

## Alcoa/Evergreen Vancouver Aluminum Smelter

### Opportunity to Comment

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) invites you to comment on and attend a public hearing for the proposed Supplemental Cleanup Action Plan and Consent Decree amendment for the East Landfill at the former Alcoa/Evergreen aluminum smelter site in Vancouver, Washington. These documents discuss the final cleanup action for trichloroethylene (TCE) and other contaminants from the East Landfill. This includes:

- Maintaining the existing cover on the landfill to minimize movement of contaminants.
- Institutional controls for how the land and groundwater are used.
- A schedule for ongoing compliance monitoring to ensure contaminants continue to degrade and human health and the environment are protected.

### Public Hearing

A public hearing to accept formal comments will be held:

Date: October 28, 2010

Time: Beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Location: Clark Community College Foster Auditorium

### Final Cleanup Action

Groundwater monitoring at the East Landfill shows contaminants from the landfill are naturally degrading. There is a transition zone where groundwater from the landfill enters the Columbia River. Monitoring indicates contaminants aren't entering the river at levels that pose a risk to human health and the environment.

### DATES AND LOCATIONS

#### Comment period

October 5 to November 5, 2010

#### Read documents at these locations:

Fort Vancouver  
Regional Library  
1007 E Mill Plain Blvd  
Vancouver, WA 98663

WA Department of Ecology  
Industrial Section  
300 Desmond Way SE  
Lacey, WA 98503

Online:

[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/industrial/alum\\_alcoavan.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/industrial/alum_alcoavan.htm)

#### Send written comments to:

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Industrial Section  
P.O. Box 47706  
Olympia, WA 98504-7706  
[paul.skylingstad@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:paul.skylingstad@ecy.wa.gov)  
Fax (360) 407- 6102  
Questions? (360) 407-6949

#### Special accommodations

To ask about the availability of this document in a version for the visually impaired, call the Waste 2 Resources Program at 360-407-6900.

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

FSID: 21

Ecology selected a final cleanup action that:

- Maintains the engineered cap on the landfill.
- Requires additional groundwater, sediment, and surface water monitoring.
- Prescribes institutional controls (actions taken to limit or prohibit activities that may interfere with the cleanup or result in exposure to hazardous substances).

This will take place under the legal framework of an agreement between Alcoa and Ecology and amends the original 2008 Consent Decree.

### **East Landfill**

Alcoa and Evergreen conducted a number of investigations determining the nature and extent of contamination from the East Landfill. Soil samples indicate the presence of lead, cyanide, fluoride, PCBs, TCE (and its degradation products), and PAHs. TCE and vinyl chloride were found in the groundwater beneath the landfill.

In 2003, Ecology required Alcoa to consolidate waste and contaminated soil under an engineered cap. Groundwater monitoring since the completion of the cap shows the waste is no longer a significant source of groundwater contamination and the concentrations and mass of TCE in groundwater are reduced.

In December 2008 and January 2009, Alcoa evaluated the impact of groundwater contamination from the East Landfill on the Columbia River. Samples were taken in the sediment at the interface between the shoreline and the river. They were collected at different depths and analyzed for TCE and vinyl chloride. Ecology reviewed the monitoring results. It appears groundwater entering the river meets MTCA surface water cleanup levels. Additional sampling is needed to verify the results of this initial work.

### **Site History**

The Alcoa Vancouver site was located on the north bank of the Columbia River, approximately three miles northwest of downtown Vancouver, Washington. Alcoa constructed an aluminum smelter on the site in 1940 and operated it until 1985. In 1985, Alcoa sold the smelter to Vinalco. Vinalco owned and operated the smelter until late 2000, when it closed the plant. Evergreen Aluminum (Glencore) purchased the smelter assets in 2002 but did not restart the plant.

Industrial and solid wastes from the construction and operation of the aluminum smelter were stored in waste piles and consolidated in landfills onsite. Hazardous contaminants include petroleum hydrocarbons, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), cyanide, fluoride, TCE, low-level organics, and chemicals.

Evergreen began closure and demolition of the smelter in 2007. At the same time, Alcoa began final cleanup of the rest of the site. In December 2008, Alcoa and Ecology agreed on a Cleanup Action Plan and Consent Decree for the upland cleanup and remediation of PCB-contaminated

sediments in the Columbia River. The Consent Decree didn't cover cleanup of the contaminated groundwater beneath the East Landfill.

Alcoa completed dredging PCB-contaminated sediments from the Columbia River at the end of January 2009. Smelter demolition and final removal of contaminated soils from the site was completed in March 2010. The Port of Vancouver purchased the site from Evergreen and Alcoa in 2009 and is redeveloping the area into a bulk storage and transport terminal.