

Legal Agreement to Sample Yards for Dioxins Available for Comment

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) is entering into a legal agreement with the Port of Ridgefield (port) for the Pacific Wood Treating site (PWT). You can review these documents at places listed to the right:

- **Agreed Order**—Legal agreement that requires the port to:
 - Develop a **sampling plan** for investigating dioxins in yards in the neighborhood shown on page 3.
 - Do a **remedial investigation (RI)**, which describes the type and extent of contamination.
 - Do a **feasibility study (FS)**, which evaluates cleanup options.
 - Develop an **RI/FS report**.
 - If Ecology decides one is needed, develop a preliminary **draft cleanup action plan**, which proposes cleanup actions.
- **Public Participation Plan**—Describes tools Ecology will use to inform the public about, and gather input on, the cleanup.

We are accepting comments on the agreed order through January 8, 2015. The port may begin work during the comment period.

Site Background

From 1964-1993, PWT operated on port property at 111 West Division in Ridgefield. PWT treated wood products with toxic chemicals including creosote, pentachlorophenol, and a mixture of copper, chromium, and arsenic (CCA). Contamination from PWT has been found in soil, groundwater, and sediments on and off port property.

In 1993, PWT declared bankruptcy. Ecology and the port are funding the investigation and cleanup.

Planned Dioxin Investigation

The port has found dioxins above state cleanup levels on some public land in the neighborhood east of the port property (see page 2 for more details). Under the new agreed order, the port is developing a plan for sampling the study area (see map on page 3). The port will provide Ecology their proposed sampling plan in January 2015.

Most of the dioxins in off-property soil likely came from air-borne dust while PWT was operating. Dust may have blown off the port property, been tracked onto roads from truck tires, and come off trucks hauling treated wood on Division St.

Comments Accepted

**December 8, 2014 through
January 8, 2015**

Send Comments and Technical Questions to:

Craig Rankine, Site Manager
WA Department of Ecology
Vancouver Field Office
2108 Grand Blvd.
Vancouver, WA 98661
(360) 690-4795
Craig.Rankine@ecy.wa.gov

Public Involvement Questions:

Diana Smith
Public Involvement Coordinator
(360) 407-6255
Diana.Smith@ecy.wa.gov

Health-Related Questions:

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

DOCUMENT REVIEW LOCATIONS

Ridgefield Library

210 N. Main Avenue
Ridgefield, WA 98642
(360) 887-8281

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=3020>

Facility Site ID #: 1019

If you live in the study area shown on the map, the port may contact you in early 2015. The port does not plan to sample every property in the study area.

The port will need to ask you questions about the history of your property to find out if it will be appropriate to sample for the study. You can read more about sampling in the FAQ on our website (see box on page 1).

The port will use the data from this investigation to evaluate if cleanup is needed, and what the cleanup plan should be for the study area.

What Happens Next?

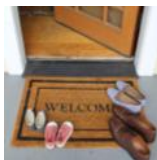
We will review and respond to comments at the end of the comment period. The port can begin work during the agreed order comment period. However, we will consider your comments as the port moves forward with the investigation. This may include adjusting how the port does the investigation. The port's proposed sampling plan is due in January.

Healthy Actions

Dioxins transported by dust tend to stay in the upper layer of soil until they are disturbed. If you or your family are concerned, you can reduce exposure to potentially contaminated soil by:



- Washing your hands after working or playing outside, and before eating.



- Removing shoes when you come inside the house.



- Wearing gardening gloves while gardening or landscaping.



- Scrubbing food from the garden.
- Vacuuming regularly and dusting with a damp cloth.
- Washing children's toys often.
- Using grass and other ground covers to help prevent exposure. Landscaping and development can also dilute dioxins in soil.

You can read more about healthy actions in the FAQ on our website (see page 1).

Earlier Off-Property Soil Investigation

From 2010-2012, the port collected surface soil samples on public land east of the port property. Some sample locations are shown in the map on page 3. You can read more about the investigation in the FAQ on our website.

Dioxin was the only contaminant found above cleanup levels. In the samples shown on page 3:

- Off-property soil dioxin concentrations ranged from 0.64 to 55.5 parts per trillion (ppt) toxicity equivalent concentration (TEC).
- Dioxins are above 13 ppt, the state cleanup level for unrestricted land use, in 6 of the 15 samples shown.

When looking at the results, keep in mind that:

- Dioxins are unintentional byproducts of human activities and natural processes. They do not break down easily in the environment and, as a result, are found everywhere.
- A single sample cannot be used to say whether a property is contaminated or not. Dioxin levels vary widely, even within a single property.
- Sampling was done to find the general extent of contamination, not to determine cleanup areas.

Past PWT Cleanup

From 1996 - 2013, the port cleaned up contamination on their property. They removed:

- 24,800 gallons of liquid contamination.
- 1,545,000 pounds of contaminated sludge.
- Contamination from over 144 million gallons of groundwater.

