



Response to Comments

Draft Cleanup Action Plan, Agreed Order, and State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Determination

Harris Avenue Shipyard Cleanup Site Bellingham, WA

Toxics Cleanup Program

Washington State Department of Ecology

Northwest Regional Office

Bellevue, Washington

February 2021



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<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=193>

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- Port of Bellingham, October 2019

Related Information

- Clean-up site ID: 193
- Facility site ID: 2922

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ADA Accessibility

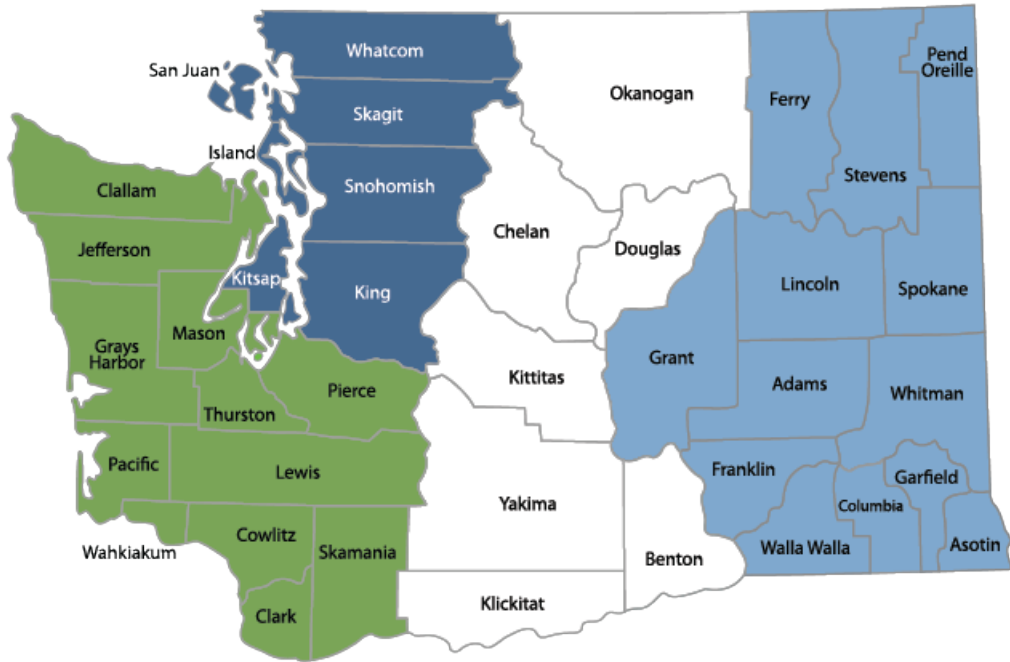
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¹ www.ecology.wa.gov/contact

Department of Ecology's Regional Offices

Map of Counties Served



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

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DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Table of Contents

- List of Figures and Tables 5**
 - Figures.....5
 - Tables.....5
- Public Outreach Summary 6**
- Comment Summary 7**
- Next Steps 8**
- Comments and Responses 8**
 - Comment from: Joel Douglas.....8
- Appendices 10**

List of Figures and Tables

Figures

Figure 1: Washington's formal cleanup process..... 8

Tables

Table 1: List of Commenters 7

Public Outreach Summary

The Harris Avenue Shipyard cleanup site (Site) located on the Bellingham waterfront in the Fairhaven neighborhood is continuing Washington State's [formal cleanup process](#)² as directed under the Model Toxics Control Act ([MTCA](#)³). The Port of Bellingham (Port) is addressing contamination at the Site under a legal agreement with Ecology.

