

Anacortes Former Water Treatment Plant Site



Decommissioned Administration Building and Filtration Basin facing north, March 2018

Comments accepted:

March 16 – April 14, 2020

Submit comments:

Online at bit.ly/Ecology-AnacortesFWTP-Comments2020

Or by mail to:

Cris Matthews, Site Manager
 WA Department of Ecology
 913 Squalicum Way, Unit 101
 Bellingham, WA 98225
 Phone: 360-255-4379
 Email: Cris.Matthews@ecy.wa.gov

Site info:

bit.ly/Ecology-AnacortesFWTP
 Facility Site ID: 79423677
 Site Cleanup ID: 13264

Document review locations:

City of Anacortes City Hall
 904 6th Street
 Anacortes, WA 98221
 Phone: 360-293-1900

Ecology-Bellingham Office
 913 Squalicum Way, Unit 101
 Bellingham, WA 98225
 By appointment, call 360-255-4400

Ecology-Bellevue Office
 3190 160th Avenue SE
 Bellevue, WA 98008-5452
 By appointment, call 360-649-7190

Environmental reports ready for public review

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) invites you to comment on two environmental reports for the Anacortes Former Water Treatment Plant (Plant) cleanup site (Site). The Site is located next to the Skagit River in Mount Vernon (see page 2) and is next to the current water treatment plant, which provides the drinking water for the City of Anacortes (City) and surrounding communities.

The reports, called a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study:

- Describe contamination found at the Site.
- Evaluate cleanup alternatives.
- Identify a preferred cleanup alternative.

Field sampling confirmed that there was no release of contaminants to surface water or groundwater. However, contamination was found in some former Plant building materials and shallow soils immediately adjacent to two former Plant structures. Contaminant levels in soils are above residential cleanup levels and must be addressed under Washington's cleanup law, the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA).

In 2017, the City conducted a Site-specific human health risk assessment that determined no adverse health effects are likely to have occurred to customers, workers, or plant visitors as a result of the contaminants at the former Plant. The City's long-term monitoring confirmed the contaminants have never been detected in any drinking water samples from the former Plant.

Online public meeting

In consideration of public health and safety, Ecology will hold an **online** public meeting to provide more information and answer questions:

Monday, March 23, 2020

4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Online meeting info: <http://bit.ly/Ecology-AnacortesFWTP>

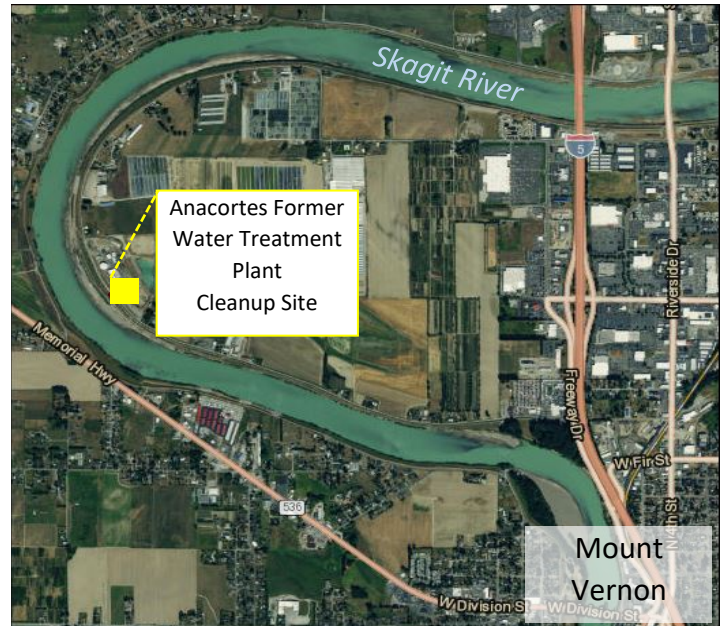
Visit Ecology's Anacortes Former Water Treatment webpage listed above and to the left for online meeting information and login details.

Site information

The Site is located at 14489 River Bend Road in Mount Vernon. The former plant was constructed on the property between 1969 and 1970 to treat water from the Skagit River prior to transfer to the City of Anacortes municipal water storage and distribution network. The Site structures were decommissioned in 2013 when the new water treatment plant (built on a different part of the same property) became active.

