

I & J Waterway Cleanup Site



I & J Waterway looking southwest, November 2014

Comments accepted:

February 19 – March 20, 2019

Submit comments:

Online at bit.ly/Ecology-IJWaterway-Comments

Or by mail to:

Lucy McInerney, Site Manager
 WA Department of Ecology
 3190 160th Avenue SE
 Bellevue, WA 98008-5452
 Phone: 425-649-7272
 Email: Lucy.McInerney@ecy.wa.gov

Document review locations:

bit.ly/Ecology-IJWaterway

Bellingham Public Library
 210 Central Avenue
 Bellingham, WA 98225
 Phone: 360-778-7323

Ecology-Bellingham Office
 913 Squalicum Way, Unit 101
 Bellingham, WA 98225
 By appointment, call 360-255-4400

Ecology-Bellevue Office
 3190 160th Avenue SE
 Bellevue, WA 98008-5452
 By appointment, call 360-649-7190

Site info:

Facility Site ID: 3145643
 Site Cleanup ID: 2012

Cleanup action plan ready for review

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) invites you to review a cleanup action plan and associated documents for the I & J Waterway Cleanup Site on the Bellingham waterfront. The plan calls for removing and capping contaminated sediment, monitoring, and restricting uses.

The plan is part of a legal agreement between Ecology, the Port of Bellingham (Port), and Bornstein Seafoods (Bornstein). The following documents are available for review:

- **Cleanup Action Plan:** describes the cleanup work to address contamination at the Site.
- **Agreed Order (legal agreement):** requires the Port and Bornstein to develop detailed design documents for the sediment removal work described in the cleanup action plan.
- **State Environmental Policy Act-Determination of Non-Significance:** Ecology determination that the cleanup work is not likely to harm the environment.

More information?

Attend a tour of the Site

RE Sources for Sustainable Communities will host a walking tour of the Site on:

- **Saturday, February 23 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.**
28 Bellwether Way, Bellingham, WA 98225
- Ecology, Port, and Bornstein site managers will be available for questions.
- For details visit <http://www.re-sources.org/events>.

