

Toxics Cleanup Program**February 2009****Site Cleanup Documents Available for Public Review and Comment**

A PUGET SOUND INITIATIVE site
Reaching the goal of a healthy, sustainable
Puget Sound.

Ecology Wants your Input!

Ecology is asking for your comments on a draft Cleanup Action Plan (DCAP) and draft Consent Decree (Decree) for the Scott Paper Mill Site (Site) on Puget Sound. The DCAP describes the recommended cleanup and restoration actions for the Site and follow-up monitoring requirements. The Decree is a legal agreement to clean up and restore the Site. The Site is one of several located on the waterfront being studied for cleanup as part of the state's Puget Sound Initiative.

The Site is generally located on the west shore of Fidalgo Bay in downtown Anacortes, WA. Within Anacortes, the Site is located at 15th Street and Q Avenue. Seafarers' Memorial Park is on the north part of the Site.

You are invited to:

- **Review** the DCAP and Decree.
- **Send** your comments in writing to Ecology. Comments will be accepted *February 25 through March 25, 2009*.
- **Attend** meetings about the cleanup.
 - An open house has been scheduled on *March 3rd, from 4:00-7:00 p.m.* This is a chance to talk one-on-one with project staff about site documents, and hear an informal presentation that will begin at 6:00 p.m.
 - Two public meeting/formal hearings have been scheduled on *March 17th at 2:00 p.m. and again at 6:30 p.m.* This is a chance to see a presentation about the cleanup, ask questions, and voice your comments to Ecology. This is a formal comment opportunity that will be recorded.

Comments Accepted

February 25 – March 25, 2009

**Submit Comments and
Technical Questions to:**

Panjini Balaraju - Site Manager
WA Department of Ecology
Toxics Cleanup Program
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
Phone: (360) 407-6161
E-mail: pbal461@ecy.wa.gov

Open House:

March 3, from 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Cannery Building
715 Seafarers Way, Anacortes,
Suite 101

Public Meeting/Public Hearing:

March 17, at 2:00 p.m. & at 6:30 p.m.
Anacortes City Council Chambers
6th Street and Q Avenue, Anacortes

DOCUMENT REVIEW LOCATIONS**Anacortes Public Library**

1220 10th Street, Anacortes, WA
Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 11 a.m.-8 p.m.,
Fri. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat.-Sun. 12-5

WA Department of Ecology**Headquarters**

300 Desmond Drive SE, Lacey, WA
By appointment only:
Contact Carol Dorn,
cesg461@ecy.wa.gov or
(360) 407-7224

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Website

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/scott_paper/scott_hp.html

Facility Site ID #: 8122259

Site Background

Commercial use of the Site began in 1890 with a lumber mill operation. In 1925, a pulp mill operation was added at the Site. In 1940, the Scott Paper Company (Scott) purchased the lumber and pulp operations. Scott discontinued operations at the lumber mill in 1955 and the pulp mill in 1978, and sold the mill properties in 1979.

The Site is currently divided into two main portions: north and south.

North Portion. Historic features on the north portion of the Site included numerous buildings, sheds, piers, tailings ponds, boilers, fuel storage tanks, a smokestack, and burners. Scott operated this portion of the Site from 1940 until 1955. The Port of Anacortes purchased this portion in 1979 and used a part of the property as a log yard from 1990 to 1993. This portion was divided into three parcels in 1998, and Sun Healthcare Systems, Inc. purchased one of these parcels.

In 1999, the Port of Anacortes and Sun Healthcare Systems, Inc. conducted an independent cleanup action on their parcel to remove a portion of its petroleum-contaminated soil and wood debris (see Ecology Fact Sheet #05-09-057). A 2-foot-thick soil cover and a soil containment wall along the shoreline were also installed.

South Portion. The main feature on the south portion of the Site was the pulp mill building, built in 1925. The pulp mill used waste from the lumber mill. Scott operated this portion from 1940 until 1978. This portion of the Site was purchased in 1979, and used for several years as a staging area for oil field equipment, boat manufacturing,

and storage. MJB Properties, Inc. purchased it in 1990.

