

Kimberly Clark Worldwide, Inc. Site



Aerial view of Port Gardner

Comments accepted:

April 3 through May 3, 2025

Submit comments:

Online at:

<https://tcp.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=ps9gi4cx2U>

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Site information:

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/2569>

Facility Site ID: 9

Site Cleanup ID: 2569

Document review locations:

Everett Public Library
2702 Hoyt Avenue
Everett, WA 98201
Phone: (425) 257-8000

Ecology Headquarters
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503
Phone: (360) 407-7170
Contact [TCP HQ Records Office](#)
for an appointment.

Ecology wants your input!

From April 3 through May 3, 2025, you are invited to review and share your feedback on the latest cleanup planning document for the Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc. (KC) site, which is named after the former mill site in Everett, Washington.

The following draft cleanup document is available for public comment:

- **Draft Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS):**
The RI identifies the nature and extent of contamination at a site, and the FS evaluates alternative ways of cleaning up the contamination to meet state cleanup standards and chooses a preferred cleanup alternative.

A final draft of the RI/FS was completed for the upland areas of the site to address decades of environmental impact.

The below-referenced cleanup and interim actions have successfully removed most of the contamination, and found the areas where residual contamination is inaccessible, such as contamination under the existing warehouse structure and along the top of the shoreline bank.

The Feasibility Study identified the preferred cleanup alternative to include capping remaining permeable surfaces, groundwater long-term monitoring, regular cap inspections, and implementation of institutional controls to prevent potential exposure to residual contaminants. The institutional controls will be memorialized in an environmental covenant.

Site Background and Contamination

The KC site is located at 2600 Federal Avenue in Everett, Snohomish County. It includes nearly 56 acres of uplands and 12 acres of tidelands. The in-water area next to the site is within Everett's East Waterway and is being addressed under a separate cleanup agreement. The property was first developed in the early 1900s and was used for pulp and paper manufacturing from 1931 to 2012. Other uses included bulk petroleum storage and sawmilling. All manufacturing operations at the facility stopped in 2012, and the former structures were demolished except for the warehouse building and wastewater treatment facilities.

Completed Cleanup Actions

Between 1989 to 2009, several independent cleanup actions (prior to the Agreed Order) were conducted to include removal and decommissioning of nine underground storage tanks and two above-ground storage tanks, excavation of impacted soils in four discrete areas, removal of polychlorinated biphenyl-containing transformers and underlying contaminated soil and concrete.

In 2012, Ecology entered into a formal legal agreement called an Agreed Order with KC for the upland portion of their property. Under that Agreed Order, KC conducted a partial cleanup called an interim action to address contamination found after the mill was demolished. They removed about 39,000-tons of contaminated soil and more than 6,000-gallons of petroleum-contaminated water.

A second interim action was conducted in 2020 as part of an amendment to the Agreed Order. It included removing nearly 18,000-tons of contaminated soil, plugging inactive storm water pipes to prevent contaminated water from reaching East Waterway, removing and treating contaminated groundwater, and removing over 252,000-tons of crushed material from previous building demolition.

The Port of Everett performed a third interim action from 2021 to 2023. The third interim action was completed under an amended Agreed Order. It included the grading and construction of a low-permeability cap, installation of sub-grade utilities, construction and installation of a new stormwater conveyance system, installation of security fencing, installation of a new chitosan-enhanced sand filtration system for stormwater, and reconstruction of existing stormwater outfalls for discharge of treated stormwater to the East Waterway.

Why This Cleanup Matters

In 2007, Washington State established the Puget Sound Initiative to protect and restore Puget Sound. Several areas in the Sound have been identified as high priority cleanup areas as part of this Initiative, including Port Gardner. Other areas include Port Gamble, Dumas Bay, Padilla and Fidalgo Bays, Port Angeles, and Budd Inlet. This work entails cleaning up 50-60 sites within one-half mile of the Sound. These cleanup actions will help to reduce pollution and restore habitat in Puget Sound.

Ecology's Cleanup Process

The Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) is Washington's environmental cleanup law. It provides requirements for contaminated Site cleanup and sets standards that protect human health and the environment. Ecology enacts the MTCA and oversees cleanups. The MTCA Site cleanup process is completed in steps (see below) over a timeline that may change from project to project.

Steps in Ecology's Cleanup Process



Figure 1. The MTCA Site cleanup process is completed in steps. This Site is in the third and fourth step in Washington's cleanup process.

What Happens Next?

We will consider all comments we receive during the comment period, and we may change the documents based on your comments. If no significant changes are made, the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study will be finalized.



Toxics Cleanup Program
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Kimberly Clark Worldwide Inc.

Date of Comment Period: April 3 through May 3, 2025

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ADA accessibility

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6831 or email at ecyadacoordinator@ecy.wa.gov or visit ecology.wa.gov/Accessibility. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.