



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

**Maury Island Open Space
8215 SW 260th Street
Maury Island, WA**

Washington State Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office
Toxics Cleanup Program
3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, Washington 98008

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INTRODUCTION

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has developed this Public Participation Plan in cooperation with King County (County) pursuant to the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) and Agreed Order No. DE-8439 to promote meaningful community involvement during the investigation and cleanup of the Maury Island Open Space Site. The Site is currently owned by King County. This plan outlines and describes the tools that Ecology uses to inform the public about Site activities and identifies opportunities for the community to become involved.

SITE LOCATION AND BACKGROUND

The 250-acre property is located on the southeast side of Maury Island (Figure 1). It is bordered on the southeast by the Puget Sound.

The surrounding land is characteristically forested with some clearing for park- and residential-use properties and small residential communities. King County and privately owned vacant forest lands are situated to the northwest and west of the Property.

Since the 1940s, Northwest Aggregates (NWA), and other owners operated a sand and gravel mine on the property. From 1968 to 1978, the Mine was then placed in reserve while NWA (mine) focused on mining other properties in Washington. Periodically, during this time, NWA or someone leasing the property removed sand and gravel from the Mine for use at various construction projects on Maury and Vashon Islands and throughout King County.

The County acquired the property late in 2010. The purchase ended a 13-year effort by the previous owner NWA to expand a gravel mining operation at the Site. The Site will become an open space park area, managed to conserve its ecological values and provide passive recreation opportunities.

The surface soils on Maury Island were impacted by former Tacoma Smelter operations and are contaminated with metals. From 1890 until 1985, when it closed, the Asarco Tacoma facility refined copper from copper-bearing ores and concentrates that were shipped in from other locations.

During operation, the smelter's smoke stack released hazardous metals, particularly arsenic and lead. These metals settled over a 100 square-mile area including Maury and Vashon Islands. As a result of this, surface soils within much of the Tacoma smelter fallout area contain arsenic and lead concentrations that are many times greater than natural background concentrations.

According to Ecology's prior area-wide investigations, the soils on Maury Island are among those most significantly impacted within the Tacoma Smelter Plume. On Maury Island, this Site lies within one of the areas most impacted by the Tacoma Smelter Plume.

CURRENT ACTIVITY

Ecology and King County are entering into a legal agreement to investigate contamination on the Maury Island Open Space Site. Specifically, the Agreed Order will require King County to complete the following:

- Full investigation of the nature and extent of contamination.
- Feasibility Study to examine possible cleanup options.
- Draft a cleanup action plan to outline the best cleanup alternative.

MODEL TOXICS CONTROL ACT CLEANUP STAGES

The Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) defines each stage of the cleanup process to protect human health and the environment. Figure 2 on page 8 details these stages.

Ecology and the parties responsible for cleanup of the pollution enter into legal agreements called Agreed Orders or Consent Decrees to guide the required cleanup process. Interim actions (partial cleanup action) may be taken to reduce or eliminate pollution that poses an immediate threat to human health or the environment. Interim Actions may be taken at any time during the cleanup process.

The cleanup process is complex. Issues often arise that require more attention or evaluation, and may lead to changes in the steps or schedule. Every effort will be made to keep the public well-informed of changes.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

The purpose of this Public Participation Plan is to promote public understanding and participation in the MTCA activities planned for this property. This section of the plan addresses how Ecology will share information and receive public comments and community input on the Site activities.

Ecology uses a variety of activities to facilitate public participation in the investigation and cleanup of MTCA Sites. The following is a list of the public involvement activities that Ecology will use, their purposes, and descriptions of when and how they will be used during this site cleanup. Ecology will work with King County on public involvement efforts including development of the mailing list and coordination of public events and publications when appropriate.

Formal Public Comment Periods

Comment periods are the primary method Ecology uses to get feedback from the public on proposed cleanup decisions. Comment periods usually last 30 days and are required under WAC 173-340-600 at certain points during the investigation and cleanup process. See Figure 2 for an outline of cleanup process and public comment periods.

