

Anacortes Former Water Treatment Plant Site



Decommissioned Administration Building and Filtration Basin facing north, March 2018

Comments accepted:

April 15 – May 14, 2019

Submit comments:

Online at bit.ly/Ecology-AnacortesFWTP-Comments

Or by mail to:

Cris Matthews, Site Manager
WA Department of Ecology
913 Squalicum Way, Unit 101
Bellingham, WA 98225
Phone: 360-255-4379
Email: Cris.Matthews@ecy.wa.gov

Site info:

bit.ly/Ecology-AnacortesFWTP

Facility Site ID: 79423677

Site Cleanup ID: 13264

Document review locations:

City of Anacortes City Hall
904 6th Street
Anacortes, WA 98221
Phone: 360-293-1900

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

Legal agreement and public participation plan ready for review

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) invites you to comment on an agreed order (legal agreement) and public participation plan for the Anacortes Former Water Treatment Plant cleanup site (Site). The Site is located next to the Skagit River in Mount Vernon (see page 2) and is next to the current water treatment plant, which provides the drinking water for the city of Anacortes and surrounding communities.

The legal agreement between Ecology and the City of Anacortes (City) will require the City to analyze cleanup options and create a cleanup plan. A future legal agreement will require the City to design and carry out the work described in the plan. The following documents are available for review and comment:

- **Agreed Order:** this is a legal agreement between Ecology and the City that requires the City to investigate and describe contamination (Remedial Investigation), analyze cleanup options (Feasibility Study) and develop a Draft Cleanup Action Plan.
- **Public Participation Plan:** this document explains how people can participate in the cleanup process.

More information?

Contact Ian Fawley, Ecology Outreach Specialist

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

Future Public Meeting

Later in 2019 when the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) report is estimated to be completed, Ecology will provide notice for another public comment period and a public meeting.

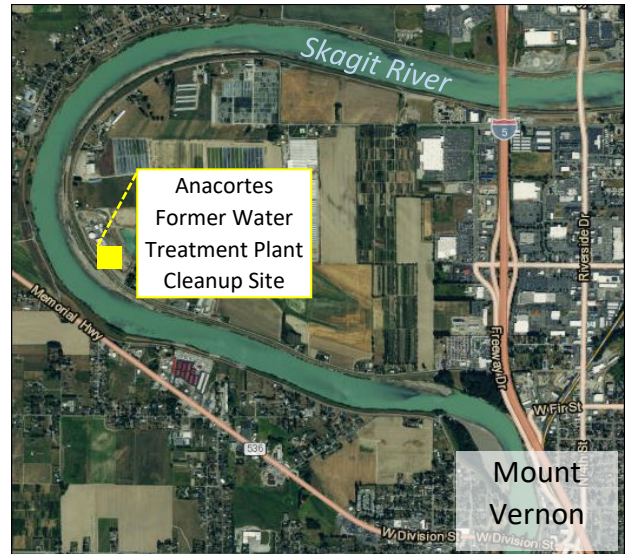
If ten or more persons request a public meeting about this Agreed Order and Public Participation Plan, Ecology will provide notice and hold a meeting for the community.

Background and location

The Site is located at 14489 River Bend Road in Mount Vernon. The former plant was constructed on the property between 1969 and 1970 to treat water from the Skagit River prior to transfer to the City of Anacortes municipal water storage and distribution network. The Site structures were decommissioned in 2013 when the new water treatment plant (built on a different part of the same property) became active.

The Site consists of these decommissioned structures (see map on page 3):

- **Administration Building:** a two-story building that housed a control room, laboratory, and chemical additive mixing operations.
- **Filtration Basin:** a nearly 8,000 square foot concrete basin that used anthracite, sand, and gravel for water purification.
- **Clear well:** an approximately 12,000 square foot, multi-chambered, concrete storage space below ground and beneath the Administration Building, Filtration Basin, and Pump Room.
- **Waste well:** a concrete structure next to the Clear well where settled particulates were collected before pumping it to settling lagoons.
- **Sedimentation Basin:** an over 19,000 square foot concrete basin that featured gravity flow through the system into clean water overflow troughs for settled particulate collection.



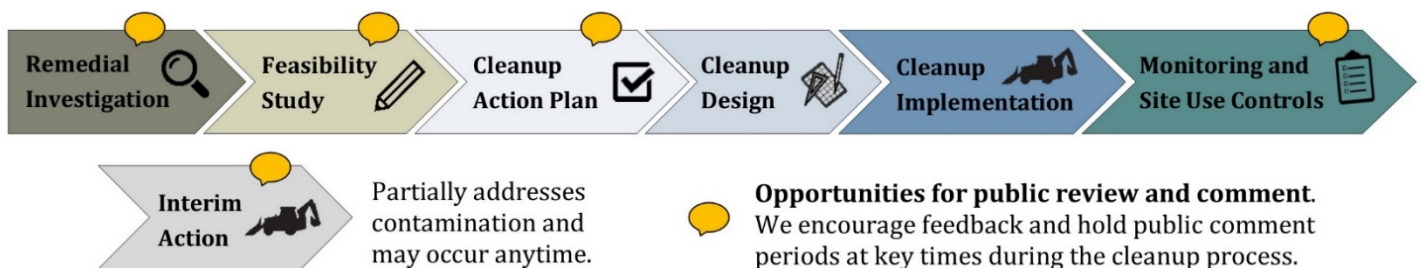
Location of Anacortes Former Water Treatment Plant next to the Skagit River in Mount Vernon, WA



