

Toxics Cleanup Program

August 2008

Site Investigation Documents Ready for Public Review

Public Comment Invited

Ecology requests your input on three documents for the North Boeing Field/Georgetown Steam Plant Site. You are invited to:

- **Review** the Agreed Order, Public Participation Plan, and Scope of Work.
- **Attend** a Public Meeting on *September 18* to learn more and give written comments.
- **Send** your written comments to Ecology from *August 14, 2008 through September 26, 2008* (see the box to the right for details).

Site Background

The Georgetown Steam Plant was built by the Seattle Electric Company in 1906 to provide power during periods of high use. After 1912, use of the Steam Plant decreased under Puget Power ownership. When built, the Steam Plant was next to the Duwamish River. Around 1916 the river was straightened to form the Duwamish Waterway and a 0.4 mile flume was built to carry cooling water to Slip 4. Over the years adjacent facility and property owners made drainage connections to the flume. In 1951, the City of Seattle bought the Steam Plant and still owns the 7.29 acre property that contains the powerhouse and property at the head of the flume. The City of Seattle operated the Georgetown Steam Plant on stand-by until it was fully decommissioned in 1977.

King County owns most of North Boeing Field. The Boeing Company (Boeing) leases about 117 acres from King County and owns the improvements it has built on the leased property. Boeing also leases a few acres along and over the Steam Plant flume from the City of Seattle and owns land that holds one of their buildings and a parcel used for parking. Boeing has operated at North Boeing Field since the 1940s for aircraft and aerospace manufacturing, maintenance, and research. Yet there are few records available on site operations before the 1970s. Currently Boeing owns about 80 buildings on North Boeing Field. North Boeing Field has a complex storm drain system that includes over 400 catch basins, 400 manholes, up to 16 oil water separators and

Comments Accepted

August 14 – September 26, 2008

Public Meeting

September 18, 2008

6 p.m. - Open House

6:30 p.m. - Presentation

Question & Answer to follow

South Seattle Community College

Georgetown Campus

6737 Corson Ave S, Seattle

Submit Comments and Technical Questions to:

Mark Edens - Site Manager

WA Department of Ecology

Toxics Cleanup Program

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Bellevue, WA 98008

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DOCUMENT REVIEW LOCATIONS

South Park Public Library

8604 Eighth Ave S at S Cloverdale St.

Seattle, WA 98108

Phone: (206) 615-1688

WA Department of Ecology

Central Files

3190 160th Ave SE

Bellevue, WA 98008

By appointment only:

(425) 649-7190

Ecology's Website

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/lower_duwamish/sites/nBoeingGeorgeTnStmPlant/nBoeingGeorgetown.htm

Facility Site ID #: 2050/6487827

lift stations, parking lot ditches, and roof drains. The system connects with seven to eight miles of piping ranging from four to 48 inches in diameter. Stormwater from the Steam Plant flume and from North Boeing Field flows into Slip 4, and Early Action Area with the Lower Duwamish Waterway (LDW) Superfund Site.

Site Location

The North Boeing Field/Georgetown Steam Plant properties are located at 7370 East Marginal Way South and 6700 13th Avenue South, respectively in Seattle, Washington on the east side of the Lower Duwamish Waterway. North Boeing Field is bordered to the northwest by Ellis Avenue South, to the southeast by the southern end of Boeing's flight line and taxi ways, to the northeast by the eastern edge of Boeing's flight line and taxi ways, and to the southwest by East Marginal Way South (see figure on page three for approximate site boundaries). The Georgetown Steam Plant is near the intersection of Warsaw and Ellis Avenue South near the northwest corner of King County International Airport. Final site boundaries will be defined by the extent of contamination found during site investigations.

