APM Terminals Pacific Ltd AKA Parcel 40 Public Participation Plan

CSID: 2124, FSID: 66987611
1675 Lincoln Ave, Tacoma, Pierce County

Toxics Cleanup Program

Washington Department of Ecology
Olympia, Washington

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Publication Information

This document is available on the Department of Ecology's APM Terminals Pacific Ltd AKA Parcel 40 cleanup site page.[1]

Related Information

- Cleanup site ID: 2124
- Facility site ID: 66987611

Contact Information

Toxics Cleanup Program[2]

Southwest Region Office
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503-1274
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564-250-0563, carolyn.subramaniam@ecy.wa.gov

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ADA Accessibility

The Department of Ecology is committed to providing people with disabilities access to our information and services by meeting or exceeding the requirements of state and federal laws.

To request an ADA accommodation, email ecyadacoordinator@ecy.wa.gov, call 360-407-6831 or call Ecology through the Washington Telecommunication Relay for services including text telephone (TTY) at 711 or through your preferred relay service provider. Visit Ecology.wa.gov/ADA for more accessibility information.

Language Access

The Department of Ecology offers free translation and interpretation services. If you need help in your preferred language, please call Carolyn Subramaniam at 564-250-0563 and request an interpreter, or email carolyn.subramaniam@ecy.wa.gov.

[1] https://go.ecology.wa.gov/2124
[2] https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Who-we-are/Our-Programs/Toxics-Cleanup

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Public Involvement in Contamination Cleanup

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) developed this Public Participation Plan in collaboration with the Port of Tacoma, the party responsible for cleanup costs. The goal of this plan is to ensure meaningful community involvement throughout the cleanup of APM Terminals Pacific Ltd AKA Parcel 40 (site).

This plan outlines how Ecology will keep the public informed about contamination investigations and cleanup options at each stage of the process. Please review Appendix A for more information about the cleanup process. The plan also details when and how the community can participate in the cleanup process. We encourage the public to engage with the decision-making opportunities and provide input.

Site contacts

To be included in the site record, comments about the cleanup process must be submitted during comment periods. Questions and informal comments or information about the site's history are welcome anytime.

Ecology

Southwest Region Office
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503

Tia Misuraca, site manager
tia.misuraca@ecy.wa.gov
360-742-2807

Carolyn Subramaniam, public involvement coordinator
carolyn.subramaniam@ecy.wa.gov
564-250-0563

Potentially Liable Party

Port of Tacoma
One Sitcum Plaza
Tacoma, WA 98421

Rob Healy
rhealy@portoftacoma.com
253-428-8643

If you are unable to reach these contacts, please visit the cleanup site page[3] for up-to-date contact information.

[3] https://go.ecology.wa.gov/2124

Public Participation Activities

Members of the public may ask questions, submit informal comments, or share site information at any time. Interested parties do not need to wait for a formal public comment period to contact Ecology.

However, to be included in the formal site record, comments about the site investigation, cleanup alternatives, or cleanups must be submitted during formal comment periods. In addition, the public is invited to review site documents before they become final. This is the most direct and influential way to learn more about the site and be involved in the cleanup's decision-making.

How we share information with the community

During specific stages of the cleanup, Ecology will mail notices about public comment periods to addresses surrounding the site. The mailing list area will vary depending on the type of contamination and where it's located. However, the list will at least include addresses within a 1/4-mile radius of the site and other interested organizations and individuals. These notices will provide general information about the site, contact information for submitting comments, and times and locations of public meetings or hearings, or how to request one if not yet scheduled.

Comment period notices will be available online and at document repositories (for example at the library closest to the site). Notices may also be posted in various locations throughout the community (for example, local businesses, schools, or post offices).

Ecology may also develop documents outside of comment periods to keep the community updated on the site's status. These informational documents will be available online and print copies may be mailed to the nearby community if we feel the message warrants the associated cost and resources.

Postal mailing list

Ecology maintains a mailing list that includes addresses within a quarter-mile radius of the site and relevant local, state, and federal government contacts.

People on the mailing list receive public comment notices when draft documents are available.

We will add additional individuals, organizations, and other interested parties to the mailing list as requested. If you would like to be added to the mailing list for this site, please contact Carolyn Subramaniam at 564-250-0563 or carolyn.subramaniam@ecy.wa.gov.

