

Proposed legal agreement ready for public review

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the Port of Bellingham (Port) are entering into a legal agreement, called an agreed order, to investigate contamination at the Westman Marine site in Blaine. The draft agreed order is the first step in the process that will require the Port to conduct a cleanup at the site, with Ecology oversight.

The legal agreement will require the port to:

- Investigate contamination at the site (remedial investigation)
- Analyze possible cleanup options (feasibility study)
- Develop a draft cleanup plan which will describe the selected cleanup method.

Ecology invites the public to review the proposed agreed order and a public participation plan, and submit comments from March 6 through April 5, 2013. (See right for details). The public participation plan describes how Ecology will inform and involve the public in the cleanup process.

Site history, location and contaminants

The Westman Marine Site is located in the southeastern portion of the Blaine Harbor industrial area in Blaine, Washington. All or most of the site is owned by the Port. Prior to 1949, the aquatic lands were dredged to create a small boat harbor and marina. The upland industrial area was also created at that time and using hydraulic fill with timber bulkheads along the shoreline.

Between 1961 and 1969, a dock was constructed and the area where the current travel lift exists was dredged, and a marine railway was constructed at the Site in about 1981 to allow the upland maintenance and repair of larger vessels. The marina was expanded several times since its original construction, but the footprint of the upland industrial area has remained the same.

Boatyard/shipyard operations started with Berg Shipbuilding Company in 1949. The Site has been leased by several tenants since that time, including Westman Marine from 1989 to 2011. The Site is currently leased by Walsh Marine.

Public Comment Period

Comments accepted:

March 6 – April 5, 2013

**Submit comments and technical
questions to:**

Jing Liu, Site Manager
WA Department of Ecology
3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452
Phone: 425-649-4310
Email: Jing.Liu@ecy.wa.gov

**Document at these review
locations:**

Department of Ecology
Bellingham Field office
1440 10th St., Suite 102
Bellingham, WA
By appointment. Call Linsay Albin at
360-715-5200.

Bellingham Public Library
210 Central Avenue.
Bellingham, WA
Phone: 360-778-7323
Hours: Mon.-Tues. 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Wed.– Sat. 10 a.m.- 6 p.m.
Sun. closed.

Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office
3190 160th Ave. SE
Bellevue, WA
By appointment. Call Sally Perkins:
425-649-7190

**Ecology's Westman Marine Site
web page:**

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=2205>

Facility Site ID: #66519819
Cleanup Site ID: #2205

Known environmental conditions

The most recent environmental investigations at the Site were conducted by the Port in 2001. Surface sediment samples were collected and exceeded the state sediment screening level used for bulk tributyltin. Concentrations of copper were also detected above the sediment screening level in the surface sediment sample closest to the marine railway and travel lift piers.

Deeper sediment quality has not yet been determined at the Site. Ecology will likely require the Port take more samples at a depth because of the Port's future redevelopment plans. These redevelopment plans will likely require removal of the marine railway and dredging the associated aquatic area.

Upland soil and groundwater quality have also not yet been determined. Westman Marine was listed as a small quantity generator of hazardous material during its operations. Ecology visited the site several times in the 1990s and found some evidence of minor spills on the ground surface.

While there is no existing data for the site uplands, it is anticipated that there are at least some localized areas of contaminated soil. Contamination in soil at boatyards often includes heavy metals, petroleum hydrocarbons and possibly polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). At many boatyard sites, soil contamination is limited to near-surface soil and groundwater is largely unaffected.

Designing a plan for cleanup

When this proposed agreed order is finalized, it will require the Port to conduct a remedial

investigation (RI) to determine the nature and scope of the contamination at the Site. It will then prepare a feasibility study (FS) report, to determine the best alternatives for a cleanup. The Port will also conduct additional interim cleanup actions if required or agreed to by Ecology. The Port will use the RI and FS as a basis to prepare a Draft Cleanup Action Plan (DCAP). The Port and Ecology will then select the best cleanup solutions for the Site.

Public comment invited

You are invited to:

- **Review** the proposed agreed order and the Public Participation Plan.
- **Send** your comments to Ecology (address on page 1). **Written comments will be accepted March 6 – April 5, 2013.**
- To **get more detailed information**, review the supporting documents at the locations listed in on Page 1.

