Westman Marine Cleanup Site

Westman Marine cleanup site, 2019. Approximate cleanup boundary extends beyond image.

Comments accepted

March 23, 12:00 a.m. –
April 21, 11:59 p.m., 2026

Submit comments

Online:
www.go.ecology.wa.gov/WestmanMarineComments

By mail or email:
Beau Johnson, Site Manager
WA Department of Ecology
PO Box 330316
Shoreline, WA 98133-9716
Beau.Johnson@ecy.wa.gov
206-638-0816

Document review

www.go.ecology.wa.gov/WestmanMarine

Blaine Library
610 3rd Street
Blaine, WA 98230

Site info

Facility Site ID: 66519819
Cleanup Site ID: 2205

Public Outreach Contact

Kristen Forkeutis,
Outreach Specialist
Kristen.Forkeutis@ecy.wa.gov
425-240-4353

Documents ready for public review and comment

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) invites you to review and comment on the following documents for the cleanup of the Westman Marine site at 218 McMillan Avenue in the Blaine Harbor industrial area of Blaine, WA.

- **Consent Decree:** A legal agreement between Ecology and the Port of Bellingham (Port), requiring the Port to carry out Ecology's Cleanup Action Plan to address contamination at the site.
- **Updated Public Participation Plan:** Describes how Ecology will inform the community about the site activities and ways to become involved.

The public may request a meeting about the documents. Ecology will consider requests and schedule a meeting when appropriate. To make a request, contact Kristen Forkeutis before April 21, 2026. See the blue box to the left for public outreach contact information.

Language services

A translated copy of this material may be available in other languages at no cost. To request it, email Kristen.Forkeutis@ecy.wa.gov or call 425-240-4353. If you call, ask for an interpreter to be connected with one.

Español: Una copia traducida de este material podría estar disponible en otros idiomas sin costo. Para solicitarla, envíe un correo electrónico a Kristen.Forkeutis@ecy.wa.gov o llame al 425-240-4353.

Site background

The Westman Marine site consists of a 1-acre upland area (Upland Cleanup Unit) and a 27-acre in-water area (Sediment Cleanup Unit) extending throughout Blaine Harbor.

Blaine Harbor was originally created in the late 1930s by dredging the tide flats and using the dredged material to create an upland area. The harbor's upland areas were expanded in the 1940s, 1950s, and again in 2001.

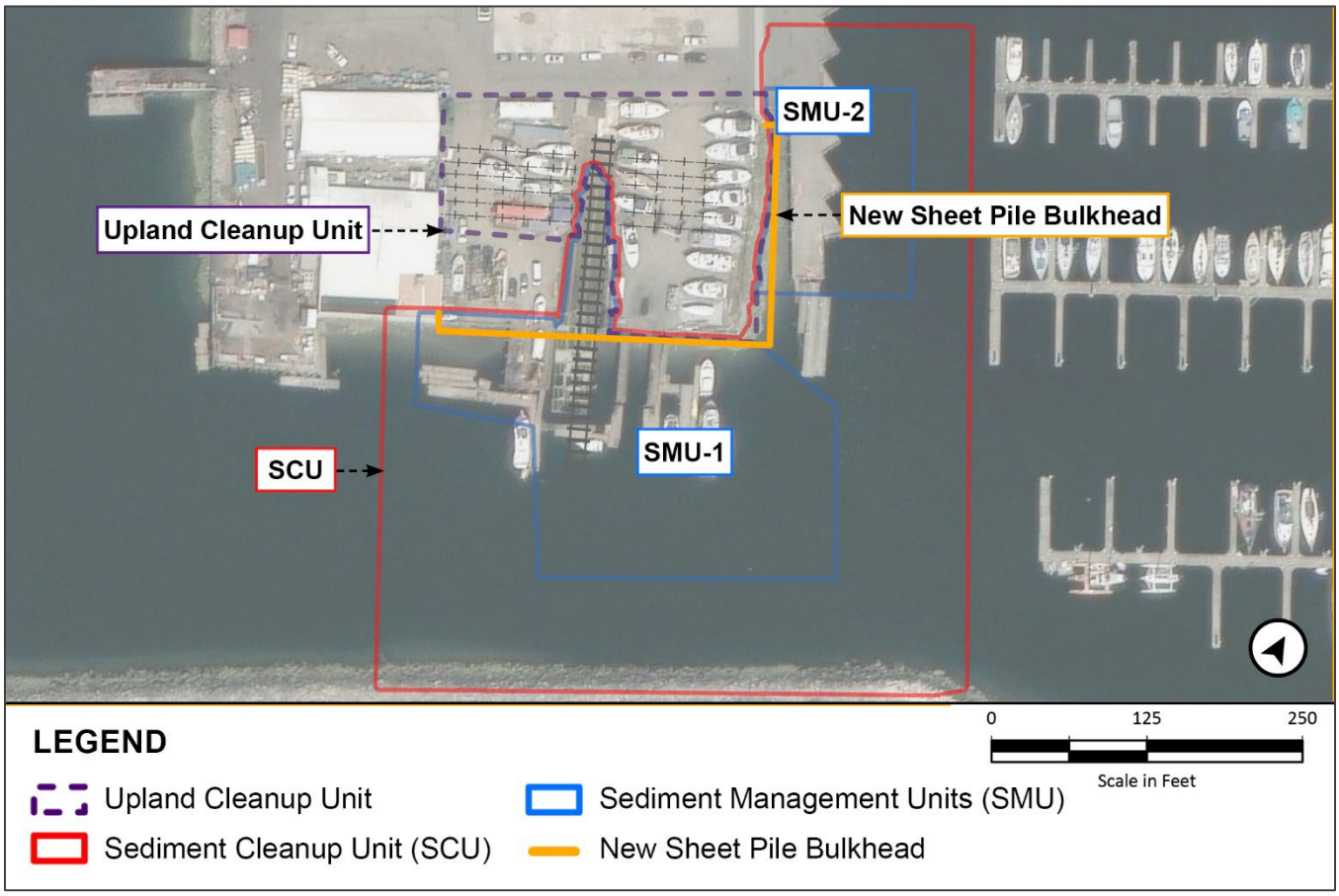
Since about 1949 the Port has leased the property to several different companies for marine operations. Portions of the property were contaminated by past boatyard activities, including maintenance and repair.

