

# Washington's Formal Cleanup Process

## Discovery

- Report potential contamination to Ecology.



## Initial Investigation

- Determine if contamination requires further action.



## Site Hazard Assessment

- Evaluate potential risk to human health and the environment based on exposure potential and severity of hazard.



## Remedial Investigation

- Determine the nature and extent of contamination.
- Determine potential impacts to human health and the environment.



## Feasibility Study

- Identify methods to eliminate exposure to contamination on the site.
- Assemble methods into a range of cleanup alternatives.
- Use an environmental benefit vs. cost analysis to choose a preferred alternative.



## Cleanup Action Plan

- Describe Ecology's selected cleanup action, including:
  - Cleanup standards to protect human health and the environment.
  - Schedule of next steps.
  - Requirements for monitoring, operation, and maintenance.



## Engineering Design

- Create detailed design and construction documents for the cleanup action.



## Clean up the site!

- Complete the cleanup action. Examples of cleanup actions include:
  - Constructing a protective multi-layered capping system.
  - Treating contamination in place.
  - Removing contamination to a hazardous waste landfill.



## Monitoring and Site Use Controls

- Monitor and do on-going operations/maintenance.
- Restrict/prohibit activities that could disturb the cleanup.



## Reviews and De-listing

- Hold 5-year periodic reviews to ensure cleanup meets standards.
- Remove site from Hazardous Sites List after it meets all cleanup standards and requirements.

## Legal Agreements

- Define cleanup steps required after a Site Hazard Assessment.



## Interim Actions

partially address contamination & may occur any time.



## Comment

## Public Participation

- Encourage community feedback throughout cleanup process.
- Hold public comment periods at key times.



## Washington's Cleanup Law

### Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)

MTCA defines the cleanup process. This public-initiated environmental law directs upland cleanups (on land or in groundwater) and sediment cleanups (in freshwater or marine environments). Ecology enacts MTCA and regulates the cleanup process.