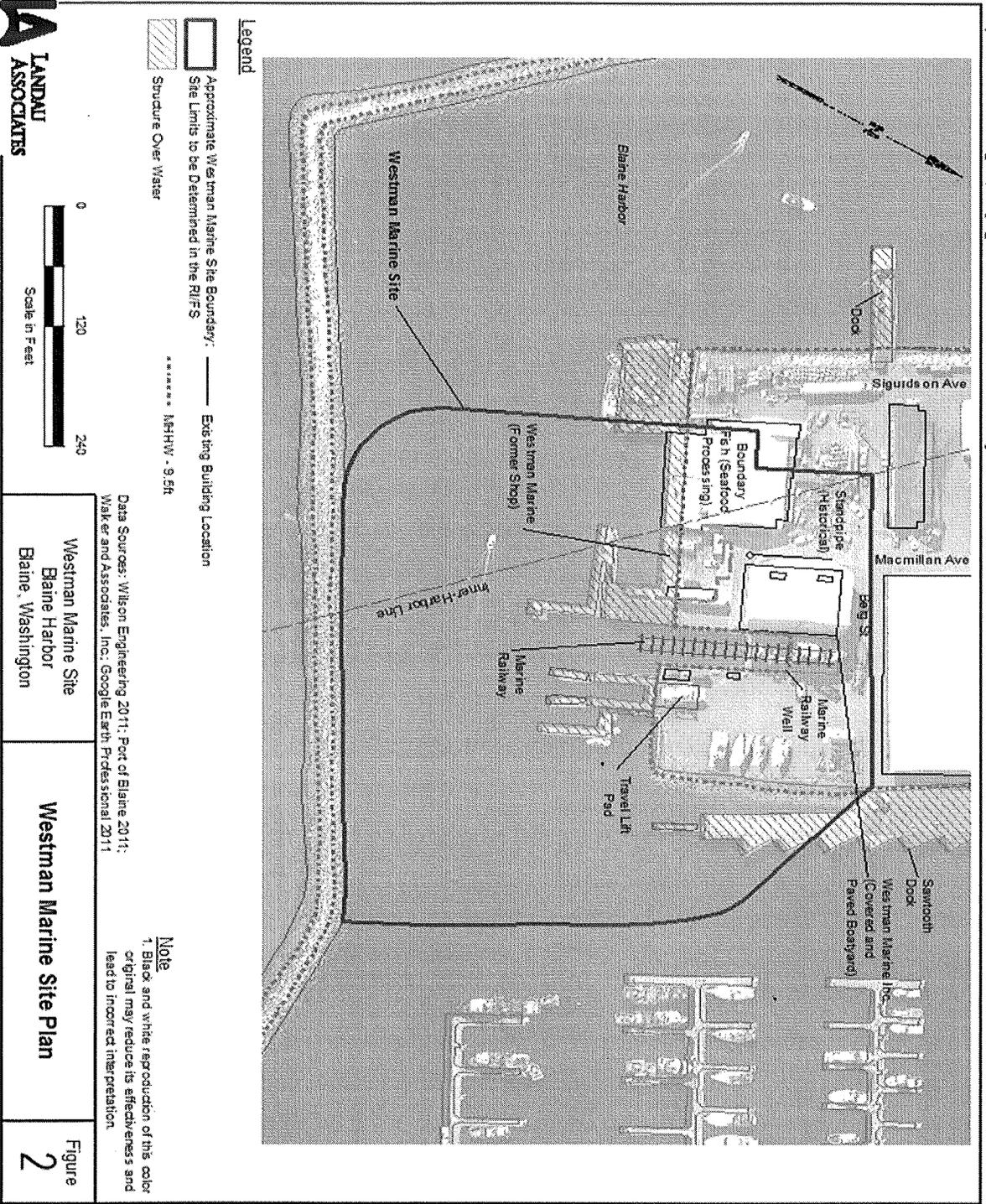
What happens next?

Once the public comment period ends, Ecology will review and consider all comments. The proposed agreed order may be modified based upon your comments. If there are significant changes, Ecology will hold a second 30 day comment period and ask for public comments.

Why this cleanup matters

Cleanup of the Westman Marine site is necessary to protect people, plants, birds and other life from exposure to harmful levels of contamination, based upon the intended uses of the site. All phases of the cleanup will be conducted under the Model Toxics Control Act, passed by citizen initiative in 1988 and enacted in 1989.

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Westman Marine Site
Blaine Harbor
Blaine, Washington

Westman Marine Site Plan

Figure 2



3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452

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Westman Marine, Blaine, WA

Ecology seeks public comment on a proposed agreed order

Public comment period: March 6 – April 5, 2013

Facility Site ID #: 66519819

Help with other formats?

To ask about obtaining this document in a version for the visually impaired, call Brad Petrovich at Ecology, 425-533-5537.

Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service.

Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

Información en español: El Departamento de Ecología (Ecología) del Estado de Washington está aceptando comentarios en un documento legal, llamado una orden acordada, entre el Puerto de Bellingham y Ecología. Este documento describiría un estudio ambiental y de limpieza para el sitio de “Westman Marine.” Ecología aceptará los comentarios desde el 6 de marzo hasta el 5 de abril de 2013. Favor de mandar sus comentarios por correo a Jing Liu, Department of Ecology, 3190 160th Avenue SE, Bellevue, WA 98008-5452.

Para más información en español, favor de contactar a Gregorio Bohn a 509-454-4174 o por correo electrónico a gboh461@ecy.wa.gov. Refiere al sitio de “Westman Marine.”
