



Contamination report and change to legal agreement out for review

The Port of Bellingham, with Ecology oversight, has investigated contamination at the Georgia Pacific West cleanup site on Bellingham's waterfront, and are making the results available for public review and comment. The nature and extent of contamination throughout the site are detailed in a technical report (known as a remedial investigation).

The remedial investigation shows contamination in two separate and distinct areas of the site. As a result, the port would like to divide the site into two separate cleanup areas. This would allow the northern portion of the site to be cleaned and redeveloped sooner. Cleanup plans for the southern portion of the site will continue as scheduled.

Revising our legal agreement

Currently, we have a legal agreement with the port that says they will conduct an investigation, as well as identify and evaluate possible cleanup options (known as a feasibility study) for the entire 74-acre site.

We have to amend our legal agreement (known as an agreed order) with the port in order to divide the site into two cleanup areas. The amended agreement would define two separate cleanup areas, and the port would produce two feasibility studies – one for each area.

Review the documents

We are asking for your comments on the draft remedial investigation report, and comments on the amendment to the agreed order. You are invited to send your comments to us for consideration. Comments will be accepted from June 18 to July 17.

Comments accepted

June 18 to July 17, 2013

Contact

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Review documents

Bellingham – Ecology office
1440 10th St., Suite 102
Bellingham, WA 98225-7028
By appointment:
Linsay Albin at 360-715-5200

Bellevue – Ecology office
3190 160th Ave NE
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452
By appointment:
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: Georgia Pacific West
Bellingham
Cleanup site ID: 2279
Facility site ID: 14

Georgia Pacific West cleanup site

Contamination in the pulp and tissue mill area

The former mill manufactured bleached sulfite pulp for on-site production of tissue and toweling, and for sale as market pulp. Other operations in the pulp and tissue mill area included an alcohol plant, lignin plant, acid plant, and steam plant with oil storage.

As a result, this 38-acre area contains metals, low pH, petroleum hydrocarbons, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and dioxin/furans that exceed state cleanup standards.

Property in the pulp and tissue area is owned by the port.

