



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

## **Response to Comments**

### **Draft Agreed Order and Draft Public Participation Plan**

**Precision Engineering Inc.  
Cleanup Site  
Seattle, WA**

*Facility Site ID: 2056  
Cleanup Site ID: 4532*

December 2020

## Publication Information

This document is available on the Department of Ecology's website at:

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=4532>

## Contact Information

### Toxics Cleanup Program

#### Northwest Regional Office

Kelsey Ketcheson

Public Involvement Coordinator

425-240-4353, [kelsey.ketcheson@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:kelsey.ketcheson@ecy.wa.gov)

Mark Adams, LHG

Site Manager

425-649-7107, [Mark.Adams@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Mark.Adams@ecy.wa.gov)

3190 160<sup>th</sup> Ave SE

Bellevue, WA 98008

Phone: 425-649-7190

**Website**<sup>1</sup>: [Washington State Department of Ecology](http://www.ecology.wa.gov)

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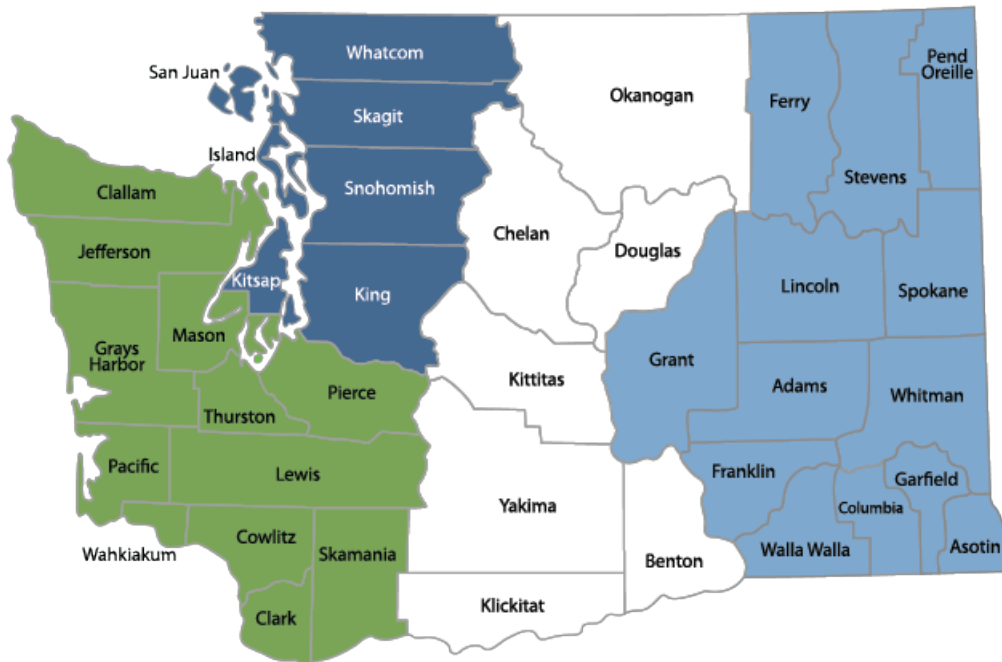
To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6831 or email at [ecyadacoordinator@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:ecyadacoordinator@ecy.wa.gov). For Washington Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341. Visit Ecology's website for more information.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.ecology.wa.gov/contact](http://www.ecology.wa.gov/contact)

# Department of Ecology's Regional Offices

## Map of Counties Served



<b>Southwest Region</b> 360-407-6300	<b>Northwest Region</b> 425-649-7000	<b>Central Region</b> 509-575-2490	<b>Eastern Region</b> 509-329-3400
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Region	Counties served	Mailing Address	Phone
<b>Southwest</b>	Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, Wahkiakum	PO Box 47775 Olympia, WA 98504	360-407-6300
<b>Northwest</b>	Island, King, Kitsap, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom	3190 160th Ave SE Bellevue, WA 98008	425-649-7000
<b>Central</b>	Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan, Yakima	1250 W Alder St Union Gap, WA 98903	509-575-2490
<b>Eastern</b>	Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman	4601 N Monroe Spokane, WA 99205	509-329-3400
<b>Headquarters</b>	Across Washington	PO Box 46700 Olympia, WA 98504	360-407-6000

# Response to Comments

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## Draft Agreed Order and Draft Public Participation Plan

### Precision Engineering Inc. Cleanup Site Seattle, WA

Toxics Cleanup Program  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
Northwest Regional Office  
Bellevue, WA

**December 2020**



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# Public Outreach Summary

The Precision Engineering Inc. cleanup site (Site), located in the South Park neighborhood of Seattle, is beginning Washington State's [formal cleanup process](#)<sup>2</sup> as directed under the Model Toxics Control Act ([MTCA](#))<sup>3</sup>. From November 9 to December 8, 2020, the Department of Ecology solicited public comments on an Agreed Order and Public Participation Plan.

