

Toxics Cleanup Program**May 2014****Draft cleanup plan ready for review**

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) has prepared a cleanup action plan for the Cornwall Avenue Landfill site on the Bellingham Waterfront. The plan is part of a legal agreement called a consent decree between Ecology, the City of Bellingham (city), the Port of Bellingham (port), and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The plan addresses two areas of the site, an upland portion and a shoreline/shallow off shore portion. A third off shore deeper water portion of the site will be addressed under a future amendment to the consent decree and cleanup action plan. The figures on pages 3 and 4 show these areas of the site in plan-view and cross-section.

Public review and comment

Ecology is seeking comments on the consent decree and cleanup plan, along with a draft public participation plan and a draft Determination of Non-Significance under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The comment period is from June 2 to July 2, 2014. Review locations are listed to the right.

Site history

- 1888-1946: The site was used for sawmill operations, including log storage and wood disposal.
- 1954-1965: The site was used as a municipal waste landfill.
- 1965: Closure of landfill; the site was covered with a layer of soil.
- 1971 to 2005: The site was used for log storage and warehousing.
- 2011: An interim cleanup action was conducted at the site.

Environmental Investigations

Environmental investigations found an estimated 295,000 cubic yards of municipal waste and 94,000 cubic yards of wood waste. Some of the contamination associated with this waste includes:

Groundwater contamination

Tannins and lignins associated with wood waste breakdown products; elevated nitrogen compounds like ammonia; elevated dissolved metals like manganese.

Sediment contamination

Phthalates, PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls), cPAH's (carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons), phenols, and metals.

**Comments accepted
June 2 – July 2, 2014****Public Meeting
Thursday, June 5, 2014
6-8pm
Bellingham Public Library
Central Lecture Room****Send comments & questions to:****Mark Adams, Site Manager**
WA Department of Ecology
3190 160th Ave. NE
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452
Phone: 425-649-7107
Email: Mark.Adams@ecy.wa.gov**Review documents at:****Ecology's Cornwall Avenue
Landfill Site Web site:**
www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites
Search site name:
Cornwall Avenue Landfill
Cleanup Site ID: 220
Facility Site ID: 2913**Department of Ecology
Bellingham Field office**
1440 10th St., Suite 102
Bellingham, WA
By appointment. Call Linsay Albin at
360-715-5200.**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.**Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office**
3190 160th Ave. SE
Bellevue, WA
By appointment. Call Sally Perkins:
425-649-7190

Cornwall Avenue Landfill

Contamination from other sites

Contamination from two neighboring cleanup sites overlaps with contamination at the Cornwall site. Petroleum hydrocarbons, pentachlorophenol, carcinogenic PAHs, dioxin, furans, and other contaminants associated with former wood treating operations at the adjacent R.G. Haley site are present in the soil, sediment and groundwater. Mercury associated with the Whatcom Waterway site is also present in the sediment.

The environmental investigations were summarized in a document called a remedial investigation (RI) report.

Interim cleanup work

In 2011, approximately 47,500 cubic yards of stabilized sediment from a port dredging project were placed on part of the site to help reduce the amount of rainwater flowing through the buried municipal waste and carrying contaminants to the bay. In addition, the use of this material as part of a future site-wide cleanup would reduce cleanup costs.

The sediment contained levels of various urban contaminants, including dioxins and furans, above state soil cleanup levels. The material was covered with a thick, white, waterproof membrane and a landfill gas-collection system was installed beneath the material to safely collect and vent gas.

Analysis of Cleanup Alternatives

Based on the results of the environmental investigations, four cleanup options were evaluated and a preferred alternative identified, in a document called a feasibility study (FS) report.

The preferred alternative included: a low-permeability soil layer (called a cap), which incorporates the interim action material and a reinforced plastic liner; a shoreline stabilization & sand filter system and a thin-layer sediment cap; monitoring of deeper water sediments that are naturally being capped.

A combined RI and FS report was finalized in December 2013 after public review.

Cleanup Action Plan

Based on the information in the RI/FS report, Ecology has selected a cleanup alternative to be implemented by the port, city and DNR. The cleanup alternative meets state cleanup requirements and will prevent people, plants and animals from being exposed to harmful levels of contamination under future use of the site as a waterfront park.