Study Background

The Site cleanup is being planned and performed by three potentially liable parties, or PLPs including the Port of Anacortes, MJB Properties, and Kimberly-Clark Corporation (Scott merged with Kimberly-Clark in 1995). Ecology oversees the investigation and cleanup of the Site.

Results from the 2008 Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) show contamination in soil, groundwater, and marine sediments.

- Soil: Metals, petroleum hydrocarbons, carcinogenic polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (cPAHs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and dioxins/furans were found at concentrations above preliminary cleanup levels.
- Groundwater: Sporadic slight exceedances of petroleum hydrocarbons, arsenic, sulfide, bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate, ammonia, and 4-methylphenol were found.
- Marine sediments: Metals, PCBs, and wood debris were found at concentrations above preliminary cleanup levels.

More detailed information about these results, including the cleanup options that were evaluated, can be found on the website noted in the box on page 1.

Overview of the Draft Cleanup Action Plan (DCAP)

After the RI/FS was completed in 2008 and the cleanup options evaluated, the PLPs prepared a DCAP, under Ecology oversight. The DCAP:

Scott Paper Mill Site

- Identifies cleanup levels for soil, groundwater, and sediment that the cleanup will achieve. Cleanup levels are stringent, so that future land uses will not be restricted.
- Recommends cleanup actions to achieve these cleanup levels from the options identified in the RI/FS, and describes these actions.
- Presents a schedule to carry out the cleanup.
- Identifies monitoring activities to demonstrate whether the cleanup was effective.

The DCAP recommends the following cleanup actions for the Site.

Soil and Groundwater

The following actions would address upland and shoreline soil and groundwater contamination:

- Excavate and test areas with contaminated soil.
- Transport contaminated soil to approved disposal facilities.
- Backfill excavated areas with clean soil.
- Monitor groundwater for at least one year after the cleanup action is completed.
- Prepare legal agreements as necessary, called *covenants*, to restrict future development and prevent soil disturbance below the excavations where some contamination may remain.

Upland Area

On the upland portion of the Site, which is located west of the shoreline zone,

approximately 18,600 cubic yards (cy) of contaminated soil would be removed from 13 areas. The depth of removal is based on the depth of contamination. Generally, soil will be removed to depths between 6 to 15 feet. Some of this soil is clean and will be reused on-site as appropriate. Upland removal areas are shown in Figures 13 and 14 of the DCAP.

Shoreline and Marine Area

Along the entire Site shoreline zone, approximately 10,600 cy of contaminated soil would be removed from seven areas. Generally, soil will be removed to a depth of 10 feet and any clean soil will be reused as backfill. Shoreline removal areas are shown in Figures 13 through 16 of the DCAP.

Learn more about cleanup design!

The location, sizes, and depths of the excavated areas depend on several factors. The most important factor to consider is potential exposure pathways. An exposure pathway is the means by which people or animals can come into contact with contamination. Exposure to contamination can occur in several ways, such as through ingesting contaminated soil. Cleanup actions are designed to eliminate or minimize these potential exposure pathways.

The following actions would address contamination in the shallow intertidal and deeper subtidal marine areas of the bay at the Site:

- Remove contaminated surface sediment from the intertidal and subtidal areas through dredging.
- Remove wood debris, brick, and pilings from the intertidal and subtidal areas with the dredging.

- Backfill dredged areas with clean sand and gravel to soften the beach for habitat.
- Place structures offshore of the north portion of the Site to reduce, or *attenuate*, the impact of waves on the shoreline, in order to control potential future erosion. Place rock on the shoreline of the south portion of the property for this purpose.
- Excavate additional contaminated sediment and place a minimum two-foot-thick layer of clean sand, gravel, and armor stone as necessary along the shoreline in areas where contaminants were found.
- Replant damaged eelgrass bed habitat.

Approximately 30,200 cy of sediment are proposed to be removed from the marine area, to a minimum depth of 2 feet. The marine area to be excavated is shown in Figure 15 of the DCAP.

Overview of the Draft Consent Decree

The DCAP is an attachment to a formal legal document, called the Consent Decree (Decree). In the Decree, Ecology and the PLPs agree upon the cleanup actions needed to protect human health and the environment at the Site. The Decree requires the PLPs to carry out the cleanup actions that are specifically identified in the final CAP and within the schedule identified in the Decree. This cleanup schedule and an updated Public Participation Plan are also attachments to the Decree.