Contaminated Site Register

Public comment periods, events, and other cleanup notices are published in Ecology's *Contaminated Site Register*.[4] To receive the *Contaminated Site Register* by email, please subscribe online,[5] or contact Sarah Kellington at sarah.kellington@ecy.wa.gov or 360-280-3167.

Newspaper display ads or legal notices

We announce public comment periods and events for this site in ads or notices published in the *Tacoma News Tribune*. We will also publish notice on our Public Input & Events Listing.[6]

Email lists

Ecology maintains an email list to update interested persons about this site. If you would like to be added to the email list for this site, please contact Carolyn Subramaniam at 564-250-0563 or carolyn.subramaniam@ecy.wa.gov.

Ecology's website and social media platforms

We maintain a website for the APM Terminals Pacific Ltd AKA Parcel 40 site.[7] The website provides site information, and you may download cleanup documents.

We may also share information about cleanup sites through news releases, our blog, and social media.[8]

Automatic site updates

You can subscribe to this site from our APM Terminals Pacific Ltd AKA Parcel 40 webpage. You'll receive a weekly email if we change the site's status, add documents to the site's webpage, or open a comment period.

Places to see print documents

During public comment periods, you can find print documents at the following locations:

Tacoma Public Library
1102 Tacoma Avenue
South Tacoma, WA 98402
253-292-2001

Washington Department of Ecology
Southwest Region Office
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503

To schedule an appointment with Ecology, please contact 360-407-6365 or PublicDisclosureSWRO@ecy.wa.gov.

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[4] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Site-Register-lists-and-data
[5] https://ecology.wa.gov/site-register
[6] https://ecology.wa.gov/Events/Search/Listing
[7] https://go.ecology.wa.gov/2124
[8] https://ecology.wa.gov/about-us/who-we-are/news

Signs around the cleanup site

We may also install signs displaying information about project status, traffic impacts, and health risks around the cleanup site.

How you can share information with us

We hold public comment periods and sometimes public events to learn your thoughts, opinions, and concerns about cleanup at a site. We may also identify public concerns and cleanup goals by meeting with and soliciting information from interested community members and organizations. To collaborate with us about this site, please contact Tia Misuraca at 360-742-2807 or tia.misuraca@ecy.wa.gov.

Public comment periods

At a minimum, the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA, see page 7 for more information) requires 30-day comment periods to allow interested members of the public to comment on draft documents, legal agreements, and proposed cleanup actions. If there is significant interest, Ecology may extend the public comment period.

When Ecology oversees State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) determinations (see page 7 for more information), we hold comment periods for at least two weeks and may extend to 30 days or more when other cleanup documents are concurrently available for review.

Following a comment period, we publish all the input we received and respond to significant comments and questions, as appropriate. If the comments result in significant changes to the cleanup documents, then the documents will be revised and re-issued for public review. If the comments do not result in significant changes, the documents will become final.

Public events

We hold public meetings, workshops, open houses, and hearings based on community interest. At meetings, workshops, and open houses, attendees can ask questions, learn more about the site, and submit written comments when a comment period is open. At a public hearing, verbal comments are transcribed for the record, and Ecology responds to them after the comment period in our response to comments.

If we have not scheduled an event, we will hold one if 10 people request it. This may cause us to extend a public comment period, so the event occurs during it.

Events are held at locations close to the site that meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards. Public events are always announced in advance using a variety of methods.

Public Participation Grants

Grants may be available to neighborhood committees, non-profits, and other groups interested in the site. For contaminated sites, these funds can be used to:

- Hire an expert to help interpret technical information
- Conduct activities that enhance the public's understanding of, and participation in, the cleanup process

For more information about public participation grants, please contact Laura Busby at 360-280-5088 or laura.busby@ecy.wa.gov and Maria Marlin at 360-407-6083 or maria.marlin@ecy.wa.gov. You may also visit the Public Participation Grant webpage.[9]

Site Information

This site was used by the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, and Pacific Railroad Company and Union Pacific Railroad. The Port of Tacoma bought the property in 1979.