During a comment period, the public can comment in writing. Verbal comments are taken if a public hearing is held. After formal comment periods, Ecology reviews all comments received and may respond in a document called a Responsiveness Summary.

Ecology will consider the need for changes or revisions based on input from the public. If significant changes are made, then a second comment period may be held. If no significant changes are made, then the draft document(s) will be finalized.

Public comment periods will be held for draft remedial investigation/feasibility study reports, draft cleanup action plans, and future agreed orders or consent decrees that are developed for the Site.

Public Meetings and Hearings

Public meetings may be held during the investigation and cleanup process as required by WAC 173-340-600. Ecology also may offer public meetings for actions expected to be of particular interest to the community. These meetings will be held at locations convenient to the community. If 10 or more people request a public meeting or a hearing, one will be scheduled. Otherwise, meetings will be scheduled as needed.

Information Repositories

Information repositories are places where the public may read and review site information, including documents that are the subject of public comment. Ecology has established four repositories for this Site. Documents available for public review and comment can be found here:

- Washington State Department of Ecology, Northwest Regional Office, 3190 160th Avenue SE, Bellevue, WA 98008. Please call (425) 649-7190 for an appointment.
- Vashon Library, 17210 Vashon Highway SW, Vashon Island, WA, 98070
- Ecology's Web site at <http://ecyapps4/gsp/SitePage.aspx?csid=1532&Preview=true>

Site Register

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program uses its *Site Register* to announce all of its public meetings and comment periods, as well as many other activities. To receive the *Site Register* in electronic or hard copy format, contact Seth Preston at (360) 407-6848 or by e-mail at Seth.Preston@ecy.wa.gov. It is also available on Ecology's web Site at http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/pub_inv/pub_inv2.html.

Mailing List

Ecology has compiled a mailing list for the Site. The list includes individuals, groups, public agencies, elected officials, private businesses, potentially affected parties, and other known interested parties. The list will be maintained at Ecology's Northwest Regional Office and will be updated as needed.

Please contact Meg Bommarito at (425) 649-7256 or Meg.Bommarito@ecy.wa.gov if you would like to have your address added to or deleted from this mailing list.

Fact Sheets

Ecology will mail fact sheets to persons and organizations interested in this cleanup project to inform them of public meetings and comment opportunities and important Site activities. Ecology also may mail fact sheets about the progress of Site activities. Fact sheets will be posted on Ecology's website.

Ecology and Other Web Sites

Ecology will maintain a website with Site information at <http://ecyapps4/gsp/SitePage.aspx?csid=1532&Preview=true>. This website will be updated regularly and will hold information available for comments and other relevant documents and information and a link to the King County website. Ecology will also share information with King County for posting on their website at <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=1532>.

Newspaper Display Ads

Ecology may place ads in the *Vashon-Maury Island Beachcomber*, *Seattle Times* and *Tacoma News Tribune* to announce public comment periods and public meetings or hearings for the property.

Online Posting

Ecology will publish notices for public involvement opportunities in the “Loop” and the “VashonAll” yahoo groups. Ecology will also use the West Seattle Blog to post information about public involvement and project updates. In addition, information will be posted in the West Seattle Herald online newspaper.

Plan Update

This Public Participation Plan may be updated as the project proceeds. If an update is necessary, and constitutes a substantial change in the plan, it will be announced via site register and the web site.

Public Participation Grants

As part of the Model Toxics Control Act, Ecology developed a public participation grant program to promote public participation during cleanups. Public Participation Grants provide funding to community groups to help involve the public in the investigation and cleanup of contaminated properties. The grants also help develop and carry out programs that promote the state’s solid or hazardous waste management priorities.