The Department of Ecology's public involvement activities related to this Site's 30-day comment period included:

- **Fact Sheet:**
  - US mail distribution of a fact sheet providing information about the cleanup documents and the public comment period to approximately 2,000 people including neighboring businesses and other interested parties.
  - Email distribution of the fact sheet to approximately 200 people, including interested individuals, local/county/state/federal agencies, neighborhood associations, and interested community groups.
- **Legal Notices:**
  - Publication of one paid display ad in *The Seattle Times*, dated Thursday, November 5, 2020.
- **Site Register:**
  - Publication of 3 notices in Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Site Register:
    - Comment Period Notice: November 5, November 19, and December 3, 2020
    - Visit [Ecology's Site Register website](#)<sup>4</sup> to download PDFs.
- **Social Media:**
  - **Twitter:** Ecology – Northwest Region @ecyseattle posted a [tweet on Friday, November, 6 2020](#)<sup>5</sup> connecting readers to the comment period including the cleanup site webpage, a virtual tour, and how to submit comments.
- **Websites:**
  - Announcement of the public comment period and posting of the fact sheet and associated documents for review on [Ecology's Precision Engineering Inc. webpage](#)<sup>6</sup> and Ecology's [Public Inputs & Events webpage](#)<sup>7</sup>.
- **Document Repositories:**
  - In consideration of public health and safety, Ecology made documents available online as well as by appointment at the Northwest Regional Office.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Cleanup-process>

<sup>3</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Rules-directing-our-cleanup-work/Model-Toxics-Control-Act>

<sup>4</sup> <https://twitter.com/ecyseattle/status/1324728252624068608>

<sup>5</sup> <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=4532>

<sup>6</sup> <https://10ecology.wa.gov/Events/Search/Listing>

# Comment Summary

From November 9 to December 8, 2020, Ecology solicited public comments on a draft Agreed Order (legal agreement) and draft Public Participation Plan for the Precision Engineering Inc. cleanup site.

Ecology received 2 comments during the 30-day comment period.

Table 1: List of Commenters

	First Name	Last Name	Agency/Organization/Business	Submitted By
1	Patrick	Tippy		Individual
2	Lizette	Carrasco		Individual

## Next Steps

Ecology has reviewed and considered all public comments received on the Agreed Order and Public Participation Plan. Based on Ecology’s evaluation of the comments, no changes were necessary in the documents, and they are being finalized.

Work will now begin on the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study. See graphic below and visit Ecology’s [cleanup process webpage](#)<sup>8</sup> to learn more about Washington’s formal cleanup process.

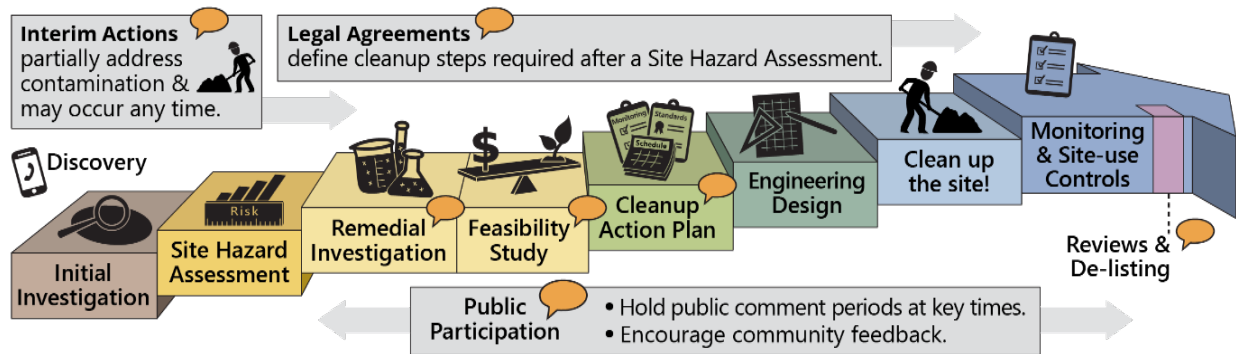


Figure 1: Washington's formal cleanup process

Ecology will schedule a public meeting during the next public comment to provide more information on future environmental investigations and answer questions about the cleanup process going forward. See graphic above for highlighted public comments periods.

<sup>8</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Cleanup-process>



Ecology will provide public meeting details during future public outreach and will notify all commenters who have provided contact information.

## Comments and Responses

The public comments are presented below, along with Ecology’s responses.

