

Everett Smelter Site

Plans for Cleanup of the Fenced Area Issued for Public Review and Comment



Public Comment on Cleanup Plans

In June 2002, the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) issued an Enforcement Order to ASARCO, Inc., requiring cleanup of the most contaminated soil within the Everett Smelter site (see page 2 for details). Specifically, soil with arsenic concentrations above 3,000 parts per million (ppm) is to be excavated and disposed of off site. This soil is within the fenced-off area just south of State Route 529 and between Hawthorne and East Marine View Drive (see Figure 1). Arsenic concentrations as high as 760,000 ppm (76%) have been reported by Asarco within the Fenced Area, mostly within the top 4 feet of the ground surface. This soil is to be removed between April 2003 and October 2004.

A public comment period was held on the Enforcement Order from June 12 to July 12, 2002. Comments received emphasized the need to continue to make progress in cleaning up the site and in the desirability of returning the fenced area to a productive use compatible with surrounding land use.

The cleanup plans for this work are now ready for public review and comment. The plans are described in the *Interim Action Report, Fenced Area Cleanup, Everett Smelter Site*. This report is available at the locations listed to the right. A public meeting will be held at 7:00PM on January 16, 2003, in the Jackson Conference Room at the Everett Community College, Everett (see box for details). There will be an open house from 6:30 to 7:00PM.

In addition to the cleanup plan, the following documents are available for your review and comment at this time:

- Amendment to the Enforcement Order and
- Amendment and State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Addendum to the Everett Smelter Site Integrated Final Cleanup Action Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Upland Area (FCAP/FEIS).

Site Background

This approximately 600-acre site is located in northeast Everett, Snohomish County, Washington, and is contaminated by arsenic, lead, and other metals. The contamination was caused by emissions from the Everett Smelter between 1894 and 1912, and by material left behind when the smelter was demolished between 1912 and 1915. Asarco purchased the Everett Smelter in 1904 and assumed operations at that time. The property was sold in various parcels between 1915 and 1936, and homes were built on many of the parcels.

Studies and interim cleanup activities were performed at the site from 1990 to 1999. A final cleanup action plan for the residential and commercial portion of the site, called the upland area, was issued in November 1999. The lowland portion of the site, adjacent to the Snohomish River, is still in the study phase.

December 2002

Comment Period:

12/30/02 – 1/28/03

Public Meeting:

January 16, 2003
Jackson Conference Room*
Jackson Hall
Everett Community College
2000 Tower Street, Everett
Open House at 6:30PM
Meeting Begins at 7:00PM

*Pick up a free parking permit at the Security Office in the Parks Building

Send Comments to:

David L. South, Site Manager
WA Department of Ecology
3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue WA 98008
(425) 649-7200
dsou461@ecy.wa.gov

Documents can be reviewed at the following locations:

Everett Public Library
2702 Hoyt Avenue, Everett
(425) 257-8000

ASARCO Everett Information Center
545 Hawthorne Street, Everett
Call for hours: (425) 259-0822

WA Department of Ecology
3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue WA 98008
Call Sally Perkins for an appointment
Phone: (425) 649-7190

Ecology's web site:
[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/
programs/tcp/sites/sites.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/sites.html)

For special accommodation needs or language translation assistance, call Rebekah Padgett at (425) 649-7257 (Voice) or 711 or (800) 833-8973 (TTY). Ecology is an equal opportunity agency.

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In 1998, Asarco filed suit against Ecology challenging the constitutionality of most of its liability for the site. A superior court decision upheld Asarco's liability for some parts of the site and rejected it for others. Both Ecology and Asarco appealed to the Washington State Supreme Court. The State Supreme Court sent Asarco's suit back to Superior court for further proceedings. Ecology and Asarco have agreed to stay further proceedings until October 30, 2004, while Asarco and Ecology work together to address cleanup of the Fenced Area.

In April 1999, Ecology ordered Asarco to clean up the 80 most contaminated residential properties. Asarco refused to comply with this order and in May 1999, Ecology began cleanup of residential properties. Forty-seven residential properties have been cleaned up to date, including the 2002 cleanup which currently is being completed. Another 10 properties have been sampled. Further home cleanup in the 2003-2005 State budget cycle depends upon appropriations from the legislature. Ecology does not currently anticipate funds will be available to continue cleanup in the 2003-2005 budget cycle.

Cleanup Plans

The Enforcement Order issued in June 2002 required Asarco to remove all material within the Fenced Area with arsenic concentrations exceeding 3,000 ppm. The Order also required Asarco to secure the site so that a consolidation facility could be constructed in the future. The consolidation facility is one of the cleanup actions selected for the site in 1999. The consolidation facility is essentially a landfill in which less contaminated soil from cleanup actions outside the Fenced Area was to be placed for final disposal. The facility was to be designed to ensure containment of the contaminated soil. Under Asarco's proposal for complying with the Enforcement Order (see below), the consolidation facility would not be constructed.

