

Consent Decree Amendment Available for Public Comment

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) and Murray Pacific are amending a consent decree for cleanup at the B&L Woodwaste site. The site is located near Fife Way and 6th Avenue along the border of Milton and Fife.

Buried woodwaste at the site is contaminated with arsenic from Asarco slag, which has leaked arsenic into soil and groundwater. Ecology is managing cleanup activities at the site. Funding comes from Asarco, Murray Pacific, Wasser & Winters, and Louisiana Pacific.

Ecology Wants Your Comments!

You can review and comment on these documents at locations listed to the right:

- **Consent decree amendment**, which updates the 2008 legal agreement.
- **Scope of work** (work plan) for the final cleanup phase.
- **Amended trust agreement**, which describes how the B&L Custodial Trust (trust) manages money for the cleanup.

We are accepting comments from **October 3 through November 1, 2013**.

Final Cleanup Work Plan

Levels of arsenic in groundwater outside the landfill are still above state cleanup standards. To clean up the site, the trust will:

- Use a groundwater treatment system to pump groundwater from areas in and around the landfill, and remove arsenic from it.
- Keep pumping groundwater to keep contaminated water in the landfill once there is no more contaminated water outside of it. The system will likely have to pump and treat water from the landfill indefinitely or until conditions improve.
- Test a process to treat arsenic in water that cannot be removed from the wetlands. The trust will use a chemical that binds arsenic to soil. Arsenic in this soil will be below state cleanup levels.

The map on page 3 shows work areas.

Comments Accepted

October 3—November 1, 2013

Send Comments and Questions to:

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Public Involvement Questions:

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Public Involvement Coordinator
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Document Review Locations

Tacoma Main Library
1102 Tacoma Avenue South
Tacoma, WA 98402
(253) 591-5666

Citizens for a Healthy Bay
535 Dock Street, Suite 213
Tacoma, WA 98402
(253) 383-2429

WA Department of Ecology Southwest Regional Office

300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503
By appointment only:
Contact Susie Baxter,
Susan.Baxter@ecy.wa.gov or
(360) 407-6365

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Website

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

Facility Site ID# 1203

Next Steps

1. Ecology will review all comments received during the comment period.
2. At the end of the comment period, we will respond to comments in a responsiveness summary. We will send it to commenters and post it on our website.
3. Ecology will finalize consent decree, work plan, and trust agreement. If needed, we can make changes to the consent decree and work plan based on public comments.
4. The trust will begin the final cleanup phase.

Background

The B&L Woodwaste Landfill received woodwaste from the mid 1970s until the early 1980s. The waste, which came from log sort yards in Commencement Bay, was contaminated with Asarco slag. The Asarco slag (which came from smelting operations) leaked arsenic into the woodwaste, soil, and groundwater at the site.

In 1982, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) added the Commencement Bay Nearshore/Tideflats area, including Hylebos Waterway and the B&L Woodwaste site, to its National Priorities List (Superfund site list). EPA named the B&L Woodwaste site as a source of arsenic.

Why Cleanup Matters

Arsenic has leaked from the landfill 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.

There no longer appears to be a human health hazard from arsenic at the site. Because of cleanup work Murray Pacific and the trust have done, there is no longer arsenic in the ditches along Interurban Tail. The contaminated water in the wetlands is at least 15 feet deep.

Completed Cleanup Work

From 1992 to the present, Murray Pacific and the trust finished most of the needed cleanup work.

This included:

Landfill

- Consolidating the original landfill into a single waste pile.
- Installing a multi-layer capping system to cover the waste pile. The cap prevents rain from flushing contamination out of the landfill.

Groundwater and Stormwater Management

- Installing groundwater monitoring wells.
- Installing an underground wall to keep contaminated groundwater from leaving the landfill.
- Creating ponds to reroute clean groundwater around the landfill and direct stormwater runoff away from the landfill.

Sediment

- Removing contaminated sediment from the drainage ditches around the site.