Key elements of the plan are:

Upland portion - Management Unit 1 (MU-1):

Use the low permeability interim action material to reduce the amount of rainwater flowing through the municipal waste; install a plastic liner and a clean layer of soil over the interim action material to further reduce infiltration of rain water and prevent direct exposure; install a stormwater drainage system, and a system to collect & vent gas from the landfill; place a restrictive covenant on the property to ensure the long-term integrity of the cleanup.

Shoreline/shallow offshore portion (MU-2):

Stabilize the beach front to prevent wave erosion; install a sand filter to help treat ground water; place a layer of clean sand over the in-water municipal waste and wood debris; place a restrictive covenant on the property to ensure the integrity of the cleanup.

Deeper water portion (MU-3):

The cleanup action plan does not address this area of the site because Ecology has not yet developed regional background levels for PCBs and carcinogenic PAHs in Bellingham Bay surface sediments. Once this work is completed, the consent decree and cleanup action plan will be amended to address MU-3.

State Environmental Policy Act

Acting as the lead agency under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), Ecology has issued a draft Determination of Non-Significance for cleanup of the MU-1 and MU-2 areas of the site. Ecology is asking for public comment on this determination and the associated SEPA checklist.

Cost and funding

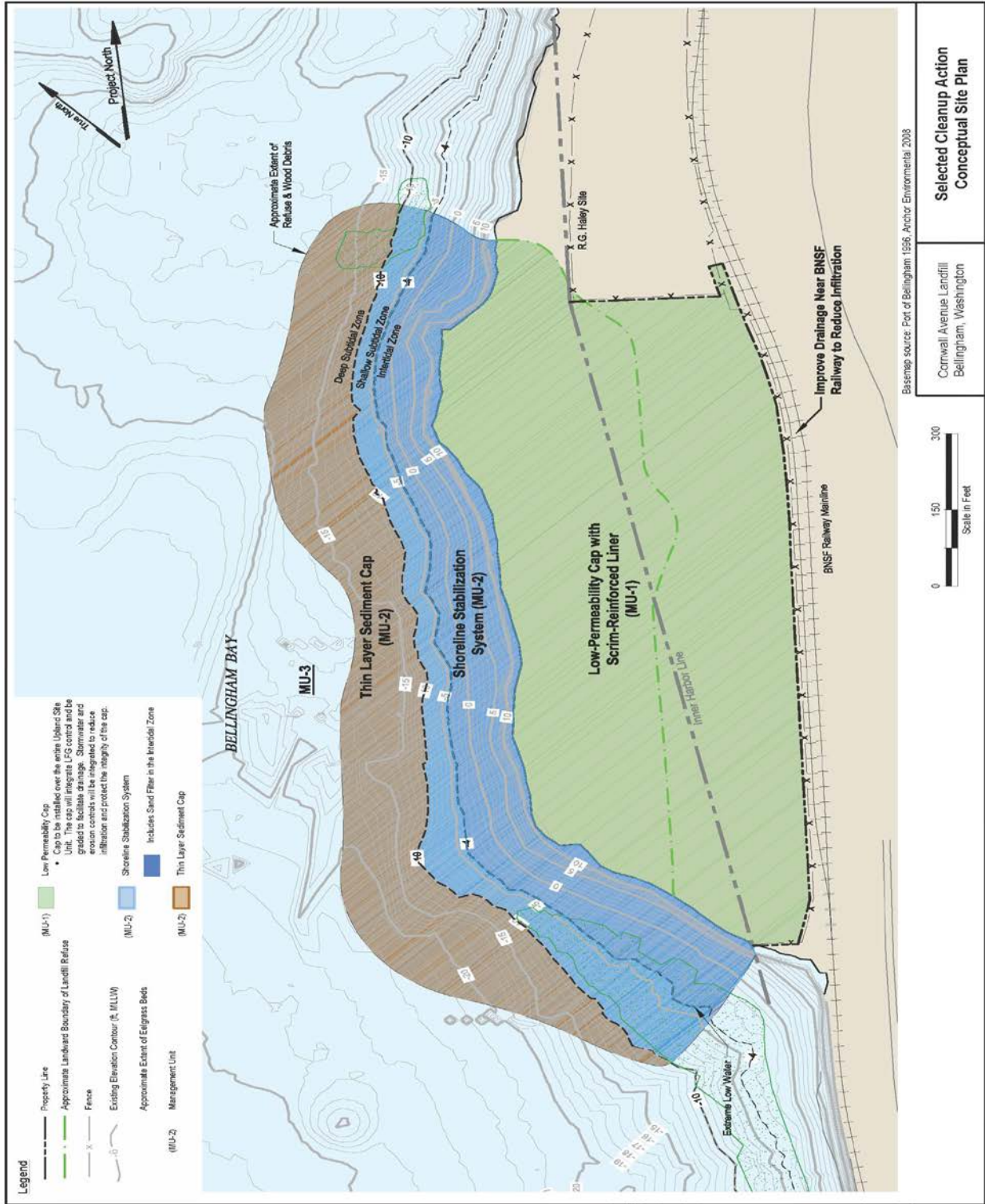
The cleanup of the Cornwall Avenue Landfill site is expected to cost about \$9.1 million. Ecology will reimburse up to half the port and city's costs through the state's remedial action grant program, which helps pay to clean up publicly owned sites. The state Legislature funds the grant program with revenues from a tax on hazardous substances.

