



Focus on the **Everett Smelter Cleanup**

from Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program

Your neighborhood is affected by contamination from the former Everett Smelter. The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) managed the cleanup of the most highly contaminated properties between 1999 and 2003, and will be cleaning up an additional 10 homes this summer. More homes will be cleaned up, as funding allows, and your home is within the next area to be addressed. The first step in the cleanup process is to prepare maps of individual homes so that soil sampling can be conducted. If funds permit, Ecology plans to sample and test arsenic levels from soil samples gathered in your neighborhood and inform you about the results.

Mapping and sampling to occur in your neighborhood

The next stage of the cleanup process includes mapping and sampling in the yards of 34 homes southeast of the Legion Memorial Golf Course. In order to plan for cleanup, maps must be produced for each individual property to identify areas in your yard to sample and clean up. These maps are used to determine where to take soil samples in these yards.

Ecology must analyze soil samples to determine whether cleanup is necessary and how much soil must be removed. Please note that Ecology will not be able to perform soil sampling until funding is available. As a result, we do not have a time schedule for the soil sampling. Ecology will inform you ahead of time when this will occur.

Completing the mapping now allows the contractor to get started right away if and when funding becomes available for sampling and cleanup of yards.

Ecology will need permission from you to access your property in order to create a map of your yard. If you agree to have this work done on your property, you will need to sign the enclosed access agreement by June 12, 2007.

Taking safety precautions

Areas with highly contaminated soil have already been covered, fenced, or removed, and there is no immediate danger to human health. It is uncertain, however, what health risks may be posed by long-term exposure to soil contaminated with arsenic. The Snohomish Health District has issued a public health advisory for the area. Please visit their web site at www.snohd.org/snoadvis/ for more information on health guidelines and precautionary measures.

Neighborhood history

In 1894, a factory was built near the intersection of Broadway and East Marine View Drive in northeast Everett. It was used to produce lead, gold, and silver. An arsenic extraction plant or smelter was installed in 1898 and operated until 1912. When smelter operations ended, equipment was sent off site, and above-ground structures were demolished.

The smelter property was sold in various parcels. The last parcel was sold in 1936. In the 1930s and 1940s, part of the former smelter property was developed into residential properties. The highway interchange between East Marine View Drive and State Route 529 was built across the old smelter site in the 1950s.

Ecology discovered the contamination problem in October 1990. A local company notified Ecology that they had found elevated concentrations of arsenic and lead in the soil and groundwater during an environmental assessment of the property. Ecology conducted additional investigations of the surrounding area.

The soil at the Everett Smelter Site has higher than normal levels of arsenic, lead, cadmium and other metals. The area includes both the former smelter plant property, which contains the smelter debris, and the surrounding area, which was affected by air emissions from the smelter stacks. Seven acres at the core of the former smelter facility, just south of the SR 529-Marine View Dr. interchange, underwent cleanup between 2004-2007. Areas next to the former smelter property also may have been contaminated by smelter operations, including spilled products and smelter waste.

**Visit us at the orientation meeting
to learn more**

Ecology invites you to attend an orientation meeting to learn more about the work planned for your neighborhood. Staff will be available to answer your questions.

Please save the date!

**Tuesday, June 5, 2007
6 – 8 p.m.
North Middle School Cafeteria
2514 Rainier Avenue
Everett, WA 98201**

Schedule for mapping of yards

The schedule of activities for 2007 includes:

- June 5.....*Orientation meeting*
- June 12.....*Access agreements*
.....(Sign and submit to Ecology
.....by this date)
- June and July...*Mapping begins*
.....(You will be contacted
.....to set up an appropriate time)

*Please note: Sampling may be delayed
for a year or more if funding is not available.*



For more information:

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If you have special accommodation needs or require this document in alternative formats, please contact Nancy Lui at (425) 649-7117 (Voice). Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call 1-800-833-6388 (TTY).