

Weyerhaeuser Sawmill Aberdeen



Comments accepted

February 4 - March 5, 2019

Submit comments

Online at:

<http://cs.ecology.commentintpu.com/?id=Fdx2c>

Or by mail to:

Thomas Middleton
Cleanup Project Manager
Department of Ecology
PO Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504
Phone: (360) 407-7263

Site info

Facility Site ID: 1126
Site Cleanup ID: 4987

Document review locations

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=4987>

Aberdeen Timberland Library
121 East Market Street
Aberdeen, WA 98520

Department of Ecology
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503
(360) 407-6045 – By
appointment only

Documents available for public comment

Three documents are available for public review and comment for the Weyerhaeuser Sawmill in Aberdeen, Washington (site).

Agreed Order DE 15953. The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) is entering into a legal agreement called an Agreed Order with Grays Harbor Historical Seaport Authority (GHSA) to study contamination at the site. The Order requires GHSA to use past investigations and close any data gaps to develop the following reports:

- A remedial investigation (RI), which describes the types and extent of contamination.
- A feasibility study (FS), which considers and compares cleanup options.
- A draft cleanup action plan (CAP), which identifies cleanup methods.

The Agreed Order allows GHSA to clean up parts of the site before the final cleanup plan is complete. We will hold a public comment period if any partial cleanups (called interim actions) are proposed.

Removal of an environmental covenant. The environmental covenant, which restricts access to soil and groundwater was placed on the wrong parcel in the 1990s after cleanup was done on part of the site. GHSA proposes to remove the covenant and clean up the site so there will be unrestricted land use. If needed, a new covenant will be placed as part of the CAP.

Public Participation Plan. The plan describes how Ecology will inform the community about site activities and opportunities to be involved in the cleanup process.

Ecology wants to hear from you

Ecology is accepting comments from **February 4 – March 5, 2019**. The box to the left shows where you can review the documents and submit your comments.

Toxics Cleanup Program

Site background

The site consists of several parcels of land generally located at 500 North Custer Street where there was a sawmill complex. It includes upland properties and 14.48 acres of state-owned tidelands managed by the Department of Natural Resources.

From the early 1900s, the site was used for sawmills and other forest product industries. Weyerhaeuser Company operated two sawmills, steam drying kilns, and wood refuse burners between 1955 and 2013. Additional activities included wood chipping and barge loading. GHSA acquired the parcels from Weyerhaeuser in 2013 and agreed to take responsibility for cleaning up any legacy environmental contamination.

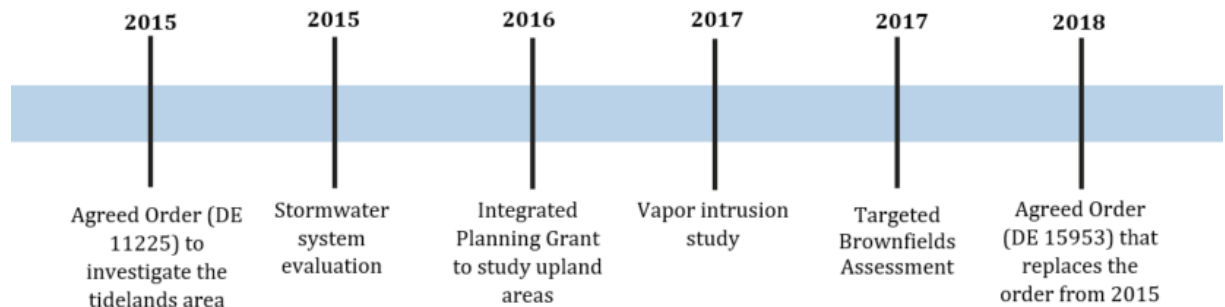
The nearby Chehalis River and Grays Harbor is within the Usual and Accustomed fishing grounds of the Quinault Indian Nation. Quinault tribal members harvest salmon and other treaty fisheries resources in this area.

GHSA is a municipal Public Development Authority created by the City of Aberdeen in 1986. A key element of their mission is to create a local and regional recreation and tourism destination and a homeport for the Lady Washington and Hawaiian Chieftain tall ships. Acquiring the property, which includes a wharf and docks for the ships, was an important step in accomplishing that goal. Addressing environmental contamination at the site is important to bring the property into full productive use.

Contamination

Figure 1. GHSA investigation timeline of the Weyerhaeuser Sawmill

Sawmill operations and forest product industry practices contaminated soil, sediment and groundwater at the site. Site



investigations and cleanup work have taken place since the 1980s. Ecology reopened the investigation in 2014 for further study due to the discovery of previously unknown contamination. The recent investigations (see Figure 1) identified many potential sources and contaminated areas. These include Shannon Slough, former maintenance areas, chemical and hazardous material storage buildings, buildings used to treat lumber, and above- and belowground storage tanks (see Figure 2).

The following contaminants are suspected to be found in sediments, soil, or groundwater:

- Benzoic acid
- Mercury
- Pentachlorophenol (PCP)
- Dioxins
- Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
- Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)
- Petroleum hydrocarbons (TPHs)
- Phenol
- Wood waste
- Metals (chromium, lead, copper, and manganese)
- Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)

The presence of these materials above state sediment, soil, and groundwater cleanup standards can be harmful to human health and the environment.

Next steps

Ecology will consider your comments before the Agreed Order, document for the proposed removal of the environmental covenant, and Public Participation Plan are finalized. We will reply to comments in a responsiveness summary after the comment period ends.

Figure 2 Possible areas of contamination and cleanup at Weyerhaeuser Sawmill Aberdeen





Toxics Cleanup Program
PO Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-47775

Weyerhaeuser Sawmill Aberdeen



Public comment period

February 4 – March 5, 2019

Why did I receive this mailing?

The Washington State Department of Ecology is working with GHSA to study contamination at the Weyerhaeuser Sawmill Aberdeen site. This fact sheet is being mailed to inform the community about the work being done.

What can I do?

Please review the site documents and submit your comments, questions, and concerns.

To be removed from this mailing list: Please call Sheila Coughlan at (360) 407- 6255 or e-mail Sheila.Coughlan@ecy.wa.gov.

Site Cleanup ID: 1126

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Accommodation Requests: To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-407-6831 or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.