

Landsburg Mine Cleanup Update

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) wants to update you on the cleanup status at the Landsburg Mine site in Ravensdale, Washington. The property is currently owned by Palmer Coking Coal Company and formerly owned by the Plum Creek Timber Company, L.P. Comments are not requested at this time.

What's Happening along SE Summit Landsburg Road?

You may have noticed a new interior fence inside the gated area on property owned by Palmer Coking Coal Company along SE Summit Landsburg Road. In 2006, the Landsburg Mine Site Potentially Liable Persons (PLP) Group presented a plan to the Department of Ecology to install the basic **infrastructure** for an emergency treatment system for contaminated groundwater if it is ever detected at the site. To



Looking north towards the Summit-Landsburg Road.

date, no groundwater contamination has been detected at the site. The purpose of this newly constructed area is to house facilities that could safely dispose of treated groundwater from the north and south **portals** of the Landsburg Mine. If contaminated groundwater is detected, there will be a plan in place to prevent any contaminated water from leaving the site. The groundwater would be pumped, treated and disposed of safely using this infrastructure, which includes a buried three inch discharge line.

What's Next?

Ecology is continuing to work with the PLP group on a **Draft Cleanup Action Plan (DCAP)** that would contain the waste disposed in the north subsidence trench area and prevent exposure to human contact and rainfall. The DCAP would also establish a protective groundwater monitoring schedule and contingency plans that would prevent contamination from leaving the former mine if it is ever detected.

For Technical Questions Contact:

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DOCUMENT REVIEW LOCATIONS

Maple Valley Library
21844 SE 248th St.
Maple Valley, WA 98038
Phone: (425) 432-4620

**WA Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office**
3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98008

Call for an appointment: Sally Perkins
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Hours: Tuesday – Thursday
8:00 AM – 12:00 PM and
1:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Website
http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/landsburg_mine/landsburg_mine_hp.html

Facility Site ID #:2139

Landsburg Mine Site

In the future, you will have an opportunity to comment on the **Consent Decree** and Draft Cleanup Action Plan (DCAP) when it goes out for a 30 day comment period before it is finalized. Following the comment period, the Consent Decree will be issued in court, and the final cleanup work will begin after the Engineering Design Report is completed.

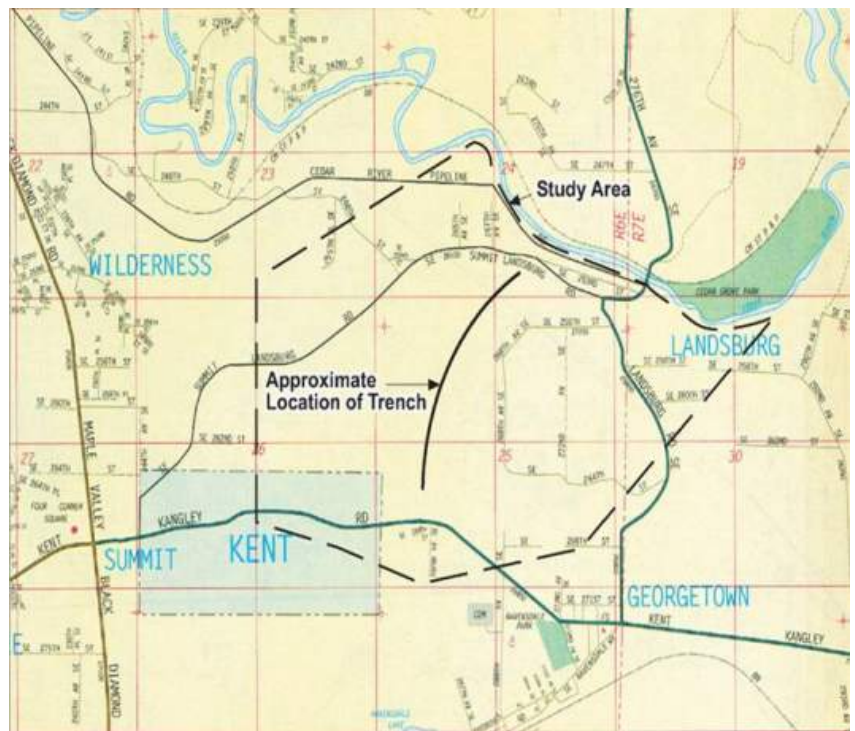
We encourage you to stay informed and involved in the cleanup by:

- Sign up to be on the Landsburg Mine mailing list.
- Attend future Ecology public meetings.
- Provide feedback during the public comment periods.
- If you need this publication in an alternative format, call Nancy Lui at (425) 649-7117. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with speech disability call 877-833-6341.

