

B & L Woodwaste, Milton WA

Amended Order to Complete the Contingency Plan



Why We Are Contacting You

Ecology is accepting public comments on the Proposed 2005 Contingency Plan for the B & L Woodwaste site. Please submit your comments during the public comment period, February 25 through March 26, 2005.

Ecology is proposing to require implementation of a Contingency Plan through an Amendment to an existing 1992 Enforcement Order. The Enforcement Order requires site investigation and cleanup by the potentially liable parties: Asarco, Inc., Murray Pacific Corporation, and Executive Bark, Inc. (the site owner).

Please see the right hand column for details on how to access more information and documents, and provide your comments to Ecology.

Site History

The B & L Woodwaste site was used as an industrial landfill beginning in the mid-70's and closed in the early 1980's. It is located in a mixed residential/agricultural and wetland area near Milton, Washington, southeast of Interstate 5, between Fife Way and the Puget Power Access Road. Wood chips, sand, rock and Asarco slag were dumped at the site. Most of these materials came from log sorting yards in the Commencement Bay tideflats.

Asarco slag was used as roadbed rock at the unpaved log sort yards. The action of slag pieces grinding against each other, when driven over by log moving equipment, pulverized the slag and created many small particles. These small particles released arsenic and other metals into the ground water and surface water runoff at the sort yards. These metals also were absorbed back into the log yards' wood waste. The wood waste and roadbed

material was then hauled to the B & L Woodwaste site.

In 1982, the Commencement Bay Nearshore/Tideflats area, including Hylebos Waterway and B & L Woodwaste site, were added by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to the National Priorities List (NPL). EPA listed the B & L Woodwaste site as a source of arsenic, copper and lead.

The 1992 Ecology Enforcement Order required that the 18 acre property be consolidated into an 11 acre pile. The Order required construction of a multi-layer capping system on the pile. This system reduced the metals escaping from the site significantly, and was considered adequate by the agencies to contain the contamination. However, since the capping system was put in place, ground water contaminated with metals has been released from the site. In the mid-1990s, monitoring found:

- The majority of the waste is properly contained.
- Some of the site waste at the bottom of the pile is contacting the ground water table during the winter (there is no liner beneath the pile).
- Elevated arsenic is found in the surrounding ditch system.
- Monitoring wells in the nearby area show an increase in arsenic in the ground water outside of the landfill containment system, including a wetland area next to the site.

Recent Activity

In 2002, Ecology conducted an extensive study of the wetland area. The study indicated that there is arsenic dissolved in the ground water and this arsenic is not absorbed into the soil. No toxic effects were noted to plants or animals.

February 2005

Public Comment Period
February 25 through
March 26, 2005

**Questions & Written
Comments should be
directed to:**

Dom Reale, Site Manager
SWRO Toxics Cleanup Program
PO Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775
Phone: (360) 407-6266
Email: drea461@ecy.wa.gov

**Locations to view a copy of
this Fact Sheet, the Agreed
Order and other documents:**

Pierce County Library
1000 Laurel St.
Milton, WA 98354
(253) 922-2870

Tacoma Main Library
1102 Tacoma Avenue South
Tacoma, WA 98402
(253) 591-5666

Citizens for A Healthy Bay
917 Pacific Ave. Suite100
Tacoma, WA 98402
(253) 383-2429

WA Dept. of Ecology
SW Regional Office
Toxics Cleanup Program
300 Desmond Drive
Olympia, WA 98504-47775
(360) 407-6365

Ecology Web Sites:
www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/B_L_Woodwaste/B_L_woodwaste_hp.htm

Public Events Calendar,
www.ecy.wa.gov

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To address these arsenic issues, Asarco sent a draft Contingency Plan to Ecology in June 2001, as required by the 1992 Enforcement Order. The draft Contingency Plan outlines numerous technologies to stop contaminated water flowing from the site.

In 2002, Asarco's funds became unavailable to implement the Contingency Plan. Since 2002, no further progress has been made to implement the plan other than routine site monitoring.

The proposed Amendment to the existing Enforcement Order requires that development, design and implementation of the Contingency Plan resumes. Implementation of the Plan is anticipated by mid-August, 2006. The Contingency Plan includes:

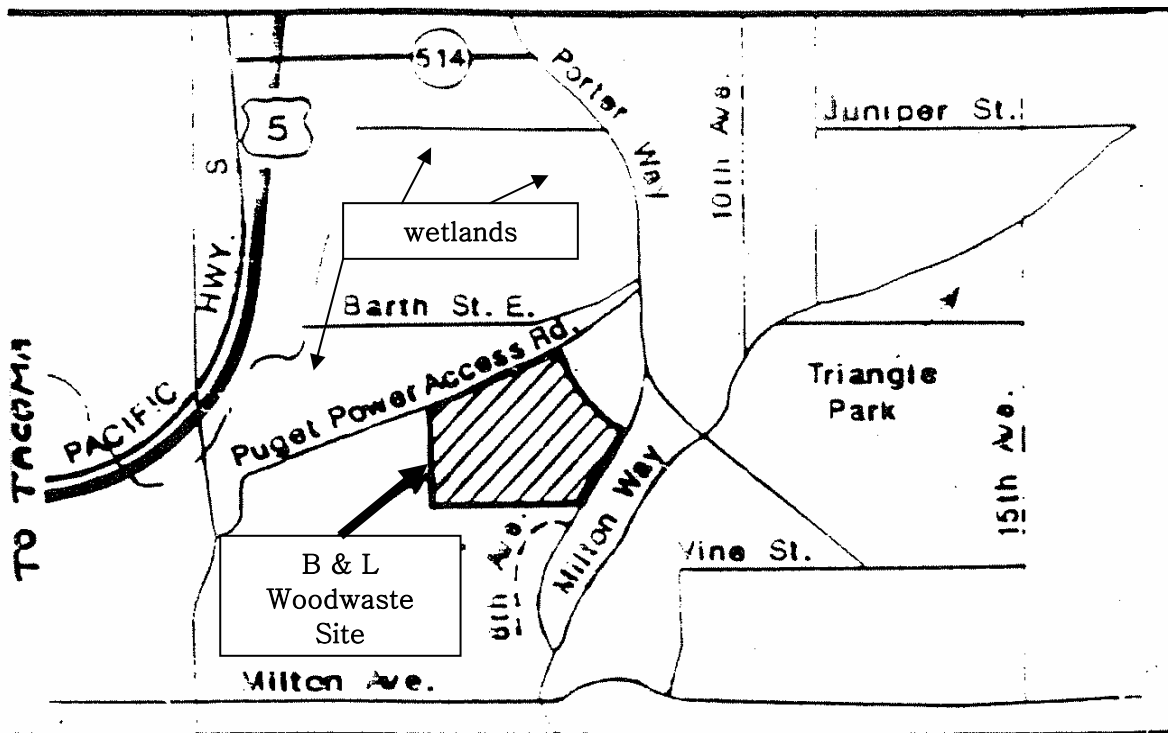
- Evaluation of a number of potential remedies to contain the release of contaminated groundwater from the site.
- Study of the wetland area to decide whether remedial action is needed. If it is, then a remedy will be selected with Ecology review and approval, followed by design and construction by the PLPs or their consultants.

Your Comments Are Requested

Please provide comments on the Amended Order to implement the Contingency Plan for the B & L Woodwaste site. Please see the front of this Fact Sheet for information on where to review a copy of the order and draft Contingency Plan, and how to provide your comments to Ecology.

Location

B & L Woodwaste Site
2201 6th Avenue
Milton, WA 98354





Department of Ecology
Southwest Regional Office
PO Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775

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