

RODERICK TIMBER



Consent Decree for Cleanup Proposed

The Washington Department of Ecology proposes, under terms of the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA, Chapter 70.105D RCW), a consent decree with the City of Aberdeen and the Grays Harbor Historical Seaport Authority to clean up petroleum- and metals-contaminated soil, groundwater, surface water, and ditch sediment at the Roderick Timber site. A consent decree is a legal document, approved and issued by a court, formalizing an agreement between Ecology and potentially liable persons (PLP's). This agreement ensures that proposed activities are conducted in a timely fashion, in accordance with MTCA and other applicable laws and regulations. As part of the consent decree, a draft cleanup action plan describing the site cleanup alternatives has been prepared.

In addition, Ecology is issuing a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA, Chapter 197-11 WAC) determination of non-significance (DNS) for the cleanup action proposed in the cleanup action plan. After review of the completed checklist and other information on file, Ecology (as SEPA lead agency) has determined that this proposal will not have a probable adverse impact on the environment. This action will benefit the environment by diminishing the release of toxic chemicals from the site.

Your comments on the proposed consent decree, cleanup action plan (as an exhibit of the consent decree), remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS), and SEPA DNS are welcome through **June 27, 2003**. The public is also invited to a meeting on **June 12, 2003** to discuss the proposal, ask questions, and offer comments or concerns. The meeting will be limited to issues covered by this consent decree only. The box to the right provides information about where to review the proposed consent decree, where to submit comments, and details about the public meeting.

Site Background

The 295-acre Roderick Timber site is a former truck maintenance shop and log sort yard located at 712 Hagara Street in Junction City, near Aberdeen. The site is in the Chehalis River floodplain and was originally all wetlands. Beginning in the 1920s, a large portion of the property was used as a landfill for dredge spoils (from dredging along the Chehalis River), wood waste, and garbage from the City of Aberdeen between about 1958 and 1968. Phillip Roderick owned the site from the mid-1970s until 1988 when he went bankrupt. The property then defaulted to Grays Harbor County. Grays Harbor Historical Seaport Authority bought 214

May 2003

FACT SHEET

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PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON CONSENT DECREE, CLEANUP ACTION PLAN, RI/FS, SEPA DNS:

May 27, 2003 to June 27, 2003

Comments and requests for updates should be directed to Mr. Dom Reale, Site Manager, at the Ecology address listed above or at (360) 407-6266.

PUBLIC HEARING:

June 12, 2003, 7 - 9 p.m.
Aberdeen City Hall
200 East Market Street, 3rd floor
(360) 537-3238

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

The draft documents can be reviewed at the following locations:

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/sites_information.html
then click on the county

Ecology Southwest Regional Office
address listed above

Aberdeen Library
121 East Market Street
Aberdeen, WA 98520-5292
(360) 533-2360

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Continued on Page 2

If you have special accommodation needs, please call (360) 407-6300, (360) 407-6306 (TDD), 711, or 1-800-833-6388 (TTY).

acres of the property in 1998 and the Grays Harbor Audubon Society owns 80 acres at the southern end. The Grays Harbor Historical Seaport Authority uses the large metal building in the former maintenance area to build wooden ships, and train students in shipbuilding and woodworking. Sierra Pacific Lumber Company owns the western portion of the property (across Hagara Street), which was also formerly owned by Phillip Roderick. This property, now listed as the Sierra Pacific site, is being cleaned up through an independent (without Ecology oversight) action.

Phillip Roderick disposed of wood waste from his former log yard across Hagara Street at the Roderick Timber site. He operated a truck maintenance yard which included gasoline and diesel underground storage tanks, a truck wash area, a solvent cleaning station as well as a waste oil tank. Neighbors reported a tar pit and an oily sludge disposal pit on the property.

