

Introduction and Update of Activities

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 2007, and will be cleaning additional homes this year. Your home is within the next area to be addressed. The first steps in the cleanup process are to prepare maps of individual homes and to sample soil to find out how much and where contaminated soil must be taken out.

In 2007, with permission from the homeowner, Ecology produced maps of the yard areas of 26 individual homes. Your home was included in the list of homes to be mapped. **Ecology is contacting you to confirm that you are still interested in cleanup, and to update its records in case the property has changed owners, among other things.**

Ecology plans to sample and test arsenic levels from soil samples gathered in your neighborhood and inform you about the results. If your home was mapped in 2007, Ecology has included in this mailing a copy of the map that was made of this property. In some cases, some homeowners did not respond and Ecology is following up with the present owners to find out if they want to be included in the cleanup

Mapping and sampling to occur in your neighborhood

The next stage of the cleanup process includes final mapping and sampling in the yards of homes southeast of the Legion Memorial Golf Course. In order to plan for cleanup, maps are needed for each individual property to identify areas in your yard to sample and later 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.

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. Areas next to the former smelter property also may have been contaminated by smelter operations, including spilled products and smelter waste.

What Should I Do Next?

Please fill in the Access Agreement form with updated contact information and return in the self addressed envelope. Homeowners who do not wish to have their homes mapped, sampled and cleaned up are requested to check the appropriate box in the form. If you agree to the sampling and cleanup, Ecology will contact you by phone or email to follow up and schedule an individual visit or meeting to answer any questions or concerns, and discuss next steps.

Additional Resources

Information on the Everett Smelter site may be found on Ecology's website at:
http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/asarco/es_main.html

Dirt Alert Contact List:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/dirt_alert/other_info/contacts_070122.html



For more information on the mapping and sampling contact:

Jerome Cruz
 Hydrogeologist
 WA Department of Ecology
 Toxics Cleanup Program
 3190 160th Avenue SE
 Bellevue, WA 98008
 (425) 649-7094

Nancy Lui
 Community Outreach and
 Environmental Education
 Specialist
 WA Department of Ecology
 Toxics Cleanup Program
 3190 160th Avenue SE
 Bellevue, WA 98008
 (425) 649-7117

Facility Site ID 2744

Special accommodations

To ask about the availability of this document in a version for the visually impaired, call the Toxics Cleanup Program at (360) 407-7170.

Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.