
Alcoa Vancouver Consent Decree Monitoring Plan Amendments



Amendment of Two Consent Decrees to Consolidate the Groundwater Monitoring at Two Alcoa Vancouver Cleanup Sites

The Department of Ecology has proposed, under terms of the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA, Chapter 70.105D RCW), Amendments to groundwater monitoring sections in two existing Consent Decrees for two Alcoa Vancouver cleanup sites. The cleanup sites are situated adjacent to Alcoa's former aluminum smelter located on Lower River Road, near Vancouver, Washington. This fact sheet has been prepared to inform you about the proposed changes in the existing monitoring plans.

Your comments on the proposed Amendments are welcome through August 22, 2003. Comments can be submitted in writing at any time during the comment period. The box at the right provides information about where to find a copy of the Draft Amendments.

Site Background

The smelter complex was owned and operated by Alcoa from the late 1940's to 1986. From the early 1950's to the mid 1980's the facility contained an aluminum smelter and a series of fabrication plants to form aluminum metal into finished goods such as wire, rod, and extruded channel used in window frames. In 1987 Alcoa sold the smelter to VANALCO, retaining title to the manufacturing section of the property. In 2000 VANALCO closed the smelter and in 2002 sold the smelter to the Evergreen Aluminum Company. Since 1987 Alcoa has been closing and selling portions of the remaining manufacturing facility which it owns.

There are currently five cleanup sites located at the Evergreen Aluminum (VANALCO) smelter complex. All five of the sites are located on the eastern side of the Evergreen Aluminum smelter complex approximately three miles from downtown Vancouver, Washington. The proposed Amendments

change the ground water monitoring plans at two of the five sites, the Alcoa Vancouver Spent Potliner NPL Site and the Rod Mill Site. Three additional Alcoa Aluminum cleanup sites exist at the smelter complex: the East Landfill Site (aka TCE Landfill Site), North Landfill Site, and the North 2 Landfill Site. These three landfill sites are being cleaned up under a separate draft Consent Decree. Alcoa has submitted a monitoring plan that will cover the monitoring at all five sites. The Amendments will end monitoring at the Rod Mill Site and change the frequency of groundwater monitoring at the Alcoa Vancouver Spent Potliner NPL Site.

Studies conducted on the smelter property have found cyanide, fluoride, trichloroethylene (TCE) and trichloroethylene degradation products in groundwater at one or more of the sites and cyanide, fluoride, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), trichloroethylene (TCE), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) and total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) in soils at one or more of the sites. Ground water monitoring is required because levels of some of these contaminants in both groundwater and soil are above MTCA Method A & B standards. Two of the sites, the Alcoa Vancouver Spent Potliner NPL Site and the Rod Mill Extrusion Site have been cleaned up and are undergoing post clean-up groundwater monitoring.

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July 2003

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

July 24, 2003 to August 22, 2003

SEND WRITTEN COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO:

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INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

**Copies of the Draft
Amendment are available at
the following locations:**

Industrial Section
Department of Ecology
300 Desmond Drive
Lacey, WA

Fort Vancouver Regional Library
1007 East Mill Plain Boulevard
Vancouver, Washington
(360) 695-1566

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Groundwater monitoring has been taking place at the two sites for more than twelve years.

What Is Being Done?

The work will be done in two stages. The first stage is the amendment of the existing Consent Decree groundwater monitoring sections. The second stage is the completion of the East Landfill cleanup Consent Decree groundwater monitoring program.

The principle elements of the proposed consolidated groundwater monitoring plan found in the Amendments and draft East Landfill Cleanup Plan are:

- ◆ **Monitoring Well Abandonment.** Seventy five monitoring wells on the five sites will be abandoned. Forty-seven of the wells do not meet the current standards for monitoring networks or the well construction data is unknown. Twenty-eight of the wells will be abandoned even though they meet regulatory guidance for well construction, but are redundant in the new monitoring network.
- ◆ **New Network.** A new network will be established for the five sites on the Alcoa property. The new monitoring network will consist of 41 monitoring wells. Twenty-two of the forty-one wells will be new well installations.
- ◆ **Monitoring Well Sampling and Analysis.** Each of the new wells will be sampled using low flow techniques. The new network will continue to monitor the groundwater trends at each site. The frequency of monitoring will be decreased to annually where there is an established long term trend. The chemicals of concern at each site will remain the same.

The Consent Decree Amendments will cause abandonment of 11 wells at the Rod Mill Site and 47 wells at the Alcoa Vancouver Spent Potliner NPL Site. No new wells will be installed at the Rod Mill Site and the groundwater monitoring will cease. At the Alcoa Vancouver Spent Potliner NPL Site ten new wells will be installed. The new Alcoa Vancouver Spent Potliner NPL site groundwater monitoring

network will consist of nineteen wells: ten new wells and nine existing wells.

When Will The Work Take Place?

The removal of the existing network and the installation of new monitoring wells will take place within twelve months of filing of the Consent Decree Amendments. The work will be finished by the fall of 2004.

Ecology and Alcoa Wants Your Comments.

The public is invited to review and comment on the proposed Consent Decree Amendments for the Alcoa Vancouver Cleanup Sites through August 22, 2003. The 30 day public comment period presents an opportunity to have your ideas and comments heard by Ecology. Information repositories have been set up at the locations listed in the box on page one. To review more detailed documents than those in the information repositories, contact Paul Skyllingstad at (360) 407-6949.

A public hearing will be held if the Department determines that there is significant public interest. Any interested person may request a public hearing with respect to the monitoring well consolidation project. The request for a hearing must be filed in writing and must indicate the reasons why such a hearing is warranted. If the Department determines there is significant public interest, a hearing will be scheduled and the public notified of the hearing. Please submit your written comments to Paul Skyllingstad, Site Manager, at the Ecology address given on page one. Ecology will review written comments received and revise the amendments if necessary or schedule a public hearing.