

PORT OF TACOMA KAISER



Kaiser Aluminum Plant

CONTACTS & INFORMATION

Comments accepted:

August 4—September 5, 2016

Submit comments to:

Marv Coleman, Site Manager
WA Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775
Phone: (360) 407-6259
Marv.Coleman@ecy.wa.gov

Document review locations:

Tacoma Public Library

1102 Tacoma Avenue S.
Tacoma, WA 98402
(253) 292-2001

Citizens for a Healthy Bay

535 Dock Street, Suite 213
Tacoma, WA 98402
(253) 383-2429

WA Department of Ecology Southwest Regional Office

300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503
By appointment only:
Contact Susie Baxter, (360) 407-6365
PublicDisclosureSWRO@ecy.wa.gov

Website

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=2215>

Facility Site ID #: 38

Cleanup Site ID #: 2215

Cleanup plans available for public comment

The Washington Department of Ecology invites you to comment on proposed cleanup plans for the Port of Tacoma Kaiser cleanup site. The site is at 3400 Taylor Way in Tacoma. These draft cleanup plans describe the contamination at the Port of Tacoma Kaiser site, cleanup options, and a plan for the next cleanup activities.

Ecology wants to hear from you!

Ecology will accept comments from **August 4—September 5, 2016** on these draft documents:

- **A Consent Decree (CD)** — a legal agreement that requires the Port of Tacoma to complete site cleanup.
- **A Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS)** — describes the contamination and evaluates cleanup options.
- **A Draft Cleanup Action Plan (CAP)** — outlines the recommended cleanup.

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

Cleanup plan

The port did most of the cleanup work through several partial cleanups, called interim actions (see page 2 for details). Now, the most important cleanup tasks are monitoring and preventing accidental release of any of the contaminants still on site.

The draft cleanup plan describes groundwater monitoring plans in the areas that have been cleaned up. If contaminant levels are stable or drop below safe levels in these areas after 5 years of monitoring, the port may stop monitoring.

Since some contaminated soil is still on site under caps, the draft cleanup documents include two tools to prevent accidental contamination release. A materials management plan gives instructions to future developers who



could disturb the ground during activities like pile driving or moving soil. The port will also put an environmental covenant on the property that will prohibit activities that could release contamination and only allow industrial use of the land.

Site background

The Department of Defense and Kaiser Aluminum Company (Kaiser) ran an aluminum smelter and manufacturing plant at the site for more than 60 years.

The plant and smelter closed in 2002. The port bought the site in 2003. Since then, the port took down the plant and cleaned up most of the contamination at the site. The port plans to redevelop the property for other uses.

Contamination

Due to years of aluminum smelting, the site had been polluted with:

- Carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (cPAH) in soil, fill, and groundwater.
- Petroleum, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), copper, and zinc in groundwater.
- Arsenic and cyanide in soil and groundwater.

Earlier Cleanup (Interim Actions)

In 2003 and 2004, the port removed wood waste and Asarco slag from the Former Log Yard Area. Then, they added several feet of clean fill material to cap the contamination that was left.

In 2013, the port removed about 34,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil and waste material from the Spent Pot Liner Area and Rod Mill Landfill Area, both shown on the map on page 3.

After excavating the Spent Pot Liner and Rod Mill areas, tests confirmed soil contamination was below state cleanup levels.

What happens next?

After the comment period ends, Ecology will reply to comments we received. We will then finalize the cleanup plans. The port will do the monitoring described in the cleanup plan and record the environmental covenant.

Future development of the Kaiser site

At many cleanup sites, some contamination is left on site when it can be safely contained. When that happens, like at Kaiser, Ecology can use tools called institutional controls to make sure that contamination is not accidentally released into the environment.

At Kaiser, the institutional controls are specially engineered caps that cover the contaminated soil and an environmental covenant that restricts certain types of land use on the site. Any future development projects there will also need to follow a materials management plan. This plan lists specific rules for how to do things like drive piles, move soil, etc.

What is Spent Pot Liner?

