



# Weldcraft Steel & Marine Bellingham Bay

## Agreed order and SEPA documents available for review

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the Port of Bellingham (Port) have negotiated a draft legal agreement (called an *agreed order*) to perform an *interim action* and a *remedial investigation/feasibility study* at the former Weldcraft Steel & Marine site located at Squalicum Way and Harbor Loop Drive in Bellingham. The agreed order outlines the work to be performed and ensures that the work is conducted in a timely fashion in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

An **interim action** is distinguished from a cleanup action in that it only partially addresses the cleanup of a site.

A **remedial investigation/feasibility study** details the type and extent of contamination at a cleanup site.

### Comments Encouraged!

The agreed order is currently available for public comment and a public meeting will also be held on May 15 to discuss the documents. Your comments on this proposed agreed order are welcome through May 28. The box at the right contains information on where to view the documents and how to submit comments. Ecology will respond in writing to all comments received and may make changes to the agreed order as a result of them. If these changes are significant, the revised agreed order will once again be made available for public review.

As part of the review process for this cleanup action, the Port of Bellingham has prepared a **State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) checklist** to evaluate potential environmental impacts resulting from cleanup and redevelopment activities. Based upon this checklist, the Port has determined that, with mitigation measures, the cleanup and redevelopment activities will not have a probable adverse impact on the environment. This determination is detailed in a *mitigated determination of nonsignificance* issued by the Port and is available for review and comment along with the SEPA checklist through May 28. The box at the right contains information on where to view the documents and how to submit comments.

### Site Background

The site is located on Port of Bellingham property adjacent to Squalicum Harbor and consists of upland areas and in-water areas. The Weldcraft facility was established on the site in 1946 and has been primarily used as a boatyard. The current tenant, Seaview Boatyard North, is not associated with any contamination at the site. Sampling has been performed at the site over the past several years and the main contaminants of concern include metals, tributyltin and mercury in the sediment and diesel, gasoline constituents and lead in upland areas.

Weldcraft is one of 12 cleanup sites around Bellingham Bay identified through the Bellingham Bay Demonstration Pilot Project, a coordinated effort to clean up contaminated sites around the Bay.

**April 2003**

**Comment Period:**

April 29, 2003 to May 28, 2003

**Public Meeting**

May 15, 2003

Port of Bellingham

1801 Roeder Ave., Bellingham

Open House: 6:30 pm

Meeting: 7:00 pm

**Documents are available for review at:**

Department of Ecology website:

[www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/sites\\_information.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/sites_information.html)

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## **Interim Action/Redevelopment**

The proposed interim action includes the cleanup of contaminated marine sediment and the removal of an inactive marine railway and creosote pilings at the Weldcraft site. In addition to this cleanup work, material dredged from Squalicum waterway would be used to construct a new habitat enhancement area on the outside face of the breakwater for Squalicum Harbor.

The interim action would be performed in conjunction with redevelopment activities at the site. Site redevelopment activities include construction of a 150-ton travel lift pier to replace the marine railway, sediment dredging to attain adequate vessel drafts in the vicinity of the new travel lift, installation of a new steel sheet pile bulkhead in front of the Squalicum Yacht Club, repair of the existing timber bulkhead along the north shoreline, repair/replacement of damaged timber piles associated with the existing wharf and north timber bulkhead and the north travel lift float, and repair/replacement of selected structural elements of the existing wharf.

The interim action would be performed at the same time as redevelopment activities at the site. This coordination of redevelopment and cleanup will prevent the further spread of contaminated sediments that would occur if redevelopment activities were done without the cleanup of contaminated sediments. Coordinating redevelopment and cleanup will also minimize the amount and duration of in-water activity, which will help to protect sensitive aquatic life such as Chinook salmon. The remaining upland portion of the site would be addressed separately by the final site cleanup at a later time.

## **Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study**

Following this interim action, an environmental study (called a remedial investigation/ feasibility study) will be performed to determine the effectiveness of the interim action and will detail the nature and extent of the remaining contamination at the site. This remedial investigation/feasibility study will also be made available for public review and comment. The study is expected to be available for public review in 2004.