

Wasser Winters



Site cleaned up and to be removed from Ecology's list of contaminated sites

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has prepared this fact sheet pursuant to the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) Chapter 70.105D to provide you with information about the proposed delisting of the Wasser Winters site from the state's Hazardous Sites List. Wasser Winters is currently ranked "1" on the list (a rank of "1" represents the highest level of risk compared to other sites and a rank of "5" represents the lowest). You are welcome and encouraged to comment on this proposal through December 29, 2000.

Definitions

*The **Hazardous Sites List** is a list of ranked sites that require further remedial action.*

*The **Washington Ranking Method** is the method Ecology uses to rank a site after it has gathered enough information to complete a Site Hazard Assessment. Ranking allows Ecology to prioritize sites for cleanup.*

*A **Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study** is used to define the nature, extent, magnitude, and source of the problems at a site. Based on this information, alternative cleanup methods are determined.*

***Slag** is a glass-appearing waste material from ore smelting. At this site, the slag contained arsenic, lead, copper, and zinc.*

Site background

Wasser Winters (also known as Wasser & Winters) is a 12.56-acre, vacant log sort yard located at 1602 Marine View Drive. The site is at the mouth of Hylebos Creek in an industrial area of Tacoma.

From 1972 to 1984, Wasser Winters leased the property from the Port of Tacoma for use as a log sort yard. During that time (1977 to 1980), slag from the ASARCO Smelter was placed on the site to stabilize the ground. In 1983, Ecology sampled storm water runoff from several log sort yards in the area and found high levels of arsenic, copper, lead, and zinc at the Wasser Winters location. Shortly after, the log sort yard closed.

The high levels of metals in stormwater were caused by 1) heavy vehicles working on the property grinding slag into dust and 2) leaching of acidic wood waste.

Investigations and studies conducted in 1987 and 1992 revealed the same: surface water contained high levels of arsenic, copper, lead, and zinc; soil concentrations of these metals exceeded industrial cleanup standards; and ground water concentrations were generally very low.

In 1990, Wasser Winters was placed on the Hazardous Sites List.

November 2000

Public Comment Period:

November 28 – December 29, 2000

Comments should be directed to:

Dave Smith, Site Manager
Department of Ecology
Toxics Cleanup Program
Southwest Regional Office
PO Box 47775
Olympia WA 98504-7775
(360) 407-6250
wsmi461@ecy.wa.gov

Information Repositories

Documents are available for review at the following locations:

Tacoma Public Library
Main Branch
1102 Tacoma Ave. S.
Tacoma WA
(253) 591-5666

Department of Ecology
Southwest Regional Office
300 Desmond Drive
Lacey WA 98503
(360) 407-6365

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The cleanup

In 1993, Ecology received the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study reports from the Port of Tacoma. Based on the information in these reports, Ecology developed a Cleanup Action Plan that required the Port to do the following.

Remove contaminated soil from a 100-foot streamside buffer area and backfill with clean soil;

Consolidate contaminated site material in the central four acres of the site – including contaminated soil from the buffer area;

With the exception of the 100-foot buffer, pave the site to prevent precipitation from leaching metals into Hylebos Waterway through surface water runoff and subsurface flow;

Install a storm water collection system;

Develop a post-cleanup monitoring plan;

Require deed restriction to limit the site to industrial use only.

The cleanup activities were complete by the end of 1993, and Ecology approved the post-cleanup monitoring plan in the ensuing months (which consisted of monitoring ground water and surface water).

Why delist the site?

As a result of sampling and monitoring over the last seven years, Ecology has determined the site is no longer a threat to human health or the environment and is now proposing to remove the site from the state's Hazardous Sites List.

Public comment period

Ecology's proposal to remove the Wasser Winters site from the Hazardous Sites List is now open for public comment. Documents pertaining to the delisting are available at the repositories listed in the box on page 1 of this fact sheet. Should you have comments after reading the documents, please submit them in writing to Dave Smith, Site Manager, at the Ecology address also listed in the box on page one.

➔ If approved, the site will be delisted from Ecology's February 2001 Hazardous Sites List.

The cross (+) indicates the location of the Wasser Winters site.

