

### Update on Neighborhood Cleanup

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the Port of Ridgefield (port) are planning an interim (partial) cleanup action for the Pacific Wood Treating site. The site is located at 111 West Division Street in Ridgefield. Two documents are available for review and comment at the locations listed to the right:

- **Draft Interim Action Work Plan**—Describes the proposed cleanup actions
- **State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Determination**—Describes the potential environmental impacts of the cleanup work.

Ecology determined the cleanup actions would not have significant negative environmental impacts (a Determination of Non-Significance).

### Interim Cleanup Actions Proposed

Summer 2016, we will be removing soil in some yards and right-of-ways in the neighborhood east of the port property (off-property area, see map) following this process:

- Remove dioxin contaminated soil up to 1.5 feet deep
- Fill with clean soil
- Replace/restore similar landscape

We have been working with individual homeowners and the city to plan the soil removal and replacement.

The cleanup for yards and right-of-ways completed this summer will be final. However, this is an interim action because we are not able to cleanup the whole off-property area at this time. We will continue to sample soil to find the extent of the off-property contamination. We hope to complete cleanup of the entire off-property area during the next construction period (estimated 2017).

### What to expect

We will continue to work with residents as we plan the cleanup. Currently, we do not know exact construction dates for specific properties. Once we have a construction schedule and plan we will inform residents in a variety of ways. However, we anticipate there will likely be some disruptions during and after construction:

- Fences will be removed/replaced for cleanup
- Access to curb areas may be restricted.
- Parking and traffic may be disrupted in the area.
- You may see small equipment and increased truck traffic.

Again, we will work with residents to reduce impacts from cleanup.

### Ecology Wants Your Comments!

April 18 thru May 18, 2011

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

##### Site Investigation

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Toxics Cleanup Program  
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Craig.Rankine@ecy.wa.gov

##### Public Involvement

**Stacy Galleher**  
Phone: (360) 407-6255  
Stacy.Galleher@ecy.wa.gov

##### Health-Related Questions

**Len O'Garro**  
WA State Department of Health  
Phone: (360) 236-3376  
E-mail:  
Lenford.OGarro@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  
Cleanup Site ID #: 3020

## What Happens Next?

Ecology will review and consider all comments. If necessary, we may ask the port to make changes to the work plan based on public comments.

The cleanup work will start Summer 2016 and continue through the Fall. The port will also complete the additional soil sampling to determine the extent of contamination in the off-property area.

## Site Background

From 1964-1993, Pacific Wood Treating (PWT) operated on the Port of Ridgefield (port) waterfront property. PWT pressure treated wood products with a variety of toxic chemicals. Over the past 17 years, the port cleaned up or used a soil cap to cover areas where contamination was found on port property. In this last phase, Ecology and the port are studying and cleaning up dioxins in off-property area. Ecology and the port are funding the study and cleanup.

In 2009, the port began sampling in right-of-ways to define the extent of contamination in the off-property area. Dioxins were the only contaminant found above cleanup levels. From the right-of-way sample results it was clear that dioxins were also in yards. The yard soil sampling program started spring 2015.

Almost all of the yards in the off-property area have been sampled. Sampling shows contamination does not extend north of Maple Street. However, additional soil samples are needed east of Main and south of Mill Streets.

We will start with the right-of-ways and continue until the extent of contamination is found. When the extent of contamination is defined it will be documented in a series of reports that will be available for public comment.

### Why Cleanup Matters

The PWT site was contaminated with creosote, pentachlorophenol, copper, chromium and arsenic. This posed a threat to human health and the environment, including the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, which borders the site.

## Dioxin Information

### Q: What are dioxins?

**A:** Dioxins are a family of chemicals with similar chemical structures and effects on living things. They do not break down easily in the environment, and as a result, are found everywhere. Most people are exposed to very low levels of dioxins when they consume food or milk, breathe air, or have contact with dioxin contaminated soils.

### Q: Where do dioxins come from?

**A:** We believe the elevated levels of dioxins in the off-property area likely came from air-borne dust while Pacific Wood Treating was operating. Dust blew off the port property, was tracked onto roads from truck tires, and came off trucks hauling treated wood on Division St.

Additionally, dioxins are byproducts of both human activities and natural processes. Dioxins can be formed during industrial processes, from home burn barrels,\* fireplaces, wood stoves, and exhaust from diesel engines. Natural sources of dioxins are from forest fires or volcanoes.

*\*Please contact the Southwest Clean Air Agency for more information about the health effects of home burning, and how to reduce your risk. Phone: (360) 574-3058, Website: [www.swcleanair.org](http://www.swcleanair.org).*

### Q: How could I be exposed to dioxins?

**A:** Exposure in the off-property area occurs by accidentally inhaling (breathing) in dust that carries dioxins or ingesting (eating) soil containing dioxins. Exposure to low levels of dioxins, like those found on the PWT site, does not pose an immediate health risk but may pose a long-term health effects.

### Q: How can I reduce my risk?

- A:** By keeping dirt out of your home and washing off dirt from your hands and shoes.
- Washing your hands before eating, and after playing or working outside.
  - Preventing children from eating dirt.
  - Damp dusting, mopping and vacuuming often.



Properties and right-of-ways in blue will be cleaned up





DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**

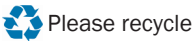
State of Washington

PO Box 47775

Olympia, WA 98504-7775

**Save paper and join our email list!**

Please send an e-mail to [sgal461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:sgal461@ecy.wa.gov) with the subject line "Pacific Wood Treating". In the message, let us know the mailing address you would like removed.



**Pacific Wood Treating  
Ridgefield, WA**

**Comment Period on Work Plan**

April 18 thru May 18, 2016

**Facility Site ID #: 1019**

**Cleanup Site ID #: 3020**

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.

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

