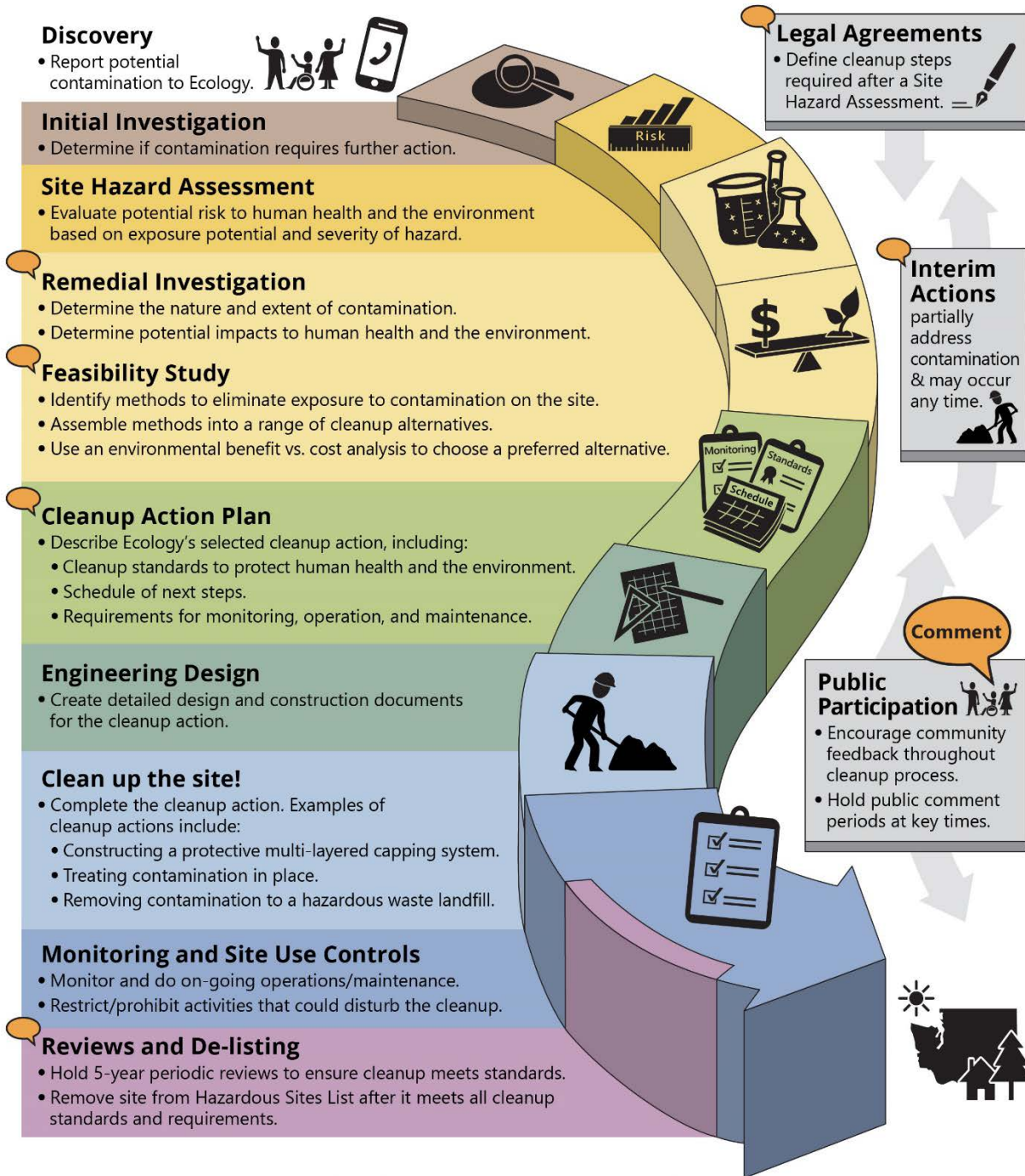
Under the MTCA, the cleanup process generally includes multiple steps (see Figure 1 on page 3), with opportunities for the public to review and comment on cleanup documents. In addition, a partial cleanup (called an interim action) can occur at any time during the cleanup process. The public is provided an opportunity to review and comment on planned interim action work as well.