The Department of Ecology's public involvement activities related to this Site's 45-day comment period (December 7, 2020 – January 20, 2021) included:

- **Postcard and Fact Sheet:**
 - US mail distribution of a postcard providing information about the cleanup documents, the public comment period, public meeting, and virtual tour to approximately 1,800 addresses including neighboring businesses and other interested parties.
 - Email distribution of the postcard and a fact sheet to 228 people, including interested individuals, local/county/state/federal agencies, neighborhood associations, and interested community groups.
 - The fact sheet was available digitally through Ecology's [cleanup site webpage](#)⁴.
- **Legal Notices:**
 - Publication of one paid display ad in *The Bellingham Herald*, dated Friday, December 4, 2020.
- **Site Register:**
 - Publication of 5 notices in Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Site Register:
 - Comment Period Notice:
 - December 3, 2020
 - December 17, 2020
 - December 31, 2020
 - January 14, 2021
 - Response Summary Notice:
 - February 11, 2021
 - Visit [Ecology's Site Register website](#)⁵ to download PDFs.
- **Media Notification:**
 - Ecology sent a media notice on Friday, December 4, 2020, to *The Bellingham Herald*, *Cascadia Weekly*, *Bellingham Business Journal*, Western Washington University's *The Planet*, and the [Northwest Citizen news website](#)⁶, and KGMI 790 AM.

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

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

⁴ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=193>

⁵ <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/UIPages/PublicationList.aspx?IndexTypeName=Program&NameValue=Toxics+Cleanup&DocumentTypeName=Newsletter>

⁶ <https://nwcitizen.com/>

- **Social Media:**
 - **Twitter:** Ecology – Northwest Region @ecyseattle posted a [tweet on Friday, December 4, 2020](#)⁷ connecting readers to the comment period including the cleanup site webpage, the online public meeting, a virtual tour, and how to submit comments.
- **Online Public Meeting**
 - Ecology hosted an online meeting Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Ecology and Port staff presented details on the draft Cleanup Action Plan and answered questions about the Site.
- **Virtual Tour**
 - Ecology collaborated with RE Sources, an Ecology Public Participation Grant recipient, on a [virtual tour](#)⁸ hosted on RE Sources’ website. The virtual tour featured six informational YouTube videos linked to a Google Map centered on the cleanup site.
- **Websites:**
 - Ecology announced the public comment period and public meeting, posted the fact sheet and postcard, and made the review documents available on [Ecology’s Harris Avenue Shipyard webpage](#)⁹ and Ecology’s [Public Inputs & Events webpage](#)¹⁰.
- **Document Repositories:**
 - In consideration of public health and safety, Ecology could offer only coordinated in-person review options during the 45-day comment period. Outreach materials and websites directed the public to contact Ian Fawley, Outreach Specialist, for document review assistance.

Comment Summary

From December 7, 2020 to January 20, 2021, Ecology solicited public comments on a draft Cleanup Action Plan, Agreed Order (legal agreement), and a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Determination for the Harris Avenue Shipyard cleanup site.

Ecology received 1 comment during the 45-day comment period.

Table 1: List of Commenters

	First Name	Last Name	Agency/Organization/Business	Submitted By
1	Joel	Douglas		Individual

⁷ <https://twitter.com/ecyseattle/status/1334882654005600257>

⁸ www.re-sources.org/HarrisShipyard

⁹ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=193>

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

Next Steps

Ecology has reviewed and considered the public comment received on the draft Cleanup Action Plan, Agreed Order, and SEPA Determination. Based on Ecology's evaluation of the comment, no changes were necessary in the documents, and they are being finalized.

Work will begin on the engineering design of the cleanup action (construction). See graphic below and visit Ecology's [cleanup process webpage](#)¹¹ to learn more about Washington's formal cleanup process.

