

Meeting Announcement

Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is hosting a public meeting about the Everett Smelter cleanup. You're invited to attend the meeting to learn more about the cleanup schedule, health and safety information, and how Ecology will clean up properties. At the meeting you will have the opportunity to hear a presentation by Ecology staff and talk with the project team.

Thursday, November 4, 2010

6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

(presentation at 6:30 p.m.)

Snohomish County PUD Auditorium
2320 California Street
Everett, WA 98201

Site History and Project Background

In 1894, the Puget Sound Reduction Company began operating a smelter near the intersection of North Broadway and East Marine View Drive in north Everett. The smelter produced lead, gold, and silver. An arsenic extraction plant was added in 1898 and ASARCO Incorporated (Asarco) bought the smelter in 1903. Smelter operations ended in 1912, the smelter was demolished and the smelter property was sold in various parcels. During the 1930s and 1940s, the former smelter property was developed into residential properties.

In 1990, elevated concentrations of arsenic and lead in the soil near the former smelter site were reported to Ecology. Ecology investigated, and found that soil near the former Everett Smelter site had higher than normal levels of arsenic, lead, cadmium, and other metals. Soil in the surrounding area was contaminated by airborne emissions from the former smelter.

Asarco declared bankruptcy in 2005. A bankruptcy court resolved Asarco's liability in December 2009 and the State of Washington received a settlement of \$188 million for several contaminated sites. The Everett site received \$44 million which will be used to fund continuing cleanup activities near the former smelter. There will be no cost to property owners or to taxpayers for the cleanup.



Everett Smelter Cleanup Area



Everett Smelter Circa 1907

In the early 1990's, Ecology worked with the community and Asarco to develop a Cleanup Action Plan (CAP) for the Upland Area of the site. In 1999, following negotiations and eventual litigation with Asarco, Ecology finalized the CAP.

The CAP identifies the concentrations of arsenic in the soil that will require contaminated soil to be excavated. Arsenic is the main health hazard in this area. Cleanup of arsenic contaminated soil will also remove other metals such as lead and cadmium. Only accessible contaminated soil will be cleaned up. Contaminated soil beneath buildings and pavement will remain and must be properly managed by the property owner.

To date, more than 100 properties have been cleaned up. The most highly contaminated soils have been removed or are covered by buildings or pavement. Ecology, the Everett Housing Authority, and the City of Everett funded the cleanup of these properties.

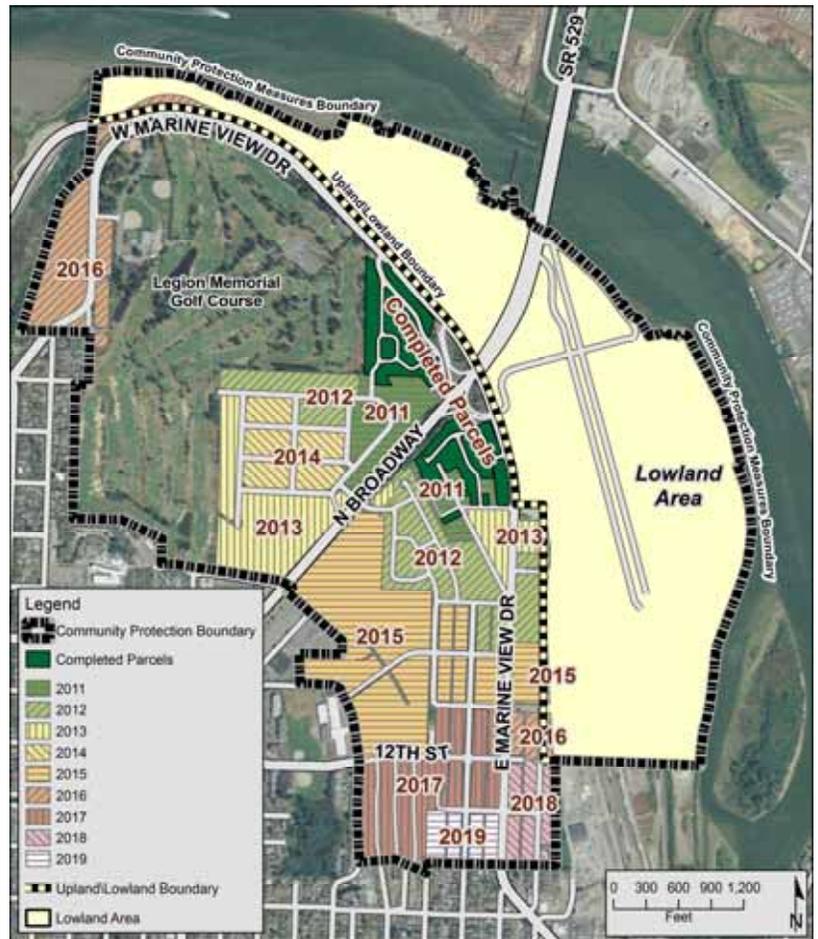
The Lowland Area and Legion Memorial Golf Course are being addressed separately. More information on these two areas will be provided at a later date.

Continuing Cleanup

The remaining properties to be cleaned up have been grouped by cleanup year, with the most contaminated properties to be cleaned up first. Construction feasibility was also considered when creating the groups. The map on the upper right shows the year in which cleanup will occur.

Forty-two homes are scheduled for mapping and sampling in Fall 2010 and cleanup in Spring and Summer of 2011. Cleanup includes both soil excavation and landscape restoration. This general pattern will be followed in future years: mapping and sampling one year, followed by excavation and restoration the next year.

