Construction Update for Cleanup at the B&L Woodwaste Site

Background

The B& L Woodwaste landfill received woodwaste from the mid 1970s until the early 1980s. The waste, which came from log sort yards in Commencement Bay, was contaminated with soil and Asarco slag. The Asarco slag (a byproduct of smelting operations) leached arsenic into the soils and groundwater.

In 1982, the Commencement Bay Nearshore/Tideflats area, including Hylebos Waterway and the B&L Woodwaste site, were added to Environmental Protection Agency's National Priorities List (Superfund site list). The B&L Woodwaste site, which includes the landfill and surrounding ditches and wetlands, was named as a source of arsenic.

Ecology is managing cleanup activities at the site with funding from the B&L Custodial Trust (trust). During bankruptcy proceedings, Asarco agreed to fund the majority of site cleanup. Murray Pacific and Louisiana Pacific also agreed to contribute funding. Some cleanup activities have already taken place (see page 2).

Q: What is happening now?

A: Ecology is now directing the work of the trust's contractors to begin the second phase of the cleanup. Phase 2 will include treating arsenic-contaminated groundwater under and near the landfill (see map on page 3). The trust will:

- Construct a building and treatment system to remove contamination from groundwater.
- Install wells and pipes to remove contaminated groundwater from under and around the landfill and wetland area.
- Remove and treat groundwater from highly-contaminated areas. Contaminated water will be cleaned to meet groundwater quality standards.
- Return treated water to the north stormwater pond. From there clean water will flow to drainage ditches and Hylebos Creek.
- Remove contaminated sediments from the drainage ditches surrounding the landfill.
- Test a system for treating contaminated water in the wetlands. This system will be used after the wetlands have been cleaned up as much as possible by the groundwater treatment system.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Site Cleanup

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Public Involvement

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Site Document Locations

Ecology's Cleanup website

https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=2297

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FS ID #1203

Ecology will take responsibility for operating the groundwater treatment system after the trust's contractors have operated it successfully for one year.

Q: How will this affect me?

A: You may notice some work noise from 7 am - 7 pm from June through December this year. There may also be small amounts of dust coming off the site and a small increase in traffic around the site. Ecology will make every effort to minimize impact to homes and businesses near the site.

The walking trail next to the site will be open during most of the construction and a fence will prevent access to the landfill itself, where most of the work is being done. People using the trails during the construction period may notice some noise and possibly a small amount of dust. The trail will be closed for several days in either August or September. Closure dates will be posted at the site and on Ecology's website and blog closer to that time.

Plants will be planted around the groundwater treatment building this fall. The treatment system will be very quiet once it is operating.

Q: How long will this take?

A: Work to construct the groundwater treatment building and install wells and pipes for the system will occur from June through September. To help protect the environment, most of the earth work will occur during the dry season (before mid-October).

The groundwater treatment system is designed to pump groundwater from within the landfill indefinitely. Pumping and treating groundwater from the wetland area is expected to continue for around 11 years.

Q: What actions have already been taken at the site to clean up contamination?

A: Several cleanup actions were taken on the site from 1992 to present. These include:

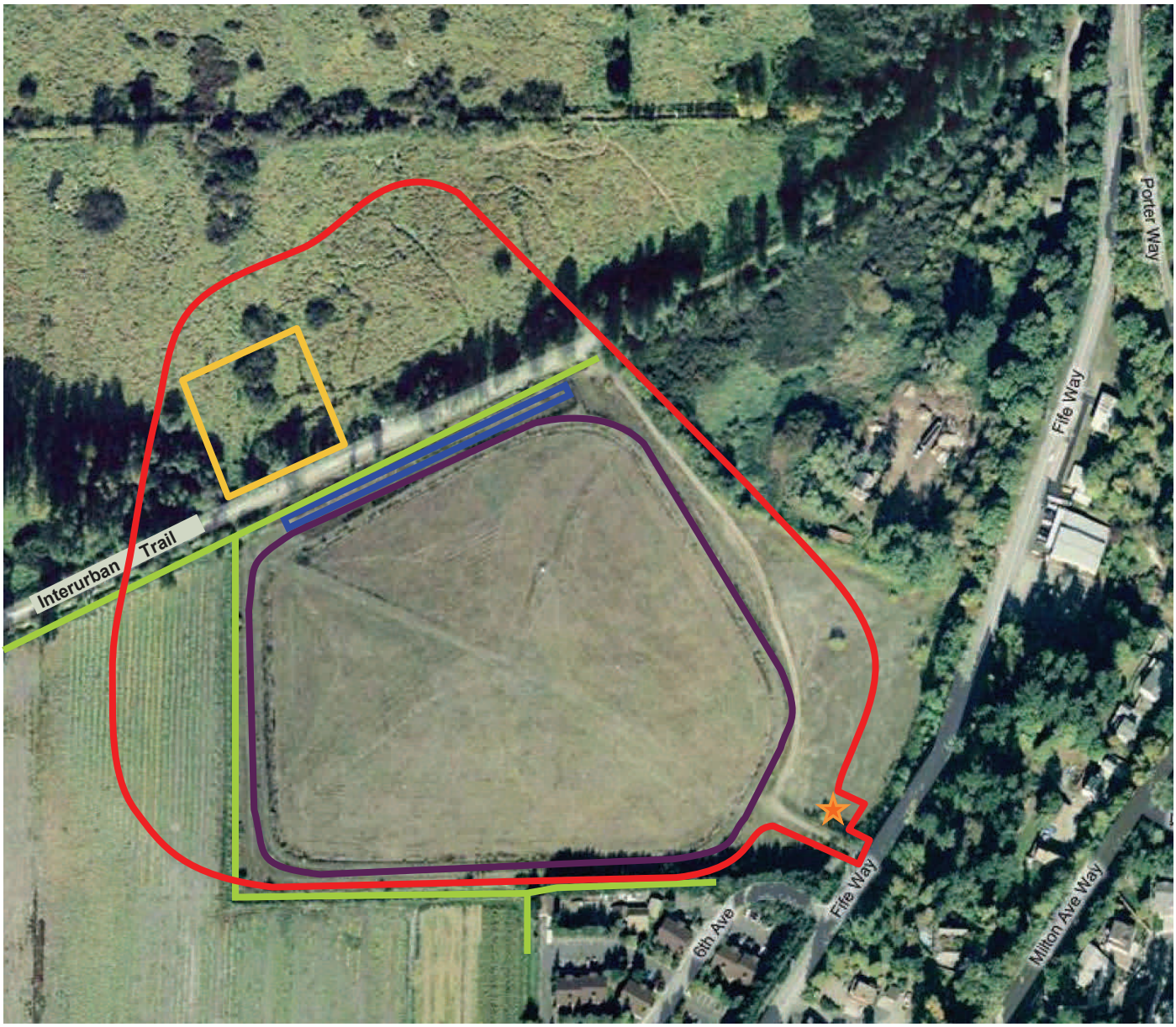
- Consolidating the original landfill into the current waste pile.
- Installing a multi-layer capping system to cover the waste pile. The cap is designed to prevent rain from flushing metals and contaminated groundwater out of the landfill.
- Installing groundwater monitoring wells.
- Installing an underground barrier system to keep contaminated groundwater from leaving the landfill.
- Creating infiltration ponds at the western and northwestern sides of the site to reroute groundwater and stormwater around the landfill and direct stormwater runoff from the landfill.
- Treating contaminated groundwater in the wetlands to prevent arsenic from moving further towards Hylebos Creek.

Q: How can I find out more about the site history and planned cleanup?

A: For more information about the site history, visit Ecology's website or contact Diana Smith (see box on page 1) for older fact sheets. You can also contact Dom Reale (see box on page 1) for technical questions and additional information about site cleanup.

Approximate Phase 2 Cleanup Work Locations

- **Cleanup phase 2 work area**. Pipes and wells will be installed in this area.
- **Groundwater treatment system building**
- **North stormwater pond**
- **Drainage ditches**
- **Test system for treating wetlands groundwater**
- **Landfill**—already capped and surrounded by barrier wall



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B&L Woodwaste
Pierce County, WA

Construction Update for Cleanup Actions at the B&L Woodwaste Site

Facility Site ID #1203

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Why Cleanup Matters

The B&L Woodwaste site, formerly a landfill, was contaminated with arsenic from Asarco slag. Arsenic has leached into soil and groundwater around the site. It has also been found in ditches surrounding the landfill and wetland area. This posed a threat to human health and the environment, especially nearby wetlands and Hylebos Waterway.

To be removed from the mailing list:

Contact Diana Smith, Public Involvement Coordinator, at Diana.Smith@ecy.wa.gov or (360) 407-6255.