



Region 10

Cleaning up the Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund Site

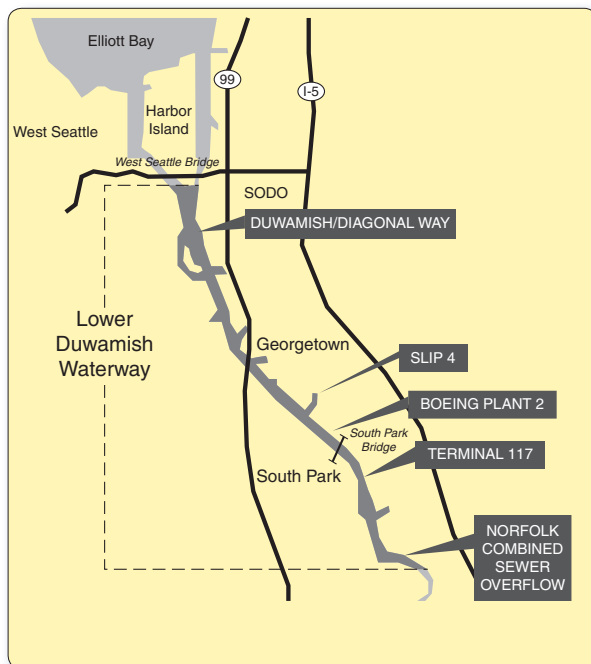


Important plans available for your review and comment

Seattle, Washington

March 2013

Why does the Duwamish need to be cleaned up?



The northernmost portion of the Duwamish River was re-shaped in the early 20th century to create an industrial waterway. In the last century, harmful chemicals have collected in the waterway mud. Those chemicals can threaten the health of people and wildlife. Worms and shellfish live in the mud and pick up harmful chemicals including PCBs, a cancer causing chemical. As fish and other animals eat the worms and shellfish, those harmful chemicals accumulate in their bodies too. All the fish and shellfish, except salmon, have so many harmful chemicals in them that they are not safe to eat. Action must be taken to either remove the mud or cover it so that worms and shellfish are protected from pollution.

The Environmental Protection Agency is leading the in-waterway portion of the cleanup in the Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund site. (Superfund is the common name for EPA’s cleanup program.) The Washington Department of Ecology is leading work to reduce the amount of harmful chemicals that reach the Waterway now and in the future.

EPA’s *Proposed Plan* and Ecology’s *Source Control Strategy* are available for public review along with EPA’s *Environmental Justice Analysis for the Lower Duwamish Waterway Cleanup*. The agencies want to know what you think of these plans. Your comments are important and may result in the agencies changing their plans.

How is a cleanup plan developed?

Many people and businesses are affected by both the pollution and the cleanup. The Proposed Plan attempts to balance community and business needs while providing lasting improvements that benefit both people and wildlife. It is based on extensive scientific studies.

The communities of South Park and Georgetown are on either side of the Duwamish and public parks give people direct access to the Waterway.

Tribes have fished from the Duwamish for centuries and have treaty-guaranteed fishing rights. Wildlife, including salmon, ospreys and otters, live in, along or migrate through the Duwamish. This also is an area with active industrial and port facilities.

EPA is recommending a cleanup plan that the agency believes provides the best balance of effectiveness, certainty, time, and cost. The public comment period is your chance to tell the agencies what you think.

See comment opportunities on back page ⇨

Three steps to a cleaner Duwamish

Step 1

Reduce the amount of pollution entering the Duwamish — now and after the cleanup is finished

Step 2

Clean up the most polluted areas first

COMMENT ON THIS →

Step 3

EPA's Proposed Plan to cover or remove polluted mud in the Duwamish Waterway

Step 1: Continue coordinated efforts among federal, state, and local government agencies to reduce the amount of pollution entering the Duwamish. The Department of Ecology leads this effort. Ecology's "Source Control Strategy" describes future work to reduce pollution in the Duwamish. This work is called "source control" and it is critical for preventing or reducing the amount of new pollution entering the Duwamish after the cleanup. Ecology welcomes comments on the Strategy during this public comment period.

Step 2: Clean up the most polluted areas — first. Contaminated mud at two early action areas (Boeing Plant 2/Jorgensen Forge, and Terminal 117) will be cleaned up in the next two years. Duwamish Diagonal Way, Norfolk Combined Sewer Overflow and Slip 4 sites already have been cleaned up.

➤ *This is EPA's recommendation in the Proposed Plan:*

Step 3: Actively remove or cover 156 acres of polluted mud. Clean silt flowing from the Green River into the Duwamish will cover another 256 acres that have lower levels of pollution.

Through the coordinated work of EPA, Ecology and local agencies, contamination in the Lower Duwamish Waterway will be greatly reduced.