Ecology amended the Order to require that all material (soil, smelter debris, etc.) associated with the former Everett Smelter with arsenic concentrations exceeding 3,000 ppm be removed, both inside and outside of the Fenced Area. This will address soil which is known to extend beyond the Fenced Area under East Marine View Drive, as well as any other such soil identified by sampling conducted during the cleanup action.

Asarco has proposed to Ecology that it will remove the soil with arsenic concentrations exceeding 3,000 ppm, and conduct a final cleanup for this, the most contaminated area of the Everett Smelter site, by also removing material with arsenic concentrations between

150 and 3,000 ppm. The site will be regraded and a minimum of 2 feet of clean fill will be placed on top of the site. This action will clean up the fenced area to the arsenic levels for residential use required by the FCAP/FEIS. At the completion of the cleanup, the site will be a sloped grass field suitable for residential development. The field will match the current land elevations on the west, south, and east sides and slope downward to the northeast. Overall grades may be lowered by about 3 to 5 feet.

Under Asarco's approach, no consolidation facility will be constructed and no contaminated soil will be brought in from other parts of the site. No change from the current R-2 zoning (single-family medium density) is proposed as part of cleanup actions. Land use changes for site redevelopment activities proposed after remediation will be the subject of all required environmental and other review processes. Asarco anticipates selling the land to a developer.

An Amendment and SEPA Addendum to the FCAP/FEIS has been prepared which indicates the changes to the FCAP/FEIS requirements for this work.

Asarco also has proposed cleaning up properties within part of the area Asarco formerly owned which is outside the Fenced Area (see Figure 2). Asarco owns some, but not all of the properties in this area. This work will be done in accordance with the requirements of the FCAP/FEIS. This work is not required by the current Enforcement Order and Asarco may or may not complete this work, although the company has proposed completing it along with the Fenced Area cleanup.

Note that the Enforcement Order issued by Ecology requires only that the material exceeding 3,000 ppm arsenic be removed from the site. If, for any reason, Asarco chooses not to proceed with full implementation of the plans as described in the Interim Action Report, the company still will be required to remove the material with arsenic in excess of 3,000 ppm between April 30, 2003, and October 30, 2004. In this event, the site would be secured for further cleanup actions.

Public Comment Period

Ecology is holding a public comment period from December 30, 2002, to January 28, 2003. During this time you are invited to comment on the cleanup plans, amendment and SEPA addendum to the FCAP/FEIS, and amendment to the Enforcement Order. These documents are available for review at the information repositories listed on the first page of this fact sheet.



3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452

Other pertinent site documents also are at these information repositories.

A public meeting will be held in the Jackson Conference Room at the Everett Community College, Everett (see box on Page 1 for details) on January 16, 2003, to discuss the planned cleanup. The meeting room will open at 6:30 p.m. Exhibits will be posted which describe the planned cleanup actions. At 7:00 p.m. Ecology will make a brief presentation, after which Ecology and Asarco staff will take your questions and listen to your comments.

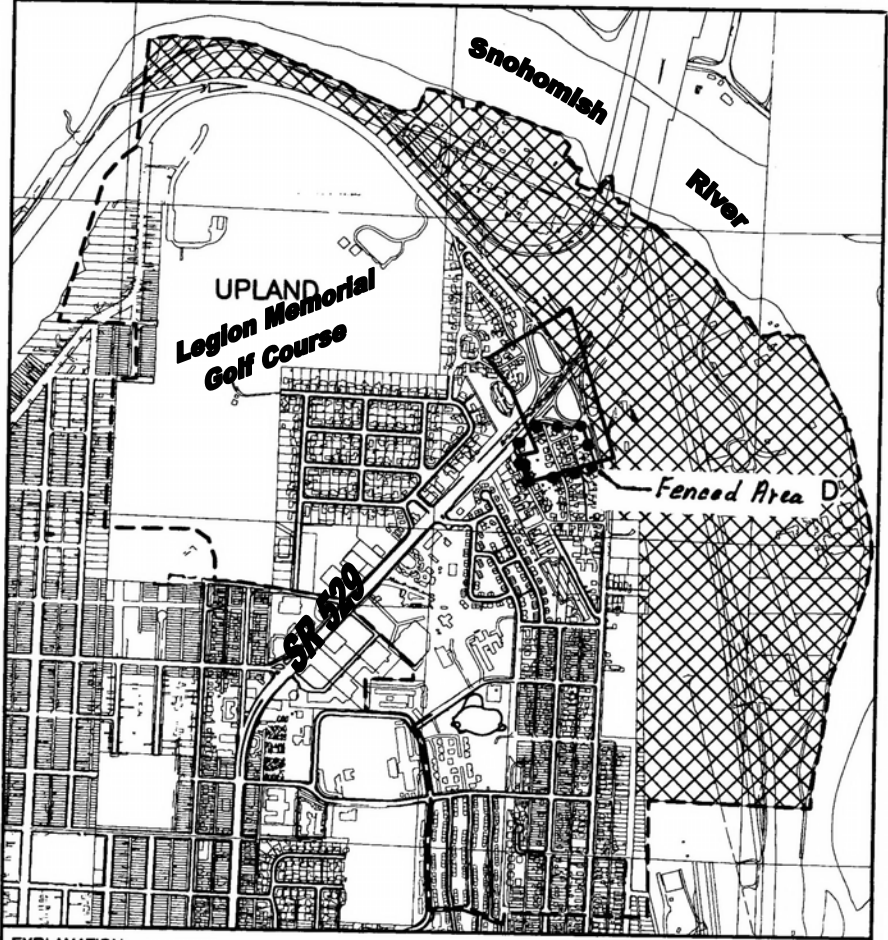
Ecology Would Like Your Input!

