



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

Everett Smelter Cleanup Site Everett, WA

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

July 2011

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1 Introduction

The Asarco smelter, which operated in Everett in the early 1900s, caused widespread arsenic and lead contamination in northeast Everett. In addition to contamination left behind on the old smelter property, particles from the stacks settled on the surrounding areas, contaminating soil. This plan describes public involvement activities Ecology will conduct during the cleanup. It will be updated as needed.

The Washington Department of Ecology managed the cleanup of the most highly contaminated properties from 1999-2007. In 2009, Ecology received funding through a bankruptcy settlement with Asarco to continue with cleanup efforts. Ecology has developed a cleanup plan for the rest of the contaminated properties impacted by the former smelter.

The cleanup site is broken into two areas, the upland and lowland cleanup areas (Figure 1 on page 8). The two areas are on two different cleanup schedules. This year, Ecology plans to sample and map 71 properties and cleanup 24 properties in the Upland Area.

2 Site Background

The Everett Smelter, built by Puget Sound Reduction Company, operated from 1894 to 1912. ASARCO Incorporated (Asarco) purchased the property in 1903 and operated the smelter until 1912 when it was demolished. The property was sold in various parcels, with the last parcel owned by Asarco being sold in 1936. Homes were built on many of the parcels. The highway interchange between East Marine View Drive and State Route 529 was built across the old smelter site in the 1950s.

The site includes the industrial area along the Snohomish River. The site is divided into the Upland Area and the Lowland Area. The Upland Area is in residential, light commercial, and recreational use. The Lowland Area is used for industrial activities.

Ecology discovered the contamination in 1990. A local company notified Ecology that they had found elevated concentrations of arsenic and lead in the soil and groundwater during an environmental assessment of their property. Ecology conducted additional investigations of the surrounding area. The soil at the Everett Smelter site was found to be contaminated with arsenic, lead, cadmium and other metals. Arsenic and lead were present in some areas above state cleanup standards.

Ecology began working with Asarco in 1990 to investigate and clean up the site. A Cleanup Action Plan for the Upland Area was finalized in 1999 after extensive discussion with the Everett community.

Asarco declared bankruptcy in 2005. Ecology filed a claim in the bankruptcy court for Asarco's environmental liability for the Everett Smelter site and other sites in Washington State.

Ecology, working with the Everett Housing Authority, has cleaned up the part of the site with the highest levels of contamination. Cleanup stopped in 2007, however, due to lack of funding.

In December 2009, Ecology received a bankruptcy settlement of \$188 million from Grupo Mexico, a large Mexican mining company that brought Asarco out of bankruptcy. \$44 million of this settlement was set aside for the Everett Smelter site cleanup. \$10 million of this was used to repay past previous cleanup costs on the site.

Ecology developed a ten-year plan to clean up properties within the Everett Smelter site. Ecology will clean up the Upland Area by removing contaminated soil that is accessible to people (not under pavement or buildings). Cleanup involves removing contaminated soil from residential yards, replacing it with clean soil, and restoring the landscaping. The Lowland Area of the site is being cleaned up on a separate schedule.

3 Public Involvement Activities

Ecology will use a variety of methods to keep community residents and stakeholders informed and involved in the Everett Smelter cleanup project. We will continue to try to find new ways to share project information and expand our audience. This plan will be edited and updated as appropriate.

Public involvement activities include the following:

Public Meetings and Hearings

Ecology will hold public meetings at key points in the cleanup process. Each year, Ecology will host one community meeting to report on cleanup work that was completed over the year and what is planned for next year. In addition, Ecology will also hold smaller meetings for the groups of property owners whose property is scheduled for cleanup that year. These meetings will be held before the cleanup begins to orient owners to the process and introduce key staff that will be working on cleanup.

Meetings will be held at locations convenient to the community. If 10 or more people request a public meeting, 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.

- Washington State Department of Ecology, Northwest Regional Office, 3190 160th Avenue SE, Bellevue, WA 98008. Please call (425) 649-7190 for an appointment.
- Ecology's Web Site, http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites_brochure/asarco/es_main.html

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*

ter 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 website 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, 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 to have your address added to or deleted from this mailing list.

Fact Sheets

Ecology will mail fact sheets to inform the community and other interested parties of public meetings and important site activities, including project milestones and status updates.

Brochures and Posters

Ecology has developed brochures and posters that contain information about potential health risks associated with smelter contamination. These materials are free to the community and can be requested by phone (425) 530-5169 or email at Meg.Bommarito@ecy.wa.gov.

Local Information Line

Questions or concerns about the project can be directed to the local information line. This line is a local number and calls are free of charge to Everett residents. An Ecology staff member will respond to your call within 24 hours. This line will be checked on weekends.

Office Hours

During the cleanup each year (typically from May until October), Ecology staff will hold office hours at the Baker Heights Community Center (1401 Poplar, Everett) on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Staff will be available from 9-noon on Tuesday and 1-4 pm on Thursday to share schedule information and answer questions. Ecology will announce office hours at the beginning of each construction season.

Home Visits

Ecology staff will meet with property owners during the year their property is scheduled for cleanup. This will typically happen each fall. Ecology's contractor will call property owners to set up an appointment with Ecology staff. During these meetings, Ecology will go over the results of sampling and the cleanup options for each property.

Site signage

Large signs will be established near construction areas that will hold information about construction status, traffic impacts and health risks. Flyers will contain information about current project status information. These will be updated as needed (weekly or bi-weekly during construction season).

Community Group Meeting Presentations

Ecology staff will present information about the smelter cleanup when requested by the Everett neighborhood associations. Residents can request an Ecology presentation for their neighborhood association or other community groups by calling Meg Bommarito, project manager, at (425) 649-7256 or the local information line at (425) 530-5169.