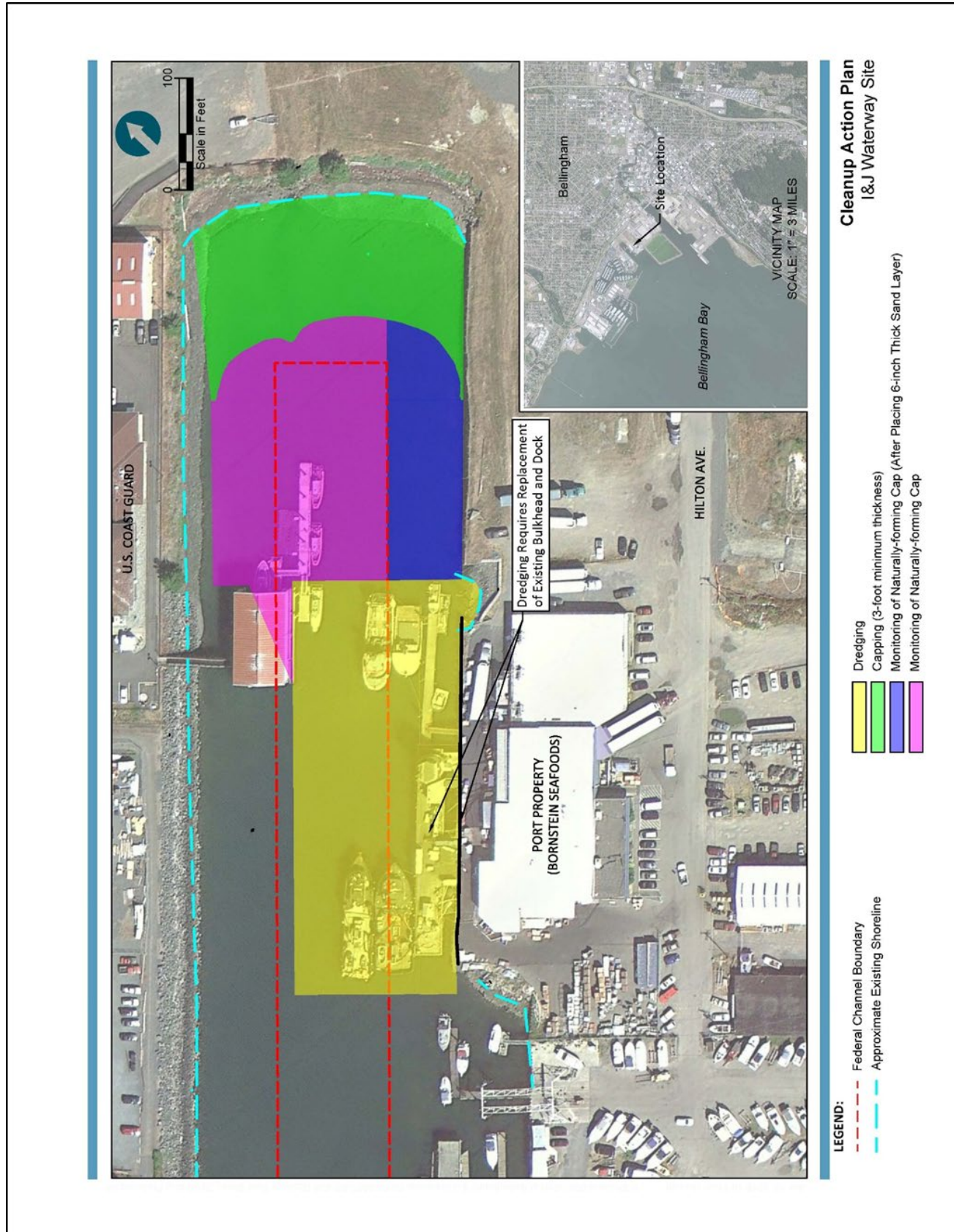
Contact Ian Fawley, Ecology Outreach Specialist

Call 360-255-4382 or email: Ian.Fawley@ecy.wa.gov.

Request a meeting

If ten or more persons request a public meeting about the Cleanup Action Plan, Ecology will provide notice and hold a meeting.

Cleanup Action Plan





I & J Waterway looking southwest, May 2001

Cleanup Action Plan

In 2015, the Port, with partial funding from Bornstein and with Ecology supervision, completed an environmental study of the I & J Waterway site and assessed a range of cleanup options.

Based on this work, Ecology has prepared a cleanup action plan to address contamination at the Site. As shown on the opposite page, the plan includes:

- Dredging about 18,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment with disposal at a permitted landfill. The sediment removal requires replacement of the existing dock and bulkhead.
- Capping a 0.7 acre area of contaminated sediment with clean material to isolate the sediment.
- Monitoring a 1.1 acre area where clean material from the Nooksack River is naturally capping contaminated sediment. This will verify that contaminant levels continue to decrease.
- Monitoring following construction to ensure that cleanup activities addressed the contamination.
- Restricting activities on about 2 acres to prevent disturbance of the capped areas.



I & J Waterway looking southwest, November 2014

Design of the sediment removal work

The legal agreement with Ecology requires the Port and Bornstein to design the sediment removal work described in the cleanup action plan. They will:

- Sample to refine the area requiring removal.
- Conduct engineering evaluations for dredging activities and a new dock and bulkhead.
- Prepare a design report that incorporates the results of the sampling and engineering evaluations.
- Prepare construction plans and specifications.

A future legal agreement will require performance of the removal work.

Costs and funding

Design activities are expected to cost about \$1.1 million. The Port is eligible for reimbursement of up to half of this cost through the state's remedial action grant program, which helps to pay to clean up publicly owned sites. The Legislature funds the grant program with revenues from a tax on hazardous substances.

