

## **Agreed Order for Draft Cleanup Action Plan and Investigation Reports Now Available for Public Comment**

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the Port of Tacoma (Port) are entering into an Agreed Order for a Cleanup Action Plan to finish treating contamination at the Citifor cleanup site. Ecology will require the Port of Tacoma to:

- **Monitor groundwater** until contamination breaks down naturally (monitored natural attenuation) and declines to levels below state cleanup standards.
- **Place an environmental covenant (a type of deed restriction) on the property** to protect people from contamination remaining on site. The covenant will not allow installation of drinking water wells until the contamination levels in groundwater are below state standards.
- **Take additional cleanup actions** if the contamination spreads or there is a need to speed up cleanup.

### **Ecology Wants Your Input!**

Ecology is asking for your comments on the Agreed Order, Cleanup Action Plan, Remedial Investigation Report and the Feasibility Study Report. You are invited to:

- Review these documents. See the box to the right for information on where to review documents and send comments.
- Send your comments to Ecology for consideration. **Comments will be accepted September 8 through October 8, 2009.**

### **What Happens Next?**

- At the end of the comment period, Ecology will review and consider public comments. Changes will be made to the documents if appropriate.
- Ecology will finalize the Remedial Investigation Report, Feasibility Study Report and the Cleanup Action Plan.
- The Port will continue to monitor groundwater to determine when contamination levels are low enough to meet state standards.

### **Comments Accepted**

September 8- October 8, 2009

#### **Submit Comments and Technical Questions to:**

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WA Department of Ecology  
SWRO Toxics Cleanup Program  
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#### **Public Involvement Contact:**

Meg Bommarito  
Phone: (360) 407- 6255  
E-mail: mbom461@ecy.wa.gov

#### **Document Review Locations**

**Tumwater Timberland Library**  
7023 New Market Street  
Tumwater, WA 98501  
Phone: (360) 943-7790

**WA Department of Ecology  
Southwest Regional Office**  
300 Desmond Drive SE  
Lacey, WA 98503

By appointment only:  
Contact Debbie Nelson,  
dene461@ecy.wa.gov or  
(360) 407-6365

#### **Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Website**

[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/citifor/citifor\\_hp.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/citifor/citifor_hp.html)

**Facility Site ID #1391**

### Site Background

In 2006, the Port of Tacoma purchased the 745-acre Citifor Inc. site property, generally located at 13120 Tilley Road South in Maytown. The site was historically used to manufacture and distribute dynamite and other explosives. These operations, which ended in 1993, resulted in asbestos, lead, petroleum and dinitrotoluene (DNT) contamination of soil.

Previous owners have taken several cleanup actions at the site. These include:

- An Interim Action at the Drum Burial Area.
- An Explosive Hazard Assessment to minimize safety hazards and locate any buried foundations, conduits and other structures.
- Development of a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study work plan.
- Pre-sampling vegetation and explosives clearing activities.
- Soil sampling.
- Groundwater sampling.
- Removal of 3,577 tons of soil containing lead and asbestos.

Since taking ownership of the site, the Port has conducted several cleanup activities:

- Completion of an Interim Action at the Drum Burial Area.
- Sympathetic detonation (controlled explosions) at locations where nitroglycerin was handled.
- Completion of a soil cleanup report for the drum burial area interim action.
- Completion of a draft Remedial Investigation report.
- Removal of 6,429 tons of DNT-contaminated soil and transport to a disposal site.
- Soil sampling.
- Groundwater monitoring.

In September 2008 Ecology and the Port entered into an Agreed Order. As part of this agreement, Ecology required the Port to complete a Remedial Investigation Report, a Feasibility Study (to examine cleanup alternatives) and a Feasibility Study Report. In addition, the Port was required to create a draft Cleanup Action Plan.



### HOW DOES MONITORED NATURAL ATTENUATION WORK?

Natural attenuation is an effective way to manage some contaminated sites. **It relies on naturally occurring physical, chemical or biological processes to lower contamination levels over time.** Toxins can be dispersed, diluted, transformed into less harmful forms or destroyed.

This method leaves the contamination in place and relies on natural processes to destroy or neutralize the contamination. The site is monitored carefully to make sure that natural attenuation is working.

