

## Olympia Brewery transformer spill lake sediment cleanup Summer 2019

On February 25, 2019, Ecology received a report of a leaking electrical transformer at the former Olympia Brewery in Tumwater. Transformer oil with PCBs drained into the Deschutes River and Capitol Lake. We cleaned up oil from the water's surface and shoreline. We also analyzed samples of the lake bottom to identify areas with spilled oil and PCBs. Here's how we're removing the contamination.

### Process

1. A mesh barrier keeps fish and wildlife from entering areas where the divers are working. The mesh allows water, but not sediments, to pass through.
2. In contaminated areas, divers vacuum up the top layer of lake sediments. Divers access contaminated areas from the shoreline wearing protective diving suits.
3. The contaminated lake sediments removed by divers are pumped into large settling tanks to allow the sediments to separate from the water.
4. The contaminated sediments will be taken off site by tank truck for proper disposal at a landfill. The water will be filtered.



ABOVE: Sediment removal areas, marked in yellow.  
Map: Google Earth.

For updates, visit [www.ecology.wa.gov/spill-incident/OlyBrewery](http://www.ecology.wa.gov/spill-incident/OlyBrewery).

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