

Harris Avenue Shipyard Site



Harris Avenue Shipyard Site, October 2019

Comments accepted:

Dec. 7, 2020 – Jan. 20, 2021

Submit comments:

Online at: www.bit.ly/Ecology-HarrisAveShipyard-Comments2020

Or by mail to:

John Guenther, Site Manager
 WA Department of Ecology
 913 Squalicum Way, Unit 101
 Bellingham, WA 98225
 Phone: 360-255-4381
 Email: John.Guenther@ecy.wa.gov

Document review options:

www.bit.ly/Ecology-HarrisAveShipyard

Ecology-Bellevue Office

3190 160th Avenue SE
 Bellevue, WA 98008-5452
 By appointment, call 425-649-7239
nwro_public_request@ecy.wa.gov

Ecology-Bellingham Office

For document review assistance,
 please contact:

Ian Fawley

Outreach Specialist
Ian.Fawley@ecy.wa.gov
 425-324-5901

Site info:

Facility Site ID: 2922
 Site Cleanup ID: 193

Cleanup Action Plan ready for public review

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) invites you to review a draft cleanup action plan and associated documents for the Harris Avenue Shipyard Site (Site) on the Bellingham waterfront in the Fairhaven neighborhood. The plan calls for removing and capping contaminated soil and sediment, monitoring conditions, and restricting activities that could disturb capped areas.

The following documents are available for review:

- **Cleanup Action Plan:** Ecology’s plan that describes the cleanup work to address contamination at the Site.
- **Agreed Order:** Legal agreement between Ecology and the Port of Bellingham (Port) requiring design of the 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.

Online public meeting – registration required



In consideration of public health and safety, Ecology will hold an online public meeting to provide more information and answer questions:

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

- **6:30 – 7:30 p.m.:** presentation
- **7:30 p.m.:** question/answer time (as needed)
- Visit www.bit.ly/Ecology-HarrisAveShipyard for registration and login details.
- Call Ian Fawley, Outreach Specialist, 425-324-5901, for dial-in options and other online meeting support.