MTCA cleanups also require evaluation under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA; [Chapter 197-11 WAC](#)⁴). Under SEPA, the potential for significant adverse environmental impacts from a project or action must be evaluated by state and local agencies when making decisions. This evaluation is subject to public review and comment in parallel with cleanup documents.

⁴ <https://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=197-11>



Washington's Formal Cleanup Process



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.

September 2019
Ecology Publication 19-09-166

Figure 1: Steps in Washington's Cleanup Process⁵

⁵ <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/documents/1909166.pdf>

Site Information

Location, history, and ownership

The Chevron 97502 Site is located at the northwest corner of Ferry and Metcalf streets in downtown Sedro-Woolley. The 0.21 acre Site is currently owned by the City and has been in use as Hammer Heritage Park since 2005. The park is paved with concrete pavers and contains a gazebo, planters, and public restrooms. The park is the location of the Sedro-Woolley Farmers Market and other city festivals.

A gas station operated on the Site from 1950 until 1991. Six underground storage tanks and three fuel pump islands were removed between 1991 and 1992 when the gas station was decommissioned.



Figure 2: Aerial view of Chevron 97502 property, July 2018



Figure 3: 1960s picture of the Sedro-Woolley service station (then referred to as “Gateway Chevron Service”) and the location of the current cleanup site. (Skagit River Journal)



Figure 4: Chevron 97502 cleanup site in Sedro-Woolley, May 2019

Contamination

Investigations in 1991 and 1992 showed petroleum contamination in soil and groundwater that exceeded cleanup levels allowed under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA):

- Gasoline and diesel-range hydrocarbons
- Benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene (BTEX)

Previous cleanup work

As a part of the Site's 1992 underground storage tank decommissioning, approximately 1,800 cubic yards of contaminated soil were removed from the site. Testing in 2007 found light non-aqueous phase liquid (LNAPL or petroleum products that float on top of groundwater). Approximately 1,500 gallons of contaminated groundwater were removed by vacuum truck. A 2008 soil vapor investigation found soil vapor levels were below MTCA levels of concern. Groundwater was treated in 2009 and approximately 560 gallons of contaminated liquid were removed. Routine groundwater monitoring in 2013-2014 found that contaminated groundwater beneath the site remains above MTCA cleanup levels established to protect human health and the environment.

Status of cleanup

The Site is in the beginning of the formal cleanup process shown in Figure 1 on Page 3.

In 2020, Ecology issued an Agreed order (legal agreement) for public review. This legal agreement between Ecology, the City, and Chevron requires the City and Chevron to characterize the Site (Remedial Investigation), evaluate cleanup options (Feasibility Study), and create a draft Cleanup Action Plan (CAP).

Design and performance of the cleanup work described in the CAP will occur in the future under a separate legal agreement. All future legal agreements will be issued for public review and comment.

Area community

Land use and zoning

The Site is located in downtown Sedro-Woolley in Skagit County. The property is zoned⁶ “public” and is surrounded by the “Central Business District” (see Figure 6). The site has been used as Hammer Heritage Park since 2005 and hosts community events such as the [Sedro-Woolley Farmers Market](http://sedrowoolleyfarmersmarket.com/)⁷.



