Public Participation Plan

TECT Aerospace Everett
Paine Field, Everett, WA

Toxics Cleanup Program

Washington State Department of Ecology

Northwest Region Office

Shoreline, Washington

Publication 26-09-147, October 2026

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington

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This document is available on the Department of Ecology's TECT Aerospace Everett cleanup site page.[1]

Cover photo credit

- Snohomish County, 2001

Related Information

- Cleanup site ID: 12071
- Facility site ID: 17392

Contact Information

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ADA Accessibility

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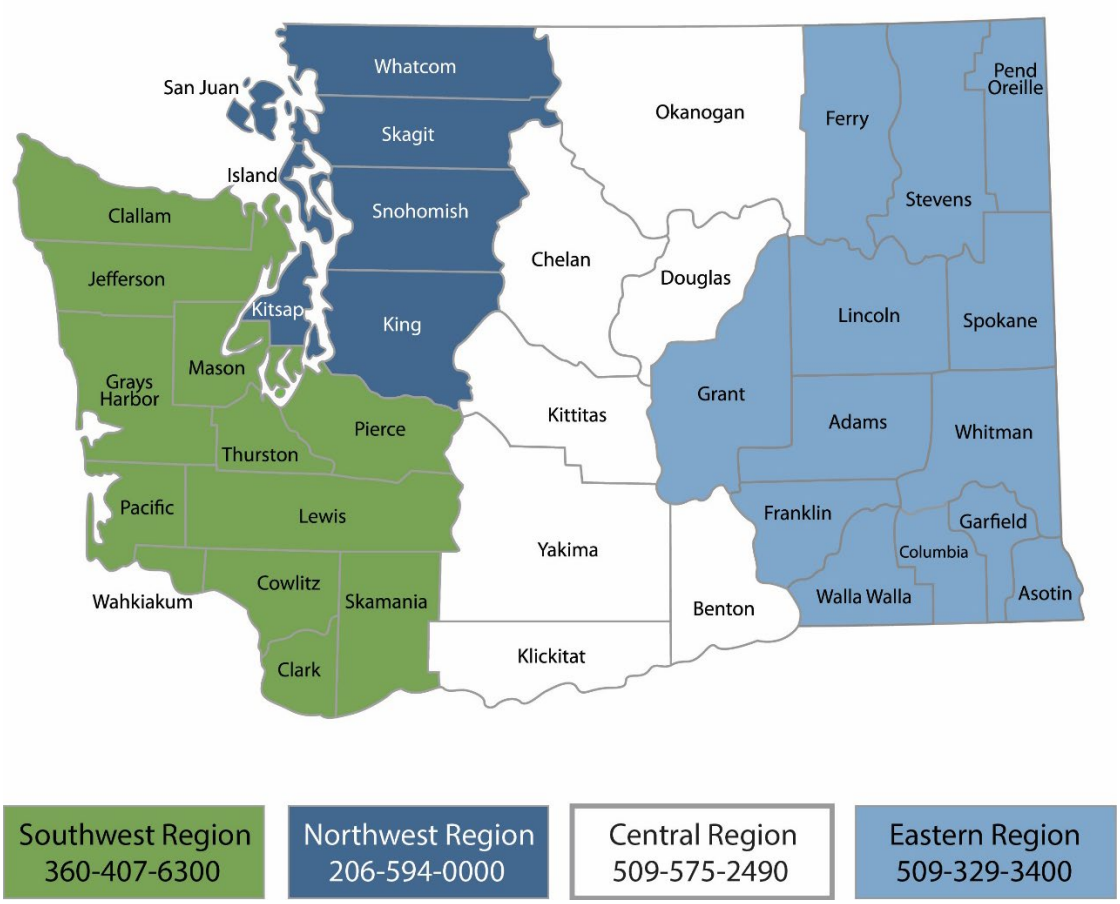
[1] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/12071
[2] https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Who-we-are/Our-Programs/Toxics-Cleanup
[3] https://ecology.wa.gov/about-us/accessibility-equity/accessibility