Online Site tour



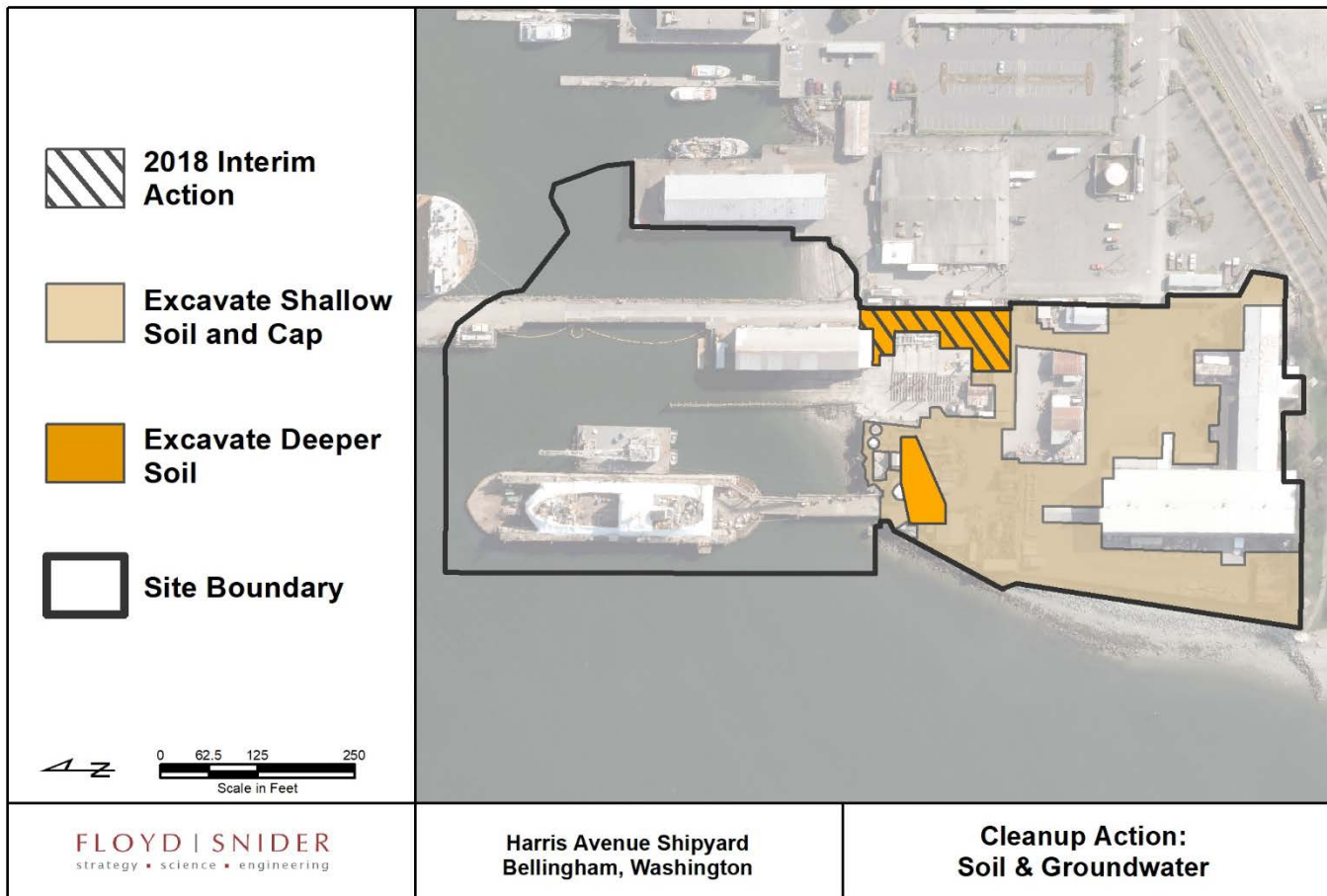
- View a virtual Site tour including informational videos created by RE Sources: www.re-sources.org/HarrisShipyard
- These videos are funded through a Public Participation Grant from Ecology.

Cleanup Action Plan

In June 2019 the Port, with Ecology oversight, completed an environmental study of the 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. The plan includes cleanup actions for both soil and groundwater (upland) and sediment (in-water) shown below and on page 3.

The plan also includes land use restrictions that allow for continued commercial uses, but prohibits activities that could disturb the capped areas without prior Ecology approval.