Figure 5: Hammer Heritage Park, May 2019

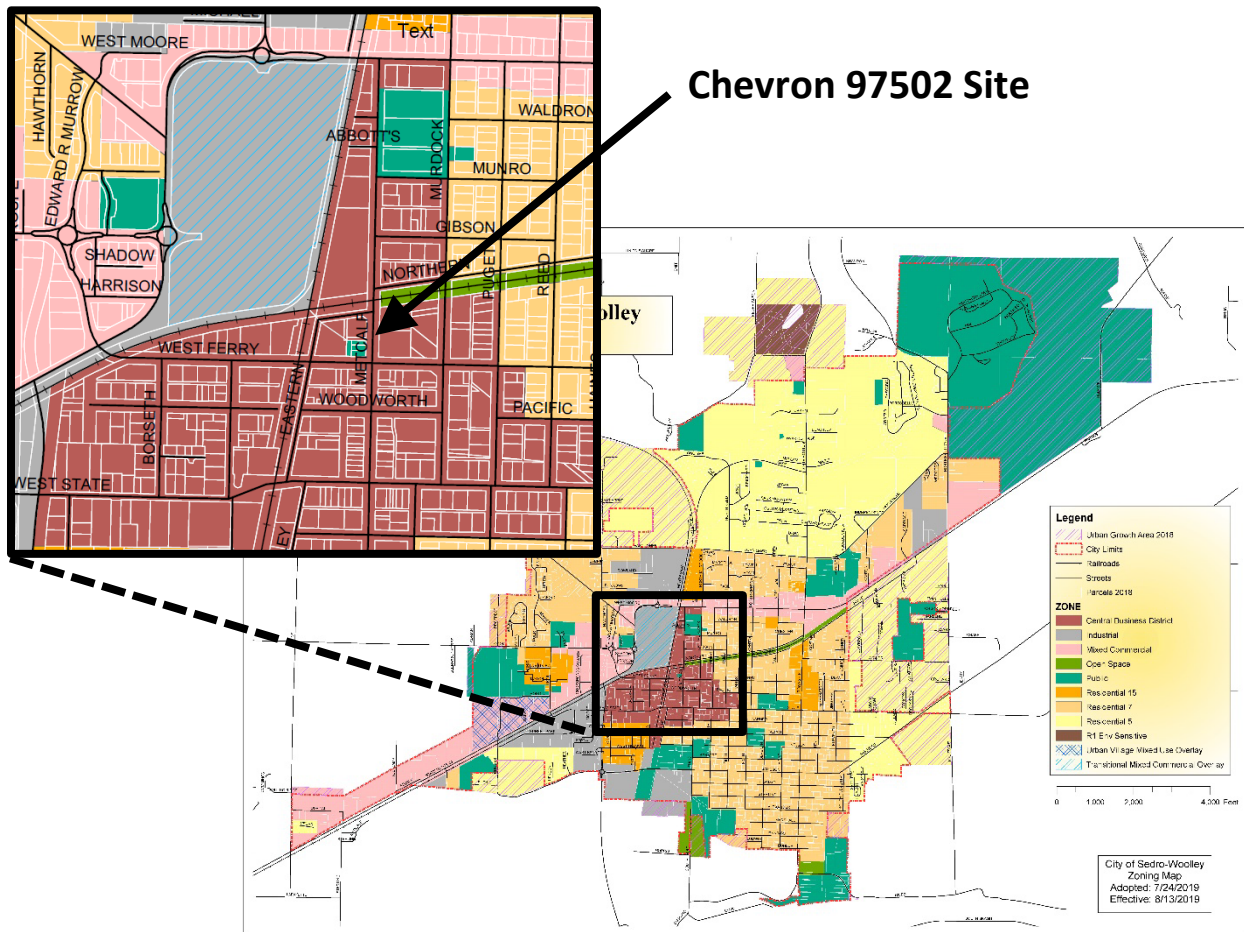


Figure 6: City of Sedro-Woolley Zoning Map

⁶ https://www.ci.sedro-woolley.wa.us/Departments/Planning/Comprehensive%20Plan/Comp_Plan_Land_Use_Map.pdf