The Site consists of these decommissioned structures (see figure on page 3):

- **Administration Building:** a two-story building that housed a control room, laboratory, and chemical additive mixing operations.
- **Filtration Basin:** a nearly 8,000 square foot concrete basin that used anthracite, sand, and gravel for water purification.
- **Clear Well:** an approximately 12,000 square foot, multi-chambered, concrete storage space below ground and beneath the Administration Building, Filtration Basin, and Pump Room.
- **Waste Well:** a concrete structure next to the Clear Well where settled particulates were collected before pumping it to settling lagoons.
- **Sedimentation Basin:** an over 19,000 square foot concrete basin that featured gravity flow through the system into clean water overflow troughs for settled particulate collection.



Location of Anacortes Former Water Treatment Plant next to the Skagit River in Mount Vernon, WA



Decommissioned Filtration Basin

Remedial Investigation

In 2015, while conducting a demolition and hazardous materials assessment of the decommissioned Site, samples of building materials and soil were found to contain polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The Remedial Investigation and the 2015 Hazardous Materials Assessment found:

- **Groundwater and surface water:** The field sampling confirmed that there was no indication of PCBs released to groundwater or surface water.
- **Building Materials:** PCBs were found in the exterior coatings of the Sedimentation and Filtration Basins and some of the building materials of the Administration Building. This is the source of PCBs in soil at the property.
- **Soil:** PCBs were only found in shallow soils between 0 to 12 inches below ground surface on a limited portion immediately next to Site structures. PCBs were detected in shallow soils at concentrations that exceed the residential/unrestricted land use cleanup level (1 milligram per kilogram [mg/kg]) under MTCA. These shallow soils will be removed and disposed off-Site in a permitted landfill. See figures on page 3.

For more information on cleanup standards download "[Focus on: Washington's Environmental Cleanup Law](#)"¹.

¹ <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/documents/ftc94130.pdf>

Contamination source

PCBs were found in the exterior wall coatings of the Sedimentation and Filtration basins and adjacent soils (see “Soil Removal” in figure below). The thin veneer coating on the exterior of the concrete basin walls of the Sedimentation and Filtration Basins is the source of localized PCB contamination in shallow soils. PCBs in the coatings were also absorbed into the top 1- to 3- centimeters (cm) of the concrete walls, which are just over 20 cm thick. The figure to the right shows the typical PCB concentrations in the coating and adjacent concrete of Site structures.

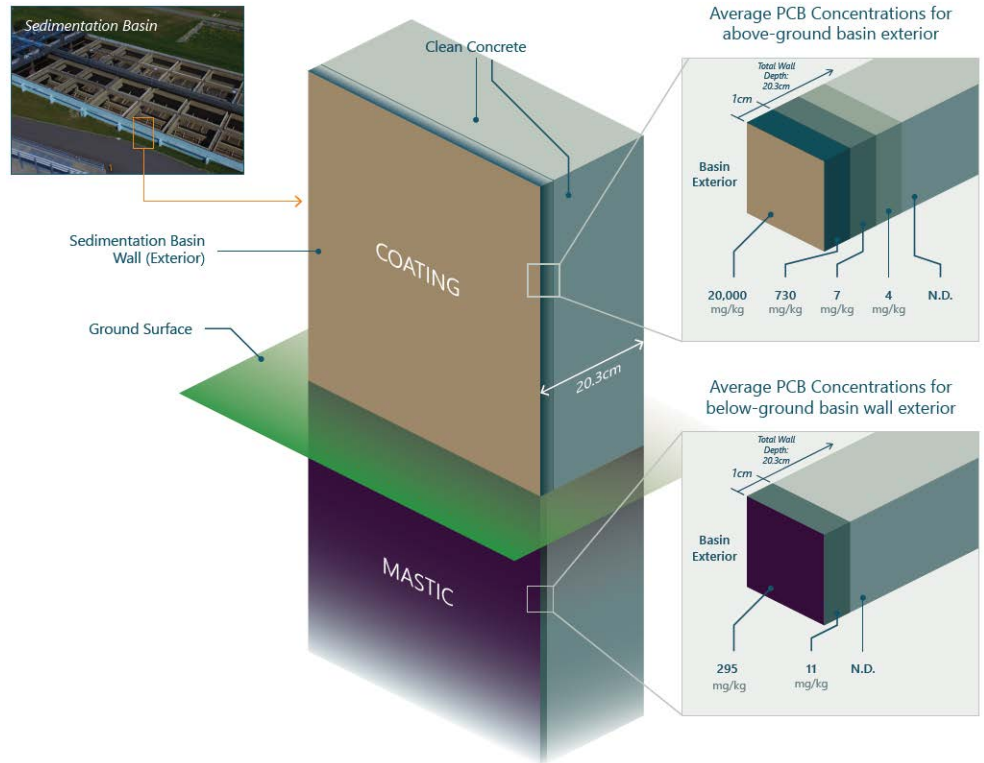


Figure displaying PCB concentrations in structure exterior walls (Acronym note: “N.D.” means “not detected.”)