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

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Shoreline, Washington

October 2026

DEPARTMENT OF
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State of Washington

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Public Involvement in Contamination Cleanup

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) developed this Public Participation Plan in collaboration with Snohomish County, the party responsible for cleanup costs. The goal of this plan is to ensure meaningful community involvement throughout the cleanup of the TECT Aerospace Everett 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

Northwest Regional Office
PO Box 330316
Shoreline, WA 98133-9716

David Unruh, Site Manager
David.Unruh@ecy.wa.gov
206-459-6287

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Snohomish County

Andrew C. Rardin, CM
3220 100th St SW, Suite A
Everett, WA 98204-1303
425-388-5155
andrew.rardin@snoco.org

If you are unable to reach these contacts, please visit the cleanup site page[4] for up-to-date contact information.

[4] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/12071

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 at least a 1/2-mile radius around the site and relevant local, state, and federal government contacts. All contacts 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 Kristen Forkeutis at 425-240-4353 or Kristen.Forkeutis@ecy.wa.gov.

Contaminated Site Register

Public comment periods, events, and other cleanup notices are published in Ecology's *Contaminated Site Register*.[5] To receive the *Contaminated Site Register* by email, please subscribe online,[6] 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 *Everett Daily Herald* and MyEverettNews.com. We will also publish notice on our Public Input & Events Listing.[7]

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 Kristen Forkeutis at 425-240-4353 or Kristen.Forkeutis@ecy.wa.gov.

Ecology's website and social media platforms

We maintain a website for the TECT Aerospace Everett site.[8] 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.[9]

Automatic site updates

You can subscribe to this site from our TECT Aerospace Everett webpage.[8] 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:

Everett Public Library, Evergreen Branch
9512 Evergreen Way
Everett, WA 98204
425-257-8250

Washington Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office
15700 Dayton Ave N
Shoreline, WA 98133
206-594-0000

[5] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Site-Register-lists-and-data
[6] https://ecology.wa.gov/site-register
[7] https://ecology.wa.gov/Events/Search/Listing
[8] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/12071
[9] https://ecology.wa.gov/about-us/who-we-are/news

To schedule an appointment with Ecology, please contact Central Records by calling the Ecology Northwest Regional Office main number at 206-594-0000 or emailing mnwro_public_request@ecy.wa.gov.

If you would like to be mailed print documents, please contact Kristen Forkeutis at 425-240-4353 or Kristen.Forkeutis@ecy.wa.gov.

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 Kristen Forkeutis at 425-240-4353 or Kristen.Forkeutis@ecy.wa.gov.

Public comment periods

At a minimum, the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA, see page 12 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, including interim actions (early partial cleanups). If there is significant interest, Ecology may extend the public comment period.

When Ecology oversees State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) determinations (see page 13 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.[10]

Site Information

Background

The 22-acre TECT Aerospace Everett cleanup site is on the southeastern portion of Paine Field Airport at 2933 109th St SW in South Everett. The land is zoned for light industrial use, and the site includes the following existing and former buildings:

