



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

Oakland Bay Sediment Investigation

Shelton, Washington

Prepared by

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June 2008

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INTRODUCTION

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has developed this public participation plan to promote meaningful community involvement during the Oakland Bay Sediment Investigation. This plan describes the tools that Ecology uses to inform the public about site activities and identify opportunities for the community involvement.

Ecology will be investigating the extent and possible sources of toxic pollution in Oakland Bay. As part of this process, Ecology will:

- Determine the nature and extent of sediment contamination and wood waste throughout Oakland Bay.
- Conduct a survey to determine the distribution of wood waste.
- Attempt to determine the potential source(s) of dioxin, total petroleum hydrocarbon (TPH) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) contamination.
- Test sediments and shellfish for chemical contaminants in order to evaluate potential risk to humans and the ecosystem.

The draft Sampling and Analysis Plan describes the proposed locations and methods for studying harbor sediments. This document will be available for public review and comment from June 2 through July 2, 2008.

LOCATION AND AREA BACKGROUND

Oakland Bay, located in Mason County, is a shallow estuary approximately 4 miles long and 3/4 of a mile wide. It is an important commercial and tribal shellfish fishery for oysters, horse clam, geoducks, little neck clams and others. Historical and current industrial uses of Oakland Bay have resulted in sediment contamination in Shelton harbor and surrounding areas. Since the mid-1800s timber industries have dominated the waterfront and have included saw mills, plywood manufacturing, pulp and paper production, insulation and fiber board manufacturing.

Chemicals and waste water from timber and wood product manufacturing industries have been discharged into Oakland Bay. Petroleum product spills that occurred from 1980-2004 also contributed contaminants to the waterway. Marinas, bulk fuel facilities, aging septic systems and storm water have also played a role in contaminating sediments.

Previous sediment investigations have confirmed the presence of several contaminants above state standards including; metals, semi-volatile organic compounds, petroleum products and wood waste contamination. Most recently (last 40 years), contamination has shifted from industrial sources to non-point sources like chlorine from sewage outfalls, sedimentation and siltation and herbicides.

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program, in addition to the sediment investigation, as already identified several cleanup sites in the Bay. These sites, along with several voluntary cleanup program sites, are in various stages of cleanup. The Oakland Bay Sediment Investigation will cover a large area, with sediment samples being taken at locations around the harbor

Ecology's Water Quality Program is also working on restoring areas of the Bay and is currently developing a plan to address water quality problems, including fecal coliform bacteria and temperature. For more information about this work visit http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/oakland_bay/index.html.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The purpose of this Public Participation Plan is to promote public understanding and participation in the MTCA activities planned for this site. 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 increase public participation in the investigation and cleanup of MTCA sites. Ecology will use input provided by the community whenever possible.

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 the Oakland Bay Sediment Investigation.

Public Comment Periods and Public Review

Comment periods are the main way Ecology gets feedback from the public on investigations like this. Comment periods usually last 30 days and are required at key points during the investigation, before final decisions are made.

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.

A public comment period will be held for the draft Sampling and Analysis Plan—Ecology's plan for sampling the harbor. The Sediment Investigation Report and Risk Assessments will be made available for public review.

Public Meetings and Hearings

Public meetings may be held at key points during the investigation and cleanup process. 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. A public meeting will also be scheduled if ten or more people request one.

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 two repositories for the Oakland Bay Sediment Investigation:

- William G. Reed / Shelton Timberland Library, 710 W Alder Street, Shelton, WA 98501
Phone: (360) 426-1362
- Washington State Department of Ecology, 300 Desmond Drive, Lacey, WA 98516. Please call (360) 407-6045 for an appointment.

Site information also will be posted on Ecology's Web site at http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/oaklandBay/oaklandBay_hp.htm.

Site Register

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program uses its bimonthly 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 Linda Thompson at (360) 407-6069 or by e-mail at Ltho461@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 is compiling a mailing list for the site. It includes individuals, groups, public agencies, elected officials, private businesses, and other known interested parties. The list will be maintained at Ecology's Southwest Regional Office and will be updated when individuals request to be added or removed. Please contact Meg Bommarito at (360) 407-6255 or by e-mail at mbom461@ecy.wa.gov if you would like to be involved or have your address added to or deleted from this mailing list.

Fact Sheets

Ecology will mail fact sheets to persons and organizations interested in the Oakland Bay Sediment Investigation 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.

Web Site

The Oakland Bay Sediment Investigation Web site will have information about public comment periods, investigation progress, and future work.

Newspaper Display Ads

Ecology will place ads in the Shelton-Mason County Journal to announce public comment periods and public meetings or hearings for the site.

Plan Update

This public participation plan may be updated as the project proceeds. If an update is necessary, the revised plan will be submitted to the public for comment.

Contacts

If you have questions or need more information about the Sediment Investigation, please contact:

Cynthia Erickson, Project Manager
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300 Desmond Drive

Lacey, WA 98503
Tel: (360) 407-6361
Email: ceri461@ecy.wa.gov

For information about this plan or public participation, please contact,

Meg Bommarito, Public Involvement Coordinator
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Oakland Bay Sediment Investigation Location



GLOSSARY

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 studies or draft reports.

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

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.

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.

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.

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