No contamination was found in the Sedimentation and Filtration basin interior walls.

Feasibility Study

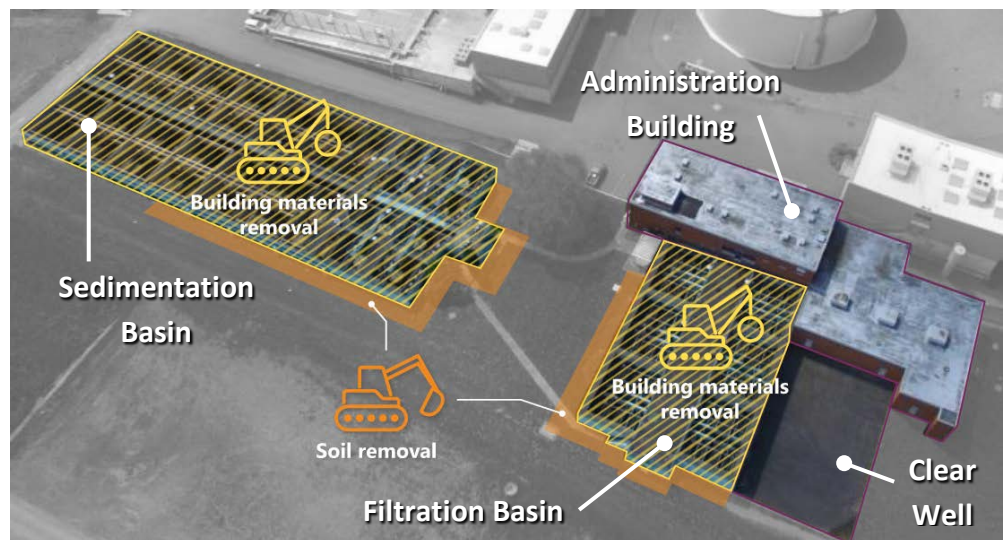
To address soil contamination found at the Site, the City prepared a Feasibility Study that evaluated two different cleanup alternatives – both meeting MTCA cleanup standards. The costs and environmental benefits of the alternatives were then compared, leading to a preferred cleanup alternative. See figure and description below.

Preferred Alternative

Removal and Off-Site Disposal:

All soils exceeding the MTCA Method A Unrestricted Land Use cleanup level² for PCBs (1 mg/kg) will be excavated and disposed off-Site in a permitted landfill. Structures that represent a source of PCB contamination to shallow soil (the Sedimentation and Filtration Basins) will be demolished and also properly disposed off-Site.

Other decommissioned Plant structures that are not sources of PCBs to soil (former Clear Well and Administration Building) will be demolished as needed to enable Site reuse.



Preferred cleanup alternative at the Anacortes Former Water Treatment Plant site

² See fact sheet for more details on cleanup standards: <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/documents/ftc94130.pdf>



City of Anacortes Safe & Clean Water website: www.safeandcleanwater.com

Drinking Water Monitoring and Risk Assessment Findings

The City conducted regular sampling of drinking water produced from the former plant beginning in 1976 and continuing throughout operation. No samples of drinking water tested for PCBs ever contained detectable concentrations of PCBs.

In 2017, the City conducted an evaluation of potential human health risks associated with contamination at the Site and determined that no adverse health effects are likely to have occurred to customers, workers, or water plant visitors as a result of PCBs at the former Plant.

For more information, to sign-up for updates, and to view the Human Health Risk Assessment go to:

www.safeandcleanwater.com

For Questions, Contact the City of Anacortes:

info@safeandcleanwater.com

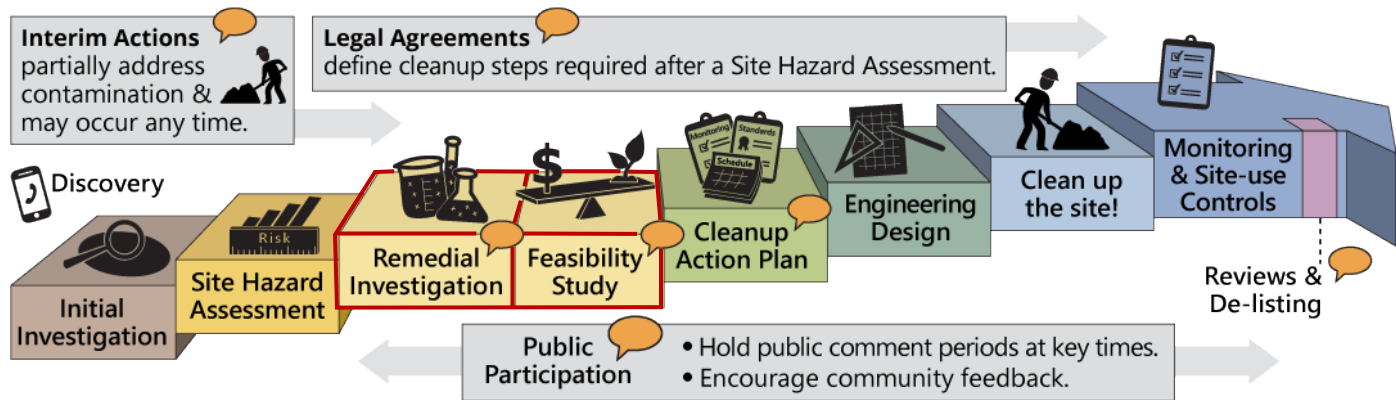
360-299-1950

Funding

The preferred cleanup alternative is estimated to cost about \$229,000 to complete. The City is eligible for reimbursement of up to half of this cost from Ecology through the state's Remedial Action Grant Program, which helps pay for the cleanup of publicly-owned sites. The Legislature funds the grant program with revenues from a tax on hazardous substances.

Ecology's cleanup process

The Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA; [Chapter 70.105D RCW³](#)) is Washington's environmental cleanup law. It provides requirements for contaminated site cleanup and sets standards that protect human health and the environment. Ecology enacts the MTCA and oversees cleanups. The [MTCA site cleanup process⁴](#) is completed in steps over a variable timeline (see graphic below with current step highlighted in red).



What Happens Next?

- **March 16 – April 14, 2020:** Hold 30-day public comment period.
- **March 23, 2020; 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.:** Hold an online public meeting.
- **2020:** Finalize Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study report. Ecology will review and consider all comments received and respond accordingly.
- **2020-2021:** Select cleanup action. Based on the information in the final Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study report, Ecology will select a cleanup action for the Site. We will issue our cleanup action plan and an associated legal agreement for public review. The legal agreement will require the City to design and implement the cleanup action.

En español

Comentarios aceptados: marzo 16 – abril 14, 2020

Someta sus comentarios en línea en bit.ly/Ecology-AnacortesFWTP-Comments2020

Si desea leer esta hoja informativa en español y aprender más acerca del proyecto:

- Obtenga una copia digital traducida en línea en: <http://bit.ly/Ecology-AnacortesFWTP>
- Visite la Alcaldía de la ciudad de Anacortes
- Atienda nuestra reunión pública:

Lunes 23 de marzo del 2020, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Reunión en línea: <http://bit.ly/Ecology-AnacortesFWTP>

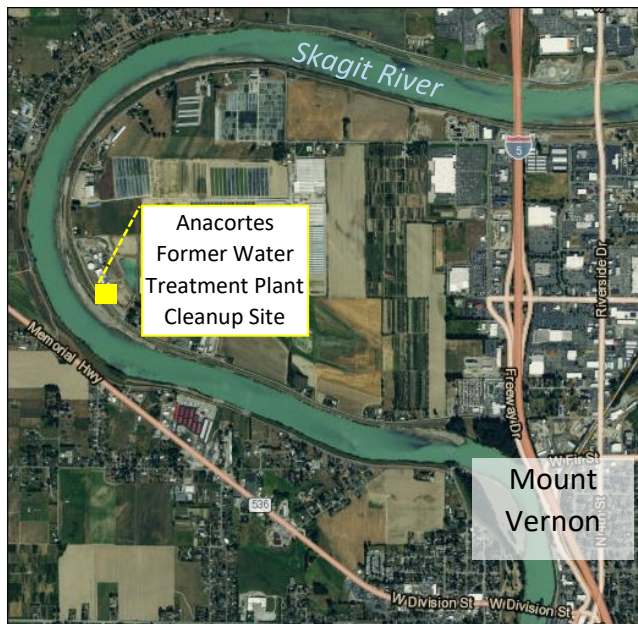
Visite la página web de la Antigua Planta de Tratamiento de Agua de Anacortes de Ecology que figura arriba para obtener información de la reunión en línea y detalles de inicio de sesión.

³ <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/publications/9406.pdf>

⁴ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Cleanup-process>

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

Anacortes Former Water Treatment Plant Site environmental report ready for review



Aerial view of cleanup site area

Public comment period

March 16 – April 14, 2020

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Online Public Meeting

March 23, 2020

4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Online meeting information and login details:

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Información en español incluida

Accommodation Requests: To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-255-4382 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.