Wetlands

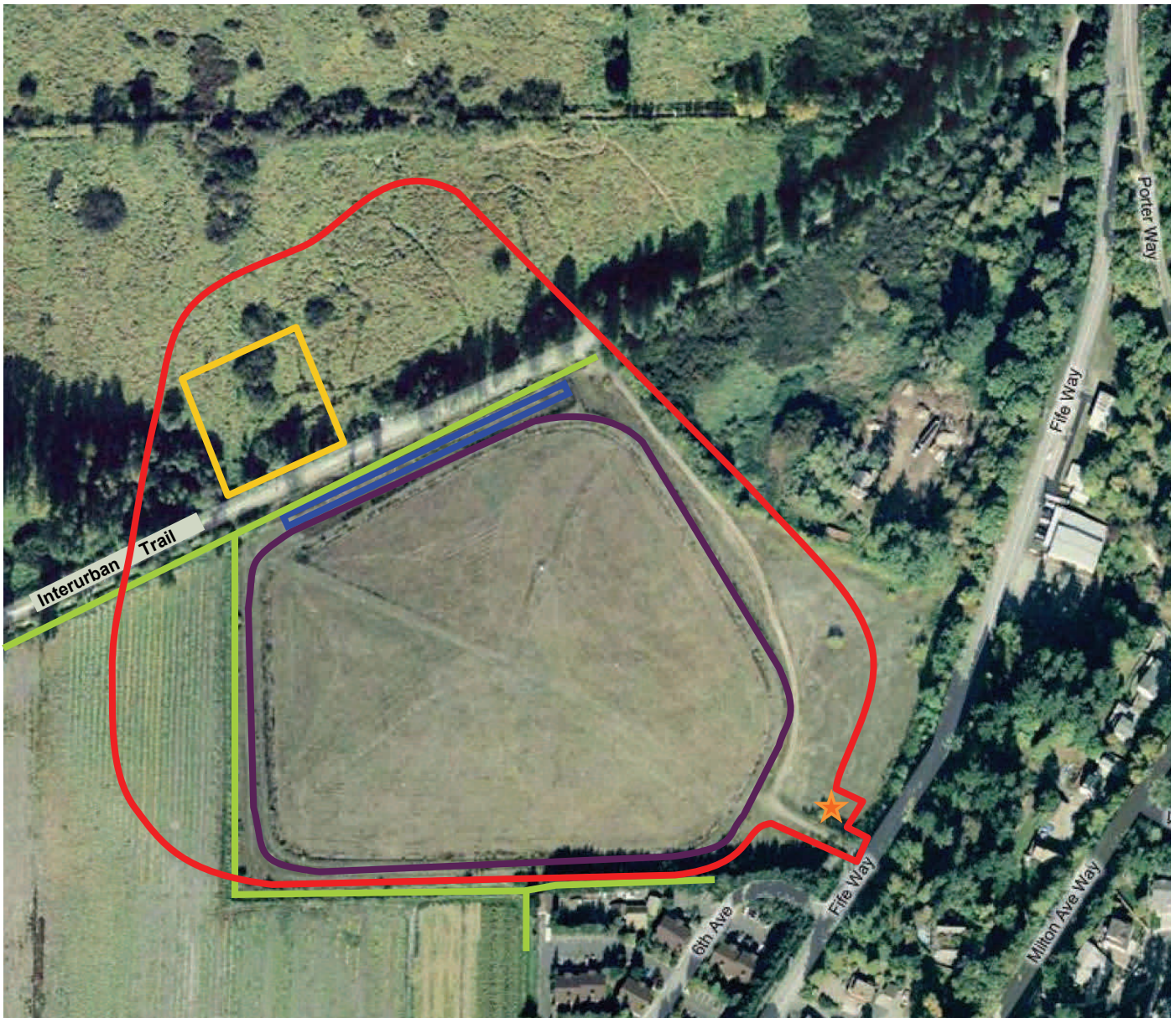
- Treating contaminated groundwater in the wetlands to keep arsenic from moving further towards Hylebos Creek.

Groundwater Treatment System

- Building a groundwater treatment system.
- Installed groundwater pumping equipment under and around the landfill and wetlands. Water treated by this system is meeting state groundwater cleanup levels.

Approximate Final Cleanup Phase Work Locations

-  **Final cleanup phase work area.** Pipes and wells have been installed to move water to the treatment system.
-  **Groundwater treatment system**
-  **North stormwater pond**
-  **Drainage ditches**
-  **Test area for treating wetlands groundwater**
-  **Landfill—already capped and surrounded by barrier wall**






DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY

State of Washington

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B&L Woodwaste Pierce County, WA

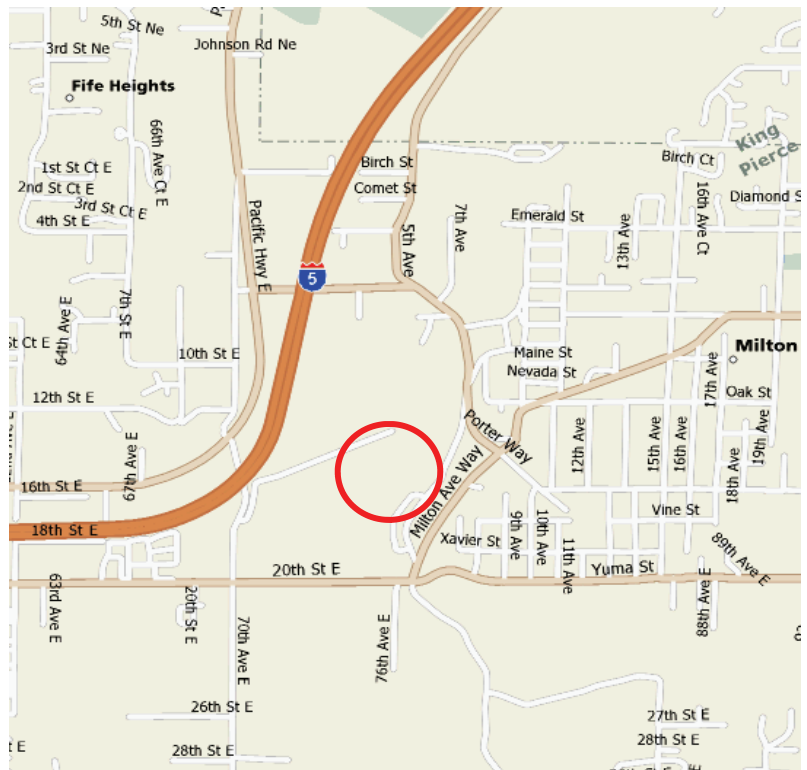
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B&L Woodwaste site, Fife Way and 6th Avenue, Milton