

# Spokane River Metals

## Comments Sought on Construction Documents for Island Complex and Murray Road Recreation Areas



### Ecology Proposes Lead, Arsenic, Zinc, and Cadmium Cleanup

Historic mining practices in the Coeur d'Alene basin resulted in lead, arsenic, zinc, and cadmium contamination of certain shoreline areas along the Spokane River. These contaminants known as heavy metals washed downstream from Idaho and settled in soil and sediments of the river.

Following the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) study of contaminants in the Coeur d'Alene basin, nine recreational shoreline areas in Washington were identified as needing cleanup. Ecology and EPA completed cleanup of metals contamination at Starr Road in 2006. Ecology proposes to clean up two more areas identified as Island Complex and Murray Road by early fall 2007. Both sites are located in unincorporated sections of Spokane County, Washington (see Fig. 1).

### Why Cleanup is Necessary

- The level of contamination exceeds site-specific cleanup standards.
- Cleanup improves protection for wildlife and rainbow trout that spawn nearby.
- Cleanup improves protection for children and adults recreating in these areas.

### How You May be Involved

*You may review and comment on documents associated with these two projects June 6, 2007 through July 6, 2007.* The box at the right provides locations for reviewing documents and submitting comments.

The documents for review include:

- Remedial Design Work Plan and Construction Plans which provide project and construction engineering details.
- State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Checklist.
- SEPA Determination of Non-Significance (DNS).
- Substantive Permit Requirements.

The State Environmental Policy Act, known as SEPA, requires government agencies to consider potential environmental impacts of a project before beginning the cleanup. A Determination of Non-Significance indicates the proposed actions will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment.

- After review of an environmental checklist and other site-specific information, Ecology determined the cleanup of lead, arsenic, zinc,

### Fact Sheet June 2007

#### Comments Accepted

June 6, 2007 through July 6, 2007

#### Para asistencia en Espanol:

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**Если вам нужно помощь по русский, звоните:**

Tatyana Bistresky 509/477-3881

#### Document Review Locations

##### WA Department of Ecology

4601 N. Monroe, Spokane, WA 99205-1295  
Mrs. Johnnie Landis 509-329-3415

##### Argonne County Library

4322 N. Argonne, Spokane, WA 99206  
509-893-8260

##### Spokane Valley Library

12004 E. Main, Spokane Valley, WA 99216  
509-893-8400

##### Spokane Public Library

906 W. Main, Spokane, WA 99201  
509-444-5300

#### Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Website

[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/spo\\_ic/spo\\_ic\\_hp.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/spo_ic/spo_ic_hp.htm)

#### Comments and Technical Questions

Call Mr. Zach Hedgpath, P.E.  
Ecology Toxics Cleanup Program  
4601 N. Monroe, Spokane, WA 99205-1295  
509-329-3484 e-mail:  
[zahe461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:zahe461@ecy.wa.gov)

#### Community Outreach Questions

Call Ms. Carol Bergin  
Ecology Toxics Cleanup Program  
509-329-3546 e-mail:  
[cabe461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:cabe461@ecy.wa.gov)

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If you need this publication in an alternate format please call Carol Bergin at 509-329-3546.

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and cadmium in soil will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment.

- This action will benefit the environment by reducing the release of toxic chemicals from the site.
- Therefore, Ecology has issued a Determination of Non-Significance (DNS).

### Island Complex Site Background

This area is used for recreation and provides trails and access to the river from a parking lot near Exit 299 on I-90. The site covers approximately 9.5 acres and is located near river mile 95 about 1 mile west of the Idaho border. The northwest boundary is in the river and the southeast boundary runs along the Centennial Trail and I-90.

The area that makes up the site is separated from the south bank of the river by a seasonal channel. The channel is dry during late summer and fall and fills with water in winter and spring creating an island effect.



Island Complex

### Proposed Construction

Site construction focuses on the south and west banks of the island. Work will stabilize banks to reduce erosion and isolate contaminants to limit human, wildlife, and fish exposure to lead, arsenic, zinc and cadmium (see Fig. 2). Restoration at this site includes:

- Stabilizing sections of the river bank to minimize re-distribution of contaminants.
- Placing a protective cap of soil and gravel on certain trail areas and banks to prevent contact with contaminants.
- Installing trail signs or boulders as path guides.
- Installing a temporary irrigation system along the bank of the channel for new trees and shrubs.

- Planting trees and shrubs along the bank of the back channel.
- Enhancing existing footpaths.

### Murray Road Site Background

This area is also used for river recreation and is accessed from a trail on East River Road. The site covers nearly 1.5 acres on the north bank of the Spokane River. It is located at river mile 94.3 about 1.7 miles west of the Idaho border.

The location that makes up this site fluctuates as a peak recreational use area. During summer and fall the water levels are low and it is easily accessed. During winter and spring if the river flows are high the area is underwater.



Murray Road

### Proposed Construction

Construction at this site focuses on isolating contaminants to limit human, wildlife, and fish exposure to lead, arsenic, cadmium and zinc (see Fig. 3). Restoration in this area includes:

- Covering contaminated areas with sand and gravel creating a protective cap over the lead, arsenic, zinc, and cadmium contamination.
- Enhancing the footpath from the vehicle pull-out area to the river recreation project location.

### What Happens Next

After the 30-day comment period, Ecology will issue a Responsiveness Summary answering the questions or comments submitted by the public. The summary will be sent to those who commented and will also be available in the locations listed in the box on page one. Based on public input, Ecology may modify the proposed work. Ecology plans to complete the proposed work by early fall 2007.



Figure 1



