

Rayonier Mill Off-Property Soil Dioxin Study

Toxics Cleanup Program

June 2008

Draft Soil Sampling Plan Available for Public Comment

Investigating Soil Dioxins

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is planning a study to look at whether dioxins were deposited in surface soils downwind of the former Rayonier Mill in Port Angeles. Past soil testing in the community near the mill has found very low levels of dioxins. However, it is currently unknown if those levels are associated with the former mill, some other sources, or simply background levels.

During the study Ecology will try to determine:

- The magnitude of dioxin soil contamination in the areas identified as “downwind” of the Rayonier site.
- The former Rayonier Mill’s contribution to measured dioxin contamination, compared to other possible sources.

A map on page three shows the planned sampling areas. Specific locations have not yet been chosen. Ecology will need help from local property owners with accessing the sampling locations. Some property owners will be contacted for permission to sample their soils. Letters may be sent out before the end of the comment period, but sampling will not begin until late summer.

For more detailed information about the study and about dioxins, see Ecology’s *Frequently Asked Questions about the Rayonier Mill Off-Property Soil Dioxin Study* at http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/rayonierOffProp/rayonierOffPr_hp.htm.

Ecology Wants Your Comments

You are invited to review and comment on the **Soil Sampling Plan** and **Public Participation Plan** for the soil dioxin study. The box on the right side of this page has information about where you can find these documents and how to submit your comments. Ecology welcomes any additional information you have that might help with this study.

Please submit your comments June 30 through July 30, 2008.

Comments Accepted

June 30 through July 30, 2008

Submit Comments and Technical Questions to:

Connie Groven, Project Manager
WA Department of Ecology
Toxics Cleanup Program, SWRO
P.O. Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775
Phone: (360) 407-6254
E-mail: cgro461@ecy.wa.gov

Public Involvement Contact:

Hannah Aoyagi
Phone: (360) 407- 6790
E-mail: haoy461@ecy.wa.gov

DOCUMENT REVIEW LOCATIONS

Port Angeles Public Library
2210 South Peabody Street
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: (360) 417-8500

Peninsula College
1502 E. Lauridsen Blvd.
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: (360) 417-6280

**WA Department of Ecology
Southwest Regional Office**
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503

By appointment only:
Contact Debbie Nelson,
dene461@ecy.wa.gov or
(360) 407-6365

Ecology’s Toxics Cleanup Web site
http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/rayonierOffProp/rayonierOffPr_hp.htm



What are dioxins?

Dioxins are a family of chemicals that have similar chemical structures and biological effects.

They are unintentional by-products of both human activities and natural processes. They do not break down easily in the environment, and as a result, are found everywhere. Most people are exposed to very small background levels of dioxins when they consume food or milk, breathe air, or have skin contact with dioxin contaminated soils or other materials.

Sources: Dioxins can be formed during industrial processes, such as chlorine bleaching of pulp (done at the Rayonier Mill in the past) and certain types of chemical manufacturing. Dioxins can also be formed during combustion (burning) and waste incineration. This includes home burn barrels*, fireplaces, and wood stoves.

Health effects: Exposure to small amounts of dioxins (like those found near the Rayonier Mill in the past) can possibly increase the risk of certain cancers in humans. However, that risk could be as small as zero. Some non-cancer health effects are associated with dioxin exposure, such as immune system and reproductive system problems. These effects have been found in animals and humans exposed to levels many times higher than background dioxin levels. The health effects associated with low level dioxin exposure are still being studied.

**Please contact the Olympic Region Clean Air Agency for more information about the health effects of home burning, and how to reduce your risk. Phone: 360.586.1044, Web site: www.orca.org*

What Happens Next?

Ecology will consider all comments on the draft Soil Sampling Plan (SSP) and make any needed changes. The final SSP will be available online and at the locations listed on page one of this fact sheet before the sampling starts.

