

FORMER DUPONT WORKS



Consent Decree for Cleanup Proposed

The Washington Department of Ecology proposes, under terms of the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA, Chapter 70.105D RCW), a consent decree with the Weyerhaeuser Company and E.I. DuPont de Nemours Company to clean up lead- and arsenic-contaminated soil and groundwater at the former DuPont Works. A consent decree is a legal document, approved and issued by a court, formalizing an agreement between Ecology and potentially liable persons (PLP's). This agreement ensures that proposed activities are conducted in a timely fashion, in accordance with MTCA and other applicable laws and regulations. As part of the consent decree, a draft cleanup action plan has been prepared, describing the site cleanup alternatives. This is the second consent decree for this site.

Your comments on the proposed consent decree, cleanup action plan (as an exhibit of the consent decree), and remedial investigation/risk assessment/feasibility study (RI/RA/FS) are welcome through **April 23, 2003**. There will be two opportunities to meet with officials working on the DuPont site. The first is an informational workshop on **February 12, 2003** for those less familiar with the cleanup and its history. The public is also invited to a meeting on **March 12, 2003** to discuss the proposal, ask questions, and offer comments or

concerns. The meeting will be limited to issues covered by this consent decree, cleanup action plan, and RI/RA/FS only. The box to the right provides information about where to review the documents, where to submit comments, and details about the public events.

Site Background

The former DuPont Works, 2301 Center Drive, was an explosives manufacturing plant from 1906 until the mid-1970s. The land was originally used by Native Americans. In the 1830s, Europeans settled in the area and built Fort Nisqually, which was located in the northern portion of the site. The historical Village of DuPont was a company town for plant workers. Weyerhaeuser bought the property and adjacent areas from DuPont Company in the 1970s. Fort Lewis is located north, east, and south of the property. A Burlington Northern Santa Fe right-of-way and Puget Sound are west of the property. Contamination resulted from the manufacturing process, waste disposal, and decommissioning of the site buildings.

Soil contamination was first documented and reported to Ecology in 1986, following voluntary sampling and analysis by Weyerhaeuser. In July 1991, Ecology, Weyerhaeuser, and DuPont Companies

January 2003

FACT SHEET

Ecology Southwest Regional Office
Toxics Cleanup Program
300 Desmond Drive SE
P.O. Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775
(360) 407-6300 (voice)
(360) 407-6306 (TDD)
e-mail mblu461@ecy.wa.gov

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON CONSENT DECREE, CLEANUP ACTION PLAN, RI/RA/FS:

January 22, 2003 to April 23, 2003

Comments and requests for updates should be directed to Mike Blum, Site Manager, at the Ecology address listed above or at (360) 407-6262.

INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP

February 12, 2003, 7 - 9 p.m.
DuPont City Hall
303 Barksdale Avenue
(253) 964-8121

PUBLIC HEARING:

March 12, 2003, 7 - 9 p.m.
same location as above

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

The draft documents can be reviewed at the following locations:

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/weyer/weyerhaeuser.htm

Ecology Southwest Regional Office
address listed above

Lakewood Library
6300 Wildaire Road SW
Lakewood, WA 98499-1321
(253) 582-6040

Printed on Recycled Paper

Continued on Page 2

If you have special accommodation needs, please call (360) 407-6300 or (360) 407-6306 (TDD).

signed a consent decree to conduct a remedial investigation/risk assessment/feasibility study (RI/RA/FS). The remedial investigation determines the nature, extent, and magnitude of site contamination. The risk assessment measures the threats to human health and the environment. The feasibility study evaluates site cleanup alternatives. The site was divided into two main areas: Parcel 1 (the former production area, about 636 acres) and Parcel 2 (about 205 acres).

After numerous interim cleanup actions, Parcel 2 (the black powder area or Area 40) was cleaned up to industrial standards. It was removed from the 1991 consent decree in August 1997, after an opportunity for public review and comment. Lead- and arsenic-contaminated soil was removed around former building foundations and at one location along a former narrow gauge railroad corridor in Parcel 2.

A draft environmental impact statement (EIS) was issued for public review and comment in February 2000 for a golf course/containment facility in Parcel 1 which would isolate and manage lead- and arsenic-contaminated soil. The golf course will be built over the cap/containment structure. The final EIS was issued in July 2000.

The main contaminants of concern are lead and arsenic in soil. Lead was detected site-wide. Arsenic contamination is generally shallow (less than one foot deep) within 25 feet of the former narrow gauge railroad track, but is also in other discrete areas (dry wells, production-related foundations, disposal areas). Other hazardous substances discovered are total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH), mercury, di- and trinitrotoluenes (DNT/TNT), and benzo(a)pyrene. DNT is the only chemical of concern in groundwater and

concentrations are generally low, often below drinking water standards.

Sequalitchew Creek and Old Fort Lake are within site boundaries, and have not been impacted by site activities. Sequalitchew Creek originates in Sequalitchew Lake (east of the site) and discharges into Puget Sound. Old Fort Lake is fed by groundwater (water underground), and has no inlet or outlet. No contamination was found in sediment samples.

What Is Being Done?

After many years of extensive environmental study and interim cleanup actions, Ecology, Weyerhaeuser and DuPont Companies have agreed on a cleanup for the former explosives plant. The proposed consent decree, including the cleanup action plan, requires Weyerhaeuser and DuPont Companies to take the following actions:

- ▶ excavate contaminated soil;
- ▶ preserve, if possible, any cultural or archeological artifacts discovered during excavation;
- ▶ consolidate lower level-contaminated soil within approximately 90 acres of the planned golf course area;
- ▶ cover the contaminated soil with 18 inches of clean soil;
- ▶ build a 180-acre golf course as an engineered cover (cap) for contaminated soil and (if necessary) debris;
- ▶ dispose of higher level-contaminated soil at a hazardous waste landfill;
- ▶ monitor groundwater in at least five locations until DNT concentrations below drinking water standards are met in four consecutive sampling rounds;
- ▶ place deed restrictions to limit site use to primarily commercial purposes which will not disturb the cap/cover system and to control groundwater so it will not be used for drinking water.

