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# RAYONIER PORT ANGELES MILL SITE



## Background

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe (Tribe), and Rayonier, Inc. (Rayonier) are working together under the provisions of Washington's toxics cleanup law to determine the steps necessary to investigate and clean-up chemical contamination from the Rayonier Mill Site.

In 1997, several environmental groups petitioned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requesting that the site be named a federal "Superfund" cleanup site. The EPA conducted a study, called an Expanded Site Inspection, to assess the contamination at the site. In January 1999, it was determined that the site did qualify for potential Superfund status. However, state and local elected officials requested that EPA "defer" Superfund listing, in favor of cleanup of the site under Washington's cleanup law.

In February of 2000 the EPA agreed to defer the site, and a "deferral agreement" was signed in May by the EPA, Ecology, and the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe. The deferral agreement details the roles and responsibilities of the Tribe, Ecology and EPA in the project.

Rayonier, the property owner, is responsible for the costs of investigation and cleanup. Ecology and the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe will oversee the project to ensure compliance with state laws and protection of Tribal resources.

## Getting Started

Now that the deferral agreement has been signed, Ecology, the Tribe, and Rayonier will begin working with federal, state and local agencies, and the public to determine what needs to be accomplished.

## Public Meeting

Ecology will hold a meeting on June 13<sup>th</sup> from 7-10 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the next steps in the cleanup project and how the public can be involved. Topics to be covered include the state law, site history, the deferral agreement, and the next steps to be taken. The meeting is an opportunity for interested citizens to have their questions answered, and learn more about the process and how they can be involved.

Ecology has prepared a Public Participation Plan to establish the intended direction and procedure for community input. This plan describes the steps that will be taken to involve the community in decisions. The goal is to provide interested parties with a "road map" for the cleanup process and identify opportunities to provide input on workplans, studies, proposals, and decisions.

The plan is available at the local information repositories, or can be requested by calling (360) 407-0067. Copies will also be available at the meeting.

## June 2000

### Public Meeting

June 13, 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.  
City Council Chambers  
321 East Fifth Street  
Port Angeles

For more information on the Public Participation Plan, contact Mikel Baxter at (360) 407-0067 [mmcc461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:mmcc461@ecy.wa.gov)

For information on the site cleanup, contact: Garin Schriever at (360) 407-6253 [gasc461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:gasc461@ecy.wa.gov)

### Information Repositories:

North Olympic Library  
Reference Desk  
207 South Lincoln  
Port Angeles, WA 98362  
(360) 417-8500

Peninsula College Library  
Reference Desk  
1502 East Lauridsen  
Port Angeles, WA 98363  
(360) 452-9277

Lower Elwha Klallam  
Tribal Center  
2851 Lower Elwha Rd  
Port Angeles, WA 98363  
(360) 452-8471

Department of Ecology  
Southwest Regional Office  
Records Fileroom  
300 Desmond Drive  
Olympia, 98504-7775  
(360) 407-6365