

OLYMPIC COAST ALLIANCE

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Bill Harris, Project Manager
SWRO Solid Waste and Financial Assistance Program
P.O. Box 4775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775
Email: whar461@ecy.wa.gov

Subject: Draft Remedial Upland Investigation
Rayonier Port Angeles Mill Site

Dear Mr. Harris:

Olympic Coast Alliance [OCA] is a non-profit organization founded in 2003. OCA's purposes are to assure a healthy coastal ecosystem through public education and outreach, conservation issue advocacy, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary support, stewardship programs, and a strong working relationship with coastal tribes.

OCA's geographic area of concern and interest includes the coast/shores of the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the Pacific Ocean coast south from Cape Flattery to the Copalis River.

Recently, we learned of the work your agency is undertaking with respect to the toxic contaminants accumulated during the years of operations by Rayonier at its mill site in Port Angeles. We are aware that this pollution occurred during the many years the company processed those forests from within their ownership and other forest sources on the Olympic Peninsula.

We appreciate having the opportunity to review some of the various web site files related to the current situation. We regret that OCA, being a relatively new organization, had not had the opportunity to become informed earlier about DOE and the company's examinations in order to restore this area to once again become a toxic free area.

OCA has consulted with the Olympic Environmental Council [OEC], a citizen organization closely monitoring the process. We support its recommendations for removing the years of accumulations of toxic contaminants from the Rayonier Company mill site.

Olympic Coast Alliance shares OEC's continuing concerns that a full and complete study has not yet been achieved. We support the Olympic Environmental Council's recommendations to DOE that further examinations and analyses are essential – beyond what has been accomplished thus far.

OCA concurs with the Olympic Environmental Council's findings that the highest scientific standards need to be maintained and implemented, particularly as established by the World Health Organization. Equally important will be to establish develop the highest standards possible to be followed in the toxic removal/clean-up procedures.

We find it of interest that the company, having been responsible for the resulting degradation of the area where it sited its mill, continues to have a substantial role in assessing the level of that toxicity that occurred under its jurisdiction.

It is to be hoped the Washington Department of Ecology, and, when again it enters the picture, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency can assure the public at large that the Rayonier mill site's heavy toxic pollution will have been completely removed. That, when visiting the old mill site, they will have the guarantee the area will be free and safe from any toxic exposures left behind.

Sincerely,

Polly Dyer, President
Olympic Coast Alliance

cc: OCA Executive Committee