















# Introduction

## Background

The American Plating Company operated a metal electroplating facility adjacent to the Thea Foss Waterway in Tacoma, Washington (Figure 1) beginning in 1976. The site had been occupied by plating companies since 1955. American Plating ceased production at the site in 1986 due to violations of Washington State's dangerous waste regulations<sup>2</sup>.

In 1986 a preliminary site assessment by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concluded that high concentrations of plating waste and contaminated materials were present throughout the site. Based on these and previous findings by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), formal removal of waste materials and site cleanup activities began in June 1987. Additional soil and groundwater investigations were conducted between 1988 and 1994. In 1997, the site was ranked on Ecology's Hazardous Site List as a "2" (1 being high priority relative to other statewide sites; 5 being low).

In 2003 Ecology initiated an interim action cleanup (IAC) of the site. This was done to reduce the potential human health risk from contact with contaminated soils and to reduce the potential ecological risk to aquatic organisms in the waterway from the discharge of contaminated groundwater. Contaminants of concern at the site included cadmium, chromium, copper, nickel, cyanide, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The cleanup included the removal of site buildings, a concrete pad, sumps, an underground storage tank, and soils designated as dangerous waste (Figure 2). Clean fill and top soil were added to excavated areas (SAIC, 2003).

Remediation of any remaining contaminated site soils will be performed under a final cleanup action plan when the Foss Waterway Development Authority develops the site as a public park.

Ecology is currently monitoring the site groundwater until the final cleanup action has been developed. Data provided from this monitoring will help determine the final cleanup remedy.

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<sup>2</sup> The Department of Ecology conducted several site inspections between 1980 and 1985. These inspections showed that discharges, leaks, and spills of brass, cadmium, chromium, copper, nickel, and zinc plating materials had occurred at the site during operations by American Plating and prior site operators.













































