

**For More Information**

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**Ecology's Website:**  
[Bit.ly/EcyLandsburgMine](http://Bit.ly/EcyLandsburgMine)

**Facility Site# 2139**  
**Cleanup ID # 60**



**Landsburg Mine Site Cleanup**

**Opportunities to stay informed**

- Visit Ecology's website
- View Ecology's Public Involvement Calendar
- Join the site Mailing List
- Review documents at Central Records and Repositories



Scan the QR code with your smart phone to visit Ecology's Website for more information!  
[Bit.ly/EcyLandsburgMine](http://Bit.ly/EcyLandsburgMine)

**Landsburg Mine Site Update**

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) is committed to providing timely and accurate information to the community about the Landsburg Mine site cleanup. Ecology prepared this fact sheet to update you on the status of the investigation and cleanup.

Ecology will enter into a legal agreement called a Consent Decree. Under the agreement, the companies agree to clean up the site following the Ecology issued Cleanup Action Plan (CAP).

Comments on the draft CAP were accepted from October 11 to December 12, 2013. Comments were received from residents, area councils, and local government. A public meeting was held October 24, 2013 to present the draft CAP and to answer questions.

Ecology is still reviewing the comments received. When the review is complete, Ecology will prepare a document called a Responsiveness Summary. More details are on the next page.

If you need this publication in an alternative format call reception at 425-649-7000. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

Si necesita información en español, favor de contactar a Luis Buen Abad al 425 649-4485.

**Site Background**

The Landsburg Mine site is a former underground coal mine. It is located approximately 1.5 miles northwest of Ravensdale in southeast King County, south of the S. E. Summit-Landsburg Road and north of S. E. Kent-Langley road. The Cedar River is approximately 500 feet north and Rock Creek is roughly 850 feet south of the site. The former mine site occupies property currently owned by Palmer Coking Coal Company. The ground sank above the abandoned mine forming a long, narrow trench roughly three-quarters of a mile long, 20 to 60 feet deep and 60 to 100 feet wide.

In the late 1960s to the late 1970s, industrial wastes were disposed in the trench, including paint waste, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), solvents, cyanide, metals, and oily sludge. In 1996 a remedial investigation concluded that these wastes were confined to the northern part of the trench within the former mine. This area is fenced off and not accessible to the public.

The groundwater has been monitored for 20 years and no contamination has been detected in groundwater leaving the site. That means that no contamination is coming off of the site and into the surrounding environment.

**How will the site be cleaned up and monitored?**

The Ecology Draft Cleanup Action Plan (CAP) proposes to:

- Contain and bury the waste in the north trench with fill and a protective cap that will protect people and animals from coming in contact with the waste.
- Reduce rainwater from seeping into the trench, traveling through the contamination and potentially carrying it into the groundwater.
- Establish a schedule to monitor groundwater including early warning wells and continuous monitoring.
- If contamination is ever found in the groundwater above threshold levels, it will be pumped, treated on-site, and disposed of safely to prevent any possible groundwater contamination from leaving the site.
- Apply restrictions on how the land can be used in the future so the protective cap will not be disturbed.
- Prohibit groundwater from being withdrawn and used except for monitoring purposes.