In July 1987, during a salvage operation, DePaul Timber Company spilled a solvent tank which contained phenols and dichlorobenzene. Ecology cleanup contractors removed and disposed of solvent-contaminated soil, disposed of drums of hazardous waste and sludge, removed the waste oil tank, removed the contents of the underground storage tanks, and fenced off the maintenance area.

Two site investigations in 1988 and 1989 were conducted by potential purchasers. Groundwater wells were installed and sampled. Soil, ditch sediments, and ditch surface water were also sampled. Ecology conducted a site hazard assessment in March 1991 to determine the environmental or human health threats, and to evaluate the site's relative risk to other sites statewide. The Roderick Timber site was ranked as a one (one being the greatest risk; five being the

lowest) and placed on the Hazardous Sites List. At the time the site was ranked on the list, it was compared to relatively few sites. The site received its score based on the high toxicity level of the spilled solvent and its impact on surface water. In the late 1990s, the City of Aberdeen received two EPA brownfields grants to conduct a remedial investigation to determine the nature, extent, and magnitude of site contamination. This included sampling soil, groundwater, surface water, and sediment. Some of these samples exceeded cleanup standards for petroleum hydrocarbons, carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), arsenic, lead, and chromium. No large area of contamination or contaminated groundwater was discovered. Wetlands to the south and east do not appear to be affected. Ditches on the north and west site boundaries have some metals and petroleum contamination in surface water and sediment. These ditches discharge surface water to the Chehalis River. Some of these affected ditches are off-site and in a residential area. Although there is groundwater contamination, all residents are on city water. Based on the results of the remedial investigation, a feasibility study was prepared to evaluate site cleanup alternatives.

What Is Being Done?

The proposed consent decree, including the cleanup action plan, requires the City of Aberdeen and the Grays Harbor Historical Seaport Authority to take the following actions:

- ▶ excavate contaminated ditch surface sediment and soil;
- ▶ cover the fenced area with gravel;
- ▶ construct a *bio-swale* (specially-engineered treatment ditch) and install a groundwater interception trench to route

contaminated groundwater to the bio-swale and away from neighborhood ditches;

- ▶ cap the garbage with soil and vegetation;
- ▶ plant, where needed, around the landfill perimeter with vegetation that can draw up metals from soil;
- ▶ monitor groundwater and bio-swale surface water to verify the effectiveness of the cleanup action;
- ▶ place deed restrictions to ensure that future owners will not disturb the cap and will continue maintaining elements of the cleanup.

Earlier this year, the removal of the underground storage tanks, and cleanup of soil and groundwater around the underground storage tanks and former truck parking/washing area using *bioremediation* (treatment of pollution using microorganisms that break down the contaminants) were completed as an interim action. Ecology will oversee the project to ensure that all terms of the consent decree are satisfied.

What Happens Next?

Public comment on the proposed consent decree, cleanup action plan, and remedial investigation/feasibility study will be considered and the consent decree will be modified, if necessary. The decree will be finalized by being entered in court and final cleanup work will begin. The work for the cleanup should be completed by September 2004. Further formal public comment opportunities will occur after the cleanup is completed.

Ecology Wants Your Comments!

You may review and comment on the proposed consent decree, cleanup action

Continued from Page 2

plan, RI/FS, and SEPA DNS through **June 27, 2003**. The public comment period presents a chance to have your ideas and comments heard by Ecology. A public meeting is being held on **June 12, 2003**. This will be a chance to learn about the site and proposed consent decree, and to state your comments or concerns. The box on page one provides details about where the documents can be found and how to submit comments. To review more detailed site documents than those in the information repositories, call Ecology's Southwest Regional Office records center

at (360) 407-6365 to schedule an appointment.

Please submit your comments to Dom Reale, Site Manager at the Ecology address listed in the box on page one. Ecology will review and respond to all comments received, and may revise the consent decree. Updates of site activities will be provided to those who submit comments or request to be placed on the site mailing list. (If you received this fact sheet directly from Ecology, you are already on the site mailing list.)

