

Riffe Lake/Kosmos Flats

Public Comment Period for an Agreed Order

Contaminants:

Bunker C oil, diesel, gasoline, and heavy oil

Party responsible for cleanup:

Tacoma Power

Comments accepted:

May 25, 2020, – June 23, 2020

How to comment:

Online at:

<http://tcp.ecology.commentingut.com/?id=R3jpd>

Or by mail to:

Craig Rankine

Cleanup Project Manager

WA Department of Ecology

12121 NE 99th St Suite 2100

Vancouver, WA 98682

Site information:

Facility Site ID: 61559576

Site Cleanup ID: 9890

Ecology's website:

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=9890>

Due to COVID-19, site documents for the Riffe Lake cleanup site will not be available at repositories or by mail. If you are unable to view information online at the Ecology website and have questions, please feel free to contact Craig Rankine, Cleanup Project Manager at Craig.Rankine@ecy.wa.gov or (360) 690-4795 or Sheila Coughlan, Public Involvement Coordinator at (360) 407-6255.

Site-description

The town of Kosmos was flooded with water in 1968 to create Riffe Lake. Currently, the surrounding land and water are used for recreational activities such as boating, camping and a hang-gliding landing area.

In April 2019, the Department of Ecology (Ecology) was notified about seeps of Bunker C oil found on the eastern bank of Rainey Creek near Champion Haul Road southeast of Morton, Washington. The seeps are located at the site of a former Kosmos lumber mill near Riffe Lake within the boundaries of [Tacoma Power's Cowlitz River Project](https://www.mytpu.org/community-environment/fish-wildlife-environment/cowlitz-river-project/) (<https://www.mytpu.org/community-environment/fish-wildlife-environment/cowlitz-river-project/>).

Possible sources for the seeps are from former sawmill operations, including old underground storage tanks and piping, or petroleum-impacted soil.

Public comment

May 25, 2020 to June 23, 2020.

Ecology invites comments on a legal agreement called an Agreed Order. The Agreed Order requires Tacoma Power to study the contamination near Riffe Lake and prepare the following cleanup reports:

- A remedial investigation, which describes the types and extent of contamination.
- A feasibility study, which considers and compares cleanup options.
- A preliminary cleanup action plan, which describes cleanup methods selected by Ecology.

A Public Participation Plan (PPP) is also available for comment. The plan describes how Ecology will inform the community about site activities and opportunities to engage in the process.

The Agreed Order and the PPP can be reviewed on Ecology's website.

Contamination

As an emergency cleanup action, Tacoma Power capped the seeps to keep oil from moving into Rainey Creek. They collected soil and groundwater samples from test pits and soil borings. Other contamination found include diesel, gasoline, and heavy oil.

Contact with these hazardous substances can be harmful to human health and the environment. Tacoma Power has closed the area to protect the public until cleanup is complete.

Next steps

After the comment period ends, Ecology will respond to any comments in a responsiveness summary. Then, Tacoma Power will write the cleanup reports. These documents will be made available by Ecology for public comment.



Toxics Cleanup Program
PO Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775



Riffe Lake/Kosmos Flat area cleanup

Public comment period

May 25 – June 23, 2020

Why did I receive this mailing?

You live near the Riffe Lake site or have expressed interest in the cleanup. Tacoma Power has entered into an Agreed Order with Ecology to study contamination at the site. This fact sheet informs you about the legal agreement and the opportunity for public comment.

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 email Sheila.Coughlan@ecy.wa.gov

Where can I find more information about cleanup sites in my neighborhood?

Go to Ecology's website: <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/neighborhood/>

Site Cleanup ID: 9890, Facility Site ID: 61559576

Accommodation Requests: To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology (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