
Alcoa Vancouver Cleanup East Landfill Agreed Order



Draft Agreed Order, Interim Action Work Plan and SEPA Determination for the Alcoa Vancouver East Landfill Site

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) has proposed, under terms of the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA, Chapter 70.105D RCW), an interim action to partially clean up an Alcoa site known as the "East Landfill Site." This fact sheet has been prepared to inform you about the proposed interim remedial action.

The East Landfill Site consists of three upland landfill areas known as the North, North2 and East Landfills, an area of contamination along an outfall pipe, a portion of the Columbia River bank ("South Bank") to the south and southwest of the East Landfill and adjacent river sediments. The landfills are situated next to Alcoa's former aluminum smelter.

The proposed Draft Interim Action Work Plan specifies which option is the state's preferred option for the site, describes the areas of the site affected and the level of cleanup to be attained under the preferred option. The proposed interim action will occur under an Agreed Order signed by both Ecology and Alcoa.

In addition, Ecology is recommending a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA, Chapter 197-11 WAC) determination of non-significance (DNS) for the proposed Agreed Order and Interim Action Work Plan. After reviewing the completed environmental checklist and other information on file, Ecology (as lead agency) has determined that this cleanup project will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment.

There are two comment periods for this action. Your comments on the proposed Agreed Order and Interim Action Work Plan are welcome and can be submitted in writing at any time through October 11, 2003.

Comments are welcome on the 14 day SEPA comment period that ends on September 25, 2003. The box at the right provides information on where to find a copies of each of the documents as well as the time and location of the public hearing.

What are an Agreed Order and an Interim Action Work Plan?

The proposed Agreed Order and Draft Interim Action Work Plan are documents issued by the Ecology that describe past and future actions at the site. The Draft Interim Action Work Plan describes the development of the preferred interim action, the areas of the site that the interim action apply to, and the remediation levels that will be applied. The remedial action to performed under the Agreed Order will provide a partial cleanup of the site, in which hazardous substances from part of the site will be cleaned up but cleanup standards for the site as a whole will not yet be met. Final cleanup of the site will be accomplished in the future under a Consent Decree.

Site background

The smelter complex was owned and operated by Alcoa, Inc. from the late 1940's to 1986. The facility from the early 1950's to the mid 1980's contained an aluminum smelter, and a series of fabrication plants to form aluminum metal into finished goods such as wire, rod, and extruded channel. In 1987 Alcoa sold the smelter to VANALCO, retaining title to the manufacturing buildings and surrounding property. In 2000 VANALCO closed the smelter and in 2002 sold the smelter to the Evergreen Aluminum Company. Since 1987 Alcoa has been closing and selling portions of the remaining manufacturing facility and

**September
2003**

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR AGREED ORDER

September 12, 2003 through
October 11, 2003

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR SEPA DNS

September 12, 2003 through
September 25, 2003

SEND WRITTEN COMMENTS TO:

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PUBLIC HEARING

7:00 PM Wednesday
September 24, 2003
Clark College – Gaiser Hall
1800 East McLoughlin Blvd.
Vancouver, WA 98663

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

**Copies of the SEPA/DNS,
Draft Agreed Order and
Interim Action Work Plan are
available at the following
locations:**

Industrial Section
Department of Ecology
300 Desmond Drive
Lacey, WA

Fort Vancouver Regional Library
1007 East Mill Plain Boulevard
Vancouver, Washington
(360) 695-1566

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surrounding property which it owns. The East Landfill Site that is the subject of the proposed interim action is located on the east side of the closed Alcoa rod and wire mill.

Alcoa filled the North and North2 landfills with materials containing polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), construction materials, including concrete and refractory brick, asphalt chunks and fill materials generated during operation of the smelter, extrusion and wire mills at the site. The North and North2 Landfills contain approximately 25,000 cubic yards of waste. The North and North2 Landfills will be moved to the East Landfill in the remediation.

In addition to the removal of waste from the two landfills, Alcoa will remove PCB waste "hot spots" and place the material in the East Landfill. The PCB contamination is found along a wastewater pipeline and the Columbia River bank located to the west and southwest of the East Landfill. ("South Bank") The PCB contaminated areas contain approximately 2,500 cubic yards of waste. Also included in the site are adjacent contaminated sediments found in the Columbia River. These sediments will be cleaned up in the future as part of a final cleanup action performed under a Consent Decree.

Studies conducted on the East Landfill have found polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), trichloroethylene (TCE) and trichloroethylene degradation products in groundwater and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), trichloroethylene (TCE), and petroleum (TPH) in soils. The East Landfill contains approximately 150,000 cubic yards of waste.

What is being done?

The proposed Agreed Order requires implementation of the proposed Interim Action Work Plan. Ecology recognizes the need to use consolidation and containment options on sites where a large volume of material with relatively low levels of hazardous substances exist. The proposed remedial action that will be conducted in this Work Plan involves the removal of contaminated soils from the North Landfill, North2 Landfill, and South Bank, and placement of these contaminated soils in the East Landfill. The consolidated waste and transplanted contaminated soil in the East Landfill will then be contained by an engineered cover. Reconstruction of the shoreline adjacent to the East Landfill will then occur, and groundwater will continue to be monitored for contamination. The engineered cover on the consolidated waste consists of a geosynthetic clay liner (GCL), geomembrane, geonet drainage layer and geotextile and a two foot soil cover with vegetated cover. The engineered cover will prevent surface water infiltration and eliminate potential contact of contaminated waste soils with the environment. The shoreline reconstruction includes the

grading of existing shoreline, the placement of clean fill, the installation of concrete revetment protection, and the planting of native vegetation in the revetment. The shoreline armor will help protect the Columbia River from contaminants found in the East Landfill.

What happens next?

Public comment on the proposed Agreed Order, Draft Interim Action Work Plan and SEPA DNS will be considered and the plan will be modified, if necessary, based on the comments received. The Agreed Order will be effective before the comment period is over, unless the Department determines it is in the public interest to complete the public comment period before the effective date of the Agreed Order. A final cleanup action for the site will be conducted at a later point in time, under a Consent Decree.

Ecology and Alcoa want your comments

You are invited to review and comment on the proposed Agreed Order, Interim Action Work Plan, and SEPA determination for the Alcoa Vancouver East Landfill Cleanup Site through October 11, 2003. The 30-day public comment period presents an opportunity to have your ideas and comments heard by Ecology. Information repositories have been set up at the locations listed in the box on page one. To review more detailed documents than those in the information repositories, contact Paul Skyllingstad at (360) 407-6949.

A public meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, September 24 at Clark College – Gaiser Hall, 1800 East McLoughlin Blvd., Vancouver, WA. This will be an opportunity to learn about, to comment and to ask questions about the cleanup action.

Please submit your written comments by October 11, 2003, to Paul Skyllingstad at the Ecology address listed in the box on the first page one of this fact sheet or attend the public hearing. Ecology will consider and respond to all written comments received, and will revise the Draft Interim Action Work Plan or Consent Decree, if necessary. Updates of site activities will be provided to those who submit comments or ask to be placed on the site mailing list.