Ecology will begin contacting property owners during the summer of 2008. If you are contacted for access to your property, your assistance is greatly appreciated. Volunteers may contact the Project Manager or Public Involvement Coordinator (see page one for contact information)

Soil samples will be taken during late summer and early fall in 2008. Samples will then be sent to laboratories for analysis. Participating property owners and residents will receive copies of the test results for their properties, along with an explanation of what the results mean.

The final soil dioxin report will include all the dioxin test results and findings about the relative contribution of the former Rayonier Mill. This report will be available for public review during spring of 2009. Please check the Ecology Web site (page 1) for updates.

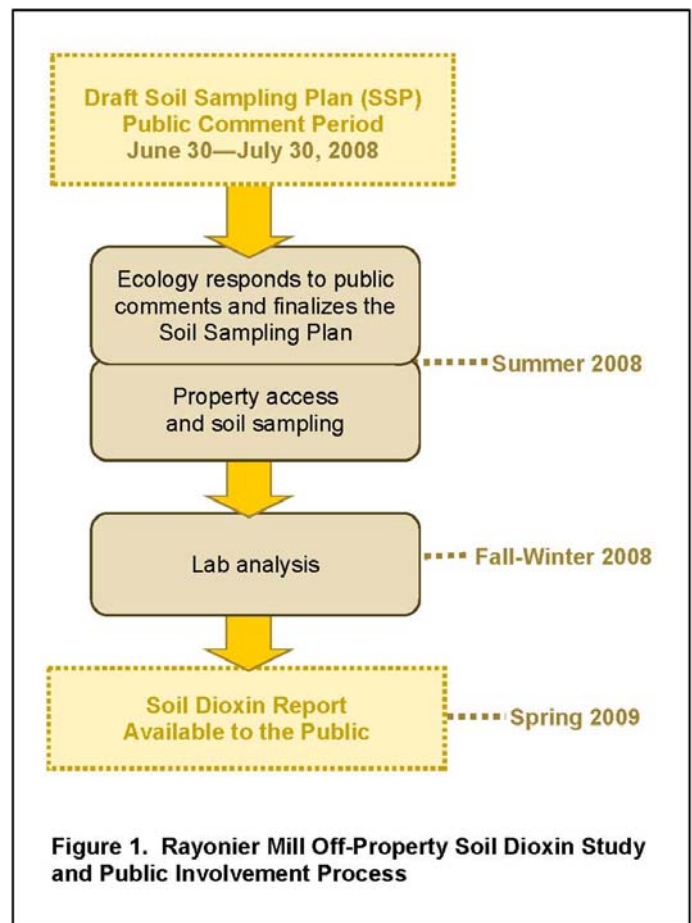


Figure 1. Rayonier Mill Off-Property Soil Dioxin Study and Public Involvement Process

Rayonier Mill Off-Property Soil Dioxin Study



Map showing the planned soil sampling areas (inside the yellow boundary) for the Rayonier Mill Off-Property Soil Dioxin Study.



WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF
E C O L O G Y

PO Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775

Rayonier Mill Off-Property Soil Dioxin Study Clallam County, WA

Ecology Seeks Public Comment on the Draft Soil Sampling Plan

Public Comment Period:
June 30 through July 30, 2008

If you need this publication in an alternative format, call reception at (360) 407-6300. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with speech disability call 877-833-6341

Public Open House & Workshop Wednesday, July 9th, 2008

Olympic Medical Center, 939 Caroline St.,
Port Angeles, phone: (360) 417-7000

Technical Workshop—Wendel Room 3:00—5:00 p.m.

Presentation and discussion with Dr. Greg Glass about the development of the Sampling and Analysis Plan. **This event is also open to the public.**

Open House—Linkletter Hall

6:30—7:00 p.m. **Open House**

7:00—8:00 p.m. **Presentation
Question & Answer Session**

8:00—8:30 p.m. **Open House**

Ecology staff will be available to answer your questions and assist with public comments.