⁷ <http://sedrowoolleyfarmersmarket.com/>

Environmental Justice, spoken languages, and community outreach

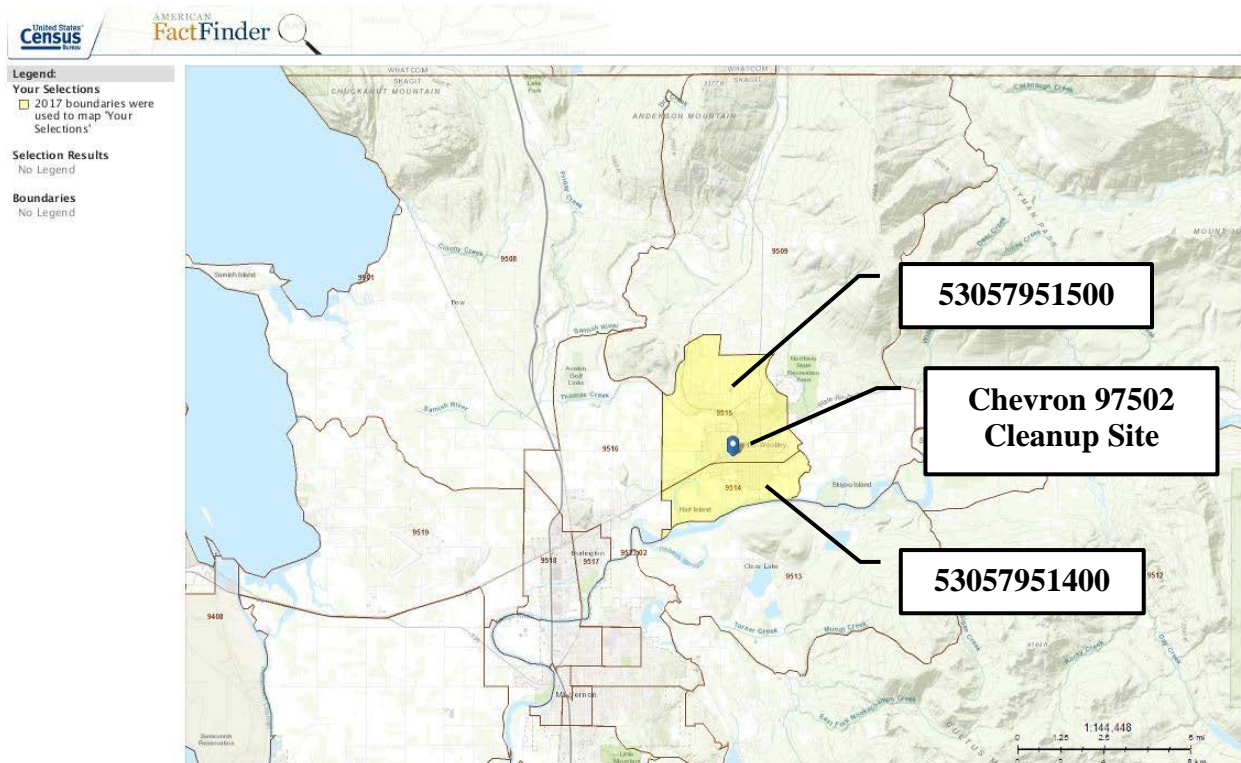


Figure 7: Map of Census Tracts 53057951500 & 53057951400 near cleanup site (US Census Bureau)

The percent of the population in Census Tract 53057951500 (Figure 8) that identifies with each racial group is as follows:

- White: 78%
- Hispanic: 16%
- Two or more races: 3%
- American Indian: 2%
- Asian: 1%

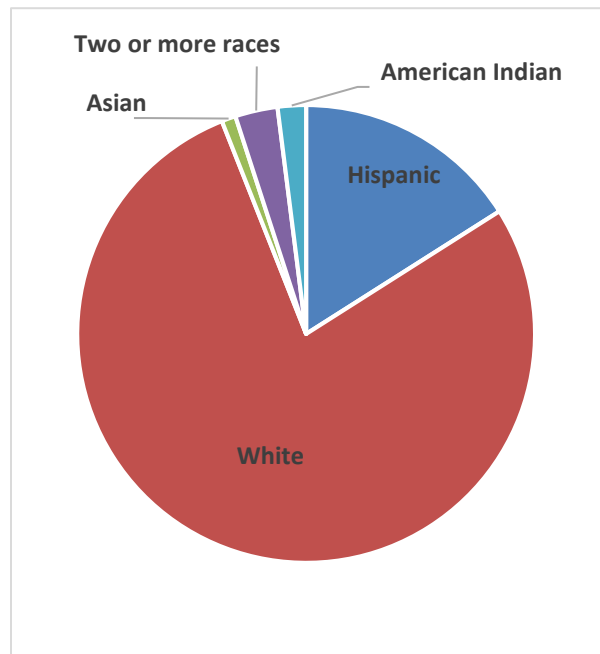


Figure 8: Census Tract 53057951500 population percentages

Site Information

The percent of the population in Census Tract 53057951400 (Figure 9) that identifies with each racial group is as follows:

