

THERMAFIBER/ USG INTERIORS, INC. 2301 Taylor Way, Tacoma



Agreed Order For Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study Proposed

The Washington State Department of Ecology, USG Corporation, and the Port of Tacoma have agreed to a Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA, Chapter 70 105D RCW) order to complete a remedial investigation and a feasibility study (RI/FS) of metals-contaminated soil and groundwater at the USG Interiors site (also known as Thermafiber). The agreed order is a legal document agreed to between Ecology and potentially liable persons (PLPs), to ensure that proposed activities are conducted in a timely way, in agreement with MTCA and other applicable laws and regulations.

Your comments on this proposed agreed order are welcome through August 30, 2006. The box to the right provides information about where to review the agreed order, as well as where to submit comments.

Site Background

The 9.4-acre USG Interiors site is located at 2301 Taylor Way, on the southwest shore of the Hylebos Waterway, in Tacoma, Washington. USG owned and operated a mineral

fiber production plant at the site between 1959 and 1996. Thermafiber purchased the property in 1996 and continued to operate the plant until 2002. The Port of Tacoma bought the property in December of 2002. The rock wool manufacturing and accessory buildings on the site were removed in 2003. A new warehouse facility was constructed on the property in 2005, and the property is currently being leased from the Port of Tacoma by Carlile Transportation Systems trucking company.

The plant produced a product typically referred to as mineral fiber insulation or "rock wool". The production process includes mixing and heating raw materials (such as steel mill slag and basalt rocks) to a molten state, and forcing out these materials under pressure to produce mineral fiber. Between 1959 and 1973, ASARCO slag was used as one of the raw materials. ASARCO slag contains high concentrations of metals (such as arsenic, antimony, lead, copper, and zinc). By-products and wastes from the production process were deposited on the site, resulting in contaminated soils and ground water.

AUGUST, 2006 Fact Sheet

Public Comment Period

July 31 to August 30

Please direct your questions & written comments to:

Joyce Mercuri, Site Manager
Washington Department of Ecology
SWRO Toxics Cleanup Program
300 Desmond Drive
PO Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775
(360) 407-6260
JMER461@ECY WA GOV

You may view a copy of the agreed order documents at the following locations:


Tacoma Public Library
1102 Tacoma Ave
Tacoma, WA
(253) 591-5666

Citizens for A Healthy Bay
917 Pacific Ave. Suite 100
Tacoma, WA 98402
(253) 383-2429

WA Department of Ecology
SWRO Toxics Cleanup Program
300 Desmond Drive
PO Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775
(360) 407-6365
sfle461@ecy.wa.gov

Web Sites:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/thermafiber/thermafiber_hp.html
www.ecy.wa.gov, "Public Events Calendar"

 printed on recycled paper

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If you have special accommodation needs, or require this document in an alternative format, please call Joyce Mercuri, (360) 407-6260 (voice), (360) 407-6306 (TDD), or 1-877-83-6341 (TTY), or email JMER461@ecy.wa.gov.

In December 1982, the Commencement Bay Nearshore/Tideflats was added to the National Priorities List (NPL) under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liabilities Act of 1980 (CERCLA/ Superfund). The NPL site includes Hylebos Waterway and nearby sites believed to contribute pollution to the waterway. In the mid-1990's, Ecology identified the USG Interiors property as a source of metals contamination to Hylebos Waterway. At that time, Ecology and USG entered into an agreed order to conduct site investigations and interim actions to stop the source of pollution to the Hylebos Waterway. Between 1995 and 2000, several actions were completed under that order.

- Removed soil berm with high levels of heavy metals.
- Removed area of petroleum contaminated soils.
- Removed waste products and contaminated soils from the site shoreline
- Repaired and installed stormwater system and paved site.
- Excavated area soils contaminated with heavy metals near the former baghouse.
- Groundwater and stormwater monitoring

In connection with the sale of the property, a Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessment was completed. Other areas of contamination were addressed voluntarily between 2002 and 2005 by either Thermafiber, the Port of Tacoma, or USG. These included:

- Removal of an elevated railroad grade berm containing high levels of heavy metals.
- Removal of metals contaminated soils in two localized areas under the new warehouse.
- Removal of petroleum contaminated soils under the former building footprint
- Removal of additional heavy metals contaminated soils near the former baghouse area.
- Removal of two underground diesel storage tanks that were discovered during construction of the warehouse.

This site is located adjacent to the Hylebos Waterway, connected to Puget Sound. Cleaning up sources of contamination to Puget Sound is a high priority for Ecology, under the Puget Sound Initiative

What Is Being Done?

Although data about groundwater and soils have been generated about the site, and several interim actions have occurred, soil and groundwater contamination remain on the site. A full remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) are needed to identify what contamination remains and evaluate alternatives for cleanup under the Model Toxics Control Act.

