

## **Interim Cleanup Plans and SEPA Forms Available for Public Comment**

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the Port of Tacoma (port) are planning to complete an interim (partial) cleanup action for the Kaiser Aluminum site. The Kaiser site, now owned by the port, consists of 96 acres in the Tacoma tide flats, located at 3400 Taylor Way (map on page 3). Documents available for review are:

- 1. Draft Interim Action Workplan\* for the Spent Pot Liner Area**
- 2. Draft Interim Action Workplan for the landfill from the former Rod Mill.** The landfill was closed in the mid-1980s.
- 3. State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Checklist and Determination**—Describes the potential environmental impacts of the cleanup work.

\* An Interim Action Work Plan describes the proposed cleanup work.

### **Ecology Wants Your Comments!**

Ecology is accepting comments on the Interim Action Work Plan and CAMU-eligible waste determination (see box on page 2) January 24—February 25, 2013. The box to the right shows where to find documents and where to submit comments. The SEPA comment period ends February 7.

### **Interim Cleanup Actions Proposed**

This work is part of a 2011 Agreed Order (legal agreement) to clean up the site. The port has already taken several interim actions to remove contamination from the property.

Now the port is planning more cleanup work in two areas. It proposes to do the following:

- In the first area, it will clean up spent pot liner (SPL, see box on page 2), and other carbon materials, (such as spent anodes and gutter dust). The port will also excavate soil near the SPL zone and dispose of it as CAMU-eligible waste at an off-site hazardous waste landfill (see box on page 2).
- In the second area, the port will clean up a small, contaminated landfill that remains from earlier Kaiser operations. In 2008, the port removed the rod mill—a facility that had made aluminum rods— along with 1,000 tons of contaminated soil. The landfill at the rod mill will now be cleaned up.

### **Comments Accepted**

January 24— February 25, 2013

**Submit Comments and Technical Questions to:**

Marv Coleman, Site Manager  
Toxics Cleanup Program, SWRO  
P.O. Box 47775  
Olympia, WA 98504-7775  
Phone: (360) 407-6259  
E-mail: Marv.Coleman@ecy.wa.gov

**Public Involvement Questions:**

Michael Bergman  
Phone: (360) 407-0067  
E-mail: Michael.Bergman@ecy.wa.gov

### **DOCUMENT REVIEW LOCATIONS**

#### **Tacoma Public Library**

1102 Tacoma Avenue  
Tacoma, WA 98402  
Phone: (253) 591-5666

#### **Citizens for a Healthy Bay**

535 Dock Street, Suite 213  
Tacoma, WA 98402  
Phone: (253) 383-2429

#### **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 Web site**

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gs/Sitepage.aspx?csid=2215>

**Facility Site ID #: 38**

## Site Background

The Department of Defense and Kaiser Aluminum Company operated an aluminum smelter and manufacturing plant at the site for over 60 years.

Kaiser has been an Ecology-managed cleanup site since the early 1980s. Kaiser Aluminum closed in 2001. In 2003, the port bought the site and began taking down the plant. It also began doing partial cleanups called Interim Actions. The port is now finishing the cleanup so the site can be put back into productive use.

### Cleanup to be done (see map on page 3):

**1. Spent pot liner (SPL):** Kaiser smelted aluminum in large metal pots lined with an asphalt-like substance. Over time, the lining broke down and had to be replaced.

Before 1967, Kaiser put this “spent pot liner” on the bare ground, leaving **polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH — see box to right)** and **cyanide** contamination in the soil and groundwater.

The Port will now remove the spent pot liner material and the contaminated soil associated with it.

**2. Rod mill :** Kaiser formed some of their aluminum into rods for sale. This was done at the rod mill. The port removed more than 1,000 tons of PAH contaminated soils in 2008. A small landfill remains from the rod mill operation, which the port will now clean up.

### Cleanup already complete:

**Rectifier yard:** Electrical equipment in this area leaked oil and **polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)**. PCBs are a mix of chemicals no longer made in the United States. However, they do not break down easily and stay in the environment for a long time.

## What Happens Next?

Ecology will review and consider all public comments. Ecology may, if needed ask the port to make changes to the work plan based on public comments, even after the work has begun.

## Why Cleanup Matters

Cleaning up contamination will improve the health of the local environment and allow the land to be re-developed.

### Waste Disposal Determination

Ecology has determined that contaminated soil from the site is Corrective Action Management Unit (CAMU)-eligible waste under the federal Resources Conservation and Recovery Act.