For cleanup sites, non-profit groups or groups of three or more unrelated individuals can apply for grants to fund outreach and education efforts for the community that is impacted by the cleanup. Past projects have helped people understand the cleanup and how to comment on cleanup proposals during public comment periods. Grant funds may be used to pay for technical experts who help people understand cleanup issues. They can also be used to hold meetings, workshops and other events that help to inform people. In addition, printing and distribution of reports, brochures and other materials may be covered.

For more information about this grant program, visit <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/grants/ppg.html>

Points of Contact

If you have questions or need more information about this plan or the NW Aggregates Maury Island cleanup project, please contact:

Ron Timm, Site Manager

Washington State Department of Ecology

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Figure 1. Approximate location of the NW Aggregates Maury Island property.

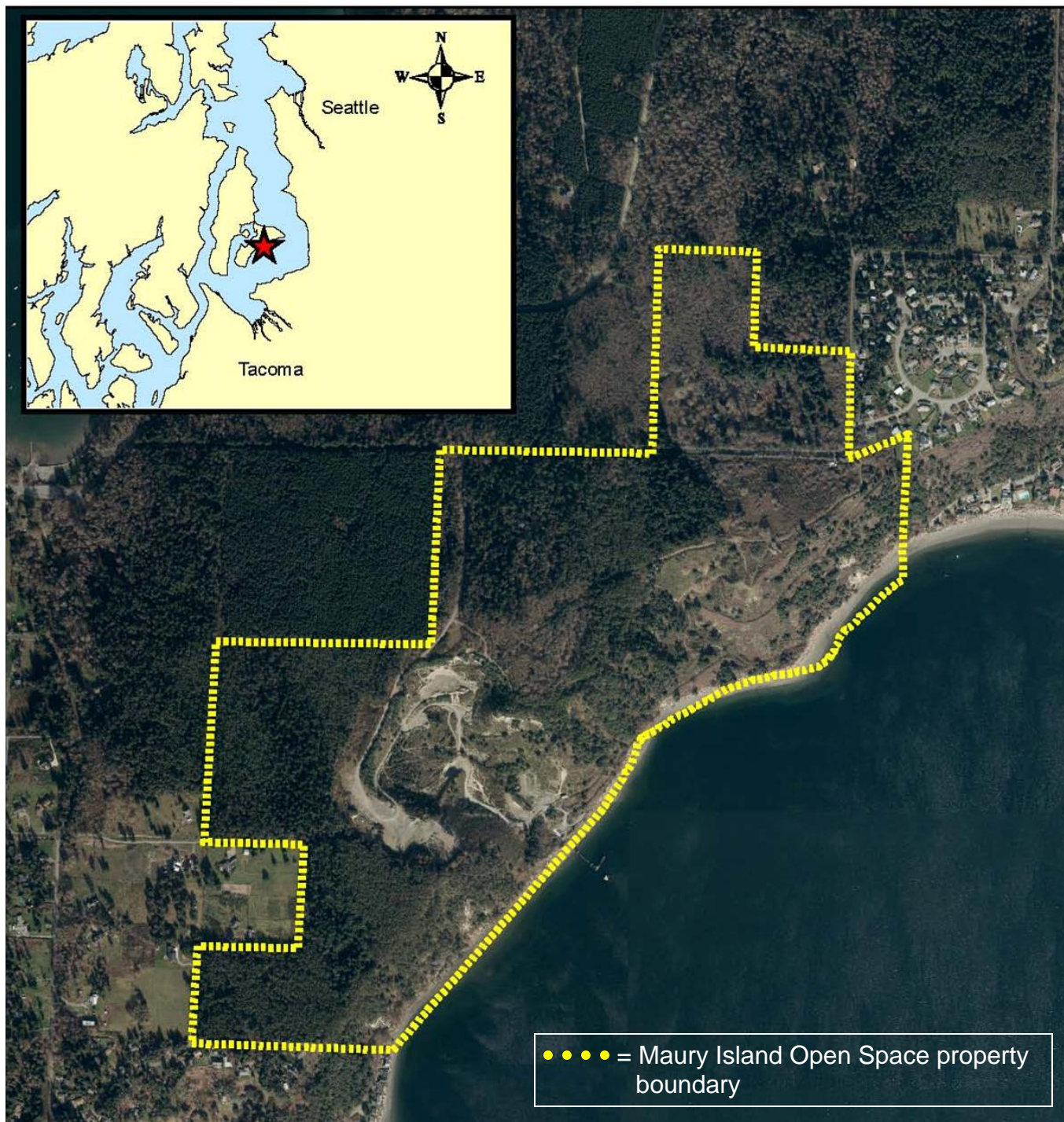


Figure 2. Model Toxics Control Act Cleanup Steps.



*Comment periods can be combined when possible.

APPENDIX 1

Glossary

GLOSSARY

Agreed Order: A legal agreement between Ecology and a potentially liable person to conduct work toward a cleanup.

Cleanup: Actions taken to deal with a release, or threatened release of hazardous substances that could affect public health and/or the environment. The term "cleanup" is often used broadly to describe various response actions or phases of remedial responses such as the remedial investigation/feasibility study.

Cleanup Action Plan (CAP): A document that explains which cleanup alternative(s) will be used at sites for the cleanup. The cleanup action plan is based on information and technical analysis generated during the remedial investigation/feasibility study and consideration of public comments and community concerns.

Comment Period: A time period during which the public can review and comment on various documents and proposed actions. For example, a comment period may be provided to allow community members to review and comment on proposed cleanup action alternatives and proposed plans.

Contaminant: Any hazardous substance that does not occur naturally or occurs at greater than natural background levels

Feasibility Study: This study develops and evaluates cleanup options for a given site.

Groundwater: Water found beneath the earth's surface that fills pores between materials such as sand, soil, or gravel. In some aquifers, ground water occurs in sufficient quantities that it can be used for drinking water, irrigation and other purposes.

