

# Landsburg Mine Site



## Agreed Order Amendment and SEPA Documents available for public review and comment

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) invites public comment on a second amendment to the existing 1993 legal agreement called an *Agreed Order* and State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) documents for the Landsburg Mine site located in Ravensdale, Washington.

### Agreed Order Amendment to Address Contingent Groundwater Treatment System

This amendment will require the potentially liable parties (PLPs) to design and build the infrastructure components (*the concrete pad, an electrical connection with transformer and fence, an access gravel drive, parking area and an underground effluent discharge line*) for a contingent groundwater treatment system. They will also obtain permits or substantive requirements for the Model Toxic Control Act (MTCA)-exempted permits for the work to be done.

You are encouraged to review and comment on the changes to the Agreed Order and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) documents between **October 20 and November 18, 2005**.

### What is the purpose of the groundwater treatment system?

The purpose of the treatment system is to ensure public safety and to protect human health and the

environment. If contamination above acceptable cleanup levels is detected in groundwater, it will be captured on-site, treated and discharged in a timely manner.

### Scope of Work

In September 2004, the potentially liable parties completed phase one of the project which identified the structural elements needed to support the groundwater treatment system.

Several discharge alternatives were evaluated. The preferred alternative is on-site pretreatment and discharge to an existing county-owned sewer system to the north of the site. This connection and discharge to the sewer system is not linked to any form of commercial or residential land development.

The second phase of this project is to design the infrastructure components, and obtain the necessary approvals for the construction work. These components will be needed if the groundwater treatment system becomes necessary during the cleanup.

The third phase of the project is the actual construction and installation. This will prevent undue delays if contamination is detected and the groundwater treatment system is needed.

**October 2005**

**Public Comment Period:  
October 20 – November 18**

**Documents can be reviewed at the following locations:**

Maple Valley Library  
21844 SE 248th St., Maple Valley  
(425) 432-4620

WA Department of Ecology  
Northwest Regional Office  
3190 160th Avenue SE  
Bellevue, WA 98008  
(425) 649-7190  
(Call for an appointment)

Ecology's Web Site:  
[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/sites\\_information.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/sites_information.html)

**Technical questions and written comments:**

Jerome Cruz, Site Manager  
WA Department of Ecology  
3190 160th Avenue SE  
Bellevue, WA 98008  
(425) 649-7094  
Email: [jcru461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:jcru461@ecy.wa.gov)

**For more information contact:**

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WA Department of Ecology  
3190 160th Avenue SE  
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(425) 649-7135  
Email: [juas461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:juas461@ecy.wa.gov)

## SEPA Determination

The SEPA environmental checklist and Determination of Non Significance (DNS) are also available for public review at this time. This checklist evaluates potential environmental impacts if this interim action is conducted. Ecology has reviewed this checklist and has determined that no significant adverse environmental impacts will be caused by this project.

## Public Comment on Amended Agreed Order and SEPA Environmental Checklist

Ecology is holding a public comment period from **October 20 through November 18, 2005**, during which you may comment on the amendment to the Agreed Order and SEPA documents. These documents are available for review at the information repositories listed on the first page of this fact sheet.

A public meeting is not planned for this comment period. However, one will be held if 10 or more people request one by the end of the comment period.

## Ecology would like your input

You have an opportunity to review and provide comments on the proposed amendment to the Agreed Order and SEPA documents for Landsburg Mine site. Please send your comments before **November 18, 2005**, to Ecology's Site Manager, Jerome Cruz, at the address in the box on the first page of this fact sheet. Comments may be sent by mail or e-mail and should include "Landsburg Mine site" in the subject line.

For information about other Ecology public comment periods, meetings, hearings, workshops, and open houses, please visit Ecology's public events calendar at: <http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/pubcalendar/calendar.asp>. Read Frequently Asked Questions about Effective Public Commenting at this link to learn more about the public comment process.

## What Happens Next?

Once the public comment period ends, Ecology will review all comments received and will make recommendations for any suggested changes. If no significant changes are made, the Agreed Order amendment will be considered final and work will continue to the next phase.

If significant changes are made to the Agreed Order, an additional public comment period will be held. You will

have future opportunities to review and comment on draft cleanup options, and any cleanup plans for the site.

## Recent Activities: Drilling and Installation of Deep Monitoring Well

A deep monitoring well (*LMW-11*) was recently installed at the lowest level within the southern interior portion of the former mine at the depth of approximately 700 feet.

Groundwater sampling and chemical analysis is projected to begin in October 2005, when groundwater conditions in the well have stabilized. The data will be used to determine whether wastes disposed in the trench have migrated to the deepest level of the southern end of the mine, as well as evaluate the level of potential risk posed from the site

## Site Background

The Landsburg Mine site is a former underground coal mine located approximately 1.5 miles northwest of Ravensdale in southeast King County. The site is located directly south of the S.E. Summit-Landsburg Road and north of S.E Kent-Kangley Road (*see figure on page 3*).

The Cedar River is approximately 500 feet north of the site. The mine site occupies property owned by Palmer Coking Coal Company and the Plum Creek Timber Company, L.P. Coal mining began along the Landsburg coal seam in the 1930s. In 1959, when the Landsburg seam was exhausted, mining shifted to the Rogers seam and continued there until 1975.

