

Legal Agreement Available for Comment

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) would like your comments on a proposed agreed order (legal agreement) for the Western Port Angeles Harbor site. The potentially liable persons (PLPs) signing the order are Georgia-Pacific, Nippon Paper Industries USA, Merrill & Ring, the Port of Port Angeles, and the City of Port Angeles.

You can review these documents at places listed to the right:

- **Agreed Order**—Requires the PLPs to do:
 - A **remedial investigation**, which describes the nature and extent of contamination.
 - A **feasibility study**, which evaluates cleanup options.
 - A **remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) report**.
- **RI/FS Work Plan**—Describes how the PLPs will investigate the site and evaluate cleanup options (see page 2).
- **Public Participation Plan**—Describes tools Ecology will use to inform the public about, and gather input on, the cleanup.

Public Comment Invited

Ecology is accepting comments and questions from **March 20 - April 18, 2013**. The box to the right shows where you can review documents and how to submit comments.

Harbor Contaminants

The Port Angeles Harbor sediments investigation (see page 3) found many types of pollutants in the harbor. It showed separate sources of contamination in the Western Harbor site and the Rayonier Mill study area. Contaminants in the Western Harbor site include:

- **Dioxins and furans**.
- **Poly-chlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)**.
- **Semi-volatile organics**, such as phenols and phthalates.
- **Ammonia and sulfides** from decomposing wood debris.
- The **toxic metals** arsenic, mercury, cadmium, and zinc.

How will the PLPs investigate the harbor?

The PLPs will fill gaps in what is known about harbor contamination and how to clean it up by looking at:

- How contaminants and wood debris are affecting living conditions for animals on the harbor floor.

Comments Accepted

March 20—April 18, 2013

Send Comments and Questions to:

Connie Groven, Site Manager
WA Department of Ecology
Toxics Cleanup Program, SWRO
P.O. Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775
Phone: (360) 407-6254
E-mail: Connie.Groven@ecy.wa.gov

Public Involvement Questions:

Diana Smith
Phone: (360) 407-6255
E-mail: Diana.Smith@ecy.wa.gov

DOCUMENT REVIEW LOCATIONS

Port Angeles Library
2210 South Peabody Street
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: (360) 417-8500

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

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Website

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=11907>

Facility Site ID #: 18898

Western Port Angeles Harbor

- What risks contaminants pose to human health, animals, and marine plants.
- If anything is continuing to contaminate harbor sediments. If so, Ecology will work with the responsible party to address the problem.
- How contamination is affecting animals and people who eat marine plants and animals from the harbor.

How will the PLPs sample the harbor?

RI/FS work plan sections 4 and 5 describe the sampling and analysis the PLPs will do for the RI/FS. This will include:

Bioassays: These tests will expose clam larva and small crustaceans to samples of harbor sediments. The percent that survive or develop normally will give us more data about how toxic the sediment is.

Chemical tests: The PLPs will also test for contaminants when they take sediment samples for bioassays.

Sediment Profile Imaging (SPI): SPI will lower a special camera through wood debris and sediment on the harbor floor. The pictures will show us what types of animals are living on the harbor floor, the

condition of their habitat, and how much wood debris is there.

Bioaccumulation: These tests expose worms and clams to harbor sediments for 1 1/2 months. We then look at the amount of chemicals that have built up in them. This gives us more data about long-term risks to human health and animals.

What happens next?

- Ecology will review comments we receive during the comment period. We will respond to them in a responsiveness summary, which we will send to commenters and post online.
- Ecology and the PLPs will finalize the agreed order and work plan, or make changes if needed based on public comments.
- The PLPs will submit a sampling and analysis plan for the investigation. Ecology will review the plan and approve it or request changes. The PLPs plan to do sampling in summer 2013, after Ecology has approved the plan.
- The PLPs will develop the RI/FS report and submit it to Ecology. A cleanup plan for the harbor will be implemented under a separate legal agreement.