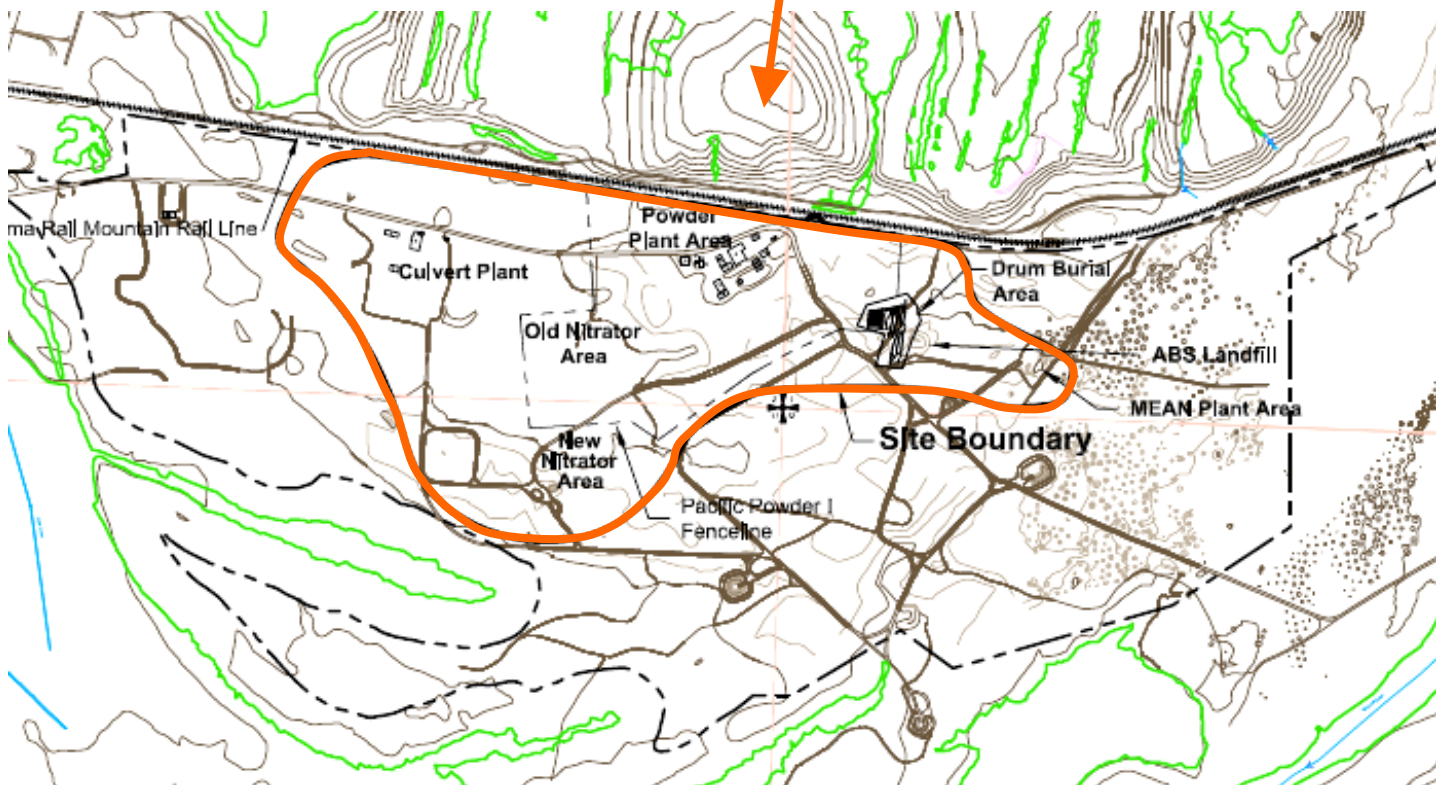
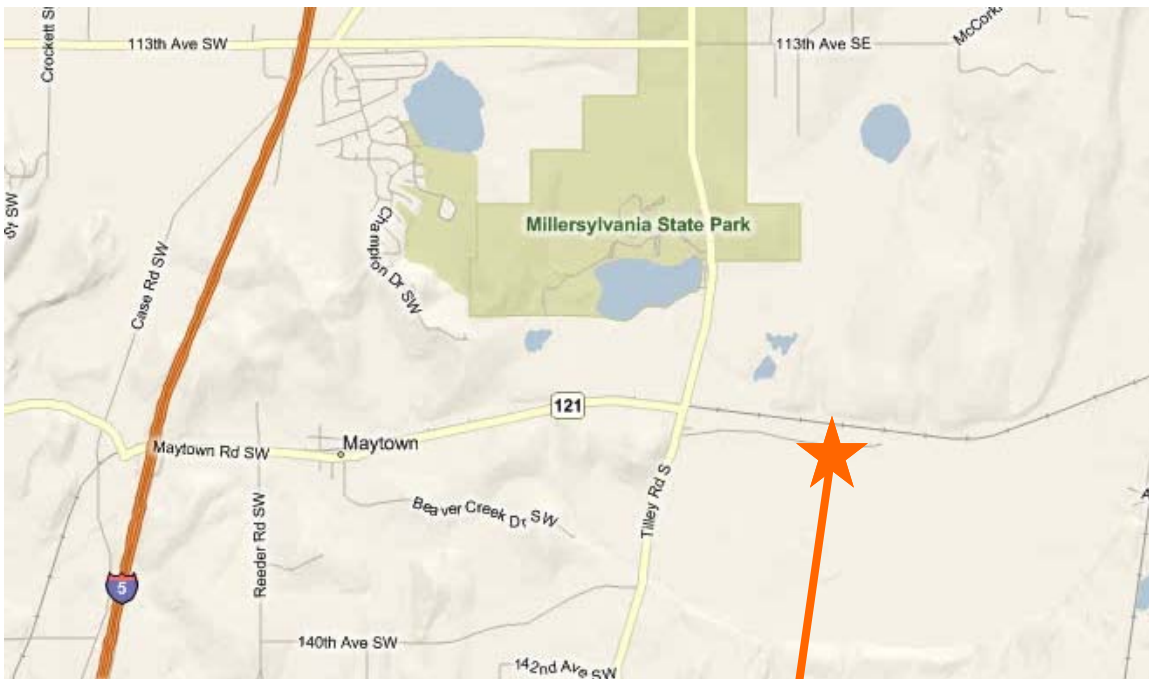
Natural attenuation was selected as the final cleanup remedy for several reasons:

1. The amount of contamination is low.
2. Site is in a remote location and is not in close proximity to drinking water wells or residential areas.
3. More active forms of treatment are not cost-effective.
4. Residual contamination is limited to two small locations.
5. Monitoring to date has demonstrated that DNT is breaking down in groundwater naturally.
6. It generates less waste and is less disruptive to the environment than other cleanup methods.

Ecology estimates that cleanup will be complete in ten years. Until that time, the Port will take groundwater samples at regularly scheduled intervals to make sure contamination levels are dropping.

# Citifor Inc. (former Pacific Powder)

Citifor Cleanup Site, Maytown





DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

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Olympia, WA 98504-7775

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**Citifor Inc.  
(former Pacific Powder)  
Olympia, WA**

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