Ecology Website and Blog

Ecology will maintain a website with site information at http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites_brochure/asarco/es_main.html. This site will be updated regularly and will hold information available for comments and other relevant documents and information.

In addition, Ecology will post blogs on a regular basis with information about the cleanup. Blogs pertaining to the Everett Smelter cleanup can be found at <http://ecologywa.blogspot.com/search/label/Everett%20smelter>.

Newspaper Display Ads

Ecology may place ads in the *Everett Herald* to announce public meetings and other events related to the smelter cleanup.

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 website.

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>

4 Points of Contact

If you have questions or need more information about this plan or the cleanup project, please contact;

General project information or public involvement:

Meg Bommarito, Project Manager
Washington State Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office
3190 160th Avenue SE, Bellevue, WA 98008
Phone: (425) 649-7256
Email: Meg.Bommarito@ecy.wa.gov

Technical or construction questions:

Frank Reinart, Uplands Site Manager
Washington State Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office
Phone: (425) 649 - 7178
Email: Frank.Reinart@ecy.wa.gov

Health concerns:

Washington Department of Health
Toll free 1-877-485-7316

Mike Young
Senior Environmental Health Specialist
Solid and Toxic Waste Program
Environmental Health Division
Snohomish Health District
3020 Rucker Ave.
Everett, WA 98201
Phone: (425) 339.5250
Email: myoung@shd.snohomish.wa.gov

Figure 1. Everett Smelter Cleanup Site Boundary

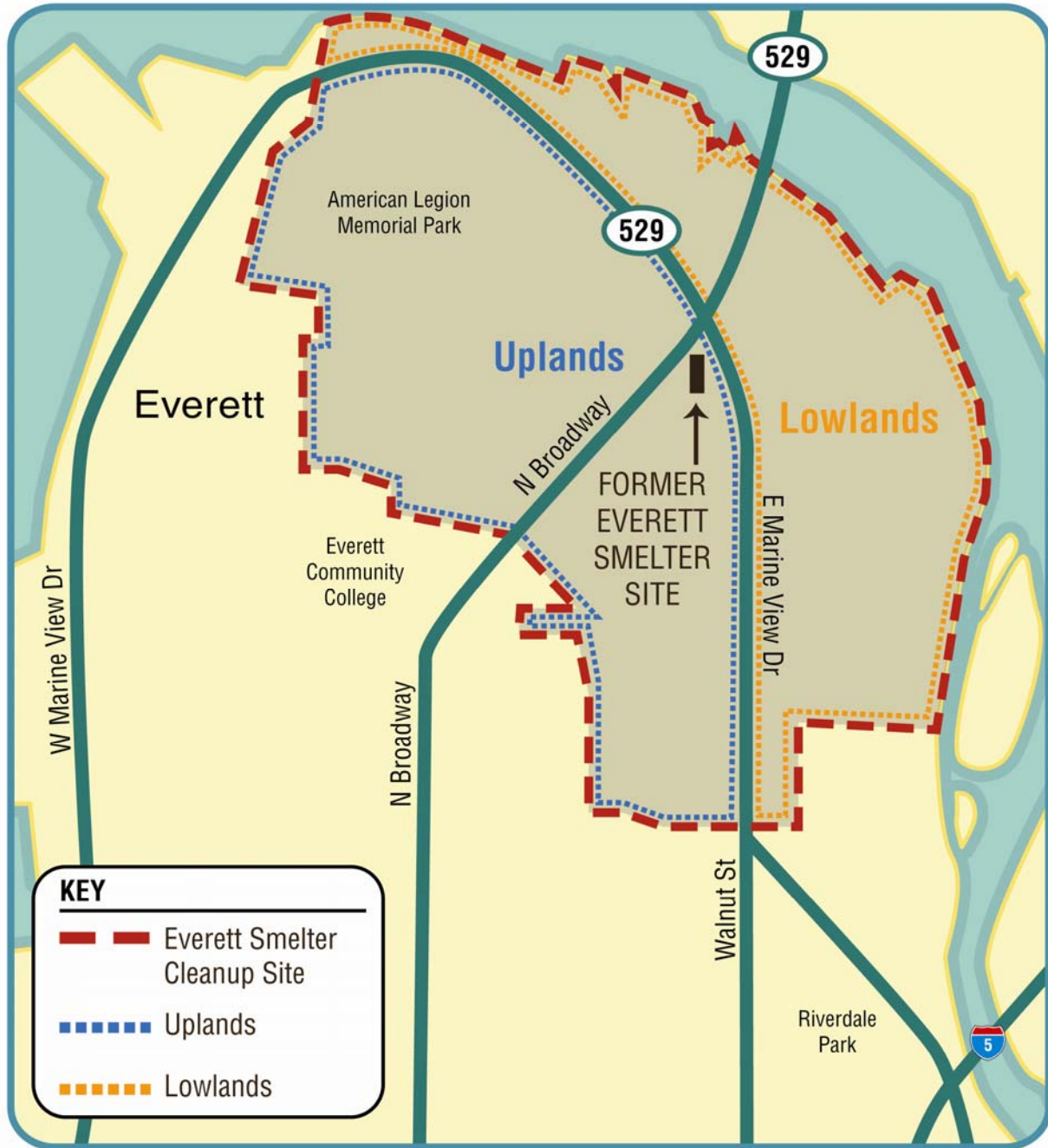


Figure 2. 2011 Planned Cleanup Work. 24 Properties (25 parcels) are scheduled for cleanup in 2011.