Underground mining methods were used to extract the coal from the Rogers seam. These methods resulted in the ground surface above the abandoned mine sinking down and forming a subsidence trench. This trench is roughly three-quarters of a mile long, 20- to 60- feet deep, and 60- to 100- feet wide.

During the late 1960s and early 1970s, the northern part of the trench was used as a disposal site for a variety of industrial wastes. The wastes were either contained in drums or were drained from tanker trucks. Records indicate that about 4,500 drums and 200,000 gallons of oily waste water and sludge were disposed of in this portion of the trench. A portion of the waste may have been burnt during fires.

Samples taken from recovered drums indicate that this material consisted of a wide range of organic and inorganic industrial waste, including paint waste, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), cyanide, metals, and oily sludge. Disposal of land-clearing debris and

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construction debris in the trench continued until the early 1980s.

In late 1991, at Ecology's request, four of the potentially liable parties (PLPs) removed the most accessible drums from the trench and constructed a fence to restrict access to the site. Following removal of the drums, Ecology and the PLPs began negotiations for a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study. The results of this study were the subject of public review and comment in March 1996.

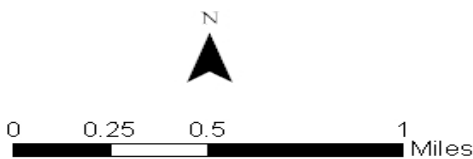
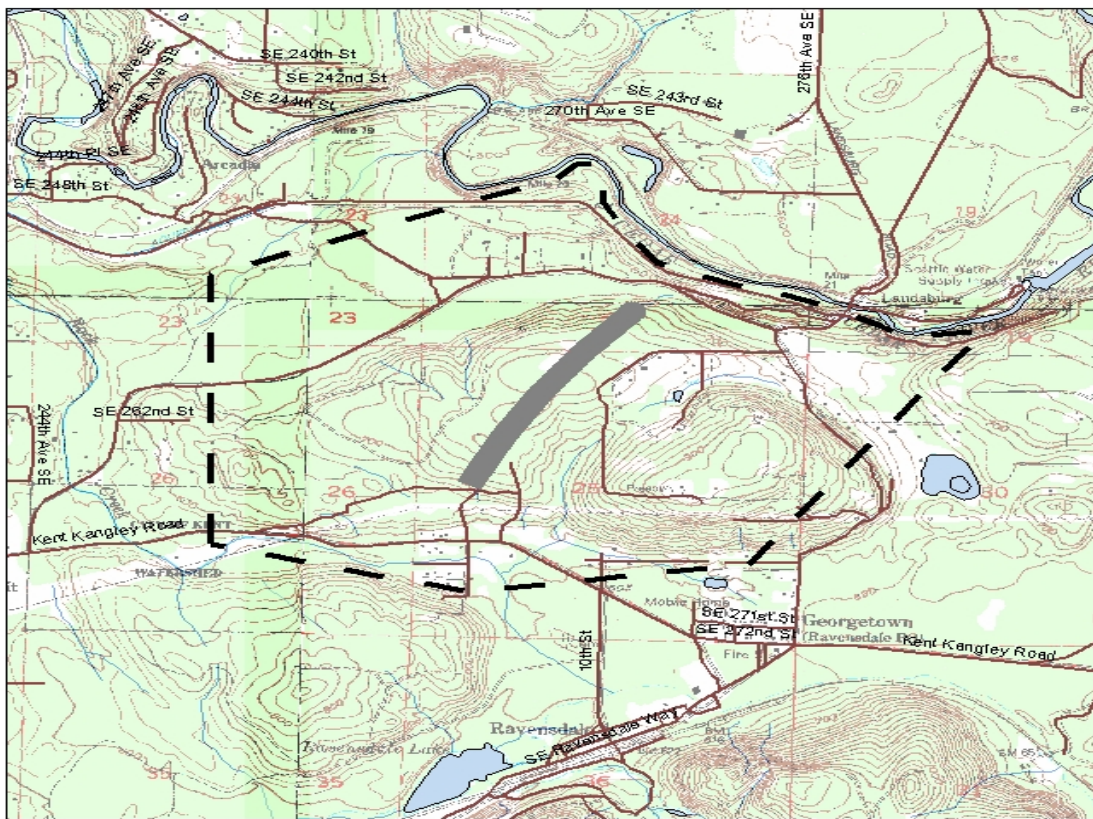
### Overview of Previous Groundwater Sampling

Extensive sampling of 14 private wells, seven monitoring wells installed in close proximity to the mine site,

and water flowing from the two mine portals (*the now collapsed north and south entrances to the mine*) was conducted in 1996.

The well water and surface flows were analyzed for a wide variety of pollutants including metals, organic compounds, and inorganic compounds. The results of the testing indicate that the wastes disposed of in the mine were not affecting ground water.

Additional sampling of monitoring wells at the site was conducted to check for contaminants in May 2000 and October 2003. The results indicate that the site still had not affected ground water.



Approximate Location of Site Boundary

Approximate Location of Subsidence Trench

**Location Map of Landsburg Mine Site, Ravensdale**



3190 160th Avenue SE  
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452

### **Landsburg Mine Site**

Ecology Seeks Public Comment  
on Agreed Order Amendment and  
SEPA Documents

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Public Comment Period  
**October 20 – November 18, 2005**