

# Lower Duwamish Waterway Site Source Control Update



## What is source control?

Source control is the process of finding and then stopping or reducing releases of pollution to waterway sediments. The point of source control is to keep sediments from becoming severely polluted again after being cleaned up.

## Who is working on source control?

Ecology leads the Source Control Work Group that is working toward controlling sources of pollution that may contaminate waterway sediments. The Source Control Work Group is made up of the Department of Ecology, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), City of Seattle, King County, Port of Seattle, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, and City of Tukwila. This group meets monthly to coordinate their source control efforts. Their first priority is to address the early action areas that were identified for sediment cleanup.

## What is the Source Control Work Group doing?

- **Inspecting Potential Sources:** From 2003-2005, King County and the City of Seattle conducted over 950 business inspections in the LDW drainage/combined sewer service area. Inspectors check business practices like spill prevention/control, general housekeeping practices, and outdoor storage, and work with owners to ensure that they implement appropriate management practices to reduce the amount of pollutants discharged to the LDW via stormwater and/or combined sewer overflows. The Cities of Seattle and Tukwila hope to initiate a similar program in the Norfolk combined sewer overflow/stormwater basin. Ecology is re-evaluating existing groundwater data in the area around Slip 4 to screen possible groundwater sources in that area.
- **Sampling & Investigating:** Along Slip 4 the City of Seattle and Ecology completed bank sampling. Also for Slip 4, King County Airport, City of Seattle, and Boeing are sampling around and across the northern portion of the King County Airport to trace and locate sources of contamination. At Terminal 108 at the Diagonal Way /Duwamish cleanup site, the Port has sampled soil and groundwater. At Jorgensen Forge, preliminary sampling upland is complete and stormwater management has been improved. Additional sampling is planned at Jorgensen to determine if the upland contamination poses a threat to the sediments. At PACCAR additional upland and sediment sampling will occur to determine necessary source control for sediment protection.
- **Controlling Upland Pollution Sources:** The City of Seattle completed temporary actions to clean up and cover chemicals called polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, which were found in dirt on

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streets, in a storage lot and in two residential yards in a small area of South Park. The City is evaluating alternatives for ensuring people are permanently protected from coming into contact with the PCBs. The City's final cleanup is expected to occur in 2007 or 2008, depending on the completion date of the Terminal 117 uplands cleanup. the Port of Seattle will remove contaminated bank material and upland soils which are possible sources of contamination to the waterway sediments. At Slip 4, the City of Seattle recently completed a surface soil cleanup at the Georgetown Steam Plant to remove PCBs. The City is planning additional sampling in this area for this summer.

- **Tracking Down Sources:** King County and the City of Tacoma have been investigating sources of phthalates including product testing and conducting air deposition sampling. The City of Seattle continues to use sediment trap and catch basin sampling in storm drains in several areas that drain to the LDW. King County continues to conduct key manhole sampling in sanitary/combined sewers. In addition, The Boeing Company has been sampling storm drains on North Boeing Field that discharge to Slip 4. The City of Tukwila is working with King County Airport to address drainage from central portions of the Airport. .
- **Exploring new technologies:** The City of Seattle and City of Tacoma have been testing a stormwater treatment device to determine whether this manufactured system is capable of removing pollutants affecting the LDW, like phthalates and petroleum hydrocarbons. Field testing has been completed and work is underway to evaluate the test results. Ecology hired a contractor to perform thermal infrared imaging of the LDW during an aerial

flyover completed in February 2006. The pictures display temperature. This information will be used to identify potential sources of pollution and indicate locations that need further investigation.

- **Planning and coordinating:** Ecology completed a Source Control Action Plan for Terminal 117 and expects to publish the Source Control Action Plan for Slip 4 in July 2006. These plans present information on the source areas, the source control work and monitoring that are needed, and outline how progress will be reported for each site. These plans can be found on Ecology's web site:  
[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/lower\\_duwamish/lower\\_duwamish\\_hp.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/lower_duwamish/lower_duwamish_hp.html)

### Upcoming Source Control Work

Ecology recently hired three new employees who will be dedicated to Source Control on the Lower Duwamish Waterway site. Ecology is planning to evaluate and organize source control investigations and work needed in the area of the Trotsky Early Action Area of sediments. The current plan is to develop a Source Control Action Plan for this area in 2007.

The City of Seattle will conducting a pilot test to determine whether increased street sweeping is effective in reducing the amount of pollutants discharged to the public storm drain system. The one-year test began in June 2006. New high efficiency street sweepers will be used in three separate test areas (West Seattle, Columbia City, and one site to be selected in the LDW area). Sweeping will be conducted each week on opposite sides of the street and extensive sampling will be conducted to measure the amount of dirt and chemicals removed by sweeping.

**City of Seattle high efficiency street sweepers will be used in pilot test this summer.**