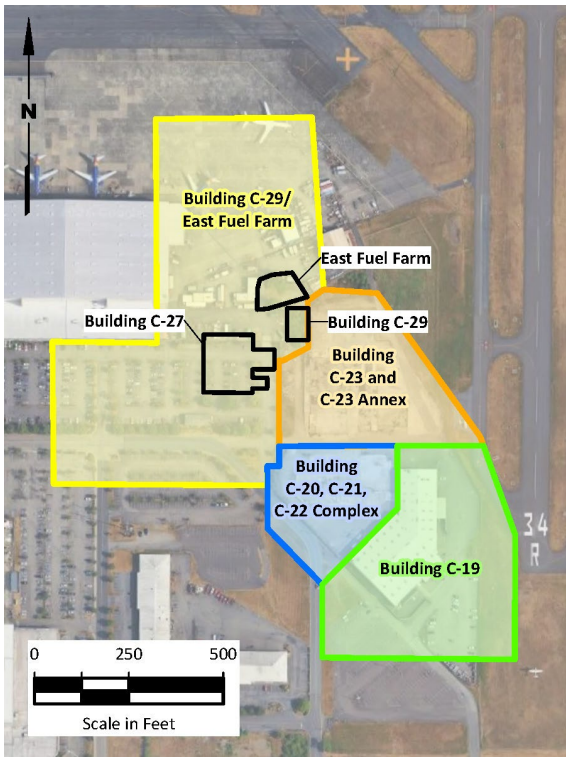

Figure 1: Aerial view of TECT Aerospace Everett site

- **Building C-19** was constructed in 1979 and mostly used for aerospace manufacturing. Today it is used by BLR Aerospace and FAM Waterjet, a metal fabrication company.
- **Buildings C-20, C-21, C-22, C-23, and C-23 Annex** were constructed in stages beginning in the 1940s and used for aerospace manufacturing. They were demolished in 2024.
- **Buildings C-27, C-29, and the East Fuel Farm** were constructed between the 1940s and 1950s. C-27 was used for aerospace manufacturing and demolished in the 1990s. C-29 stored chemicals and was demolished in 1996. The East Fuel Farm stored aviation fuel in at least four underground storage tanks.

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

The Paine Field property has a history that spans nearly a century:

- **1936:** Developed into a county airfield by a federal program.
- **1940-1948:** Acquired by the U.S. military and used by the U.S. Army Air Corps as an air base named Paine Field.
- **1948-1968:** Acquired and redeveloped by the county for aerospace manufacturing operations and used by the U.S. Air Force as part of the Air Defense Command System.
- **1968-Present:** Managed and operated by the county.

Site investigation and contamination

Under a legal agreement (agreed order) between Ecology and Snohomish County, the remedial investigation (RI) was carried out from 2023 to 2026 to better understand contamination at the site. The RI found contamination in the soil, shallow groundwater, and a deep aquifer. Some of the main contaminants of concern are chlorinated solvents, which were used to degrease and clean metals. These chemicals are slow to break down in the environment and are a risk to human health. A list of contamination in each building area follows:

Building area	**Soil contamination** (up to 20 ft below ground)	**Groundwater contamination** (up to 35 ft below ground)
Building C-19	• Chlorinated solvents including trichloroethylene (TCE)	• Chlorinated solvents • 1,4-dioxane
Buildings C-20, C-21, and C-22	• Chlorinated solvents including TCE and natural breakdown products • Petroleum hydrocarbons	• Chlorinated solvents • 1,4-dioxane • Petroleum hydrocarbons • Arsenic
Building C-23 and C-23 Annex	• Chlorinated solvents including TCE • Petroleum hydrocarbons	• Chlorinated solvents • 1,4-dioxane • Arsenic
Buildings C-27, C-29, and the East Fuel Farm	• Chlorinated solvents including tetrachloroethylene (PCE), TCE, and natural breakdown products • Petroleum hydrocarbons	• Chlorinated solvents including 1,1-dichloroethylene (DCE), 1,1-dichloroethane (DCA), 1,2-DCA, and 1,2-dichloropropane (DCP) • 1,4-dioxane • Petroleum hydrocarbons • Total chromium • Lead

The contamination at this site is above state cleanup levels and must be addressed to protect people and the environment. Currently, the contamination is not a significant threat to people

or the environment because there is no direct exposure pathway. However, future risks could arise if exposure to the contaminants occur through construction or development.

Cleanup plans

Over the past 30+ years environmental investigations have led to the following cleanup actions:

- **Underground storage tank (UST) removal:** In 1992 at the East Fuel Farm, a 12,000-gallon UST that stored aviation fuel was removed along with 100 cubic yards of petroleum-contaminated soil.
- **Contaminated soil excavation:** In 2011 at Building C-19, shallow soil contaminated with petroleum (diesel and oil) was dug up from below the building in several areas. In 2013 Ecology determined this portion of the site was clean and no further action was needed.