A 1.25 million gallon above-ground fuel storage tank was built in the 1930s and removed in the 1980s. Current site infrastructure was installed in the 1980s, including a large service garage and several underground storage tanks for fuels. One underground storage tank was removed in 1998, the other tanks were closed in place in 2023. A sub-slab depressurization system installed 2021 started 2022.

Ecology is requiring cleanup because the site has fuel-related contamination in soil and groundwater.

Area community

This site is in the Tacoma Tideflats, near the Puyallup River. The site is zoned for industrial use. Currently, the site is leased to SSA Terminals and operated as a maintenance facility for a marine cargo terminal.

Ecology will reach out to cultural community organizations as part of our outreach and provide information in other languages according to federal guidance.[10] To request information in another language, call Carolyn Subramaniam at 564-250-0563 and wait on the line while we connect an interpreter.

We strive to make our public participation efforts as inclusive as possible and welcome your input about how to best reach the nearby community.

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[9] https://ecology.wa.gov/PPG

[10] https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2004/06/25/04-14464/guidance-to-environmental-protection-agency-financial-assistance-recipients-regarding-title-vi

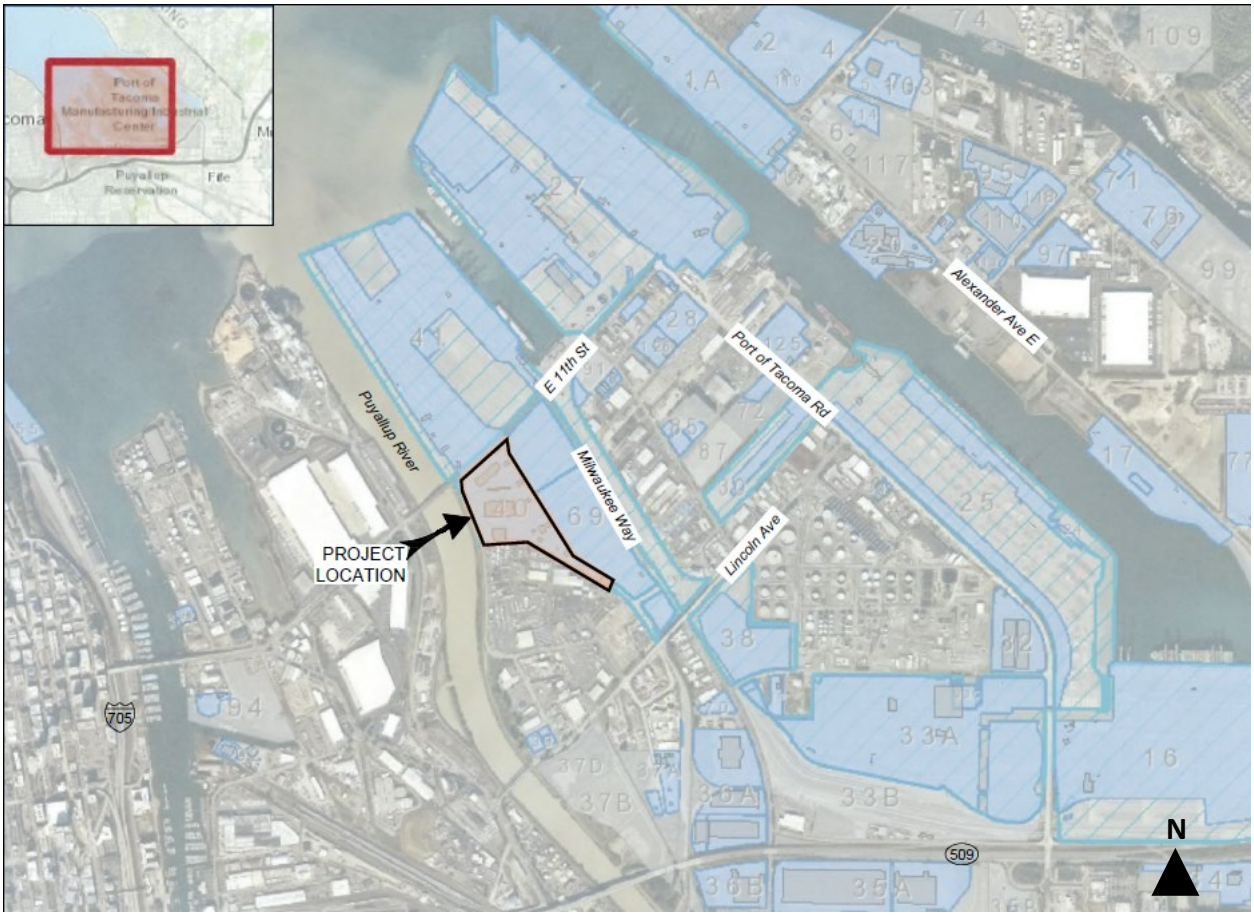


Figure 1. Site map

Tribal engagement

We will reach out to Tribes to offer opportunities to engage in the cleanup process that are separate from the public involvement process. This engagement is described in a site-specific Tribal Engagement Plan, as required by WAC 173-340-620.[11] We invite Tribal members and other indigenous peoples to engage in the public involvement process as well.

[11] https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=173-340-620

Washington's Cleanup Laws