Health Information for Port Angeles Harbor

Can I fish or collect shellfish from the harbor?

In 2007, Clallam County Health and Human Services issued a crab advisory for Dungeness and rock crab in the harbor due to poly-chlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). There is also an ongoing bivalve closure across the whole harbor due to bacterial—not chemical—contamination.

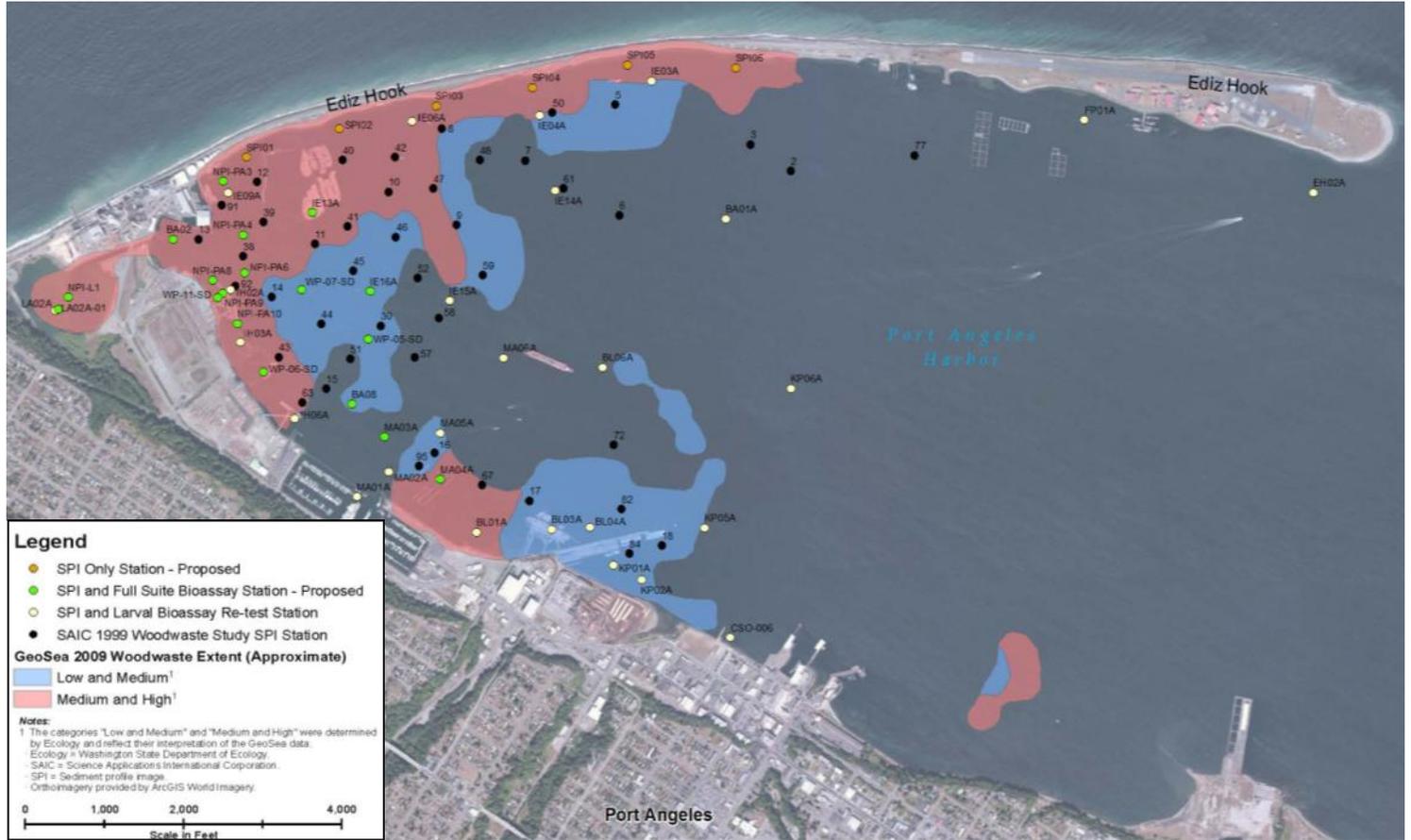
Clallam County Health and Human Services: (360) 417-2258

WA Department of Health: Len O'Garro, Lenford.O'Garro@doh.wa.gov or (360) 236-3376

Is it safe to play on beaches or swim in the water?