Snohomish County will continue the MTCA cleanup process (see page 12). This includes preparing multiple interim actions (early partial cleanups), a feasibility study that compares cleanup options, and a cleanup action plan (including the interim actions) that describes what will be done to clean up contamination at the site. The cleanup will then be designed (engineered) before the cleanup action begins.

Neighborhood

The TECT Aerospace cleanup site is on the southeastern portion of Paine Field Airport, owned and operated by Snohomish County, in South Everett. The site property is part of the Paine Field/Boeing Everett Manufacturing/Industrial Center (MIC) that supports economic growth and vitality. This area is considered in the Everett 2044 Comprehensive Plan,[11] as well as the Snohomish County 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update.[12]

The residential community of the Westmont Holly neighborhood lies east of the site. The neighborhood is extremely diverse and includes areas zoned for industrial, commercial, and residential use. There are clusters of homes, businesses, parks, and several schools.

Environmental Justice

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies. Ecology is committed to addressing environmental and health disparities in communities and ensuring non-discrimination, meaningful public involvement, and equitable access to agency information and services.

[11] https://www.everettwa.gov/2812/Everett-2044
[12] https://snohomishcountywa.gov/5597/2024-Update

Ecology uses external data sources to better understand the environmental and demographic information of the communities impacted by cleanup sites. When appropriate, Ecology considers special accommodation based on the needs of the community.

WA Environmental Health Disparities Map

The Washington Environmental Health Disparities (EHD) Map[13] compares communities across our state for environmental health disparities and ranks them on a scale of 1-10. 1 is defined as the ***least impacted*** and 10 as the ***most impacted***. Ecology uses this information to identify cumulative environmental health issues. However, we do not interpret rankings as absolute values, and we do not use them to diagnose a community health issue or to label a community.

The TECT Aerospace Everett's census tract (53061041901) has an EHD rank of 9 (see Figure 2). It is considered highly impacted because it has an overall EHD rank of 9. The demographic data show White (40.5%), Asian (22%), Hispanic or Latino (18.5%), Black or African American (10.5%), and Multi Racial (7.2%) individuals represent the largest racial/ethnic groups (see Figure 3) while the largest combined age group includes ages 5-19 (see Figure 4).