Ecology uses the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)[12] and accompanying regulations for cleanup activities. Passed in 1989, MTCA provides guidelines for contaminated site cleanup in Washington state. This law sets standards to ensure the cleanup protects people and the environment. MTCA requires the creation of this plan.

Model Toxics Control Act

MTCA began in 1988 as a citizen-led effort to clean up contaminated sites in Washington state. The law holds property owners or operators responsible for cleaning up contamination on, or coming from, their property.

Ecology carries out MTCA, making sure cleanups happen according to state rules and regulations. These rules are found in Chapter 173-340 Washington Administrative Code (WAC).[13] Ecology investigates reports of contamination, and the property is placed on the Contaminated Sites List[14] if the pollution is determined to pose a serious risk to human health or the environment. This starts the cleanup process at the site.

The cleanup process under MTCA includes several steps (Appendix). Public involvement is a key part of MTCA's cleanup process.[15] Nearby residents, businesses, community groups, and other interested parties can review and comment on documents related to steps that make crucial decisions or plans about the cleanup.

State Environmental Policy Act

MTCA cleanups also require evaluation under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).[16] Under SEPA, the potential for significant adverse environmental impacts from a project or action must be evaluated by state and local agencies when making decisions. This evaluation is subject to public review and comment in parallel with cleanup documents.

[12] https://www.ecology.wa.gov/mtca
[13] https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=173-340
[14] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/reports/cleanup/contaminated
[15] http://www.ecology.wa.gov/MTCA-process
[16] https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=197-11

Plan Amendments

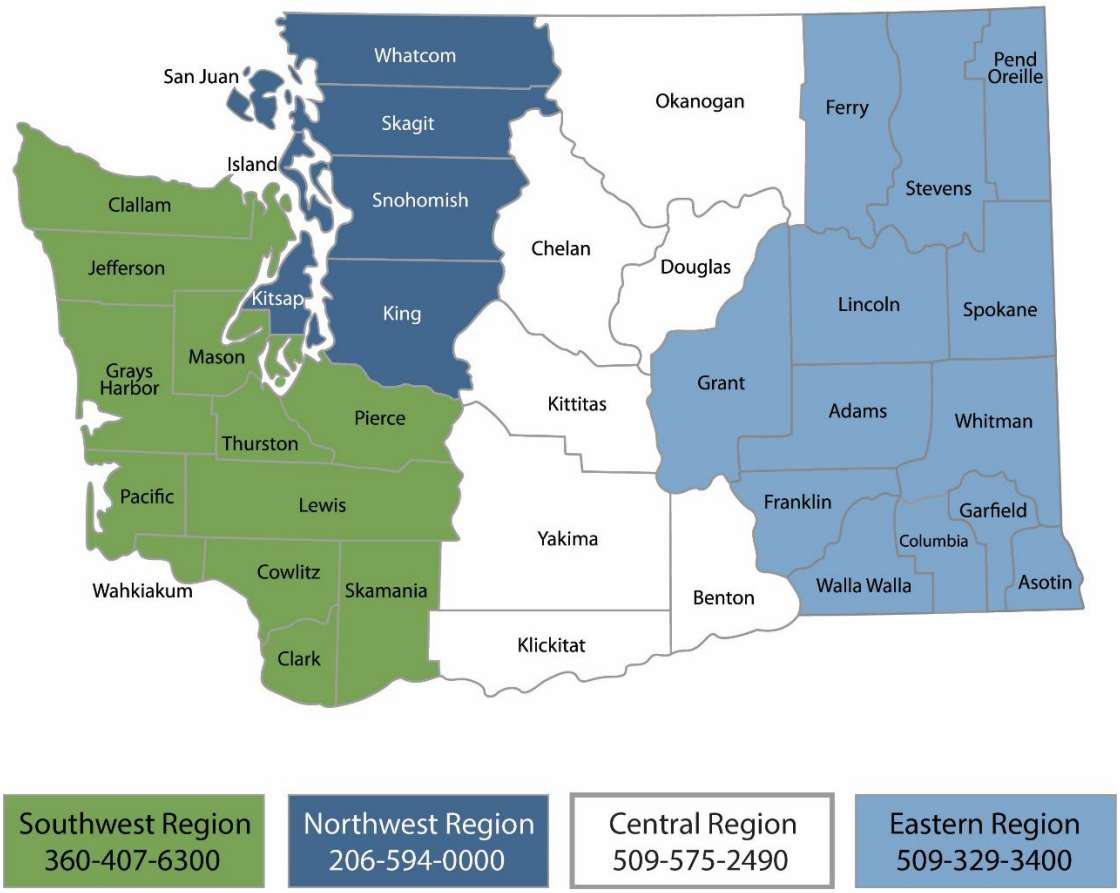
Ecology developed this plan following MTCA regulations (WAC 173-340-600). We review it as the cleanup progresses and amend it as necessary. You may suggest amendments to Tia Misuraca at 360-742-2807 or tia.misuraca@ecy.wa.gov.

