

Interim cleanup work planned for oil seep on Bellingham waterfront

There's a small portion of shoreline on the Bellingham waterfront where oil is seeping out and leaving an intermittent sheen on the bay. The oil seep is in an intertidal area that's part of the RG Haley cleanup site, which is contaminated with wood treatment chemicals from past industrial activities.

The oil sheen was first reported in December 2012. Since then, the city of Bellingham has installed a boom and absorbent pads to catch and contain the oil. We are working with the city to develop an interim cleanup project to better contain the oil and protect the environment.

Revising our legal agreement

We will amend our legal agreement (known as an agreed order) with the city to include this interim work. The amendment allows the city to contain the oil and protect the environment right away. Without it we would have to wait for the final site-wide cleanup, which isn't scheduled to start until 2015.

The agreed order says the city agrees to investigate contamination at the site, as well as identify and evaluate possible cleanup options. The amendment will say the city now also agrees to perform this interim work, while continuing the larger site-wide cleanup process.

Review the amendment

We are asking for your comments on the amendment to the agreed order. You are invited to review the draft amendment, and send your comments to us for consideration. Comments will be accepted May 17 to June 15.

See the box at the right for details about where to review documents and how to submit comments.

Comments accepted

May 17 to June 15, 2013

Contact

Mark Adams - Site Manager

Department of Ecology

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Review documents

Bellingham – Ecology office

1440 10th St., Suite 102

Bellingham, WA 98225-7028

By appointment: call Linsay Albin at 360-715-5200

Bellevue – Ecology office

3190 160th Ave NE

Bellevue, WA 98008-5452

By appointment: call Sally Perkins at 425-649-7190

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

Ecology's website

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites

Site name: RG Haley Intl Corp

Cleanup site ID: 3928

Facility site ID: 2870

RG Haley cleanup site

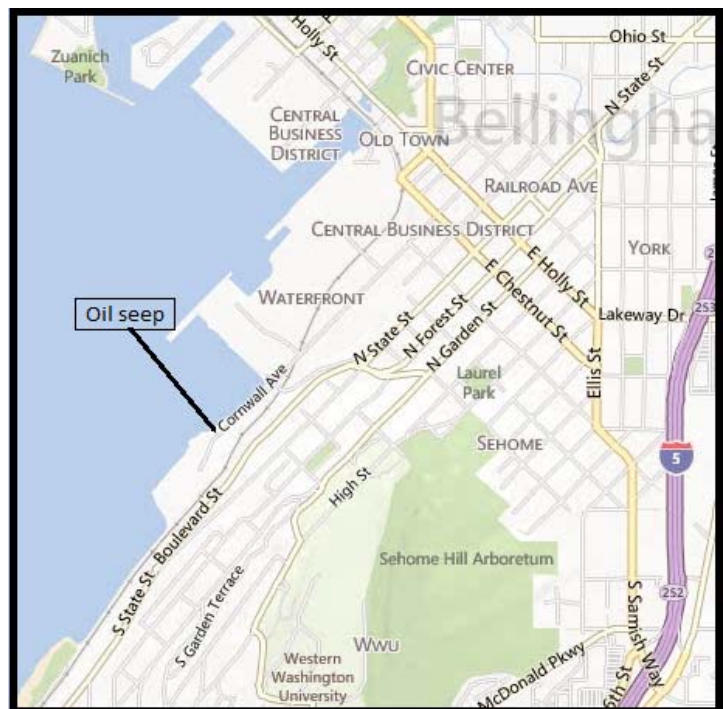
Interim cleanup work

The general plan is to place a 6-inch layer of sand with specially treated clay over a 5,000-square-foot area of the shoreline to absorb oil seeping out. The sand/clay layer will absorb oil while allowing water to pass through. To prevent erosion, a tough fabric sheet will be placed over the top, followed by large rock. This is meant to be a temporary fix while the process to develop the final, site-wide cleanup continues.



Contamination

We haven't tested the oil that's seeping out, but we do have extensive information about contamination in the upland area of the RG Haley cleanup site. Past testing shows there's diesel-range carrier oil in the soil and groundwater, and it contains elevated concentrations of pentachlorophenol, dioxins/furans, and carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.



Site history

The RG Haley site is about six acres on the Bellingham waterfront west of the intersection of Cornwall Avenue and Wharf Street. The site includes land owned by the city of Bellingham and state of Washington.

From the mid-1800s to the mid-1900s, the site was used for industries including lumber, coal and wharf operations. Various companies have treated wood on the property. RG Haley International Corp. was the last company to treat wood there, from 1955 to 1985.

Next steps

Once the public comment period ends, we will review and consider all comments received. Based on your comments, we may modify the amendment to our agreed order with the city of Bellingham.

Timeline

- May 17 – public comment period begins
- June 15 – public comment period ends
- July – city advertises for contractor
- August – city selects contractor
- September – construction begins
- October – complete construction
- 2015 – site-wide cleanup begins

Contacts

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dustin.terpening@ecy.wa.gov

Email newsletter

If you'd like to receive email updates about this cleanup site, as well as other sites around Bellingham Bay, email Dustin Terpening at dustin.terpening@ecy.wa.gov and ask to be added to our Bellingham cleanup list.

Pictures and videos

Pictures and videos of the cleanup site and oil seep are available from Ecology's website. You'll find a link to them on our cleanup site Web page. Go to www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites and search for the site name RG Haley.

Informacion en Espanol

Hay un área pequeña de la costa marina cerca de Bellingham que tiene aceite escapando y dejando una mancha iridiscente encima del agua.

El Departamento de Ecología del Estado de Washington está trabajando con la ciudad de Bellingham para desarrollar un proyecto provisional de limpieza para contener el escape y proteger el medio ambiente.

Ecología quiere los comentarios del público sobre un enmienda al acuerdo legal que existe con la ciudad de Bellingham.

Para obtener más información, favor de comunicarse con Gregory Bohn at 509-454-4174 o por correo electrónico a gregory.bohn@ecy.wa.gov. Favor de mencionar el sitio de limpieza RG Haley.

Help with other formats?


If you need this document in a format for the visually impaired call Dustin Terpening at 360-715-5205.

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





1440 10th Street, Suite 102
Bellingham, WA 98225

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Interim cleanup work planned for Bellingham waterfront

There's a small area of shoreline on the Bellingham waterfront where oil is seeping out and leaving an intermittent sheen on the water.

The Washington Department of Ecology is working with the city of Bellingham to develop an interim cleanup project to help contain the oil and protect the environment.

See inside for more details on the contamination and how you can get involved.

Site: RG Haley cleanup site
Location: Bellingham waterfront

Ecology seeks public comment on an amendment to their legal agreement with the city of Bellingham. The amendment calls for interim work to contain an oil seep.

Public comment period:
May 17 to June 15, 2013