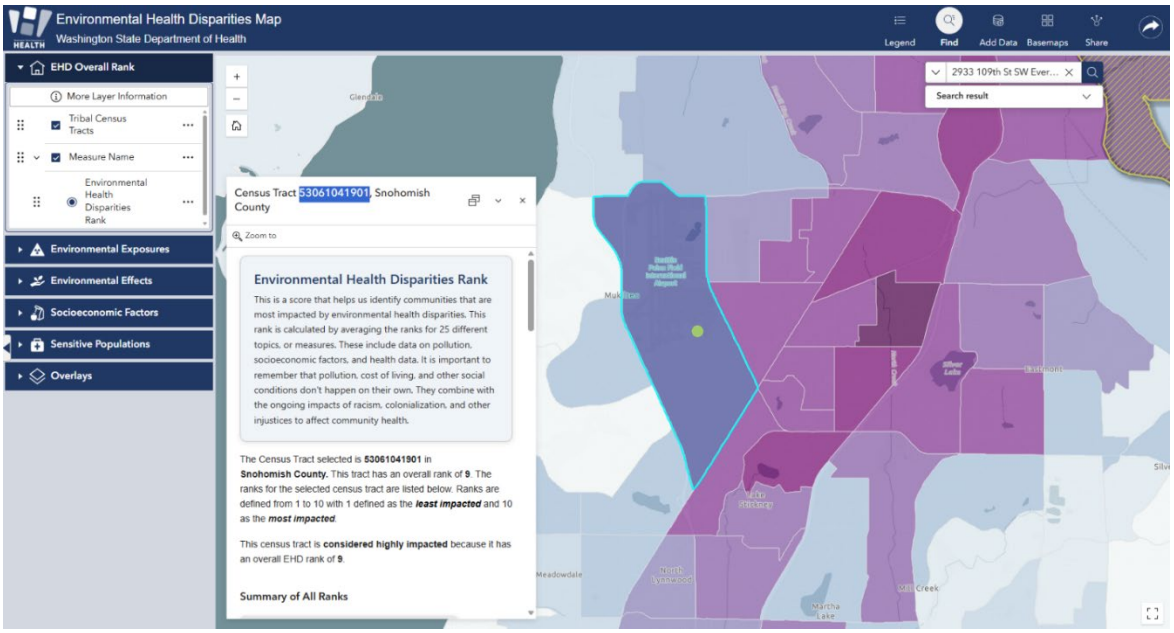

Figure 2: WA Environmental Health Disparities (EHD) Map for Census Tract 53061041901, EHD Rank 9

[13] https://doh.wa.gov/data-and-statistical-reports/washington-tracking-network-wtn/washington-environmental-health-disparities-map

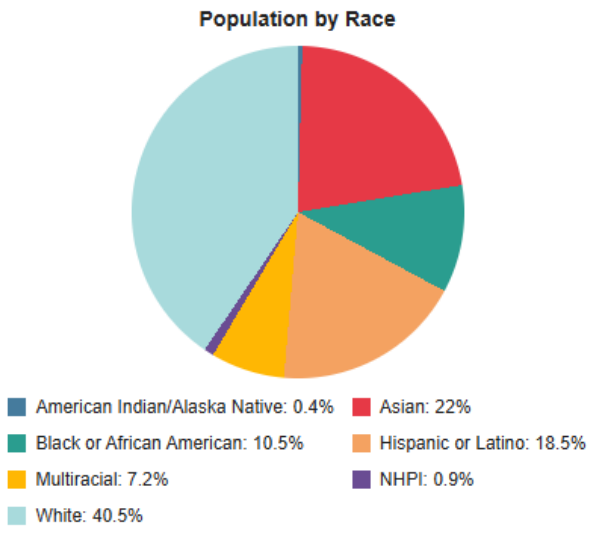

Figure 3: WA Environmental Health Disparities Map for Census Tract 530610**41901**, Demographic Details (race)

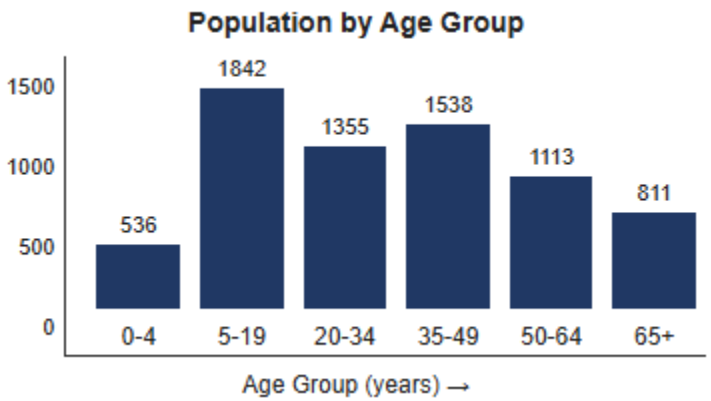

Figure 4: WA Environmental Health Disparities Map for Census Tract 530610**41901**, Demographic Details (age)

The Washington State Department of Health mapping tool model was "specifically adapted from CalEnviroScreen – a cumulative environmental impacts assessment mapping tool developed by CalEPA and used in California. It estimates a cumulative environmental health impact score for each census tract reflecting pollutant exposures and factors that affect people's vulnerability to environmental pollution.

The model is based on a conceptual formula of Risk = Threat * Vulnerability, where threat and vulnerability are based on several indicators.

The threat is represented by indicators that account for pollution burden, which is a combination of environmental effects and environmental exposures in communities. Environmental effects include indicators that account for adverse environmental quality generally, even when population contact with an environmental hazard is unknown or

uncertain. Environmental exposures include the levels of certain pollutants that populations come into contact with.

