

## Proposed Agreed Order

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is entering into an agreed order with Grays Harbor Historical Seaport Authority (GHSA) to clean up the tidelands study area of the Weyerhaeuser Sawmill Aberdeen site. This site is generally located at 500 North Custer Street in Aberdeen.

## Ecology Wants Your Comments!

You may comment on this decision from **June 25 - July 27, 2015**.

The **Agreed Order** is a legal agreement that requires GHSA to:

- Conduct an investigation of the tidelands study area (see map on page 3). This will describe the nature and extent of contamination in the tidelands.
- Develop a Study Area Investigation and Alternatives Analysis Report. This will summarize the investigation results and evaluate cleanup options for the study area. Any cleanup done for only the tidelands of the site would be considered interim actions because they would only address part of the site.

The **Public Participation Plan** is also available for review. It describes the tools Ecology will use to inform the public and gather feedback.

The box to the right shows where you can review documents and how to submit comments.

## The Tidelands Study Area

GHSA bought the former sawmill complex from Weyerhaeuser in 2013. Part of the agreement was that GHSA would take responsibility for cleaning up the tidelands adjacent to the property.

There are 14.48 acres of state owned tidelands on the north side of the site along the Chehalis River (see map on page 3). The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages the tidelands. GHSA subleased the tidelands from Weyerhaeuser in 2013. They are currently negotiating with DNR for a new lease.

## Comments Accepted

**June 25 – July 27, 2015**

Send Comments and Questions to:

Joyce Mercuri, Site Manager  
WA Department of Ecology  
Toxics Cleanup Program SWRO  
P.O. Box 47775  
Olympia, WA 98504-7775  
Phone: (360) 407-6260  
Joyce.Mercuri@ecy.wa.gov

Public Involvement Questions:

Audrey Kuklok  
Public Involvement Coordinator  
Phone: (360) 407-0067  
Audrey.Kuklok@ecy.wa.gov

## DOCUMENT REVIEW LOCATIONS

Aberdeen Timberland Library  
121 East Market Street  
Aberdeen, WA 98520  
(360) 533-2360

WA Department of Ecology  
Southwest Regional Office  
300 Desmond Drive SE  
Lacey, WA 98503  
By appointment only:  
Contact Susie Baxter  
(360) 407-6365 or  
PublicDisclosureSWRO@ecy.wa.gov

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Website

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=4987>

Facility Site ID #: 1126

Cleanup Site ID#: 4987



### Contamination

In 2013, testing found chemical byproducts of past mill operations on the site. Contaminants include:

- **Dioxins**– unintentional byproducts of human activities and natural processes that break down slowly. They can be released through forest fires, burning trash, and industrial activities.
- **Mercury**– used in gauges and switches in the sawmill equipment.
- **Petroleum hydrocarbons**– diesel and oil used in former mill equipment.
- **Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)**– manufactured chemicals that break down slowly in the environment.

Woodwaste was also found in sediments beneath the former over water mill structures.

You can find out more about these contaminants on our website (see box on page 1).

### Site Background

Sawmills operated on the property since the early 1900s. Weyerhaeuser ran the mill facilities between 1955 and 2009.

In 1924, a mill called the “Big Mill” was built on pilings and decking over the tidelands area. The Big Mill was originally used to make shingles and slats for housing construction. During World War II it was used for making ship keels for the war effort. The Big Mill closed in 2006 and the building was removed by 2010.

### GHSA Grants Summary

In 2013, Ecology issued an integrated planning grant to GHSA. This grant helps fund the:

- Assessment of contamination in sediment and uplands.
- Formation of a strategy for the new tidelands lease.
- Designing of a market analysis, site plans, and funding strategies for the property.

In 2015, Ecology plans to issue a remedial action grant to GHSA. This grant will help fund the investigation and development of cleanup alternatives for the tidelands study area.