The cleanup regulation also requires Ecology to review site conditions every five years to make sure that human health and the environment are being protected. Ecology will oversee the project to ensure that all terms of the consent decree are satisfied.

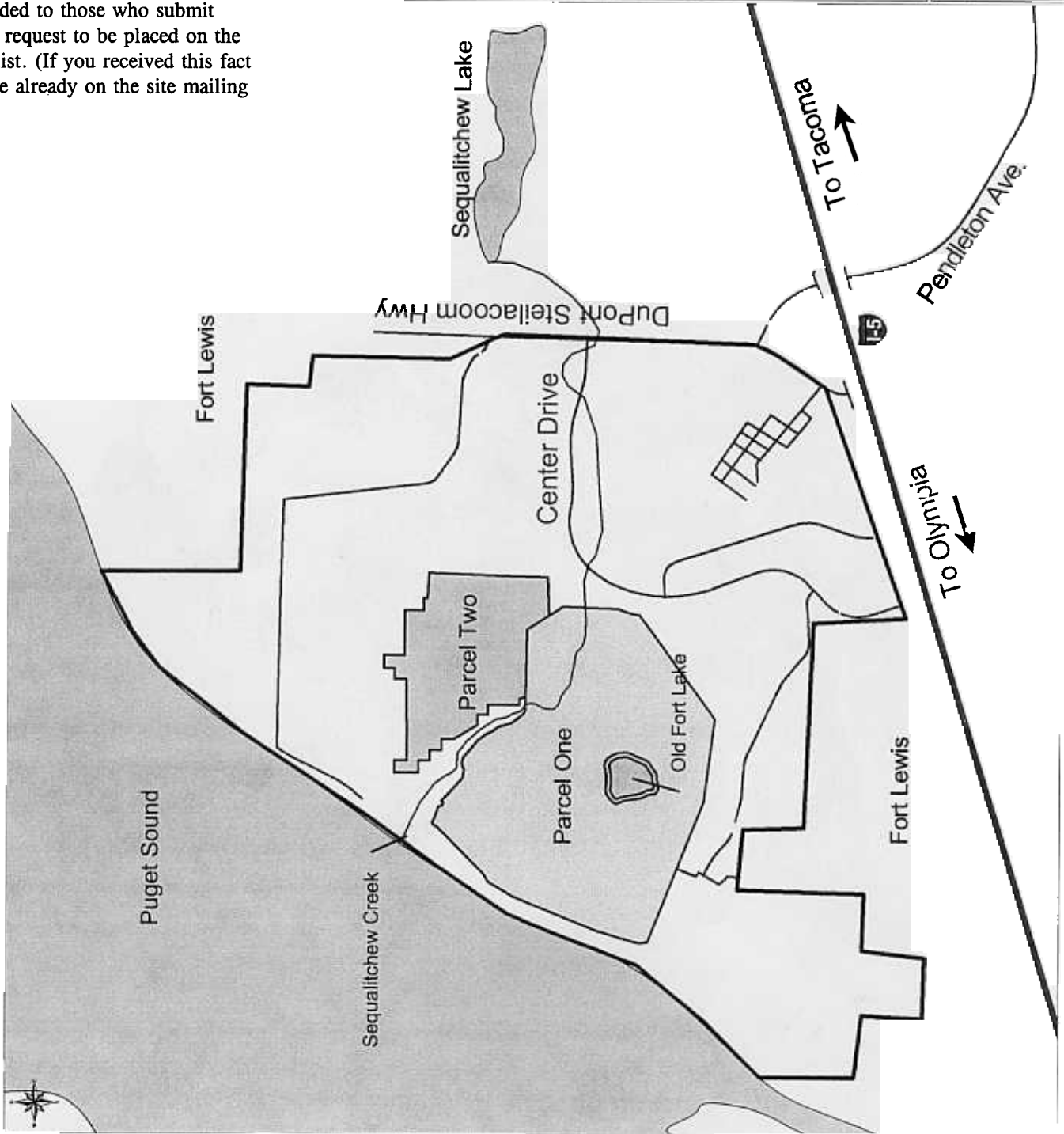
What Happens Next?

Public comment on the RI/RA/FS, cleanup action plan, and proposed consent decree for cleanup will be considered and the consent decree will be modified, if necessary. The decree will be finalized by being entered in court and final cleanup work will begin. The work for the cleanup action should be completed by 2006. Further formal public comment opportunities will occur after the cleanup is completed.

Ecology Wants Your Comments!

You may review and comment on the proposed consent decree, cleanup action plan, and RI/RA/FS through **April 23, 2003**. The public comment period presents a chance to have your ideas and comments heard by Ecology. An informational workshop is being held on **February 12, 2003** for those less familiar with the site cleanup. There is also a public meeting on **March 12, 2003**. This will be an opportunity to learn about the site and proposed consent decree, and to state your comments or concerns. The box on page one provides details about where the documents can be found and how to submit comments. To review more detailed site documents than those in the information repositories, call Ecology's Southwest Regional Office records center at (360) 407-6365 to schedule an appointment.

Please submit your comments to Mike Blum, Site Manager, at the Ecology address listed in the box on page one. Ecology will review and respond to all comments received, and may revise the consent decree. Updates of site activities will be provided to those who submit comments or request to be placed on the site mailing list. (If you received this fact sheet, you are already on the site mailing list.)



Notes

Figure is not to scale

Former DuPont Works Site
Vicinity Map