Vulnerability is represented by indicators of socioeconomic factors and sensitive populations for which there is clear evidence that they may affect susceptibility or vulnerability to an increased pollution burden. Indicators in socioeconomic factors measure population characteristics that modify the pollution burden itself. Sensitive populations refer to those who are at greater risk due to intrinsic biological vulnerability to environmental stressors.

In the model, threat is multiplied by vulnerability in order to reflect the scientific literature that indicates population characteristics often modify and amplify the impact of pollution exposures on certain vulnerable populations. The rankings help to compare health and social factors that may contribute to disparities in a community."

American Community Survey

The American Community Survey (ACS)[14] is an ongoing survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. It provides updated data on the social, economic, housing, and demographic characteristics of the U.S. population. Ecology uses this information to help identify socioeconomic indicators, including limited English proficient (LEP) populations and languages spoken at home.

Limited English Proficient (LEP) Populations

The 2023 ACS 5-year estimates include the following LEP data for the relevant Snohomish County areas surrounding this cleanup site:

Snohomish County (West Central)--Mukilteo & Martha Lake with a total population of 105,383.

- Korean: 3,078
- Spanish: 2,881
- Vietnamese: 1,687
- Chinese (includes Chinese, Cantonese, Mandarin, and Min Nan): 1,180

Snohomish County (Central)--Everett City & Eastmont with a total population of 154,700.

- Spanish: 6,867
- Vietnamese: 3,052
- Korean: 1,675
- Russian: 1,668
- Ukrainian: 1,084

[14] https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/about.html

Languages Spoken at Home

The percentage of the population that speaks a language other than English at home based on the representative Census Tract follows.

Census Tract 419.01 (location of the TECT Aerospace Everett site):

- 56.1% of the population speaks a language other than English at home
  - Asian and Pacific Island languages: 27.6%
  - Spanish: 19.7%
  - Other Indo-European languages: 5.2%
  - Other languages: 3.6%

Area community

Ecology considers the needs of the surrounding community when planning public outreach. We collect data from the WA Environmental Health Disparities Map and the American Community Survey, and we conduct community research to build on this information. We reach out to cultural community organizations (when available) as part of our outreach and provide information in other languages as needed and in accordance with federal guidance.[15]

Demographic data and community research indicate that Spanish, Ukrainian, Russian, and Vietnamese speakers are the largest Limited English Proficient (LEP) populations in the Westmont Holly neighborhood near the site. In addition, the non-English languages most widely spoken at home in Census Tract 419.01 include Spanish and Asian and Pacific Island languages. When appropriate, Ecology will provide translations of outreach materials or language service information.

To request information in another language, call Kristen Forkeutis at 425-240-4353 or email Kristen.Forkeutis@ecy.wa.gov. If calling for interpretation services, please ask for an interpreter and stay on the line while we connect you.

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

Tribal engagement

The following Tribes could be affected by the contamination, and the cleanup process may also uncover cultural resources.

- Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
- Suquamish Tribe

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

- Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
- Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe
- Snoqualmie Indian Tribe
- Tulalip Tribes
- Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians

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.[16] We invite Tribal members and other indigenous peoples to engage in the public involvement process as well.

Washington's Cleanup Laws

Ecology uses the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)[17] 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).[18] Ecology investigates reports of contamination, and the property is placed on the Contaminated Sites List[19] 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 (see Appendix). Public involvement is a key part of MTCA's cleanup process.[20] 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.

[16] https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=173-340-620
[17] https://www.ecology.wa.gov/mtca
[18] https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=173-340
[19] https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/reports/cleanup/contaminated
[20] http://www.ecology.wa.gov/MTCA-process

State Environmental Policy Act

MTCA cleanups also require evaluation under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).[21] 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.

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 Kristen Forkeutis at 425-240-4353 or Kristen.Forkeutis@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.

[21] https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=197-11

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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