### How does a polluted site get cleaned up?

- The **Remedial Investigation & Feasibility Study (RI/FS)** looks at the extent and type of pollution at a site. It evaluates cleanup options and develops alternatives. Currently, GHSA is only investigating the tidelands study area for this cleanup site.
- Ecology may allow **Interim Actions** to partially clean up a site before the final cleanup plan is complete. If it is decided that interim actions will be used in the tidelands study area, an interim action work plan will be made available for public comment.
- The **Cleanup Action Plan (CAP)** describes the selected cleanup methods and how they will meet Ecology’s cleanup standards. The RI/FS report and draft CAP are made available for public comment. At this time, GHSA is only investigating the tidelands study area.
- **Cleanup** - Toxic substances are removed from the site, contained on the site, or treated to make them less toxic. Ecology oversees the cleanup and can require that the site be monitored.
- **Delisting** - Ecology keeps track of toxic cleanup sites on the Hazardous Sites List (HSL). Once the cleanup is complete, the public will have a chance to comment before the site is removed from the HSL.

## Site Diagram



Approximate Tidelands Study Area



Weyerhaeuser Sawmill Site  
General Boundary

### What Happens Next

At the end of the comment period, Ecology will respond to comments. We will finalize the agreed order.

You will be invited to review and comment on the investigation and cleanup documents as the cleanup moves forward. See the box to the left for an overview of the cleanup process.

For more information about the cleanup process, please visit: [http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/cu\\_support/cu\\_process\\_steps\\_defns.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/cu_support/cu_process_steps_defns.htm)

### Seaport Landing

The property is currently the homeport for the Lady Washington and Hawaiian Chieftan tall ships. GHHSA's vision is to turn the site into a recreation and tourism destination.

GHHSA's "Seaport Landing" would:

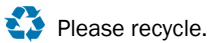
- Blend maritime heritage and environmental education.
- Provide public access to the river.
- Support local businesses and the arts.
- Restore habitat.



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

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## Weyerhaeuser Sawmill Grays Harbor County, WA

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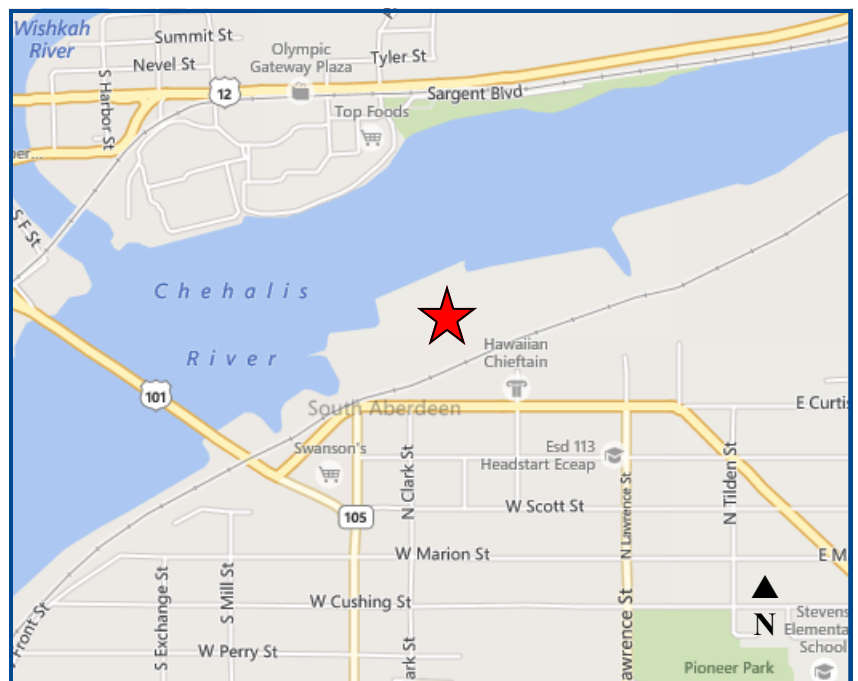
Public Comment Period:  
June 25 – July 27, 2015

Facility Site ID #: 1126

¿Hable Español? Si necesita esta información en español, contáctenos a [preguntas@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:preguntas@ecy.wa.gov).

To request ADA accommodation, including 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.



The Weyerhaeuser Sawmill site is generally located at 500 North Custer St. in Aberdeen.