Next Steps

Once the public comment period ends, Ecology will review and respond to all comments received. Based on comments, Ecology may modify the documents. If there are significant changes, we will issue the documents again for public review. If there are no significant changes, the document will be finalized.

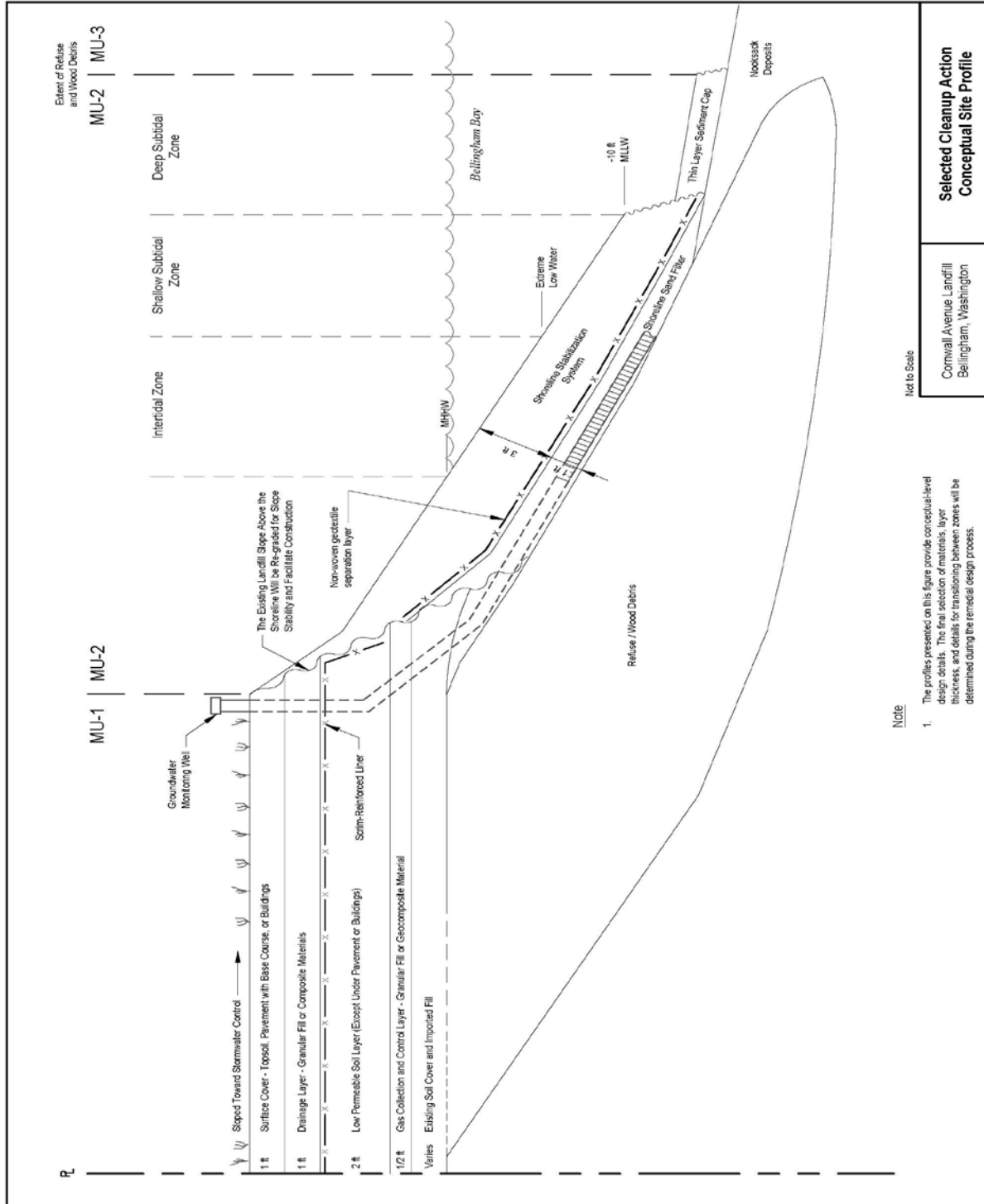
Cornwall Avenue Landfill

Project Site – Plan View



Cornwall Avenue Landfill

Project Site – Cross Section View



Cornwall Avenue Landfill

Project Location



Project timeline

- June 2 – July 2, 2014: Public comment period for draft Consent Decree, Cleanup Action Plan, SEPA determination, and Public Participation Plan
- Fall 2014: Publish final Consent Decree and Cleanup Action Plan
- Fall 2014: Design and permitting
- 2015: Begin site cleanup

Contacts

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Mark.adams@ecy.wa.gov

Brad Petrovich, Ecology Project Outreach Specialist
425-533-5537
Brad.Petrovich@ecy.wa.gov

Project website
www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites
Search site name: Cornwall Avenue Landfill

Help with other formats?

To ask about obtaining this document in a version for the visually impaired, call Brad Petrovich at Ecology's Bellevue office, 425-533-5537.

Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service.

Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

Información en Español

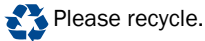