Natural Resource Damages Settled

The release of contaminants has resulted in natural resource injuries to the environment. To compensate for these injuries and to restore the environment, the PLPs have agreed to provide funding and undertake actions that will be used to restore, enhance and protect natural resources and compensate for lost service opportunities in and around the site. These include:

- Restoring eelgrass beds. Plant a minimum of 10,000 eelgrass shoots in a four-acre shallow subtidal area offshore of the Site.
- Restoring beach habitat. Enhance two-acres of transitional beach along the Site shoreline with a minimum of two feet of clean sand, gravel, and cobble to restore productive near shore habitat.
- Funding community groups to carry out education and restoration projects. Provide \$100,000 to the Anacortes School District to improve K-12 math, science, and engineering programs and \$100,000 to Western Washington University to support scientific research, K-12 education, and public outreach.
- Funding the Northwest Straits Foundation. Provide \$500,000 to undertake restoration projects in the Fidalgo and Padilla Bays in consultation with the Skagit Marine Resources Committee.

This settlement resolves the PLPs natural resource damages liability with the State for the Site.

Scott Paper Mill Site

Why This Cleanup Matters

Protecting and Restoring Puget Sound

Governor Chris Gregoire and the Washington State Legislature established the Puget Sound Initiative to protect and restore Puget Sound. Several baywide areas in the Sound have been identified as high-priority cleanup areas as part of this Initiative, including: Padilla and Fidalgo Bays, Port Gamble, Dumas Bay, Port Angeles, Budd Inlet, and Port Gardner Bay. This work includes cleaning up 50-60 sites within one-half mile of the Sound. One of the sites is the Scott Paper Mill Site. These cleanup actions will help to reduce pollution and restore habitat and shorelines in Puget Sound.

Other Fidalgo Bay sites include:

- Dakota Creek Site: Used for vessel moorage, bulk fuel and oil storage, and shipbuilding activities, located at 155 Q Avenue.
- Custom Plywood Mill Site: A former mill and wood-box factory, located near 35th Street and V Avenue.
- Shell Oil Tank Farm Site: A former petroleum and chemical products

storage area, located near 13th Street and Q Avenue.

- Cap Sante Marine Site: A boat yard and marina support area, located just north of the Shell Oil Tank Farm Site.

For more information about the sites in Fidalgo Bay, contact Sandra Caldwell at (360) 407-7209 or saca461@ecy.wa.gov, or go to:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/cleanup.html>.

What Happens Next?

Once the public comment period ends, Ecology will review and consider all comments that have been received. The DCAP or Decree may be modified based upon your comments. As future documents on the Site are developed, you will be notified of additional public comment periods.

For information about other Ecology public comment periods, meetings, and other events, please visit Ecology's public events calendar at: <http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/pubcalendar/calendar.asp>

The Scott Paper Mill Site is generally located at 15th Street, east of Q Avenue, on Fidalgo Bay, Anacortes, WA. (Map Source: USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Maps; Landau Associates, 10/5/06)



PO Box 47600

Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Come to the Open House, and Public Meeting/Hearing!

Talk with a project representative and hear an informal presentation at the open house, or hear a presentation, ask questions, and have your formal comments recorded at the public meeting/hearing!

An open house will be held on **3/3 from 4:00-7:00 p.m.**, at the Cannery Building, located at 715 Seafarers Way, Anacortes, Suite 101.

Two public meeting/hearings will be held on **3/17, at 2:00 p.m., and again at 6:30 p.m.**, at Anacortes City Council Chambers, located at 6th Street and Q Avenue, Anacortes, WA.



Please recycle.

Scott Paper Mill Site, Anacortes Skagit County, WA

Ecology Seeks Public Comment on Draft Cleanup and Restoration Documents

**Public Comment Period:
February 25 through March 25, 2009**

Facility Site ID #: 8122259

Help with other languages and formats?

If you need this publication in an alternate format, please call the Toxics Cleanup Program at (360) 407-7170. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call (877) 833-6341.