Information Repository: A file containing current information, technical reports, and reference documents available for public review. The information repository is usually located in a public building that is convenient for local residents such as a public school, city hall, or library.

Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA): Legislation passed by citizens of the State of Washington through an initiative in 1988. Its purpose is to identify, investigate, and clean up facilities where hazardous substances have been released. It defines the role of Ecology and encourages public involvement in the decision making process. MTCA regulations are administered by the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Potentially Liable Person: Any individual(s) or company(s) potentially responsible for, or contributing to, the contamination problems at a site. Whenever possible, Ecology requires these PLPs, through administrative and legal actions, to clean up sites.

Public Notice: At a minimum, adequate notice mailed to all persons who have made a timely request of Ecology and to persons residing in the potentially affected vicinity of the proposed action; mailed to appropriate news media; published in the local (city and county) newspaper of largest circulation; and the opportunity for the interested persons to comment.

Public Participation Plan: A plan prepared to encourage coordinated and effective public involvement designed to the public's needs at a particular site.

Remedial Investigation: This study characterizes the site and defines the extent of contamination.

Responsiveness Summary: A summary of oral and/or written public comments received by Ecology during a comment period on key documents, and Ecology's responses to those comments. The responsiveness summary is especially valuable during the Cleanup Action Plan phase at a site when it highlights community concerns.

Risk: The probability that a hazardous substance, when released into the environment, will cause an adverse effect in the exposed humans or living organisms.

Sediments: Settled particles located at the bottom of a lake, river or in wetlands. Sediment(s) also includes settled particulate matter exposed by human activity (e.g., dredging) to the biologically active aquatic zone or to the water column.

Site: Any building, structure, installation, equipment, pipe or pipeline (including any pipe into a sewer or publicly owned treatment works), well, pit, pond, lagoon, impoundment, ditch, landfill, storage container, motor vehicle, rolling stock, vessel, or aircraft; or any site or area where a hazardous substance, other than a consumer product in consumer use, has been deposited, stored, disposed of, or placed, or otherwise come to be located.

Toxicity: The degree to which a substance at a particular concentration is capable of causing harm to living organisms, including people, plants and animals.