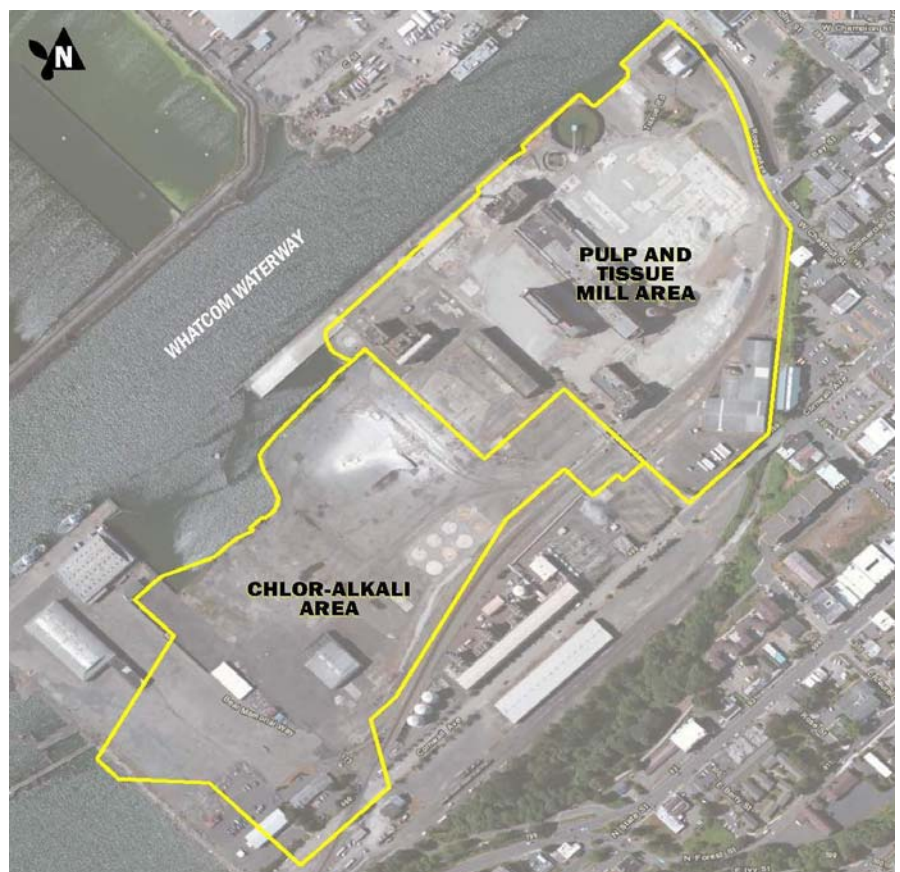


Contamination in the chlor-alkali area

The former chlor-alkali plant used a mercury cell technology to produce chlorine and sodium hydroxide for use at the pulp and tissue mill, and for off-site commercial sale. It operated from 1965-1999. Other operations in the chlor-alkali area included petroleum storage tanks and wood chip storage.

As a result, this 36-acre area contains mercury, high pH, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, and petroleum hydrocarbons that exceed state cleanup standards.

Property in the chlor-alkali area is owned by the port, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad, and Washington state.



Site history

The cleanup site is located at 300 West Laurel Street in Bellingham. A pulp and tissue mill operated at the site from 1926 through 2007. The Port of Bellingham acquired property within the site from Georgia-Pacific Corporation in January 2005. Based on findings from the remedial investigation, the site encompasses approximately 74 acres on the south side of the Whatcom Waterway.

Next steps

Once the public comment period ends, we will review and consider all comments received. Based on your comments, we may modify the documents. If there are significant changes, we will issue the documents again for public review.

Since the remedial investigation report does not include an evaluation of possible cleanup options, we are not planning a public meeting. However, if 10 or more people request a meeting, we will hold one.

Project timeline

- June 18 to July 17: Public comment period on draft remedial investigation report and amendment.
- Fall 2013: Public comment period on draft feasibility study, pulp and tissue mill area.
- Early 2014: Public comment period on draft feasibility study, chlor-alkali area.

Contacts

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Dustin Terpening, communications manager
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Pictures

Pictures of the cleanup site are available from Ecology's website. You'll find a link to them on our cleanup site Web page - www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites. Search for the site name Georgia Pacific West.

Email updates

If you'd like to receive these newsletters via email, contact Dustin Terpening at dustin.terpening@ecy.wa.gov.

Informacion en Espanol

Los resultados de la investigación acerca de la contaminación en el sitio de Georgia Pacific West ubicado en la ribera de Bellingham ahora están disponibles para examinar y hacer comentarios.

Una enmienda a nuestro acuerdo legal con el Puerto de Bellingham también está disponible para examinar y comentar. La enmienda dividirá el sitio en dos áreas separadas para ayudar en promover la limpieza y desarrollo del parte norte del sitio.

Ecología quiere recibir los comentarios públicos sobre estos documentos. Para obtener más información, favor de comunicarse con Gregory Bohn at 509-454-4174 o por correo electrónico a gregory.bohn@ecy.wa.gov. Debe refiere al sitio contaminado de Georgia Pacific West.

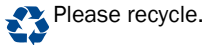
Help with other formats?

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



Documents for Georgia Pacific West cleanup site available for review and comment

Results from an investigation into the contamination at the Georgia Pacific West cleanup site on Bellingham's waterfront are available for review and comment.

An amendment to our legal agreement with the Port of Bellingham is also available for review and comment. The amendment would divide the site into two separate cleanup areas to help speed cleanup and development on the northern portion of the site.

See inside for more details about how to review documents and submit comments.



Site: Georgia Pacific West
Location: Bellingham waterfront

Ecology seeks public comment on the remedial investigation into contamination, as well as an amendment to the legal agreement with the Port of Bellingham.

Public comment period:
June 18 to July 17, 2013

Facility Site ID #: 14
