

Lake Washington Regional Background



Photo courtesy of Dawne Gardiska

Why It Matters

Cleaning up contaminated sediment is an important step to protect human health and state's valuable natural resources, such as fish and shellfish.

The **Sediment Management Standards (SMS) rule** WAC 173-204 is used to manage environmental cleanup work, sediment dredging, and sources of sediment contamination.

The SMS rule, which includes regional background, will help make a cleanup that protects human health and the environment more effective and efficient.

A **technical workshop** will be held to discuss the draft report with interested stakeholders. The workshop goals are to 1) present the study details 2) answer questions 3) discuss stakeholder ideas on how to improve the report.

Thursday, October 20, 2016

Doric Hall in Fremont

619 N 36th Street Seattle, WA

4 PM—6 PM

For more information go to this web link: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/smu/lakeWa/reg-bg-study.html>

Ecology Setting Regional Background for the Lake Washington Area in Seattle - Report Available for Comment

Ecology has completed a study that evaluated existing data from Lake Washington, Union Bay, the Montlake Cut, and Portage Bay to set regional background for sediment. This Lake Washington area data was used for this study because it is less impacted by contamination and sources than, for example, Lake Union. Regional background established in this study can be used for cleanup in Lake Washington, Lake Union, Lake Sammamish, and other urban freshwater lakes.

On February 22, 2013, Ecology adopted changes to the SMS rule. A key provision in the SMS rule is **regional background**. This includes concentrations of bioaccumulative chemicals in sediment primarily from diffuse sources such as stormwater and deposits from the air. These are common chemicals that are found almost everywhere in the environment and concentrate up the food chain. They can include carcinogenic polycyclic hydrocarbons (cPAHs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and metals. Regional background varies between regions depending on the level of urbanization.

Once established, regional background can help:

- Determine the upper limit for sediment cleanup levels.
- Inform cleanup decisions, such as cleanup site boundaries and identifying chemicals of concern.
- Identify previously unknown areas of sediment contamination that may need further investigation or cleanup.

A draft report is now available for review and comment, due by Friday, October 14, 2016. The draft report includes 1) a proposed regional background value for cPAHs and 2) guidelines on how to use existing data to establish regional background.



Send comments on the draft report by October 14, 2016 to:

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Additional Information

Documents for each regional background study Ecology has completed are available by visiting our websites (see below). For a CD copy of documents, contact Chance Asher (contact information in side bar).

Lake Washington Area: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/smu/lakeWa/reg-bg-study.html>

Port Gardner Bay: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites_brochure/psi/everett/pg-sed.html

North Olympic Peninsula: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites_brochure/portAngelesHarborSed/background.html

Bellingham Bay: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites_brochure/blhm_bay/study.html

SMS rule WAC 173-204: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/smu/sed_standards.htm

Sediment Cleanup User's Manual: <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/1209057.html>

Special accommodations

To request ADA accommodation for disabilities, call Ecology at (360) 407-7170, Relay Service 711, or TTY at 877-833-6341.