Decommissioned Pump Room below Administration Building, March 2018

Ecology’s cleanup process

The Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA; [Chapter 70.105D RCW¹](#)) is Washington’s environmental cleanup law. It provides requirements for contaminated site cleanup and sets standards that protect human health and the environment. Ecology enacts the MTCA and oversees cleanups. The [MTCA site cleanup process²](#) is completed in steps (see graphic below) over a variable timeline.



¹ <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/publications/9406.pdf>

² <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Contamination-cleanup/Cleanup-process>

Anacortes Former Water Treatment Plant Site Layout



Site Location Diagram

Publication Date: 2019/03/15 4:13 PM | User: hennrich
Filepath: E:\Projects\313E-Foster-Popper-RI-C\Former-Anacortes-Water-Treatment-Plant_U\Feasibility-Study\313E-SP-002_Site-Location-Diagram.dwg Site Location Diagram.dwg Site Location Diagram



Contamination

In 2015, while conducting a demolition assessment (Hazardous Materials Assessment) of the decommissioned Site, samples of building materials and soil were found to contain polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

Initial conclusions of the 2015 Hazardous Materials Assessment and related preliminary site investigation studies include:

- **Building Materials:** PCBs were found in the coating material of the Sedimentation Basin and some of the building materials of the Administration Building.
- **Soil:** PCBs were only found in shallow soils between 0 to 12 inches below ground surface on a limited portion of the Site immediately next to Site structures. PCBs were detected in Site soils at concentrations that exceed the unrestricted land use cleanup levels under MTCA. These soils are the focus of the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study in development.
- **Groundwater and surface water:** The field sampling confirmed that there was no indication of PCBs released to surface water or groundwater.



*Decommissioned Sedimentation Basin
facing south, March 2018*

Safe and Clean Water

The City conducted regular sampling of drinking water produced from the former plant beginning in 1976 and continuing throughout operation. No samples of drinking water tested for PCBs ever contained detectable concentrations of PCBs.

In 2017, the City conducted an Evaluation of Potential Human Health Risks associated with contamination at the Site and determined that no adverse health effects are likely to have occurred to customers, workers, or water plant visitors as a result of PCBs at the former plant.

For more information, to sign-up for updates, and to view the Human Health Assessment go to:

www.safeandcleanwater.com

For Questions, Contact the City of Anacortes:

- info@safeandcleanwater.com
- 360-299-1950



*City of Anacortes Safe & Clean Water website:
www.safeandcleanwater.com*

Overview of the Agreed Order

The proposed agreed order is a legal agreement between Ecology and the City. The City is known as a potentially liable person, or PLP. The agreed order requires the City to develop the following documents:

- **Draft Remedial Investigation (RI) Report:** Describes contamination found on the Site.
- **Draft Feasibility Study (FS) Report:** Analyzes cleanup options of contamination in soil and groundwater. The report presents the results of the study and proposes alternatives for cleanup actions.
- **Draft Cleanup Action Plan (CAP):** Uses information in the RI and FS to identify a preferred cleanup action and a schedule to remediate the contamination.

The purpose of the agreed order is to protect human health and the environment. It ensures that cleanup happens in a timely manner and according to Washington State's cleanup law, the Model Toxics Control Act.

Overview of the Public Participation Plan

Ecology and the City are committed to providing the public with timely information and meaningful opportunities to participate in the cleanup process. As part of this commitment, Ecology has developed a public participation plan for this site. The plan outlines how interested parties can learn about the cleanup and provide input.

Your comments and ideas are needed to help inform cleanup activities. The public participation plan explains how Ecology will:

- Notify the public when and where documents are available for review and comment.
- Notify the public about how they can become involved.
- Provide public participation opportunities.
- Respond to public comments.
- Consider public comments in cleanup decisions.

Funding

The City is eligible for reimbursement of up to half of this cost from Ecology through the state's Remedial Action Grant Program, which helps pay for the cleanup of publicly-owned sites. The Legislature funds the grant program with revenues from a tax on hazardous substances.

What Happens Next?

- **April 15 – May 14, 2019:** Hold 30-day public comment period.
- **2019:** Finalize Agreed Order and Public Participation Plan. Ecology will review and consider all comments received as we finalize these documents. We will provide a written response to comments received.

Complete the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study Report. Ecology will provide notice for a public comment period and a public meeting to finalize these documents.
- **2020:** Select cleanup action. Based on the information in the final Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study report, Ecology will select a cleanup action for the Site. We will issue our cleanup action plan and an associated legal agreement for public review. The legal agreement will require the City to design and implement the cleanup action.

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

Anacortes Former Water Treatment Plant Site documents ready for review



Aerial view of cleanup site area

Public comment period

April 15 - May 14, 2019

bit.ly/Ecology-AnacortesFWTP

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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.