Latest Groundwater Results

Groundwater monitoring results from 2003 to the present show the following:

- No contamination was found in groundwater from any monitoring wells at the site that can be attributed to the wastes that were disposed in the northern portion of the subsidence trench.
- There were no significant changes in the groundwater quality from those observed during the 1996 **Report of Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS)** and on-going interim groundwater monitoring.
- Arsenic was detected below drinking water standards. Some elevated levels of metals (iron & manganese) were detected, but these levels are commonly found in natural waters from coal mine areas. They may affect the taste, color, and odor of drinking water, but do not present a risk to human health.



Landsburg Mine Site

Site Background

The Landsburg Mine site is a former underground coal mine located approximately 1.5 miles northwest of Ravensdale in southeast King County. The site is located directly south of the S.E. Summit-Landsburg Road and north of S.E. Kent-Kangley Road. The Cedar River is approximately 500 feet north of the site.

Landsburg Mine Site Timeline

- 1937 to 1960:** Coal mining began along the nearby coal seams east of the Landsburg mine site.
- 1959 to 1975:** Operation of the Rogers underground coal mine. When the Landsburg seam (east of Rogers) was exhausted, mining shifted to the Rogers coal seam. Underground coal extraction resulted in the ground surface above the abandoned mine collapsing down and forming a subsidence trench along the outcrop of the coal seam.
- 1969 to 1983:** The northern part of the trench (Rogers seam) was used as a disposal site for a variety of industrial wastes (1969-1978). The wastes were either contained in drums or were drained from tanker trucks. Records indicated that about 4,500 drums and 200,000 gallons of oily waste water and sludge were disposed of in this portion of the trench. A portion of the waste may have burned during fires in the early 1970s. Disposal of land clearing debris and construction debris in the trench continued from the early 1980s to 1983.
- 1989:** The **Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)** was established for the state of Washington.
- 1989:** Initial Investigation was conducted.
- 1990:** The Department of Health samples water from nearby wells and the mine portal areas. No contamination was detected.
- Late 1991:** At Ecology's request, four of the Potentially Liable Persons (PLPs) removed the most accessible drums from the trench and constructed a fence to restrict access to the site as part of an Expedited Response Action; Site Hazard Assessment.
- 1990-1991:** Private wells and portal water studies.
- 1991:** Ecology and the PLPs began negotiations for a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS). Site listed under the MTCA.
- 1993:** Agreed Order was signed to clean up the site under MTCA.
- 1994-1996:** RI/FS was conducted, including testing of private wells around the site.
- 1996:** RI/FS was completed.
- March 1996:** Public reviewed and commented on the results of the RI/FS.
- 1999:** Work started on the Draft Cleanup Action Plan, which is still under review.
- 2004:** Additional wells (LMW-8: 15 feet deep; LMW-9: 160 feet deep; LMW-10: 450 feet deep) were installed and a hydrogeologic investigation of the south portal area was completed.
- 2005:** A 700 foot deep monitoring well (LMW-11) was installed in the deepest part of the mine near the southern interior mine workings.
- 2006:** Groundwater results from the deep monitoring well LMW-11 show no contamination. Proposal for installation of the infrastructure component for Contingent Treatment System.
- Summer 2008:** Construction of infrastructure for Contingent Groundwater Treatment System completed.



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DEFINITIONS

A **Cleanup Action Plan (CAP)** is a document that describes the cleanup alternative(s) to be used at the site.

The **Consent Decree** is a legal document, approved and entered by a court, formalizing an agreement Ecology and potentially liable persons (PLPs).

Feasibility Study (FS) A study to evaluate alternative cleanup actions for a site. A comment period on the draft report is required. Ecology selects the preferred alternative after reviewing those documents.

Infrastructure consists of a gravel pad, an electrical connection with transformer and fence, an access gravel drive, parking area, a fenced treatment area, and buried three inch pipeline for discharge of effluent from a contingent groundwater treatment system.

Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) means chapter 70.105D RCW, first passed by the voters in the November 1988 general election as Initiative 97 and as since amended by the legislature.

A **Potentially Liable Person (PLP)** is defined as any individual(s) or company(s) potentially responsible for, or contributing to, the contamination problems at a site. Whenever possible, Ecology requires these PLPs, through administrative and legal actions, to clean up hazardous waste sites for which they may be liable.

Portals are the north and south historic entrances into the mine. They are now fully collapsed.

Remedial Investigation (RI) A study to define the extent of environmental problems at a site. When combined with a study to evaluate alternative cleanup actions it is referred to as a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS). In both cases, a comment period on the draft report is required.