Contaminants of Concern

Contamination at the site is due to industrial operations and maintenance. The potential for sediment recontamination from the site has delayed cleanup of sediments (mud at the bottom of the waterway) in Slip 4. Past studies have found concentrations of contaminants above applicable cleanup standards. In the soil, contaminants of concern are:

- Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
- Total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPHs)
- Polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)
- Antimony, arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, and zinc

In the groundwater, contaminants of concern are:

- Total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPHs)
- Volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds (VOCs and SVOCs)
- Antimony, arsenic, chromium, and lead

In the solids from the stormwater drainage system, contaminants of concern are:

- Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
- Polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)
- Semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs)
- Arsenic, copper, lead, mercury, and zinc

In Slip 4 sediments, contaminants of concern are:

- Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
- Semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs)

Previous Cleanup Work

Investigations and cleanups began in the 1980s. In 1984 Seattle City Light collected soil samples at the Steam Plant. After finding PCBs in a drainage ditch and low-lying area, they covered the area with plastic. King County diverted surface runoff from North Boeing Field to decrease flow to the area. PCBs were also found in a Boeing storm drain that discharged to the flume.

In 1985, Seattle City Light removed contaminated soil in the low-lying area, nearby areas, and sediment in the flume. The Boeing storm drain was also cleaned up. Initial soil samples from the low-lying area showed a decrease in PCB concentrations. Later monitoring showed recontamination by PCBs near and in the flume and between North Boeing Field and the Steam Plant. The City of Seattle plans to clean and close the flume in 2008 and 2009.

In 1990, petroleum and PCB-contaminated soil was found in several places at North Boeing

Field. In most cases, the soil was removed. Other similar findings and cleanups have taken place since then.

In 2001 Boeing investigated caulk used to fill concrete expansion joints at North Boeing Field. The investigation found high concentrations of PCBs in some joint material and nearby concrete. From 2002-2006 Boeing removed 88,275 linear feet of contaminated joint material with PCB levels greater than 50 mg/kg. Despite the removal, Boeing continued to find PCBs in storm drains, catch

basins, and cement near the caulk removal at North Boeing Field.

In 2007 and 2008, Boeing improved the storm drain system near the Steam Plant to prevent contamination to the storm drain. Changes included replacing about 300 feet of piping, plastic lining another 500 feet of concrete piping and replacement or repair of several catch basins and storm drain structures.

Agreed Order

The draft Agreed Order is a legal agreement between the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the Potentially Liable Parties (PLPs): Boeing, King County, and the City of Seattle. Under the order they will do a data gaps analysis and a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study. The results of the Remedial Investigation will be used to analyze alternatives for source control and site cleanup for the Feasibility Study. Ecology will work with the PLPs on the investigation and cleanup.

Public Participation Plan

Ecology developed a draft Public Participation Plan according to the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCOA). This plan is designed to promote meaningful community involvement during the investigation and cleanup of the North Boeing Field/Georgetown Steam Plant site. The plan describes the tools Ecology will use to inform the public about site activities, and shows how the community may be involved in this process.

Scope of Work

Ecology developed a draft Scope of Work that describes the planning, technical work, and approximate schedule that will be done to complete the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study.



What Happens Next?

Once the public comment period ends, Ecology will review and consider all comments that have been received. The Agreed Order, Public Participation Plan, and Scope of Work may be changed based upon your comments.

As future documents on the site are developed, you will be notified of future comment periods. For information about other Ecology comment periods, meetings, hearings, workshops, and open houses, please visit Ecology's public events calendar at: <http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/pubcalendar/calendarr.asp>. To learn more about the public comment process read *Frequently Asked Questions about Effective Public Commenting*.

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El boletín informativo está disponible en español en la dirección del Web siguiente y en la biblioteca de South Park (encuentre la dirección en la página una).

Bản tin này được dịch sang tiếng Tây Ban Nha và tiếng Việt và được đăng trình trên trang mạng nổi kết sâu đây và tại thư viện South Park (địa chỉ ghi trên trang 1).

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/lowduwamish/sites/nBoeingGeorgeTnStmPlant/nBoeingGeorgetown.htm>



WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF
E C O L O G Y

PO Box 47600

Olympia, WA 98504-7600

North Boeing Field/Georgetown Steam Plant Site, Seattle, WA

Ecology Seeks Public Comment on Site Investigation Documents

Public Comment Period:

August 14 – September 26, 2008

Public Meeting:

September 18, 2008

Período de recibir comentario público:

Comentario público se aceptará del 14 de agosto al 26 de septiembre de 2008

Reunión pública: El 18 de septiembre de 2008.

Thời hạn về việc thỉnh cầu ý kiến công cộng:

August 14 – September 26, 2008. Cuộc họp công cộng ngày September 18, 2008.

Facility Site ID #: 2050/6487827