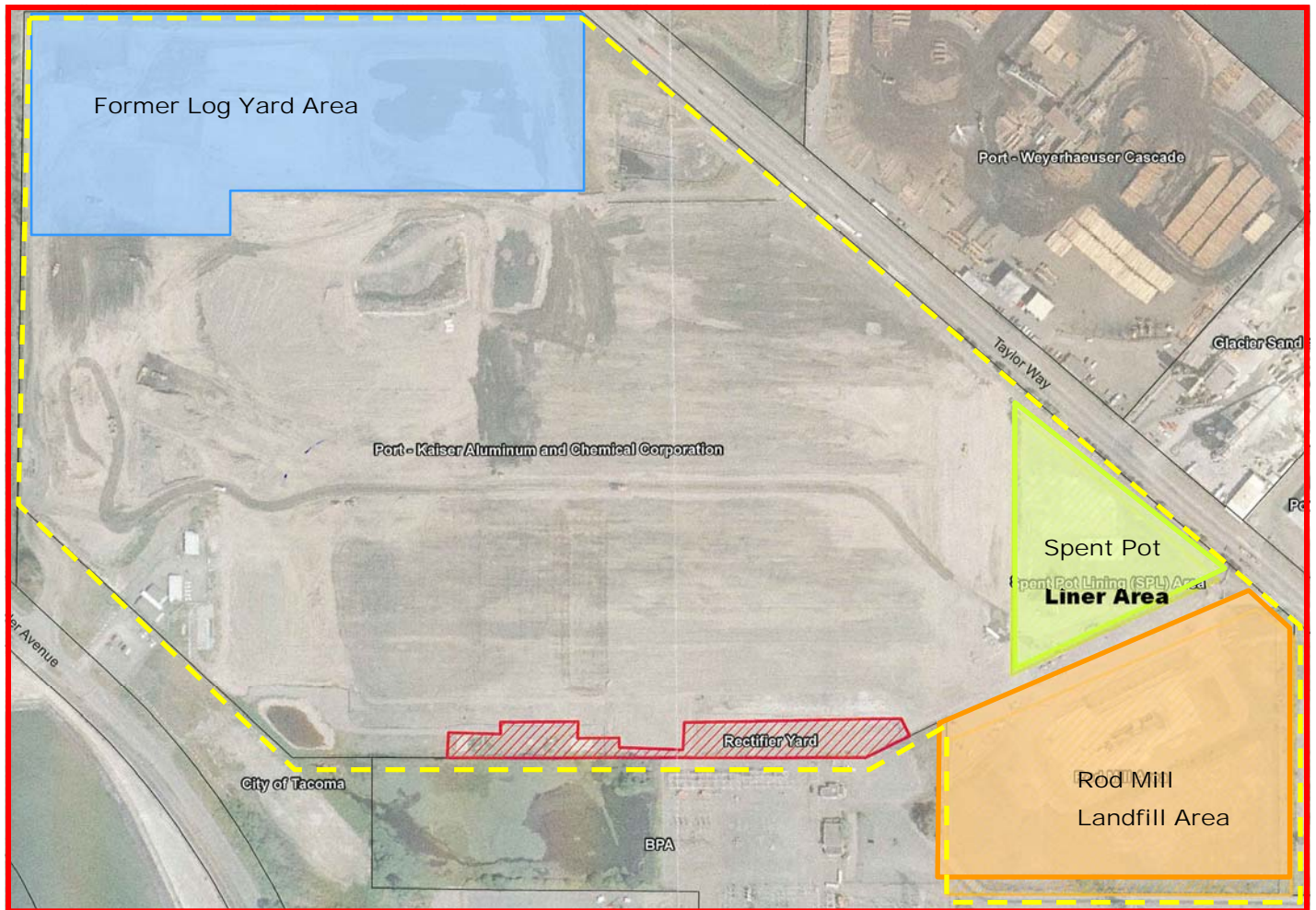
Kaiser refined aluminum in large steel pots lined with carbon, known as pot liner. The pots consisted of a steel shell supporting brick insulation, covered with pot liner. Over time, the brick and carbon lining broke down and had to be replaced.

The waste, known as “spent pot liner,” contains carbon, fluoride salts, cyanide, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).

Kaiser put the spent pot liner on bare ground, where it was exposed to rain. The spent pot liner leached pollutants into the area’s soil and groundwater.



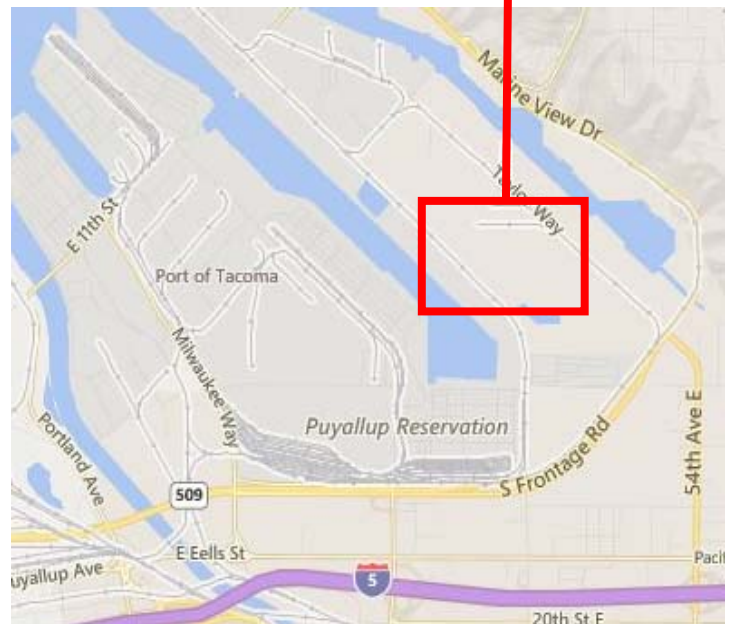
Site Map



Additional Resources

These documents can be found at the webpage listed on page 1:

- **Spent Pot Liner Area and Rod Mill Area Closed Landfill Interim Action Completion reports** — describes how the areas were cleaned up by interim actions.
- **Performance Groundwater Quality Monitoring Plan (Appendix A to the Cleanup Action Plan)** — outlines the groundwater monitoring approach proposed in the Cleanup Action Plan.



Port of Tacoma Kaiser site, 3400 Taylor Way, Tacoma WA



PO Box 47775

Olympia, WA 98504-7775

Join the discussion about cleanup at the Port of Tacoma Kaiser cleanup site!



Ecology seeks public comment on cleanup plans

Public Comment Period:
August 4—September 5, 2016

Facility Site ID #: 38
Cleanup Site ID #: 2215

To request ADA accommodation, including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at (360) 407-300.

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.