This agreed order requires USG Corporation and the Port of Tacoma to complete the remedial investigation of contaminants remaining on the site and to complete a feasibility study. The remedial investigation will determine the types and extent of the site contamination, and determine its effect on the surrounding environment. The feasibility study will evaluate site cleanup alternatives. After Ecology approves the RI/FS, a draft cleanup action plan may be required under an additional order or amendment. Ecology will oversee implementation of the agreed order to ensure that all parts of the agreed order are fulfilled.

The RI/FS should be completed by 18 months from the time of order signing.

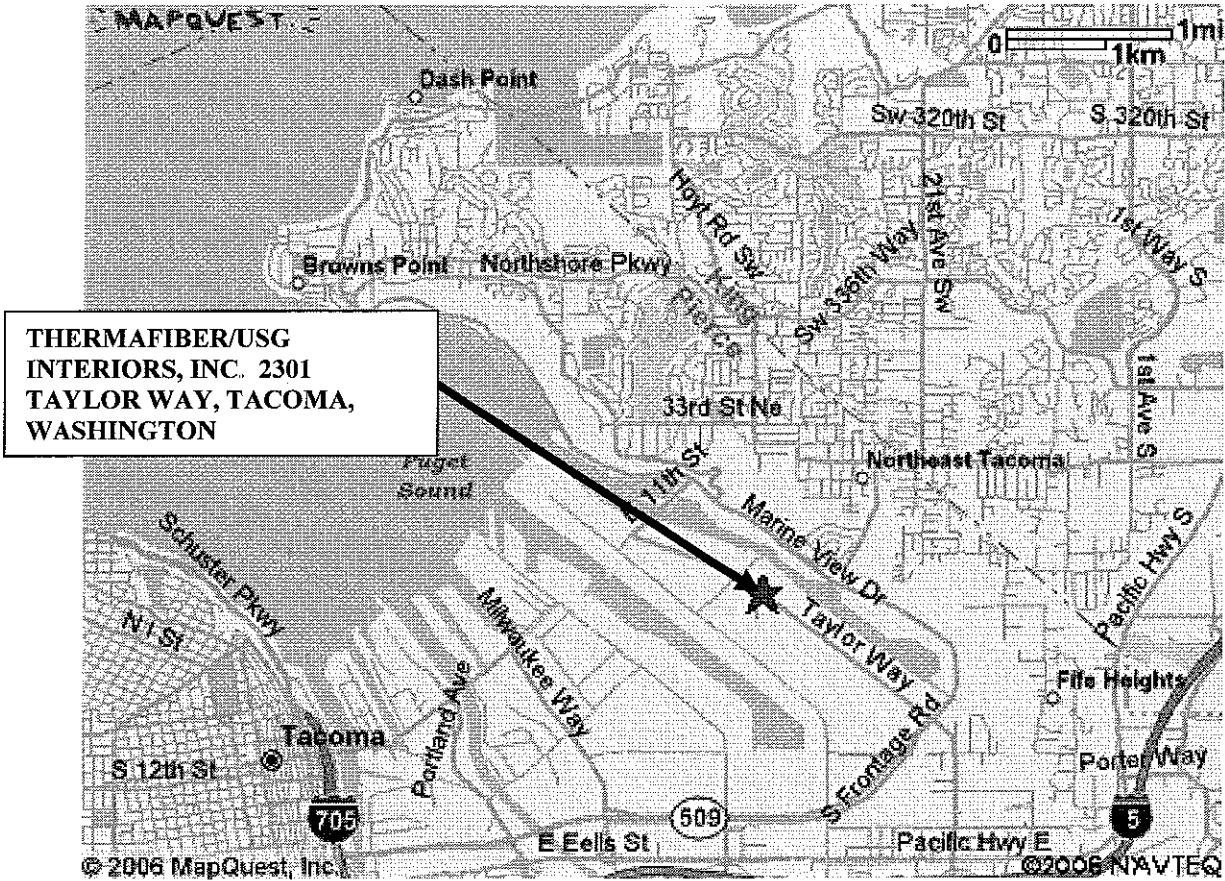
What Happens Next?

Public comment on the agreed order will be considered and the order may be modified, if necessary, based on the comments received. When the results RI/FS is completed, a notice of its availability will be published in Ecology's Site Register publication. Further formal public comment opportunities will occur after the remedial investigation/feasibility study is completed and the cleanup action plan is developed.

Ecology Wants Your Comments!

You are invited to review and comment on the proposed agreed order through **August 30, 2006**. The public comment period presents an opportunity to have your ideas and comments heard by Ecology. Information repositories, which include the agreed order, have been set up at the locations listed in the box on page one. To review more detailed site documents than those in the information repositories, contact Ecology's Southwest Regional Office records center at (360) 407-6365 to schedule an appointment.

Please submit your written comments to Joyce Mercuri, Site Manager, at the Ecology address listed in the box on page one. Ecology will review and respond to all comments received, and may revise the agreed order. Updates of site activities will be provided to those who submit comments or request to be placed on the site mailing list. (If you received this fact sheet directly from Ecology, you are already on the site mailing list.)





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