Timeline

Design of the removal work is expected to take about two years. Performance of the removal work will occur in the future under a separate legal agreement. After the removal work is complete, design and performance of the remainder of the work described in the cleanup action plan will occur under separate legal agreements.

Future legal agreements, and the work they require, will be issued for public review and comment.

Background

In 2015, the Port, with partial funding from Bornstein, completed an environmental study of the I & J Waterway site and assessed a range of cleanup options. This work was performed with Ecology oversight and was reviewed by the public.

The study found polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), phthalates, phenols, and nickel in marine sediment. These contaminants are likely related to historic activities, including: lumber mill operations, rock crushing, food/seafood processing, and stormwater inputs. A building fire also likely contributed to the contamination.



I & J Waterway facing northwest, April 1980; Washington State Archives¹

Other contaminants such as dioxins/furans, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and mercury were also found at the Site. Dioxins/furans are present throughout Bellingham Bay from many possible sources including former pulp and paper mills and wood treating operations, stormwater discharges, and on-going burning activities. Mercury is related to past discharges from the Georgia-Pacific Pulp Mill. The source of PCBs is unknown.

To address the contamination, the Port evaluated six different cleanup options through a cost vs. environmental benefit analysis. The options included various blends of dredging, capping (covering with clean material), and monitoring of naturally forming caps.

En español

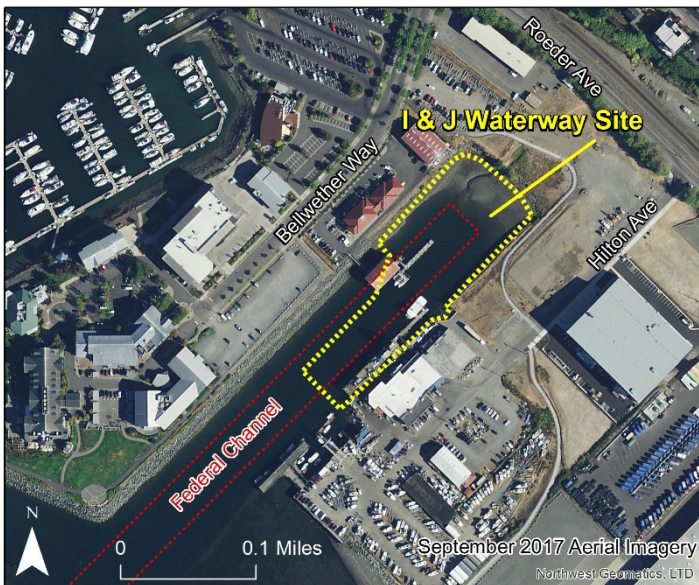
El Departamento de Ecología le invita a comentar sobre un reporte ambiental para el sitio que está contaminado I & J Waterway en Bellingham.

Si le gustaría recibir este documento en español, por favor llame a Gretchen Newman al 360-407-6097 o envíe un correo electrónico a preguntas@ecy.wa.gov. Traducciones de avisos públicos para los sitios de limpieza de la Bahía de Bellingham se preparan bajo solicitud.

¹ Loggie Fill, ONC Motor Freight, Olivine Co., Records of the Port of Bellingham, Photographs, 1890-1999, Washington State Archives, Digital Archives, <http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov>, June 4, 2018.

Toxics Cleanup Program
913 Squalicum Way, Unit 101
Bellingham, WA 98225

I & J Waterway Site cleanup action plan ready for review



Aerial view of I & J Waterway cleanup site, September 2017

Public comment period

Ecology invites you to comment on a Cleanup Action Plan and related documents:

February 19 – March 20, 2019

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Site Tour

RE Sources for Sustainable Communities is hosting a walking tour:

February 23, 2019, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

<http://www.re-sources.org/events>

Información en español incluida

Accommodation Requests: To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-255-4382 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.