



City of Seattle

# Gas Works Sediment Area Update

## What's happening now?

### Investigation Begins September 19 at Gas Works Park

Drilling and sampling along the Gas Works Park western shoreline will begin later this month. This investigation by the City of Seattle is part of research into existing Lake Union sediment contamination, in accordance with the March 2005 legal agreement between the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), the City of Seattle and Puget Sound Energy. Ecology has approved the Sampling and Analysis Plan for this shoreline investigation and work is scheduled to begin in the third week of September 2006.

Seattle Parks and Recreation will close affected portions of the western shoreline area of Gas Works Park for about two weeks while the drilling crew and environmental scientists conduct the drilling and sampling event.

### September 2006

#### For More Information about the Shoreline Drilling, Contact:

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#### For More Information about the Gas Works Sediment Area Project, Contact:

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**Documents about the Site can be reviewed at:**  
WA Department of Ecology  
3190 160th Avenue SE  
Bellevue, WA 98008  
(Please call for an appointment)

**Ecology's Web site:**  
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/gaswkspk/gaswks.htm>



*Photo at left showing western shoreline of Gas Works Park with drilling locations and areas to be closed to public access during drilling activities.*

## What is the purpose of this sampling event?

The western shoreline drilling and sampling event is part of an effort to evaluate the potential migration of contamination from the upland (on-shore area) to the sediment (lake-bottom mud) in Lake Union. Geotechnical testing will also be performed. The data is necessary to support the development of cleanup alternatives that protect the environment and prevent re-contamination. The shoreline drilling and sampling will help determine whether contaminated material from the uplands – covered by a protective cap and two feet of clean soil – could re-contaminate the lake sediments.

## When will the sampling occur and how long will it last?

Contractors for the City of Seattle, under the lead of Seattle Public Utilities, will begin drilling on September 19, 2006. Drilling activities will continue through September 29, 2006. Drilling equipment is loud at times. At Ecology's request and consistent with the City of Seattle's noise ordinance, work will take place during daytime hours -- generally between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. – on weekdays.

In addition to the drilling, between October 2 and October 13, crews will need access to groundwater wells located throughout the park. They will temporarily close off small (20' x 20') areas around each well in order to perform groundwater testing.

## What can you expect to see at the site?

In September, a track-mounted drilling rig (see photo on the right) will drill borings (vertical holes drilled in the ground) in six locations along the Park's western shoreline. Workers also will install groundwater wells at four of the boring locations in order to perform groundwater testing. A fifty foot area surrounding each drilling location will be closed to the public. Temporary construction fencing and signage will mark the closed areas.



## What work will be done?

- Six boring holes will be drilled at six locations along the western shoreline.
- Sampling and testing of borings to obtain geological and geotechnical data.
- Installation of temporary groundwater wells at four boring locations.

When the groundwater wells are no longer needed, the well casings, which are at the ground surface, will be removed and the well holes will be filled with grout.

## What happens next?

This drilling and sampling event is part of a larger investigation called a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study. The Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study reports for the Gas Works Sediment Area will be made available to the public for review and comment. The reports will summarize findings about the contaminated sediments and describe cleanup options. You will be notified when the reports are complete and available for public review and comment, which will occur before final cleanup decisions are made.