We intend for this plan to provide the public with information on opportunities for public involvement and comment. The outreach activities discussed reflect Ecology's current plans to keep the public informed. It also provides ways for those interested in the site to communicate their concerns and questions to us.

If you feel the planned outreach activities and mechanisms found in this plan are insufficient or would like to modify them in some way, please contact us. We will work to find solutions. We can implement new activities or outreach tools right away, with or without amending this plan.

Department of Ecology's Region Offices

Map of Counties Served



Region	Counties served	Mailing Address	Phone
Southwest	Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, Wahkiakum	PO Box 47775 Olympia, WA 98504	360-407-6300
Northwest	Island, King, Kitsap, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom	PO Box 330316 Shoreline, WA 98133	206-594-0000
Central	Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan, Yakima	1250 W Alder St Union Gap, WA 98903	509-575-2490
Eastern	Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman	4601 N Monroe Spokane, WA 99205	509-329-3400
Headquarters	Across Washington	PO Box 47600 Olympia, WA 98504	360-407-6000

Appendix

Steps in the MTCA cleanup process

The cleanup process is defined in the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA), Washington's cleanup law. See the accessible PDF on the next page for details.

Washington's Cleanup Process

Public participation plans and comment periods are only required for cleanups under a legal agreement with Ecology. Otherwise, all cleanups follow the same steps. The steps are defined by Washington's cleanup law, the Model Toxics Control Act.

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY State of Washington

Public input opportunity

Initial investigation
Find out if there's contamination needing cleanup.

Assess the site
Evaluate potential threat to humans and the environment.

Study the site (remedial investigation)
- Find out what and where the contamination is.
- Determine how contamination might impact living things.

Consider options (feasibility study)
- Compare ways to keep the contamination from harming people or the environment.
- Weigh benefits versus costs of each cleanup option.

Plan the cleanup (cleanup action plan)
- Describe Ecology's selected cleanup option.
- Set cleanup standards that will protect living things.
- Schedule next steps.
- Set requirements for monitoring and maintenance.

Design the cleanup
Make detailed construction plans for the cleanup action.

Clean up the site!
Complete the cleanup action. For example:
- Constructing a multi-layered capping system.
- Installing a treatment system.
- Removing contamination to a special landfill.

Monitor, maintain, and review
- Operate treatment systems and monitor progress.
- Prevent activities that could disturb the cleanup.
- Review regularly to ensure cleanup still protects living things.

Remove from Contaminated Sites List
Move to No Further Action list if site meets all standards and requirements.

Interim actions may clean up some contamination before the final cleanup.

Legal orders or agreements define required tasks and schedules.

Public participation plans explain how Ecology will ask for input from the local community.

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