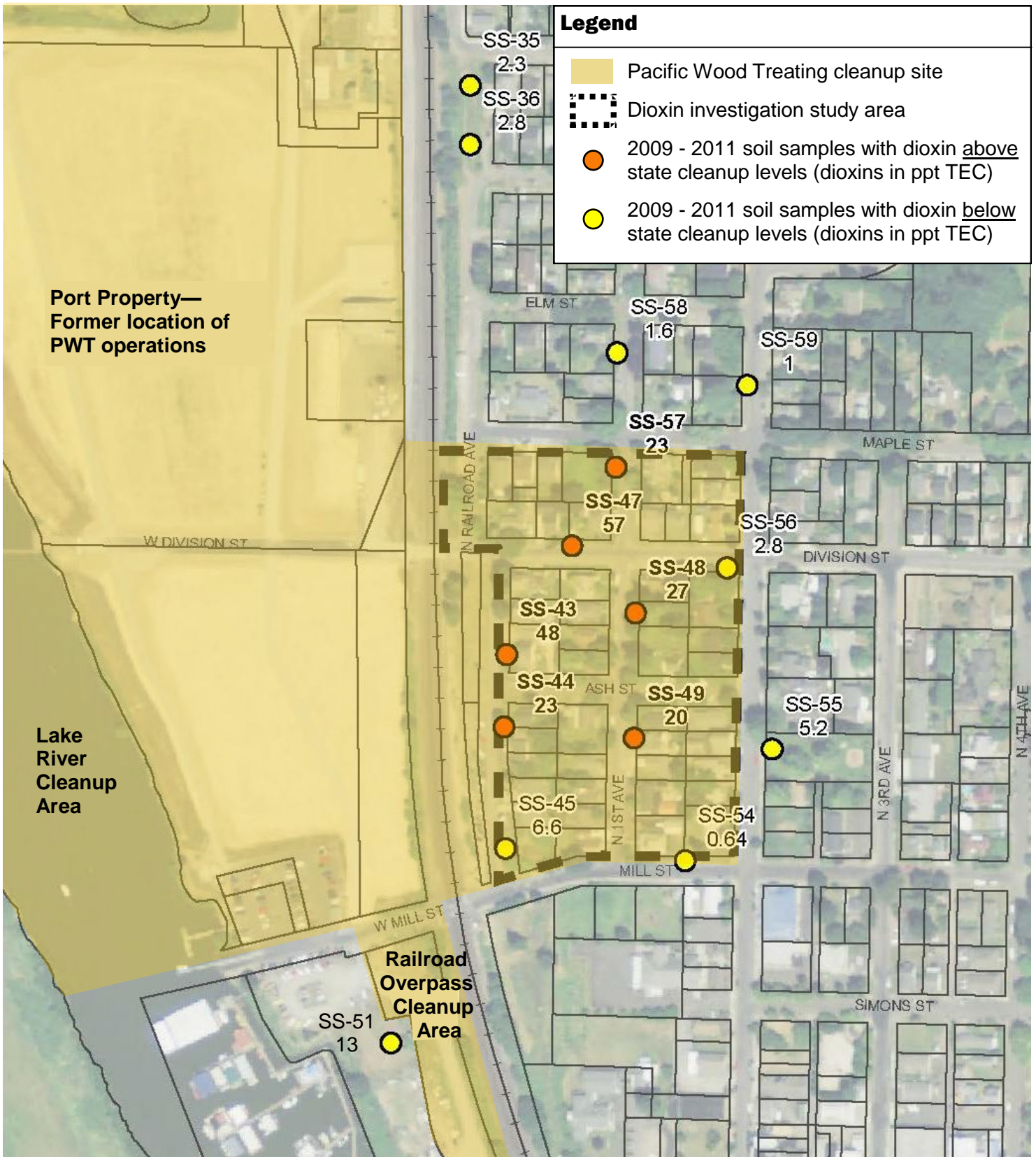
The port also capped the property using two or more feet of clean soil.

This summer, the port began cleaning up off-property areas, including:

- The railroad overpass area.
- Carty Lake.
- Lake River.

You can learn about cleanup progress on our website or on our blog at <http://ecologywa.blogspot.com>.

Off-Property Dioxin Investigation Area and Cleanup Areas






DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

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 Please recycle.

Pacific Wood Treating Ridgefield, WA

Ecology seeks public comment on a legal agreement to sample yards for dioxins

Public Comment Period:

December 8, 2014 — January 8, 2015

Facility Site ID #: 1019

To request ADA accommodation for disabilities, or printed materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at (360) 407-6300.

Persons with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711.
Persons with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.



Pacific Wood Treating, 111 West Division, Ridgefield