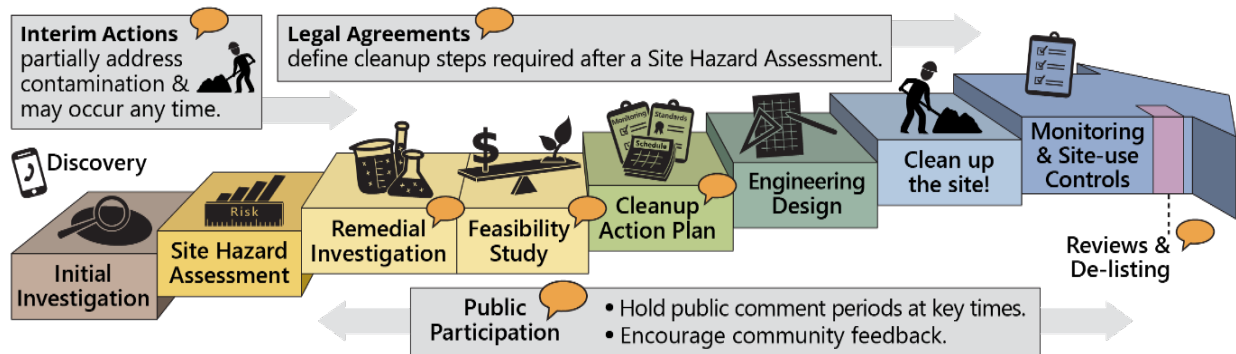


Figure 1: Washington's formal cleanup process

Implementation of the cleanup action will occur under a future separate legal agreement, which will be issued for public review and comment.

Comments and Responses

The public comments are presented below, along with Ecology's responses. Appendix A, page 10, contains the comment in its original format.

Comment from: Joel Douglas

[Email with PDF attachment to Ian Fawley, Ecology Outreach Specialist, on December 7, 2020. See Appendix A for attachment.]

From: [Joel Douglas email]

Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 10:41 AM

To: Fawley, Ian (ECY)

Subject: Harris Avenue site

Hello,

This action is a wasteful and disruptive activity- not in need of public dollars. Let it run.

¹¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Cleanup-process>

Thank you,

Joel Douglas

Response:

[Ian Fawley email response on December 8, 2020.]

From: Fawley, Ian (ECY)

Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 8:18 AM

To: [Joel Douglas email]

Subject: RE: Harris Avenue site

Hi Joel,

Thank you for your comment regarding the Harris Avenue Shipyard site. Ecology will include your comment in our public comment period records.

Best regards,

Ian

Ian Fawley

Community Outreach & Environmental Education Specialist

Washington State Department of Ecology

Bellingham Field Office | Toxics Cleanup Program

Cell: 425-324-5901 | ian.fawley@ecy.wa.gov



All of Ecology's offices are closed to walk-in service until further notice. However, we are still operating.

Please contact me by calling my work cell **425-324-5901** or sending me an email at

ian.fawley@ecy.wa.gov

Appendices

Appendix A. Public comments in original format

Joel Douglas

Hello,

This action is a wasteful and disruptive activity- not in need of public dollars. Let it run.

Thank you,

Joel Douglas

Harris Avenue Shipyard Site



Toxics Cleanup Program
913 Squalicum Way, Unit 101
Bellingham, WA 98225

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE PAID
WA STATE DEPT
OF ENTERPRISE SRVCS
98501



Visit website

www.bit.ly/Ecology-HarrisAveShipyard



Submit comments

December 7, 2020 - January 20, 2021

- Online at: www.bit.ly/Ecology-HarrisAveShipyard-Comments2020
- By mail: See address to the right.



Register for an online public meeting

Visit website (above) for registration and contact Ecology (below) for dial-in options.

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

- 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.: presentation
- 7:30 p.m.: question/answer time (as needed)



View a virtual tour of the site

www.re-sources.org/HarrisShipyard



Contact Ecology

Ian.Fawley@ecy.wa.gov, 425-324-5901

Contact Ian Fawley, Outreach Specialist, with questions and for other document review options and public meeting support.

← This action is
A wasteful and disruptive
activity - not in the best of public
interest. Let it Rest.

**ECRWSS
POSTAL PATRON**

Accommodation Requests: To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility> or call Ecology at 425-324-5901. People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.