**Who is Involved in the Cleanup?**

**Department of Ecology**  
*Oversees site investigations, cleanup planning and cleanup implementation*

**Potentially Liable Parties (PLPS)**  
*Pays for investigation and cleanup*

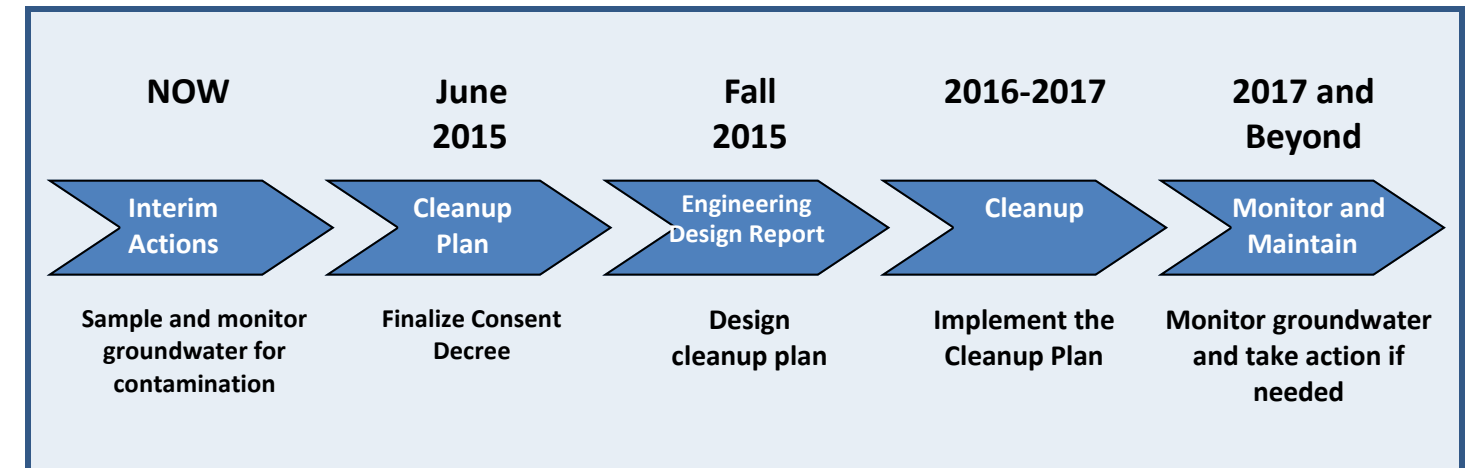
- Browning-Ferris Industries of Illinois, Inc.
- BNSF Railway Company
- PACCAR
- Plum Creek Timberlands, L.C.
- Palmer Coking Coal Company
- TOC Holdings Co.

**What is the cleanup status?**

Ecology reviewed the comments for the draft CAP and is preparing a responsiveness summary to address them. Ecology anticipates completing it in Spring or early Summer 2015. During the comment period for the Cleanup Action Plan (CAP) in 2013, the City of Kent requested the Department of Health (Health) do a review called a Health Consultation. According to Health, the purpose is to determine if enough information has been collected to assess any risks to the City's Clark Springs water source and nearby private wells. Health estimates that its review will be done in 2015. Ecology will review it and if there are no substantial changes to the Cleanup Action Plan, the Consent Decree will be filed in court and the final CAP will be implemented.

**What's Next for the Cleanup?**

*Anticipated Schedule*



*\*Ecology will hold public comment periods at key points during the process.*

**Drinking Water**

Groundwater in the Landsburg Mine site has been investigated and monitored for contamination for over 24 years. The City of Kent's Clark Springs Water supply and private wells near the site have also been tested by Ecology or independently. During that time, no contamination from the site has been found in groundwater from the site or nearby areas. Much of the groundwater from the former mine discharges from the north and south portals (mine entrances) which were bull dozed when the mine closed in 1975. That ground water travels underground to the Cedar River, Rock Creek, and nearby aquifers. The Clark Springs Water Supply is within a mile west of the south portal.

It has been more than 30 years since the waste was dumped into the old mine and Ecology has found no groundwater contamination. Based on the ongoing testing and monitoring, Ecology believes there is reduced risk to the Clark Springs public water supply from the Landsburg Mine site. However, the CAP includes continuous monitoring and a contingency plan to prevent the possible spread of contaminated groundwater in order to safeguard residents, the Cedar River, and Rock Creek.

**Ecology tests some private wells**

Ecology offered testing to nine residential wells based on requests during the 2013 public comment period. Two owners agreed. In the fall of 2014, Ecology tested water in these wells for hazardous substances from the site. Although the samples contained a few detections of common trace metals and in one well, substances called phthalates, no hazardous chemicals related to the Landsburg Mine site were detected.

Furthermore, the detections were below state cleanup levels and EPA drinking maximum contaminant levels (MCLs). These substances are commonly found in drinking water and natural water. For the chemicals tested, Ecology considers the well water from those two wells to be as good or better than other public drinking water systems. Well owners are responsible for testing the water in their wells.



**Landsburg site manager, Jerome Cruz, and Unit Supervisor, Ching-Pi Wang, gather water samples from private wells.**