## Site Background

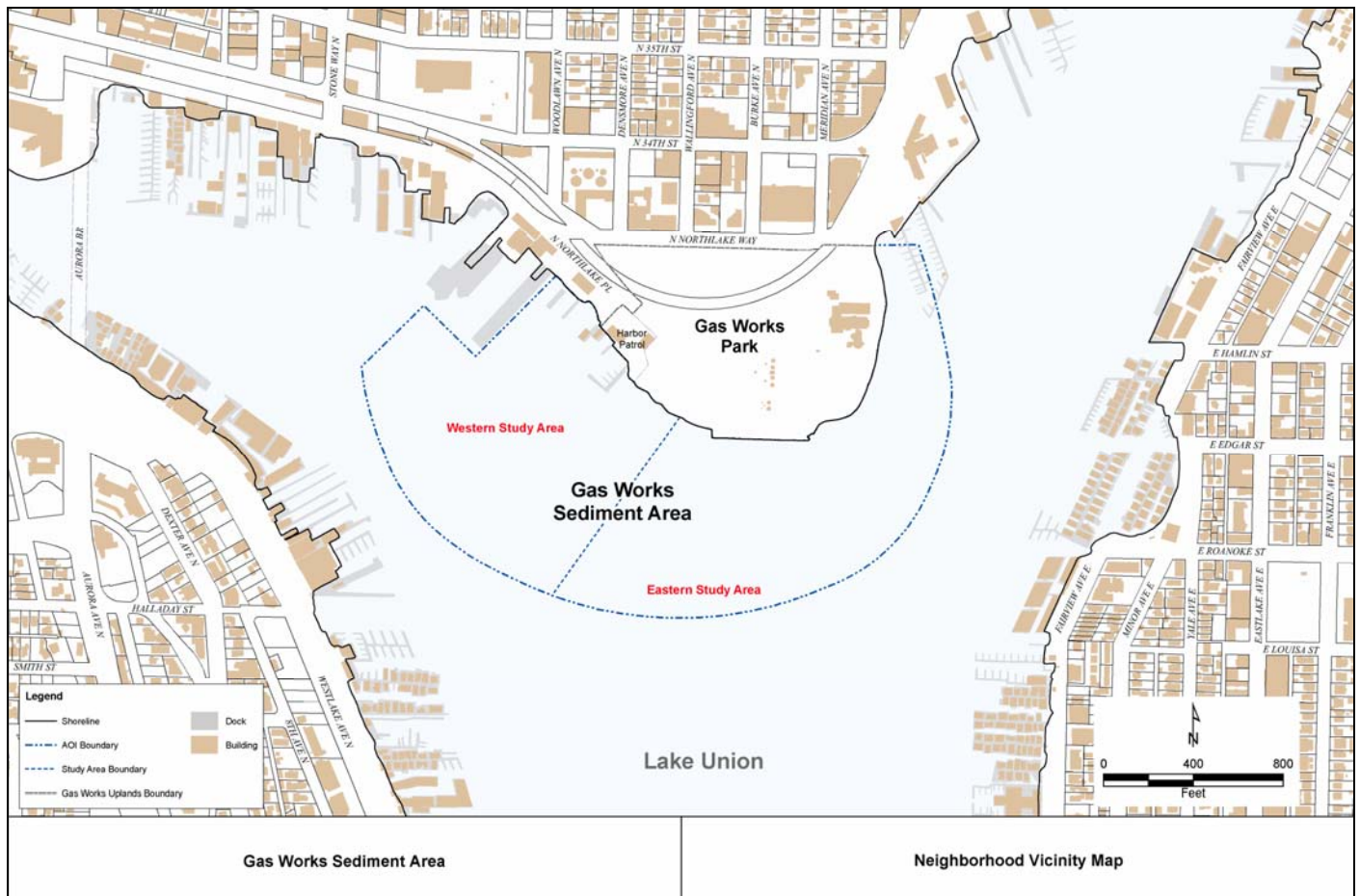
Gas Works Park is a 20-acre park located at 2101 Northlake Way. The park juts into Lake Union (the lake lies to the east, west and south of the park). The park's north end is bounded by Northlake Way.

From the early 1900s until 1956, gas companies operated a plant at the site that converted coal and oil into manufactured gas. A tar refinery also operated at the site, refining materials obtained as a by-product of the gas manufacturing process, and producing coal tar-based products.

The Gas Works Park uplands underwent an environmental cleanup in 2000 and 2001, in which two feet of clean topsoil was placed over a protective barrier. Groundwater treatment is also underway.

Sediment investigations offshore of Gas Works Park in Lake Union have indicated the presence of high levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). The City of Seattle and Puget Sound Energy are conducting Remedial Investigations and Feasibility Studies for these contaminated sediments.

The purpose of these investigations and studies is to identify the nature and extent of contamination present and to evaluate potential cleanup solutions. The western shoreline drilling and sampling event supports the development of potential options for sediment cleanup in the Western Study Area (see figure below).





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