- White: 82%
- Hispanic: 13%
- Two or more races: 2%
- American Indian: 1%
- Asian: 1%

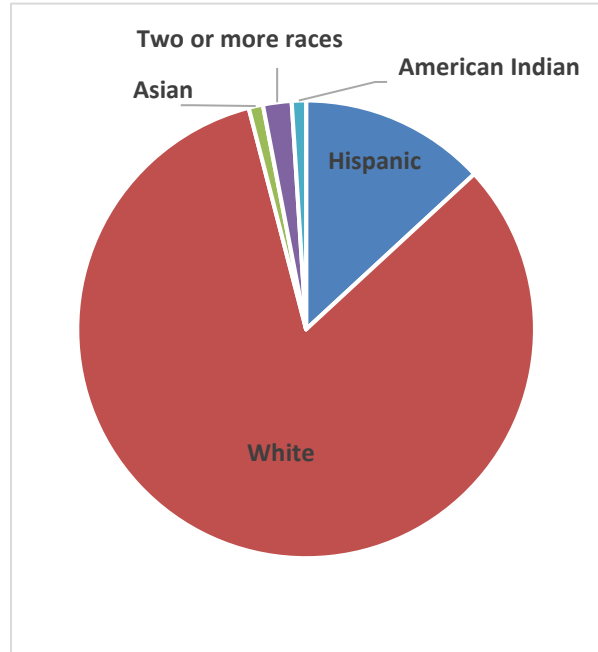


Figure 9: Census Tract 5306104020 population percentages

Demographic data above is from the [US Census Bureau's American Explore Census Data](#)⁸ and Washington State Department of Health's [Washington Tracking Network A Source for Environmental Public Health Data](#)⁹.

The [Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool](#)¹⁰ reports no significant demographic indicators above the EPA 80th percentile threshold in the area surrounding the Site.

The [United States Census Bureau's American Fact Finder](#)¹¹ census tract data reports no significant language populations speaking English less than "very well."

Ecology will reach out to cultural community organizations as part of our public involvement efforts and provide information in other languages as appropriate following federal guidance.¹² The non-English language most widely spoken in the Site area is Spanish. As a result, Fact Sheets will provide contact information for Spanish speakers to request translation services. We strive to involve the whole community in our public participation efforts and welcome your input on additional measures we can take to reach the nearby community.

⁸ <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/>

⁹ <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/wtnibl/WTNIBL/>

¹⁰ <https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/index.html?wherestr=47.505875%2C+-122.290814>

¹¹ <https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?refresh=t>

¹² Guidance to Environmental Protection Agency Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons, 69 Fed. Reg. § 35602 (June 15, 2004).

The Upper Skagit Tribe is a federally recognized tribe that relies on resources that could be affected by the contamination. Ecology will reach out to this tribe throughout the cleanup process.

Public Involvement Activities

This section describes how Ecology will share information with the community and how you can share information with us. In addition, this section provides information about state grants that are available to help the community understand and participate in the cleanup process.

How we share information with the community

During specific steps of the cleanup process, Ecology will mail notices about upcoming public comment periods to residences and businesses near the Site. The mailing list area may vary depending on the type of contamination and where it is located, but at a minimum it will include addresses within a quarter-mile radius of the Site, and other interested organizations and individuals. The notices will provide general information about the Site, contact information for submitting comments, and times and locations of public meetings or hearings, or how to request one if one is not yet scheduled.

Ecology may also develop documents outside of comment periods to keep the community updated on the Site's status. We will make these informational documents available online and, if warranted, by US mail.

Comment period notices and other Site announcements may also be posted in various locations throughout the community (for example, local businesses, schools, libraries).

Notification lists

Ecology maintains an email list and a mailing list that includes: postal addresses within a quarter-mile radius of the Site; relevant local, state, federal, and tribal government contacts; and, other interested parties.

We will use these lists to send notices when cleanup documents are available for public review and comment or for other Site communications.

If you would like to be added to the email or mailing lists for this Site, please contact Ian Fawley at 360-255-4382 or ian.fawley@ecy.wa.gov.

