

## Ecology works to manage MTCA revenue shortfall

The Department of Ecology is taking several actions to manage revenue shortfalls in the three Model Toxics Control Act accounts. The main source of revenues are Hazardous Substance Tax collections. But those are heavily dependent on petroleum prices, which are in a period of high volatility.

The enacted 2015-17 capital budget was based on revenue forecasts made when petroleum prices were higher. Since then, prices continued to drop. As a result, MTCA revenue collections have declined significantly below forecasts used to build the enacted capital budget.

### Actions taken

Ecology is taking several actions to manage the revenue shortfall in MTCA accounts. Those include:

- Transferring funds between the three accounts to keep them in balance.
- Taking a \$13 million loan from the Cleanup Settlement Account.
- Using bond funds first in non-cleanup projects (Centennial and Stormwater) that received both MTCA and bond funding in 2015-17 to create more short-term capacity for cleanups.
- Delaying most cleanup projects that received appropriations in the enacted 2015-17 capital budget until funding is available.
- Projects that will receive funding are based on the criteria (section 7038) in the enacted capital budget:
  - Acuity of need
  - Readiness to proceed
  - Cost efficiency
  - Need for geographic distribution

### ECOLOGY ACTIONS

The agency is working to respond to revenue shortfalls in the Model Toxics Control Act accounts as authorized by the enacted 2015-17 capital budget. Actions include:

- Transferring funds between the MTCA accounts.
- Taking a \$13 million loan from the Cleanup Settlement Account.
- Delaying new 2015-17 capital budget cleanup projects.
- Submitting a 2016 supplemental budget request to cover the new 2015-17 capital cleanup projects.

### Contact information

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### Accommodations Requests

To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-407-6000.

Persons with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. Persons with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

## MTCA's cleanup process informs project prioritization

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program guides all cleanup projects through MTCA's regulatory process and requirements, including those seeking state capital budget funding. The regulation requires that all cleanup projects proceed through the following phases:

- **Assessment:** All projects are prioritized based on human health and environmental risks. Cleanup projects address risks either from exposure to contaminated soil, contaminated groundwater and drinking water, contaminated marine water and sediment which pose human health risks from consuming fish and shellfish, toxic vapors, or a combination of the above.
- **Investigate:** Remedial investigations define the nature, extent, and magnitude of contamination on all projects.
- **Study:** Feasibility studies are conducted on all projects and include alternative analysis, cost-benefit analysis, long-term or life-cycle cost analysis, and cleanup technology preferences.
- **Plan:** Information from the remedial investigation and feasibility study are included in a cleanup action plan that describes cleanup standards, methods, monitoring requirements, and schedule – including any time-critical elements.
- **Comment:** The public is encouraged to review and comment on the projects' investigations, feasibility studies and cleanup plans during public comment periods.
- **Cleanup:** Design, construction, operations, and monitoring of the cleanup. A cleanup is complete when Ecology determines cleanup standards have been met. At this phase, projects are ready to proceed: They are in construction; they have permits or are in the permitting process; their design is complete or underway; or they are under contract.

Ecology worked with stakeholders over several months to develop a prioritized list of 2015-17 cleanup projects. The initial lists were prioritized following MTCA's requirement to address the urgency and effectiveness of cleanup projects. The lists were further refined based on the criteria (section 7038) in the enacted capital budget – acuity of need; readiness to proceed, cost efficiency; and need to ensure geographic distribution.