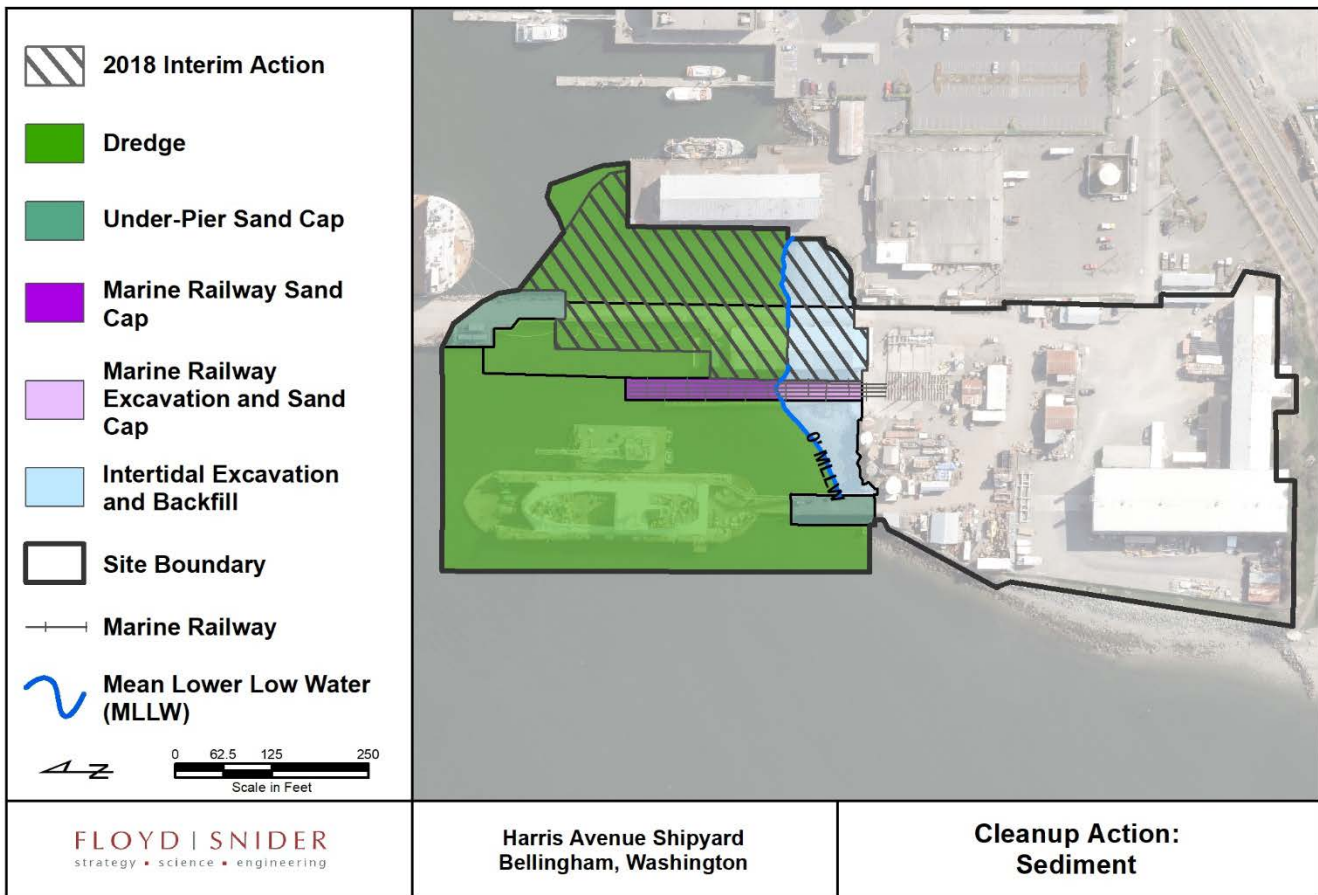
Cleanup Actions: soil and groundwater (upland)



- **Future soil and groundwater cleanup actions:**
 - **Excavate Shallow Soil and Cap:** Remove 1 to 2 feet of soil and cap with clean soil, gravel, or asphalt.
 - **Excavate Deeper Soil:** Remove or solidify soil as deep as 3 or 4 feet. Approach to be refined during future cleanup design work.
 - **Restrict land use and conduct maintenance and monitoring.**
- **2018 early cleanup (Interim Action):**
 - Removed and properly disposed of contaminated soil and backfilled to surface elevation.

As a result, this area meets required cleanup standards.

Cleanup Actions: sediment (in-water)



• **Future sediment cleanup actions:**

- **Dredge:** Remove 2 to 4 feet of contaminated sediment to meet cleanup levels and transport to a permitted upland disposal facility.
- **Under-Pier Sand Cap:** Place a minimum 1-foot deep sand cap under piers.
- **Marine Railway Sand Cap:** Place a 1 to 3- foot deep sand cap under marine railway.
- **Marine Railway Excavation and Sand Cap:** Remove targeted contaminated sediment and place a minimum 1-foot deep sand cap.
- **Intertidal Excavation and Backfill:** Remove an average of 3-feet of contaminated sediment and backfill with appropriate habitat material to match existing elevations.
- **Restrict land use and conduct maintenance and monitoring.**

• **2018 early cleanup (Interim Action):**

- Removed wooden and creosote structures.
- Dredged and disposed of contaminated subtidal sediment.
- Excavated and backfilled intertidal areas with clean sediment.
- Replaced creosote-treated wooden pier with concrete and steel pier.