Health officials and local volunteers collect water samples for bacteria from popular Clallam County saltwater swimming beaches during the summer. To check the status of bacteria levels in the water at saltwater swimming beaches, visit: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/eap/beach/advice.html>.

RI/FS Work Plan Figure 10: Sediment Profile Imaging and Bioassay Station Locations



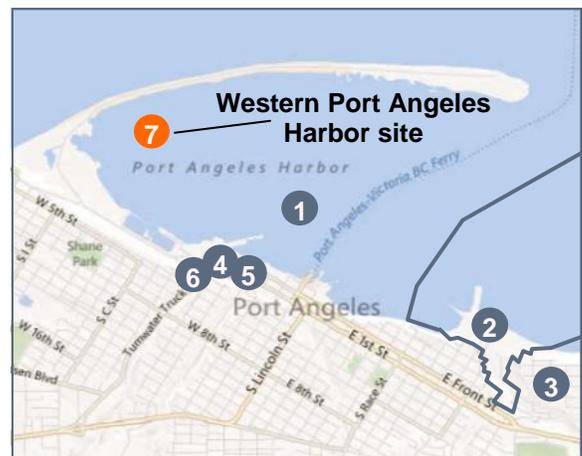
Why Cleanup Matters

Port Angeles Harbor has a long history as a busy industrial and shipping hub. In 2008, Ecology launched an investigation of Port Angeles Harbor through the Puget Sound Initiative.

The investigation found many types of pollutants that may pose a threat to human health and the environment, including fisheries and shellfish beds. The highest contamination is in the western harbor and near the former Rayonier Mill.

Other Port Angeles Cleanups

Ecology is working to investigate and clean up contamination around Port Angeles Harbor. These efforts will help reduce the amount of toxins in the harbor and Strait of Juan de Fuca. For more information, visit www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites_brochure/psi_portAngeles/psi_portAngeles_bay.html



1. Port Angeles Sediments Investigation
2. Rayonier Mill Study Area
3. Rayonier Mill Off-Property Soil Dioxin Study
4. Marine Trades Area
5. K Ply
6. Unocal Bulk Plant #0601
7. Western Port Angeles Harbor Site



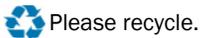
DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

PO Box 47775

Olympia, WA 98504-7775

**Save paper and join our
e-mail list!**

Please send an e-mail to Diana.Smith@ecy.wa.gov with the subject line "Western Harbor e-mail list." In the message, let us know the mailing address you would like removed.



**Western Port Angeles Harbor
Clallam County, WA**

Ecology seeks public comment on a legal agreement

**Public Comment Period:
March 20 through April 18, 2013**

Facility Site ID #: 18898

If you need this publication in a format for the visually impaired, call the Toxics Cleanup Program at (360) 407-6300.

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

Public Open House

**March 28, 2013, 6:30—8:30 p.m.
Olympic Medical Center, Linkletter Hall
939 Caroline St., Port Angeles
(360) 417-7000**

Ecology invites you to a public open house on the Western Port Angeles Harbor cleanup. Staff will be present to talk one-on-one during the open house sessions. Staff will give a presentation at 6:30 p.m., followed by a question and answer session.

6:30—7:00 p.m. Open house session
7:00—8:00 p.m. Presentation
Question & answer
8:00—8:30 p.m. Open house session

Light refreshments will be served.