Over time, fewer pollutants will be stored in the bodies of the worms, shellfish, fish and other animals. Eventually, the wildlife in the Duwamish will be healthier and the fish and shellfish are likely to be safe enough for people to eat in small amounts. Until that time, follow the Department of Health's recommendations.

The proposed cleanup — dredging and capping — will take about 7 years to complete and cost about 305 million dollars. Additional protection will be provided by silt from the Green River. It will take an estimated 10 additional years for this clean silt to cover over the remaining pollution.

The *Environmental Justice Analysis* describes how Duwamish pollution affects the people living near the river as well as the impacts of the cleanup on those communities. It includes recommendations for reducing the impacts of the cleanup on the communities already affected because they live next to a Superfund site.

For more information on the environmental justice issues at this site, visit

🔗 <http://www.epa.gov/region10/duwamish.html> or **pick up a fact sheet** at the South Park Public Library, 8604 8th Avenue South.

For More Information

Environmental Protection Agency

www.epa.gov/region10/duwamish.html

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Washington Department of Ecology

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites_brochure/lower_duwamish/lower_duwamish_hp.html

Meg Bommarito

425-649-7256

Meg.Bommarito@ecy.wa.gov

Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition

—the community advisory group for this site

www.duwamishcleanup.org

(206) 954-0218

See important documents for this site at:

Seattle Public Library - South Park Branch

8604 Eighth Avenue South, at South Cloverdale St.
Seattle, WA 98108

206-615-1688 (please call for hours of operation)

EPA Region 10 Superfund Records Center

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900, ECL-076
Seattle, WA 98101

206-553-4494 (please call for an appointment)

Washington State Department of Ecology

Northwest Regional Office -Public Records Office
3190 160th Avenue S.E.

Bellevue, WA 98008

425-649-7190 (please call for an appointment)

What documents are available for public review?

Proposed Plan

EPA's recommendation for how to clean up the Lower Duwamish Waterway pollution.

Environmental Justice Analysis

EPA's analysis of the possible impacts of the cleanup options on the local communities.

Source Control Strategy

Washington State Department of Ecology's plan for reducing sources of pollution and how government agencies will coordinate this work.

Do you eat fish from the Lower Duwamish?

The main way people are exposed to the chemicals in the Duwamish River is by eating the seafood that live in the river year round. **Don't eat resident fish, shellfish or crab from the river.**



Salmon are a healthy choice because they migrate up and down the river. They spend most of their lives in the ocean. Everyone can safely eat 2 to 3 meals a week of coho, chum, pink, and sockeye salmon.

Limit Chinook salmon to 1 (one) meal a week and resident Blackmouth Chinook salmon (caught in the winter) to 2 meals a month.

Learn more: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/fish>

Public Comment Period Extended February 28 – June 13, 2013

The original 60 day comment period has been extended in response to a request.

Written Comments

You can provide written comments at any time during the public comment period on the *Proposed Plan*, the *Environmental Justice Analysis*, and the *Source Control Strategy*.

🌐 **Web:** www.resolve.org/site-ldpc

📧 **Email:** ldpc@resolve.org

📠 **Fax:** 206-420-5999

✉ **Mail letters to:** Allison Hiltner
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 6th Ave. Suite 900, ECL-111
Seattle, WA 98101

Spoken Comments

Give your comments in person at these meetings:

Tuesday, April 30, 2013

South Seattle Community College: Georgetown
6737 Corson Ave. S, Seattle

Spanish interpretation available

- 3:30 p.m. – open house
- 4:00 – presentation and questions
- 4:45 – oral comments
- 6:00 – open house
- 6:30 – repeat presentation and questions
- 7:15 – oral comments

Spoken Comments *Continued*

Wednesday, May 15

South Park Community Center
8319 8th Ave. S, Seattle

*This meeting will be held entirely in Spanish.
English interpretation will be available.*

- 5:30 p.m. – presentation
- 6:30 – oral comments taken in Spanish.
English interpretation available

Wednesday, May 29

Town Hall, 1119 8th Ave. Seattle

Spanish interpretation available

- 2:00 p.m. – open house
- 2:30 – presentation and questions
- 3:30 – oral comments
- 6:00 – open house
- 6:30 – repeat presentation and questions
- 7:30 – oral comments

The EPA provides reasonable accommodation to people with disabilities on a case-by-case basis. If you need a reasonable accommodation for a public meeting (such as information in Braille format or large print or interpretation services), please notify Renée Dagseth at ☎ 206-553-1889 or email 📧 dagseth.renee@epa.gov

📠 TDD or TTY users, please call 1-800-877-8339 and give the operator Renée's phone number.