
Chinook Ventures and Alcoa Longview Smelter Cleanup Project



Proposed Agreed Order

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) proposes to issue an Agreed Order to Chinook Ventures, LLC (Chinook) and Northwest Alloys – Alcoa (Alcoa). The Order lists tasks Chinook and Alcoa must perform to explore and define the extent of contamination on its property (site) in Longview, Washington. In addition the Order directs Chinook and Alcoa to investigate how the site can be cleaned up. Ecology invites you to read and comment on the proposed Agreed Order by the close of business Monday May 28, 2007. The box at the right shows where we sent copies of the Agreed Order for you to read, as well as where to send your comments.

What is an Agreed Order?

The proposed Agreed Order is a legal document, signed by both parties, formalizing an agreement between Chinook Ventures /Alcoa and the Department of Ecology. This Order will require that both parties research and identify the environmental impacts resulting from past waste disposal practices (called a *remedial investigation*), and that Chinook and Alcoa report on a range of available treatment or control methods that will protect humans and the environment from exposure to the site's contamination (called a *feasibility study*).

This Order requires Chinook Ventures and Alcoa to complete the following actions:

- Chinook and Alcoa shall submit a plan that initiates further soil and water sampling investigations to

complete the characterization of the location, quantity, aerial, and vertical extent of the contaminants found on the Site.

- Assemble and review an air-photo collection of the Site. The review is to be used to determine the waste disposal history of the northern portion of the Site.
- Submit a work plan to develop a set of site-specific surface water cleanup standards for fluoride.
- Submit a feasibility study that will direct which technologies will be used in the cleanup of the Site.

Chinook/Alcoa has two months to complete the remedial investigation. Chinook/Alcoa must complete the feasibility study four months after Ecology approves the remedial investigation.

Import of the Order

The Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA, Chapter 70.105D RCW), governs all aspects of site pollution investigation and cleanup. Under MTCA, the owner is presumed to be responsible for the contamination of the site, and must pay the costs of removing or containing the pollution to minimize risks of human exposure and to prevent further environmental damage.

After the feasibility study is completed Ecology and Chinook/Alcoa will negotiate a Consent Decree for the cleanup of the site.

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Site Use Background

April 2007

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

April 27, 2007 through May 28, 2007

SEND WRITTEN COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT AGREED ORDER TO:

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PO Box 47706
Olympia, WA 98504-7706
(360) 407-6949

E-mail: psky461@ecy.wa.gov

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

Read the proposed Agreed Order at the following locations:

Industrial Section
Department of Ecology
300 Desmond Drive
Lacey, WA
(360) 407-6949

Vancouver Field Office
Department of Ecology
2108 Grand Boulevard
Vancouver, WA
(360) 696-8085

Longview Main Library
1600 Louisiana St.
Longview, WA

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The old Reynolds Aluminum smelting facility is located at 4029 Industrial Way on the north bank of the Columbia River in Cowlitz County, near Longview, Washington. The site covers approximately 416 acres with approximately 100 acres of developed area. The southern portion of the facility (South Plant) began aluminum smelting and casting operations during WWII in 1941. The larger North Plant began smelting and casting in 1967. The Longview facility was shut down in March of 2003.

The current owner, Chinook Ventures, LLC has removed the smelting apparatus in each potroom and converted the empty buildings to dry bulk storage. Chinook Ventures proposes to further develop the site into a private port facility after cleanup.

Recent Investigations

Chinook Ventures commenced environmental investigations in July of 2002 and completed the activities in late 2003. The initial data set shows elevated levels of cyanide, fluoride, and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in soils and fluoride and cyanide in groundwater at the site. The current draft Agreed Order directs Chinook/Alcoa to fill in data gaps with further characterization of soil and groundwater at the site. The sampling plan will include data collection to develop site boundary groundwater conditions and critical values which will be used in a site-wide groundwater model.

What Happens Next

Ecology will weigh the merits of all comments received on or before May 28, 2007. If persuaded by those comments, Ecology will modify the proposed Agreed Order and issue the final version. Ecology expects Chinook/Alcoa to complete the work required by the Agreed Order within six months of the Order's effective date.

After the evaluation of the Feasibility Study by Ecology, Chinook/Alcoa and Ecology will enter into negotiations for the final cleanup of the site. Ecology will propose in the Cleanup Action Plan the final site cleanup plan. When Ecology proposes the Cleanup Action Plan (CAP) for the site, we will again request public review and formal comment on that plan and the legal document, a Consent Decree, which obligates each party to complete the cleanup.

Ecology Wants Your Comments

Please visit one of the three places (repositories) listed on the lower half of the text box on page 1. There you will find the proposed Agreed Order, this Fact Sheet, general site environmental data and tips for preparing your formal comments. We must receive your comments by the close of business on

Monday, May 28, 2007.

If you want to see the files that contain detailed background (the reasons behind) this proposed Order, call project manager Paul Skyllingstad at Ecology's Lacey building (360) 407-6949. There is no public information meeting planned for this Agreed Order. The next informational meeting planned for this site will be during the public comment period for the Cleanup Action Plan and Consent Decree in late 2007 or early 2008.

Ecology will send updates of Chinook Ventures/Alcoa site activities to anyone who submits comments or who asks to be placed on the site mailing list.