

# Public Comment Notice



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

## Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program

### Remedial Investigation at Occidental Chemical Corporation

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) invites you to comment on a draft report, called a Remedial Investigation (RI), for Occidental Chemical Corporation's (Oxy) Tacoma Site. We will consider and respond to all comments before making the RI final. The data from the RI will be used to evaluate potential remedies to clean up contamination.

You are also invited to an informational meeting to learn more about the report findings and the next steps in the cleanup process. Staff from Ecology will be there to answer your questions.

Visit our website for more information:

[www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/cleanupSites/Occidental/](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/cleanupSites/Occidental/)

### What's in the Report?

Oxy investigated contamination at its Tacoma site. The site is located at 605 Alexander Ave., Tacoma, WA. The investigation was overseen by Ecology and the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Oxy found hazardous substances in the groundwater, soil, and sediment at the Site. The contamination is related to historical operations and waste disposal practices. The primary contaminants include:

- Chlorinated volatile organic compounds (CVOCs)
- Sodium hydroxide
- Salt (sodium chloride)
- Metals
- By-products of chlorinated solvent production
- Poly-chlorinated Biphenyls (PCB)
- Dioxins/furans

You can see the extent of the contamination in Figure 1 on page 3.

### Public Comment Period

**October 23, 2015 through  
February 1, 2016**

Comments must be postmarked, received by email, or hand delivered by **February 1, 2016** to be considered.

Submit comments to:

Kerry Graber  
Department of Ecology  
Hazardous Waste & Toxics  
Reduction Program - SWRO  
PO Box 47775  
Olympia WA 98504-7775  
Email:  
[kerry.graber@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:kerry.graber@ecy.wa.gov)  
Phone: 360-407-0241

### Public Meeting

Date: October 28, 2015  
Time: 6:00-8:00 p.m.  
Location: Center at Norpoint  
4818 Nassau Ave NE  
Tacoma, WA 98422

### Document Repositories

*Please call these locations for  
business hours.*

Hazardous Waste & Toxics  
Reduction Program - SWRO  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600  
360-407-6365

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

Mary Rose Kobetich Library  
212 Browns Point Blvd NE  
Tacoma, WA 98422  
253-248-7265

## Impacts of Contamination

Occidental submitted a risk assessment that has not been formally approved by Ecology. The risk assessment predicts possible affects to the environment or people and is referred to in the draft RI. Ecology will work with a contractor, Ridolfi Environmental, to evaluate the quality of the risk assessment and exposure pathway information as the cleanup process moves forward.

Chemicals could enter the body three ways: breathing dust, touching contaminated soil, or swallowing contaminated soil or groundwater. Based on the current risk assessment, there is no direct risk to the public of exposure to these chemicals. Only authorized persons may enter the site area. Cleanup workers at the site follow a site safety plan developed and overseen by Oxy and its contractors. The plan limits the workers' direct contact with contaminated soil, groundwater, and sediment, or breathing in indoor air at the site and at the neighboring Port of Tacoma property. Air samples taken in the buildings in and near the site showed CVOC levels below industrial standards. This means, in an industrial setting, potential exposure is below a level that would pose a risk to adult humans.

People that consume resident fish and shellfish from the Hylebos creek may have an indirect risk of exposure. Ecology is addressing this indirect risk and will keep the public updated. Find more information about healthy fish consumption at Washington Department of Health's webpage: [www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Food/Fish](http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Food/Fish).

Shellfish harvesting is closed in Commencement Bay due to pollution. Find out more by visiting Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department's Safe Shellfish program: [www.tpchd.org/environment/surface-water-lakes-beaches-shellfish/safe-shellfish-program/](http://www.tpchd.org/environment/surface-water-lakes-beaches-shellfish/safe-shellfish-program/).

Contamination does not affect public drinking water. If you have a private well nearby, please contact Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department at 253-798-6470 for more information.

## Join our Listserv for More Updates

If you are interested in learning more about this cleanup, join our email listserv by following this link: <http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=OCCIDENTAL-CORRECTIVE-ACTION&A=1>.

Join our dangerous waste facility email listserv to learn more about what's happening at our state's dangerous and hazardous waste facilities. Join here: <http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?A0=DWFACILITIES-PUBLIC-NOTICE>.







Hazardous Waste & Toxics Reduction  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

### We'd Like to Hear From You!

A Remedial Investigation (RI) is available for your review and comments for the Occidental Chemical Company's Site at 605 Alexander Ave., Tacoma, WA.

**Public Comment Period: October 23, 2015 through December 19, 2015**

**Public Meeting:** October 28, 6-8 p.m. - Center at Norpoint: 4818 Nassau Ave NE, Tacoma, WA 98422

**More information at:** [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/cleanupSites/Occidental/](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/cleanupSites/Occidental/)

*To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-407-6700. Persons with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. Persons with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.*

Español: El Departamento de Ecología del Estado de Washington le invita a comentar sobre el borrador del reporte conocido como la Investigación Correctiva (RI, por sus siglas en inglés) para el sitio en Tacoma de Occidental Chemical Corporation. También, le invitamos a asistir una reunión informativa para enterarse sobre los resultados del reporte y sobre los próximos pasos en el proceso de limpieza. Empleados de Ecología estarán presentes para contestar sus preguntas. La reunión estará en el Centro de Norpoint, 4818 Nassau Ave. N.E., Tacoma, WA 98422. La fecha de la reunión es el 28 de octubre a las 6-8 pm. Para obtener más información o solicitar la presencia de un intérprete, favor de comunicarse con Gretchen Newman al 360-407-6097 o [preguntas@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:preguntas@ecy.wa.gov).

KOREAN□□□: 와싱턴주 환경부에서는 타코마에 있는 Occidental Chemical 회사 독극물관련 오염조사 (RI) 결과 보고서에 관련된 여러분의 의견을 듣고자 합니다. 또한 조사결과 내용설명과 다음 정화 과정을 설명하는 모임에도 여러분을 초대합니다. 환경부 직원도 직접 참석하여 여러분의 질문에 대답할것입니다. 모임 시간은 10월 28일 오후 6시부터 8시, 장소는 Center at Norpoint 이며 주소는 4818 Nassau Ave NE, Tacoma, WA 98422. 상세한 내용혹은 통역이 필요 할 시에는 아래로 연락 바람 360-407-6300

РУССКИЙ: Департамент Экологии штата Вашингтон приглашает Вас прокомментировать проект доклада, который называется Корректировочное исследование (Remedial Investigation, RI) для химического кластера «Occidental Chemical Corporation», расположенного в Такоме. Вы также приглашены на информационную встречу по результатам отчета и последующих этапах процесса очистки. Сотрудники-экологи будут присутствовать на этой встрече и ответят на Ваши вопросы. Встреча будет проходить 28 октября с 6-ти до 8-ми часов вечера в Центре Norpoint по адресу: 4818 Nassau Ave NE, Tacoma, WA 98422. Для получения дополнительной информации и для