Site Register

Public comment periods, events, and other cleanup notices are published in Ecology's [Site Register](#).¹³ To receive the *Site Register* by email, please contact Sarah Kellington at 360-407-7466 or sarah.kellington@ecy.wa.gov.

Newspaper display ads or legal notices

We announce public comment periods and events in ads or notices published in the Skagit Valley Herald. We will also publish notice on our [Public Input & Events Listing](#).¹⁴

Ecology's website and social media platforms

We maintain a [website for the Chevron 97502](#) site.¹⁵ The website provides Site information, including current status, public comment period information and documents, and other Site documents.

We may also share information about cleanup sites through [news releases, our ECOconnect blog, and social media](#).¹⁶

Document repositories

During public comment periods when review locations are accessible, you can find print documents at the following locations:

Central Skagit Sedro-Woolley Library

802 Ball Street
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
Phone: 360-755-3985

Washington Department of Ecology

Bellingham Field Office
913 Squalicum Way, Unit 101
Bellingham, WA 98225

To schedule an appointment, please contact the Bellingham Field Office Administration Staff at 360-255-4400 or ECYDLBFOADMINSUPPORT@ecy.wa.gov.

Washington Department of Ecology

Northwest Regional Office
3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452

To schedule an appointment, please contact the Northwest Region Office Central Records staff at 425-649-7190 or nwro_public_request@ecy.wa.gov.

When locations listed above are not accessible, please contact Ecology for document review assistance: Ian Fawley at 425-324-5901 or Ian.Fawley@ecy.wa.gov.

¹³ ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Site-Register-lists-and-data

¹⁴ ecology.wa.gov/Events/Search/Listing

¹⁵ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=6368>

¹⁶ ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Get-to-know-us/News

Signs at the Site

We may also install signs displaying information about cleanup status, traffic impacts, and health risks at the Site.

How to share information with us

Interested persons may ask questions, submit informal comments, or share Site information with Ecology at any time. However, to be included in the formal Site record, comments must be submitted in writing during designated comment periods. These written comments can be submitted via:

- Ecology's online comment form
- Email or mail to the Ecology Site Manager

We may also meet with interested community members and organizations to gather information and identify public concerns. To collaborate with us about this Site, please contact Ian Fawley at 360-255-4382 or ian.fawley@ecy.wa.gov.

Public comment periods

At minimum, the MTCA requires 30-day public comment periods for cleanup documents. Ecology may hold longer public comment periods based upon the complexity of the documents, level of public interest, or other compelling factors.

For related SEPA documents, these are typically issued for public review with the cleanup documents and follow their public comment period.

Following a comment period, we publish all the input we received and respond to significant comments and questions, as appropriate. We will place our responses on [Ecology's Chevron 97502 webpage](#)¹⁷. If the comments result in significant changes to the cleanup documents, then the documents will be revised and re-issued for public review. If the comments do not result in significant changes, then they become final.

Public events

We hold in-person and online public meetings, workshops, open houses, and public hearings based on community interest. If we have not scheduled a meeting, we will hold one if we receive 10 or more written requests.

Events are held at locations close to the Site that meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards. Public meetings, workshops, open houses, and hearings are always announced in advance using a variety of methods.

¹⁷ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=6368>

Public participation grants

Qualified individuals and not-for-profit public interest organizations are eligible to apply for a Public Participation Grant (PPG) from Ecology. For contaminated sites, these funds may be used to:

- Contract with an expert to help interpret technical jargon and information.
- Conduct activities that enhance the public's understanding of, and participation in, the site cleanup process.

For more information about PPGs, please contact Lynn Gooding at 360-407-6062 or lynn.gooding@ecy.wa.gov. You may also visit Ecology's [Public Participation Grant website](#).¹⁸

Plan Amendments/Updates

Ecology will review this plan as the cleanup progresses and amend/update it as necessary.

The public involvement activities presented herein describe Ecology's current plans for keeping the public informed and for receiving information and comments from the public.

If you feel the public involvement activities described in this plan are insufficient, or need modification, please contact Ian Fawley at 360-255-4382 or ian.fawley@ecy.wa.gov.

¹⁸ ecology.wa.gov/About-us/How-we-operate/Grants-loans/Find-a-grant-or-loan/Public-participation-grants