

## Proposed interim cleanup ready for public review

The Washington Department of Ecology is announcing an interim cleanup action for the Cornwall Avenue Landfill site in Bellingham. The proposed interim action will place material dredged from Squalicum Harbor marina in Bellingham on a portion of the upland area of the site, contour it to redirect rainwater, and then cover it with a waterproof sheet. This will reduce the amount of rainwater flowing through municipal solid waste at the site, which will reduce the flow of contaminated groundwater to Bellingham Bay. Construction is scheduled to begin in September, 2011.

The interim action is described in a proposed amendment to a 2005 legal agreement, called an agreed order, between Ecology, the Port of Bellingham and the City of Bellingham. The agreed order outlines the environmental investigation and cleanup option analysis work to be performed at the site. The proposed amendment includes a detailed plan for the interim action as well as general language providing for potential future interim actions.

Ecology invites the public to review the proposed amendment and submit comments from June 6 through July 6, 2011. A public meeting will be held on June 8, 2011 (See right for details).

### Site history, location and contaminants

The Cornwall Avenue Landfill site, located at the south end of Cornwall Avenue, consists of approximately 16.5-acres and is adjacent to Bellingham Bay. Most of the site was originally tide flats and sub-tidal areas of Bellingham Bay. From 1888 to 1946, the site was used for sawmill operations, including log storage and wood disposal. From 1946 to 1965, the Port of Bellingham (Port) held the lease on the state-owned land, subleasing the property to the City of Bellingham (City) from 1953 to 1962. The City used the Site for municipal solid waste disposal. In 1962, the City entered into a lease with another Port tenant (American Fabricators) who continued waste disposal operations at the site until 1965.

### Public Meeting and comment period

**Public Meeting:**

6-8pm; June 8, 2011  
Bellingham Technical College  
Bldg. G, Conference Room 103B  
3028 Lindbergh Ave., Bellingham

**Comments accepted:**

June 6 through July 6, 2011

**Submit comments and technical questions to:**

Bob Swackhamer, Site Manager  
WA Department of Ecology  
P.O. Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600  
Phone: 360-407-7210  
E: robert.swackhamer@ecy.wa.gov

**Document at these review locations:**

Department of Ecology  
Bellingham Field office  
1440 10<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 102  
Bellingham, WA

**By appointment.** Call Linsay Albin at 360-715-5200.

Bellingham Public Library  
210 Central Ave.  
Bellingham, WA

**Phone:** 360-778-7323

**Hours:** Mon.–Tues. 10 a.m.–8 p.m.,  
Wed.–Sat. 10 a.m.–6 p.m.,  
Sun. closed.

Department of Ecology  
Northwest Regional Office  
3190 160<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE  
Bellevue, WA

**By appointment.** Call Sally Perkins:  
425-649-7190

Ecology's Cornwall Avenue Landfill  
Site Web site:  
<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=220>

## Cornwall Avenue Landfill

Landfill operations ended at the site in 1965, and a soil layer was placed on top of the municipal solid waste. Previous environmental investigations of the site indicate the presence of hazardous substances in groundwater, surface water, soil and/or sediments above state cleanup standards, including arsenic, copper, lead, mercury, silver, zinc, cyanide, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) compounds and fecal coliform. These contaminants exceed standards of the state's cleanup law, the Model Toxics Control Act, and must be addressed.

The site is one of 12 cleanup sites in the Bellingham Bay Demonstration Pilot, a multi-agency bay-wide project that brings together cleanup, controlling pollution sources, restoring habitat, accommodating public access, and land-use planning.

### Proposed interim action

As part of a separate project, the Port of Bellingham plans to dredge up to 40,800 cubic yards of sediment from the Squalicum Harbor marina to maintain required water depths for navigation. Under the proposed interim action, the dredged material will be placed on a portion of the upland area of the Cornwall Avenue Landfill site (Figure 1) to raise the land elevation and to reduce the flow of contaminated groundwater to Bellingham Bay.

The dredged material will be barged to the former Georgia-Pacific property at 300 W. Laurel Street for handling then trucked to the Cornwall site. The material will be placed in an upland area about 150,000 square feet (3.6 acres) and contoured into a layer up to 15 feet thick, redirecting rainwater away from Bellingham Bay. The material will then be covered with a waterproof sheet, reducing the amount of rainwater flowing through buried

municipal solid waste at the site. This will reduce the flow of contaminated groundwater to Bellingham Bay.

The availability of the dredged material presents an opportunity to address some of the environmental concerns at the site while reducing the overall cost of cleanup. While this opportunity is presenting itself before the remedial investigation and feasibility study for the entire site is complete, it is anticipated that it will increase the effectiveness of the final cleanup action at the site.

### Public comment invited

Ecology is providing the interim action in a proposed amendment to the exiting agreed order, and is asking for your comments.

You are invited to:

- **Review** the proposed agreed order amendment
- **Send** your comments to Ecology for consideration. **Comments will be accepted June 6 through July 6, 2011.**

The Port of Bellingham is conducting a separate public comment period under the State Environmental Policy Act for this site. Please see the port website for details at: <http://www.portofbellingham.com/index.aspx?nid=93>

### What happens next?

Once the public comment period ends, Ecology will review and consider all comments it receives. The proposed amendment may be modified based upon your comments. If there are significant changes, Ecology will issue the document again for public review.



# Cornwall Avenue Landfill

## Why this cleanup matters

Cleaning up the Cornwall Avenue Landfill site is necessary to protect people, plants, birds and other life from exposure to harmful levels of contamination, based upon the intended uses of the site. All phases of the cleanup will be conducted under the Model Toxics Control Act, passed by citizen initiative in 1988 and enacted in 1989.

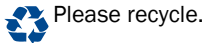
## What can you do?

- Read about the cleanup in this handout.
- To get more detailed information, review the supporting documents at the locations listed in the column on Page 1 of this Write down your comments and questions. Send them to the Department of Ecology at the address provided on Page 1 of this mailer.
- Attend the public meeting June 8, 2011.





3190 160<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE  
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452



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## **Cornwall Avenue Landfill, Bellingham, WA**

Ecology seeks public comment on proposed interim cleanup

**Public comment period: June 6 through July 6, 2011. Public meeting: June 8, 2011**

**Facility Site ID #: 2913**

### **Help with other formats?**

To ask about obtaining this document in a version for the visually impaired, call Brad Petrovich at Ecology's Bellevue office, 425-533-5537.

Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service.

Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

**Información en español:** El Departamento de Ecología del Estado de Washington (Ecología) solicita sus comentarios sobre la propuesta corrección a la Orden Acordada y el propuesto plan de acción provisional para el sitio de limpieza de relleno sanitario en Cornwall Avenida en Bellingham. Ecología aceptará comentarios públicos desde el 6 de junio hasta el 6 de julio de 2011. Habrá una reunión pública de las 6 pm a las 8 pm el 8 de junio en el Colegio Técnico Bellingham (Bellingham Technical College), Edificio G, Sala 103B, 3038 Lindbergh Ave, Bellingham.

Para más información en español, favor de llamar a Richelle Pérez a 360-407-7528 o por correo electrónico a [richelle.perez@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:richelle.perez@ecy.wa.gov). Refiere al sitio de limpieza del relleno sanitario en Cornwall Avenida.