If you live within the area identified for the 2011 cleanup, please contact Jerome Cruz at jerome.cruz@ecy.wa.gov or (425) 649-7094, with questions or for more information.



Cleanup Groups by Year



Cleanup In 2007

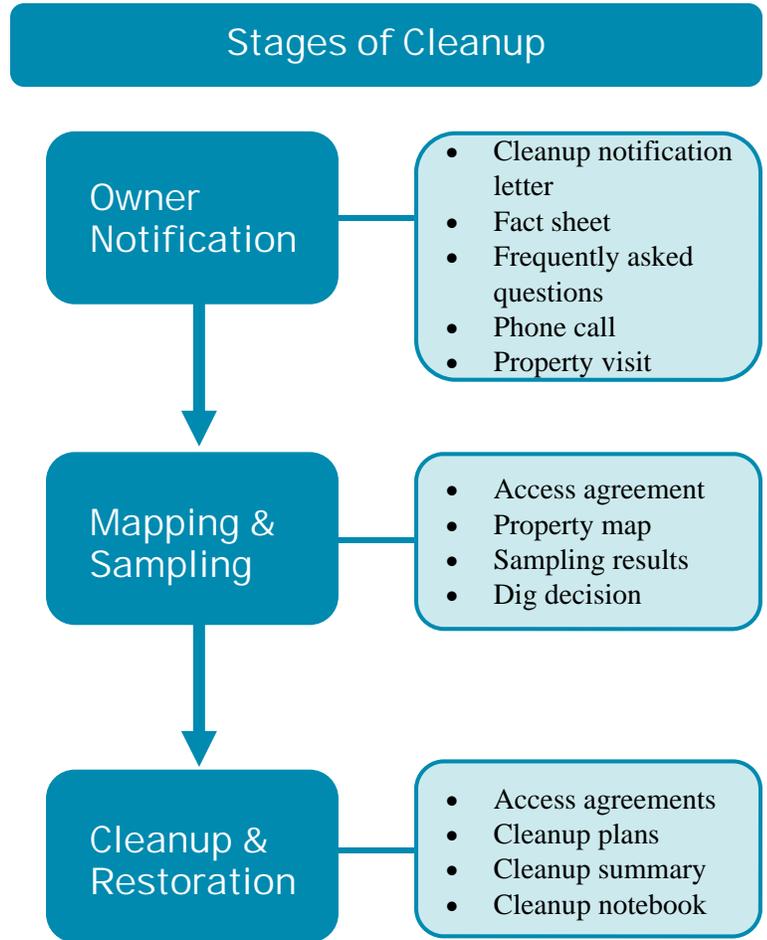
Allowing Access for Cleanup

Ecology and its contractors SAIC and EnviroIssues will be in contact with property owners to discuss access for both mapping and sampling activities and cleanup work. Ecology must receive an owner's permission to access a property before any work can take place.

Property Cleanup

The first step in the cleanup process is obtaining an access agreement from the property owner to allow mapping and sampling. The mapping and sampling is done to identify accessible soil that needs to be cleaned up. A map of each property is created to show the location of property boundaries, trees, plants, and landscape features. Soil samples are then collected and analyzed for arsenic.

Ecology shares the mapping and sampling results with property owners and creates a property-specific cleanup plan for the owner's approval. Once this cleanup plan is finalized, a cleanup access agreement is provided for the owner to sign and the cleanup work begins. Ecology provides a cleanup notebook that includes a cleanup summary to property owners for their records.



Staying Safe Around Contaminated Soil

Health risks from exposure to arsenic contaminated soils are from long-term exposure, so people should avoid excessive contact with the soil. The most highly contaminated soil at the Everett Smelter site has already been removed or covered with buildings or pavement. The Snohomish Health District has issued a public health advisory for the area, and more information on health guidelines and precautionary measures can be found at: http://www.snohd.org/Shd_EH/Eh_SWT/HazWaste.aspx Look under the Contaminated Properties section.

Below are some best practices to avoid exposure to contaminated soil:

1. Children are at a higher risk for arsenic exposure than adults. Compared to bare soil, exposure is reduced (but not eliminated) by grass cover, so care should still be taken if children have been playing on grass-covered dirt. Reduce exposure by washing hands, feet, and faces, especially

before eating, if children have been playing outside.

2. Wash home grown fruits and vegetables before eating to remove soil that may be on the surface.
3. Use caution if working with soil. If construction activity is taking place, hands should be washed frequently, clothes washed separately, and dirt cleaned from the soles of shoes.
4. Pets can bring contaminated soil into your home, or expose you when playing with them outside. Inspect your yard for any area where a pet may have access to exposed soil, and fill holes with clean soil where a pet may have been digging. Bathe pets frequently, and wash your hands after handling your pet to reduce exposure risks.

More information on best practices, soil safety, self-sampling guidelines, and arsenic and lead facts can be found on the City of Everett's website, under Planning and Everett Smelter Site: <http://www.everettwa.org/>

For More Information About the Everett Smelter Cleanup Contact:

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Ecología le invita aprender más sobre el sitio de limpieza "Everett Smelter" el 4 de noviembre del 2010 desde el 6:00 a 8:30 pm (presentación a las 6:30 pm) en el auditorio del "Snohomish County PUD", 2320 California Street, Everett.

Para asistencia en español o si usted necesita un intérprete en la reunión pública, favor de comunicarse con Richelle Perez a (360) 407-7528 o por correo electrónico a richelle.perez@ecy.wa.gov e incluir una referencia al sitio "Everett Smelter."

Or visit Ecology's Everett Smelter website: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/asarco/es_main.html

Special accommodations

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.



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Toxics Cleanup Program
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