Contamination

Environmental investigations found contamination in soil and sediment above WA State cleanup levels established to protect human health and the environment:

- **Soil:** Carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (cPAHs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and metals
- **Sediment:** cPAHs, PCBs, metals, and tributyltin (TBT)

Cleanup Action Plan



Cleanup Action Plan for the Westman Marine cleanup site

Upland Cleanup Unit (upland)

- Remove the top 2 feet of contaminated soil and replace it with a cap (or cover) such as clean soil, asphalt, or concrete
- Remove upland marine side rails, sheds, and foundations to access contaminated soil

The cleanup action plan incorporates an early partial cleanup (interim action) from 2014 when the Port removed and disposed of approximately 420 tons of contaminated soil.

Sediment Cleanup Unit (in-water)

- Install a new sheet pile bulkhead (retaining wall) to support sediment dredging along the shoreline and prevent erosion of contaminated soil into the marine areas
- Temporarily remove marine infrastructure to provide access for sediment dredging
- Dredge and dispose of contaminated sediment
- Perform compliance monitoring to ensure the cleanup continues to meet standards over time

For both the upland and in-water areas, Ecology will also require site use controls that restrict certain activities as well as a long-term operation and maintenance plan.

What happens next?

Ecology will consider all the comments received during this public comment period and may make changes to the documents. If the documents require significant changes, we will hold another public comment period. Otherwise, Ecology will finalize the documents. The next step includes cleaning up the site.

Cost and funding

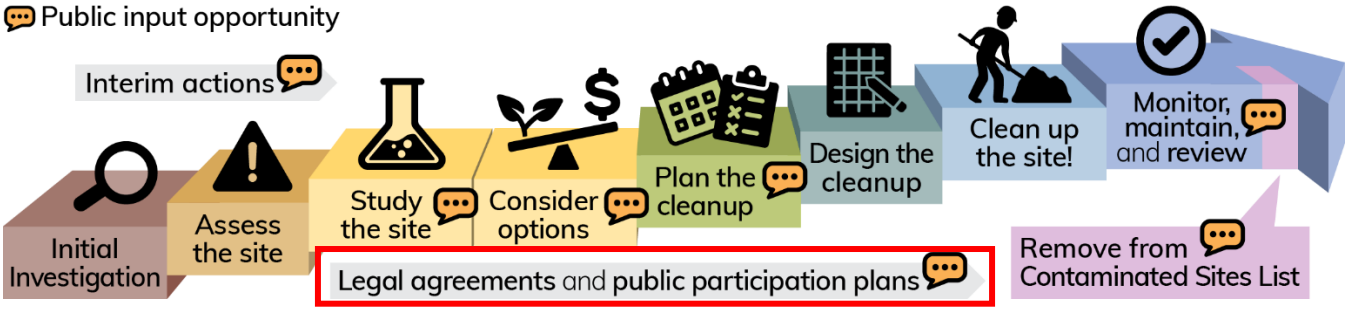
The remaining cleanup work is expected to cost about $28 million.

The Port is eligible for reimbursement of up to half of their costs from Ecology through the state's Remedial Action Grant Program,[1] which helps pay for the cleanup of publicly owned sites. The Legislature funds the grant program with revenues from a tax on hazardous substances.

Ecology's cleanup process

The Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)[2] is Washington's environmental cleanup law. It provides requirements for contaminated site cleanup and sets standards that protect human health and the environment. Ecology is responsible for administering MTCA, including the oversight or management of cleanups. The MTCA cleanup process[3] is completed in steps (see graphic below) over a variable timeline.

After the proposed legal agreement (consent decree) and updated public participation plan—both outlined in red below—are finalized for the Westman Marine cleanup site, the "clean up the site" step can proceed.



Washington's formal cleanup process

Automatic site updates

You can subscribe from the site's webpage.[4] 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.

[1] https://ecology.wa.gov/grants-ORAG
[2] https://ecology.wa.gov/mtca
[3] https://ecology.wa.gov/mtca-process
[4] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/2205

Toxics Cleanup Program
PO Box 330316
Shoreline, WA 98133-9716

Westman Marine Cleanup Site

Documents ready for public review

Información en español incluida

Scan for details

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go.ecology.wa.gov/WestmanMarine

Westman Marine cleanup site, Blaine, WA

ADA accessibility

To request an ADA accommodation, email Kristen.Forkeutis@ecy.wa.gov, call (425) 240-4353, or dial 711 to call through the Washington Telecommunications Relay for services like text telephone (TTY). Visit Ecology.wa.gov/ADA for more accessibility information.