You have an opportunity to review and to comment on the cleanup plans, amendment and SEPA addendum to the FCAP/FEIS, and amendment to the Enforcement Order. Please send your comments before January 28, 2003, to David L. South, Site Manager, at the address in the box (this page). Comments may be sent by regular mail, e-mail, or voice mail.

Please mark "Everett Smelter Comment" on the envelope or in the subject line of your e-mail.

For More Information:

David L. South, Ecology Site Manager
Department of Ecology
3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98008
(425) 649-7200
dsou461@ecy.wa.gov



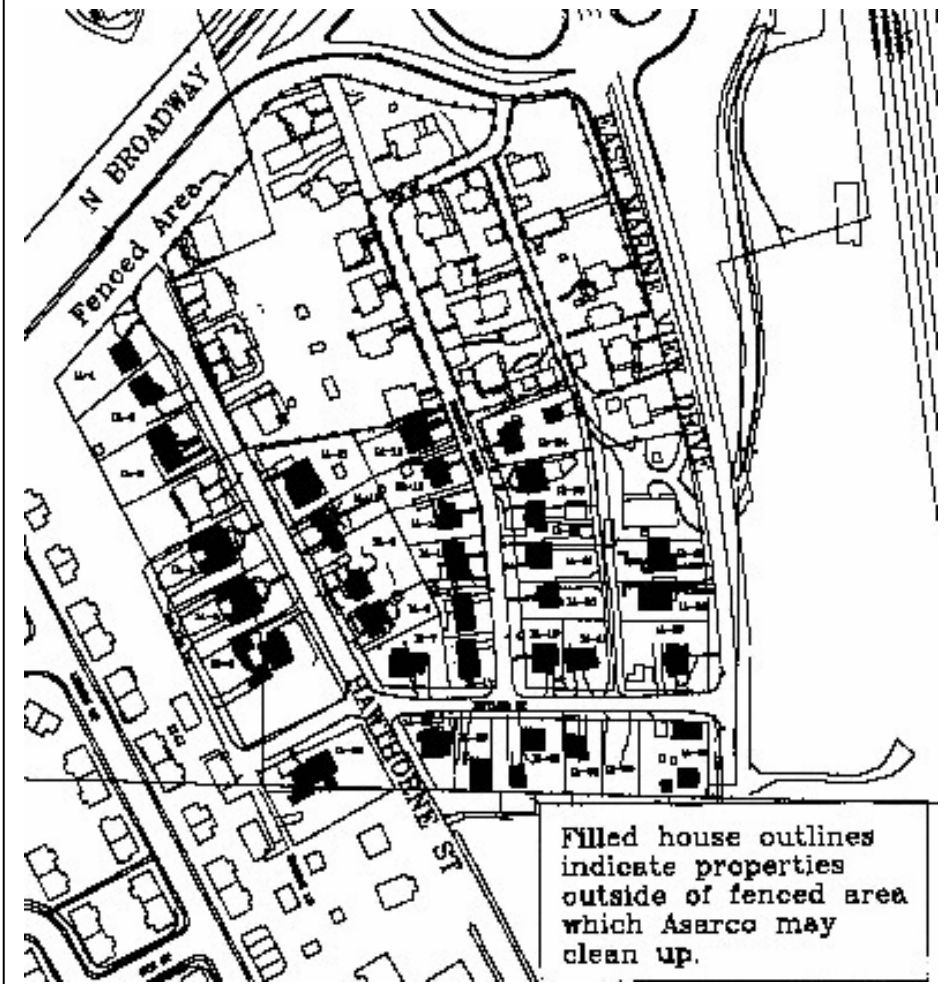
EXPLANATION:

- COMMUNITY PROTECTION MEASURES AREA
- FORMER ARSENIC TRIOXIDE PROCESSING AREA
- HISTORIC SMELTER PLANT BOUNDARY

NOTE:
1. THE PERIPHERAL AREA IS THAT PART OF UPLAND AREA OUTSIDE OF THE FORMER ARSENIC TRIOXIDE PROCESSING AREA.

SCALE
1200 0 1200 FEET

Figure 1: The Everett Smelter Site, showing the fenced area.



Filled house outlines indicate properties outside of fenced area which Asarco may clean up.

Figure 2: Detail showing the fenced area and properties outside of the fenced area which Asarco may clean up.