As a result, sediment in the interim action area meets required cleanup standards.



Harris Avenue Shipyard Site on Bellingham waterfront in Fairhaven neighborhood, October 2019

Costs and funding

The estimated cost to complete the cleanup action is about \$28 million. The Port is eligible for reimbursement of up to half of their cost from Ecology through the state's remedial action grant program. This funding helps to pay to clean up publicly owned sites. The Legislature funds the grant program with revenues from a tax on hazardous substances.

What happens next?

- **December 7, 2020 – January 20, 2021:** Hold a 30-day public comment period.
- **December 16, 2020:** Host an online public meeting.
- **Early 2021:** Finalize the Cleanup Action Plan and associated documents. Ecology will review and consider all comments received and respond accordingly.
- **2022/2023:** Estimated time to complete design of the cleanup action.

Implementation of the cleanup action (construction) will occur under a future separate legal agreement, which will be issued for public review and comment.

En español

El Departamento de Ecología le invita a comentar sobre un reporte ambiental para el sitio que está contaminado Harris Avenue Shipyard en Bellingham.

Si le gustaría recibir este documento en español, por favor llame al 509-329-3444 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.

Toxics Cleanup Program

Background

The Harris Avenue Shipyard cleanup site is located at 201 Harris Avenue in Bellingham’s Fairhaven Neighborhood. The Site consists of approximately 5 acres of contaminated marine sediment (in-water) and 5 acres of contaminated soil and groundwater (upland).

Shipbuilding activities began in the early 1900’s, and in 1966 the Port began leasing to other industrial operations.

The State of Washington and the Port own the property within the Site. The Port and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources have a management agreement for the harbor-area parcels, including the aquatic and historical infill lands.

In 1998, the Port began voluntarily investigating sediment at the Site. Based on this work, Ecology and the Port entered into a legal agreement (agreed order) in 2003 to complete a comprehensive sediment investigation. In 2010, Ecology and the Port entered into a second agreed order to investigate upland soil and groundwater.

The Site is one of 12 sites coordinated through the Bellingham Bay Demonstration Pilot. The Pilot is a bay-wide multi-agency effort to clean up contaminated sediment, control sources of sediment contamination, and restore habitat, with consideration for land and water uses.



Harris Avenue Shipyard facing north, January 1967; Washington State Archives¹

Contamination

Investigations conducted by the Port found contamination from former shipbuilding and other historical operations. The levels of contamination are potentially harmful to humans and the environment and must be addressed under Washington’s cleanup law, the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA):

- **Soil and Groundwater:** petroleum hydrocarbon compounds and metals
- **Sediment:** polychlorinated biphenyls, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, semivolatile organic compounds, and metals

Early cleanup action

In 2018, the Port, with Ecology oversight, completed an early cleanup action for a portion of the Site (see figures on page 2 and 3).

The early cleanup action, called an interim action:

- Removed wooden and creosote structures.
- Dredged and disposed of contaminated subtidal sediment.
- Excavated and backfilled intertidal areas with clean sediment.
- Excavated and disposed of contaminated soil, and capped with gravel.
- Replaced creosote-treated wooden pier with concrete and steel pier.



Harris Avenue Pier before/after Interim Action

¹ South terminal, Pacific American Fisheries, Records of the Port of Bellingham, Photographs, 1890-1999, Washington State Archives, Digital Archives, <http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov>, December 20, 2018.

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

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Cleanup Action Plan ready for public review



Aerial view of Harris Avenue Shipyard cleanup site

Public comment period

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Online public meeting



December 16, 2020; 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Visit Ecology's webpage listed above for registration and login details. (See page 1 for more information.)

Online Site tour



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Información en español incluida (página 4)

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.