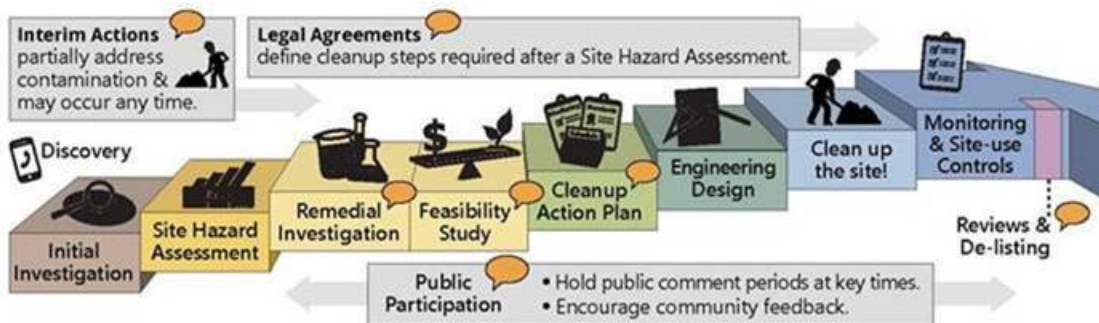
### Comment from: Patrick Tippy

*I'm interested in continuing to learn more about the proposed remediation plan, impacts to the adjacent residential uses, and runoff to the LDW.*

#### Response:

Thank you for submitting a comment. We appreciate community members showing interest in cleanup projects and are happy to share more about the process.

Below is a visualization of the cleanup process. The Precision Engineering Site is in the “Legal Agreements” phase, falling between the Site Hazard Assessment and Remedial Investigation steps.



A proposed remediation plan for the Precision Engineering Site (Site), described in the diagram above as the “Cleanup Action Plan” has not been developed yet. The recent comment period was for the legal agreement called an Agreed Order. This legal agreement requires the Potentially Liable Persons to complete a Remedial Investigation, Feasibility Study, and draft Cleanup Action Plan for the Site. After this legal agreement is finalized, more information will be gathered to determine the extent of the contamination, and different cleanup alternatives will be evaluated. Finally, a Cleanup Action Plan will be developed and then implemented under another legal agreement.

You can get more information about the cleanup process from our website:

<https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Get-to-know-us/Our-Programs/Toxics-Cleanup>

To continue learning about this project's progress and get more news on the Lower Duwamish Waterway, you can subscribe to the monthly Lower Duwamish Waterway listserv:

<http://listserv.ecology.wa.gov/scripts/wa-ECOLOGY.exe?SUBED1=DUWAMISH-RIVER-UPDATES&A=1>

We will continue reaching out for your input at different points in the cleanup process. We will hold public comment periods when drafts of the remedial investigation, feasibility study, and Cleanup Action Plan are available. Please see our Public Participation Plan for more information on how we keep the community informed. It is available on the website:

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=4532>

The Lower Duwamish Waterway is a Superfund Site, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administers the cleanup of sediments in the waterway. To learn more about the EPA's work in the LDW, you can subscribe to their listserv:

<https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=1002020>

With regard to impacts on adjacent residential properties, the investigation work completed to date has shown that soil or groundwater contaminants are not likely to reach adjacent residences. Soils at the property are covered with buildings/pavement, therefore direct contact with contaminated soil is unlikely. In addition, groundwater flows away from residential areas. The Remedial Investigation will provide more information regarding the extent of the contamination. For more information, please see the background documents on the Site's [website](#).

With regard to runoff, stormwater from the property discharges to nearby detention ponds and, eventually, to the LDW.

Despite being some distance from the LDW shoreline, the Site is part of the upland area Ecology manages for [Source Control](#). Source Control is the process of finding sources of contamination, then stopping or reducing them before they reach the LDW. The Site is within a designated source control area, which has its own [plan](#) for identifying and managing contamination. Cleaning up this Site is part of this work.

## Comment from: Lizette Carrasco

*The described Agreed Order which would require the liable parties to perform (1) Remedial Investigation, (2) Feasibility Study, and (3) draft Cleanup Action Plan sounds good. Please keep the local community informed and try to better communicate the plans in layman's terms, less legalese.*

### Response:

Thank you for reaching out. We appreciate community members showing interest in cleanup projects and are happy to share more about the process and how the public can be informed.

We appreciate your suggestion to describe the plans in more straightforward terms. The recent public comment period was specifically for an Agreed Order, which, by the nature of the document, includes legal language. After this legal agreement is finalized more information will be gathered to determine the extent of the contamination in the Remedial Investigation. Cleanup alternatives will be evaluated in the Feasibility Study and a Cleanup Action Plan will describe how the Site will be cleaned up. For each of these documents, we will hold public comment periods to ask for your input. [Please see our Public Participation Plan for more information how we keep the community informed. It is available on the website: <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=4532>](#)

To continue learning about this project's progress and get more news on the Lower Duwamish Waterway, you can subscribe to the monthly Lower Duwamish Waterway listserv: <http://listserv.ecology.wa.gov/scripts/wa-ECOLOGY.exe?SUBED1=DUWAMISH-RIVER-UPDATES&A=1>

The Lower Duwamish Waterway is a Superfund Site, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administers the cleanup of sediments in the waterway. To learn more about the EPA's work in the LDW, you can subscribe to their listserv: <https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=1002020>

You can get more information about the cleanup process from our website: <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Get-to-know-us/Our-Programs/Toxics-Cleanup>

Two Duwamish Valley organizations assist the public in understanding more about the cleanup: [The Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition](#) and [Just Health Action](#). They are great resources and very knowledgeable about the cleanup and the river.