El Relleno Sanitario de Cornwall Avenue es un relleno sanitario histórico abandonado que está contaminando el agua subterránea en el área de Bellingham, y se necesita limpieza para proteger a la salud humana y el medio ambiente. El Departamento de Ecología ha preparado un borrador del plan de acción de limpieza para el sitio. Ecología está solicitando comentarios sobre el plan, un documento legal llamado el decreto del consentimiento, una determinación de SEPA, y un plan de participación del público. Se aceptan comentarios desde el 2 de junio al 2 de julio, 2014, enviados a la dirección escrito en la primera página de este documento.

Ecología tendrá una reunión pública el 5 de julio, de las 6:00 a las 8:00 de la noche, en la biblioteca pública de Bellingham, sucursal del centro, para proveer detalles sobre los contaminantes presentes, y el plan de limpieza del sitio.

Ecología solicita comentarios del público sobre estos documentos. Para más informaciones en español, favor de comunicarse con Gregorio Bohn a (509) 454-4174 o por correo electrónico a gboh461@ecy.wa.gov. Haga referencia al sitio de limpieza de Cornwall Ave Landfill.



3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452



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Cornwall Avenue Landfill, Bellingham, WA
Draft Cleanup Plan ready for review

Public comment period: June 2 – July 2, 2014.

Facility Site ID #: 2913

Site: Cornwall Avenue Landfill

Location: Bellingham Waterfront

Ecology seeks public comment on a cleanup action plan, legal agreement, SEPA determination, and public participation plan.

Public comment period: June 2-July 2, 2014

Public Meeting: Thursday, June 5, 6-8pm,
Bellingham Public Library – Central
Library Lecture Room

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Please read more inside this document to learn details of the cleanup action plan, and how to provide your comments.