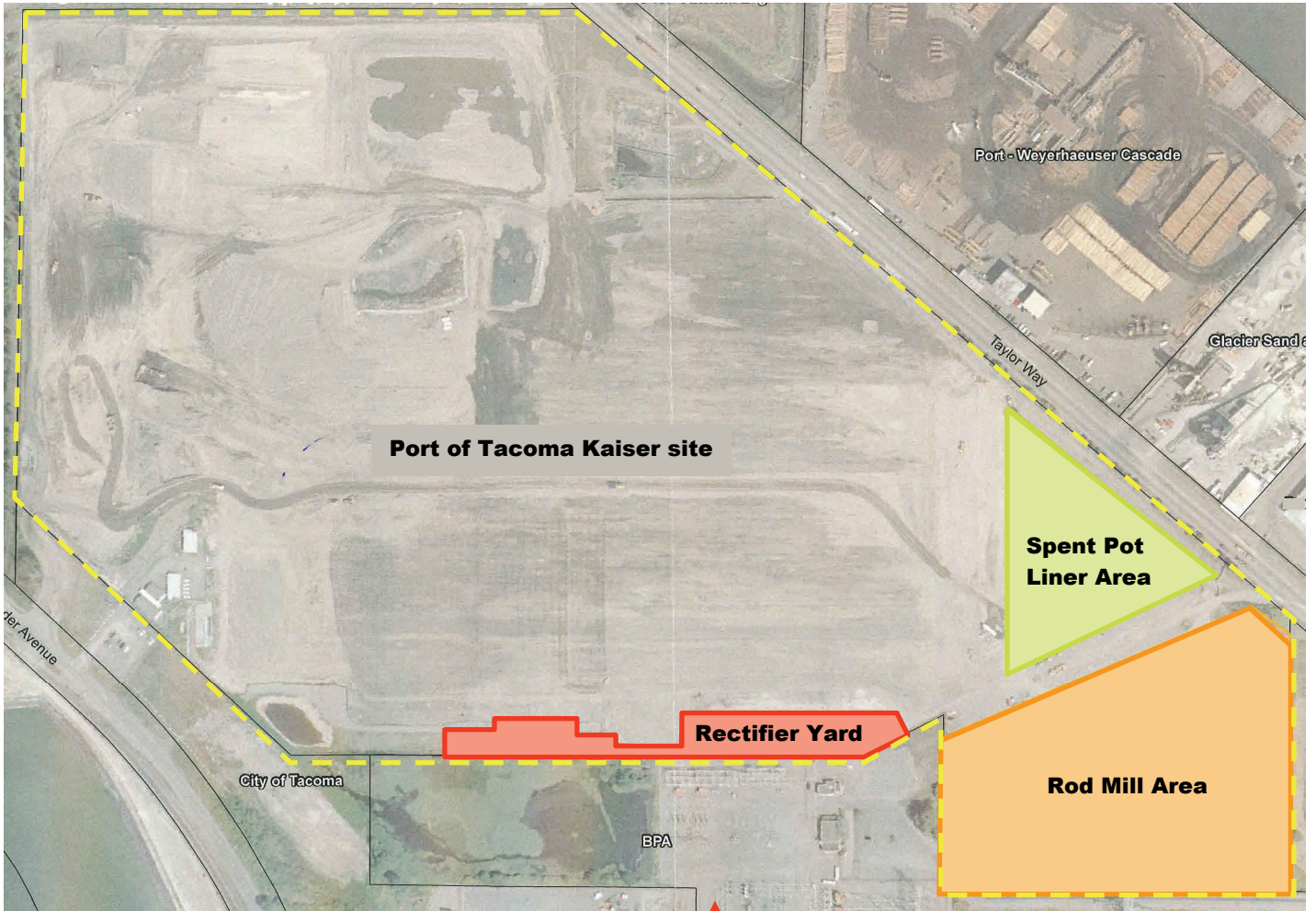
This means that the contaminated soils to be removed can be disposed of off site at a designated hazardous waste landfill. This determination is available for public review and comment.

### What Are PAH's

PAHs are a group of more than 100 chemicals that come from burning fossil fuels and organic waste. They are toxic to humans and the environment and may cause cancer.



# Port of Tacoma Kaiser



Port of Tacoma Kaiser site, 3400 Taylor Way, Tacoma WA



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

PO Box 47775

Olympia, WA 98504-7775



Please recycle.

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## **Port of Tacoma Kaiser Pierce County, WA**

### **Ecology Seeks Public Comment on Draft Interim Action Workplans and SEPA documents for Cleanup**

Public Comment Period:

January 24–February 25, 2013

Facility Site ID #: 38

Cleanup Site ID #: 2215

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### **Why did I receive this mailing?**

This fact sheet was sent to individuals, organizations, businesses, and government staff with an interest in Port of Tacoma cleanup and redevelopment. Ecology and the port are taking a major step towards completing investigation and cleanup of the former Kaiser Aluminum facility.

We welcome your comments throughout this process!

### **To be removed from the mailing list:**

Contact Michael Bergman, Public Involvement Coordinator, Michael.Bergman at 360-407-0067.

