

Construction Update for Cleanup at the B&L Woodwaste Site

Background

The B&L Woodwaste site was a landfill that received woodwaste from the mid 1970s until the early 1980s. The waste, which came from log sort yards in Commencement Bay, consisted of woodwaste, soil, and Asarco slag. The Asarco slag (a byproduct of smelting operations) leached arsenic into the woodwaste and soils, and groundwater at the site.

In 1982, the Commencement Bay Nearshore/Tideflats area, including Hylebos Waterway and the B&L Woodwaste site, were added to Environmental Protection Agency's National Priorities List (Superfund site list). The B&L Woodwaste site, which includes the landfill and surrounding ditches and wetlands, was named as a source of arsenic.

Ecology is managing cleanup activities at the site with funding from the B&L Custodial Trust (trust). Most of the cleanup work has already taken place (see page 2).

Q: What is happening this summer?

A: Ecology is now directing the work of the trust's contractors to complete the second phase of the cleanup (see page 2). This will include removing arsenic-contaminated soils from drainage ditches that surround the site on three sides (see page 3).

Also, the contractor will start a new treatment system to remove contamination from groundwater. Construction of the system and the building that houses it began in 2011.

Q: How will this affect me?

A: You may notice some work noise from 7 am - 7 pm from August through mid-October this year. There may also be small amounts of dust coming off the site and a small increase in traffic around the site. Ecology will make every effort to minimize impact to homes and businesses near the site.

The Interurban Trail next to the site should be open during all of the construction, and a fence will prevent access to the landfill itself, where most of the work is being done. While the Trail will likely not be closed during this work, people using it should be on the lookout for workers and passenger vehicles near the site. Trail users may also notice some noise and possibly a small amount of dust.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Site Cleanup

Dom Reale
Site Manager
Southwest Regional Office
PO Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775
(360) 407-6266
Dom.Reale@ecy.wa.gov

Public Involvement

Michael Bergman
Public Involvement Coordinator
Phone: (360) 407-0067
Michael.Bergman@ecy.wa.gov

Site Document Locations

Ecology's Cleanup website

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=2297>

WA Department of Ecology

Southwest Regional Office
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503

By appointment only:

Contact Debbie Nelson,
Debbie.Nelson@ecy.wa.gov or
(360) 407-6365

FS ID #1203

Any unplanned closures of the trail will be posted at the site and on Ecology's website and blog at <http://ecologywa.blogspot.com>.

Q: How long will this take?

A: Because it is important for this work to be done when the water in the ditches is low, it is scheduled to take place from the first of August through the middle of October.

Q: What other work was part of this phase of the cleanup?

A: In 2011, the trust started the following:

- Construction of a building and treatment system to remove contamination from groundwater.
- Installation of wells and pipes under and around the landfill and nearby wetlands. The system will pump out groundwater that contains high levels of arsenic. Contaminated water will be cleaned to meet groundwater quality standards.

Q: What happens next?

A: After the groundwater treatment system has treated the highest-arsenic groundwater, Ecology will treat water with lower levels of arsenic that remains in the wetlands. This water will be treated in-place (in the wetlands).

Treated water from this system will flow to drainage ditches that flow into Hylebos Creek. This work is designed to clean up the groundwater outside of the landfill and to prevent the re-contamination of the ditches that flow into the Hylebos. The trust is now testing this system (see yellow box on page 3).

Q: What other work has already been done to clean up the site ?







A: Many cleanup actions were taken on the site from 1992 to present. These include the following:

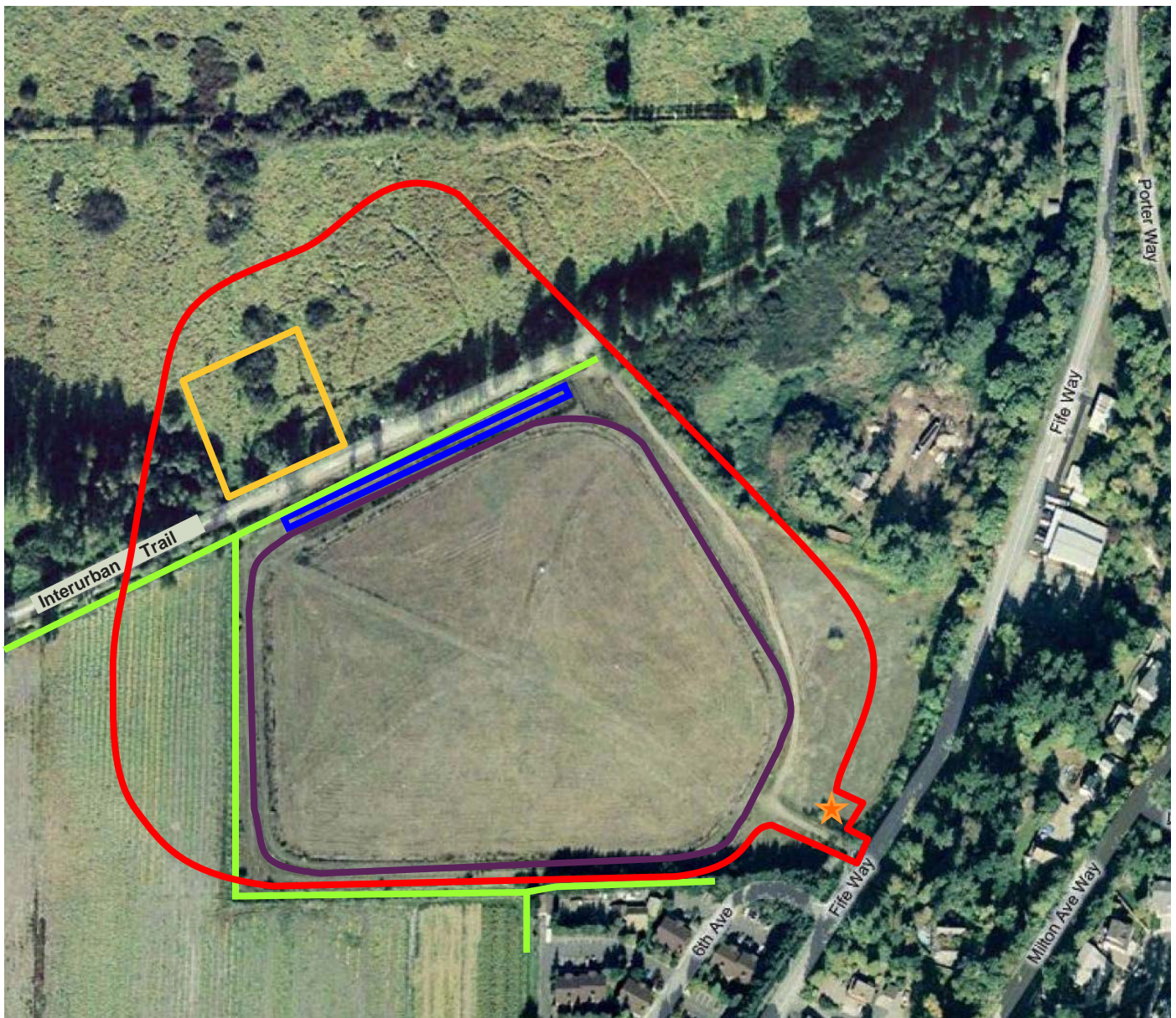
- Consolidating the original landfill into the current waste pile.
- Installing a multi-layer capping system to cover the waste pile. The cap is designed to prevent rain from flushing metals and other contamination out of the landfill.
- Installing groundwater monitoring wells.
- Installing an underground barrier system to keep contaminated groundwater from leaving the landfill.
- Creating infiltration ponds at the western and northwestern sides of the site to reroute groundwater and stormwater around the landfill and direct stormwater runoff from the landfill.
- Treating contaminated groundwater in the wetlands to prevent arsenic from moving further towards Hylebos Creek.

Q: How can I find out more about the site history and planned cleanup?

A: For more information about the site history, visit Ecology's website or contact Michael Bergman (see box on page 1) for older fact sheets. You can also contact Dom Reale (see box on page 1) for technical questions and additional information about site cleanup.

Approximate Phase 2 Cleanup Work Locations

-  Cleanup phase 2 work area. Pipes and wells will be installed in this area.
-  Groundwater treatment system building
-  North stormwater pond
-  Drainage ditches
-  Test system for treating wetlands groundwater
-  Landfill—already capped and surrounded by barrier wall





DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY

State of Washington

PO Box 47775

Olympia, WA 98504-7775

B&L Woodwaste Pierce County, WA

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Why Cleanup Matters

The B&L Woodwaste site, formerly a landfill, was contaminated with arsenic from Asarco slag. Arsenic has leached into soil and groundwater around the site. It has also been found in ditches surrounding the landfill and wetland area. This posed a threat to human health and the environment, especially nearby wetlands and Hylebos Waterway.

To be removed from the mailing list:

Contact Michael Bergman Public Involvement Coordinator, at Michael.Bergman@ecy.wa.gov or (360) 407-0067.