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**Dellestra Point Prospect  
Pre-CERCLIS Screening Trip Report  
Whatcom County, Washington  
TDD: 03-01-0002**

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Contract: 68-S0-01-01  
September 2004

Region 10

***START-2***

Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team

Submitted To: Joanne LaBaw, Task Monitor  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, Washington 98101

**TRIP REPORT**

DATE: September 16, 2004  
TO: Joanne LaBaw, Task Monitor, EPA, Mail Stop ECL-115  
FROM: Mark Longtine, Project Manager, E & E, Seattle, WA  
SUBJ: Dellestra Point Prospect Pre-CERCLIS Screening  
REF: Contract No. 68-S0-01-01, Technical Direction Document No. 03-01-0002

Place Visited:

Site Name: Dellestra Point Prospect  
CERCLIS ID No.: Not applicable  
Location: Whatcom County, Washington  
Latitude: Not known  
Longitude: Not known  
Legal Description: Section 25, Township 38 North, Range 3 East, Willamette Meridian  
Congressional District: Washington  
Site Owner: Not known  
Site Contact: Not known

Purpose of Trip:

Site reconnaissance visit for pre-Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) screening.

Persons Responding:

Mark Longtine, Ecology and Environment, Inc., Seattle, Washington.  
Joanne LaBaw, United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Seattle, Washington  
Deborah Neal, EPA, Seattle, Washington

Site Owners:

The location of the site was not determined; therefore, site owners were not identified.

Date of Trip:

May 15, 2003

**BACKGROUND**

A pre-CERCLIS screening was performed at the Dellestra Point Prospect, located in Whatcom County, Washington. The EPA is conducting preliminary assessments (PAs) and pre-CERCLIS screenings at several abandoned coal mines in the Bellingham/Lake Whatcom area, Washington. The purpose of the PAs and pre-CERCLIS screenings is to determine whether the mines pose a threat to public health or the environment, and to determine whether environmental cleanup is needed. The EPA is conducting the PAs and pre-CERCLIS screenings in response to a citizens' petition filed by two environmental groups in Bellingham, the Environmental Exposure Network and the Clean Water Alliance. These groups contend the mines may contain pollutants, such as mercury and heavy metals.

**SITE DESCRIPTION/OWNERSHIP HISTORY**

Prospecting for coal in the area referred to as Dellestra Point has been reported by several authors (Jenkins 1923; Moore 1973; Vonheeder 1975; Batchelor 1982). This area was previously referred to as Long Point (USGS 1918; Jenkins 1923). The prospect at Long Point is described as lying "between two points of land which extend as promontories into Lake Whatcom on its north shore" in the southeast ¼, southwest ¼, Section 25, Township 38 North, Range 3 East (Jenkins 1923). The approximate location of the Dellestra Point Prospect is illustrated in Figure 1. It is reported that the coal "bed is said to be several feet wide and, judging from fragments thrown out on the surface, appears to contain a very good grade of coal" (Jenkins 1923). It was observed in 1923 that the area was "prospected years ago and is now nearly covered with debris" (Jenkins 1923). As of 1975, it was observed that "there are few if any indications that [the Long Point Prospect] produced coal on a commercial-volume basis" (Vonheeder 1975).

Available historical documents do not indicate who owned the prospected land. Despite considerable effort, the physical location of the prospect could not be determined (see "START-2 ACTIONS" section below). For these reasons, the ownership history of the property on which the prospecting occurred could not be determined.

## **SITE OPERATIONS AND WASTE CHARACTERISTICS**

No information has been located on the precise location or dates of prospecting reported at Dellestra Point. No information on the operations at the prospect is available. Based upon Jenkins' (1923) observations, it is likely that the prospecting occurred well prior to 1923, and that the prospect workings were small in size. As of 1975, it was noted that both Long Point and nearby Strawberry Point were "presently dotted with beach homes; observable geology today is likely restricted to beach and near-shore areas" (Vonheeder 1975).

## **START-2 ACTIONS**

To obtain information about coal mining in the Bellingham/Lake Whatcom area, including the area of the Dellestra Point Prospect, START-2 reviewed numerous reports, maps, and other documents. In addition, START-2 conducted interviews with representatives of federal, state, and local agencies; representatives of academic institutions; and owners or representatives of properties in the vicinity of the former coal mining activities. A list of these data sources for the Bellingham/Lake Whatcom Coal Mines PA/pre-CERCLIS screening project is provided in Appendix A.

Little documentation or other information regarding the Dellestra Point Prospect was obtained as a result of the data gathering efforts. All pertinent information gathered has been incorporated into this trip report, and was used to guide efforts to physically locate the prospect during a site reconnaissance visit. On May 15, 2003, START-2 and representatives from the EPA visited the area in the suspected vicinity of the Dellestra Point Prospect. The area was observed to be developed for residential use. No evidence of coal mining was noted.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

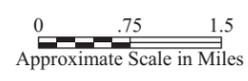
Available historical information indicates that coal mining activities at Dellestra Point were limited to prospecting. No evidence of coal mining activities were noted during the May 15, 2003, site visit. No sources or evidence of contamination of any kind (e.g., stained soil, distressed vegetation) were observed during the site visit.

Source: Maptech, Inc. 2001.

WASHINGTON



**ecology and environment, inc.**  
International Specialists in the Environment  
Seattle, Washington



BELLINGHAM/LAKE WHATCOM COAL MINES  
Whatcom County, Washington

Figure 1  
SITE VICINITY MAP  
DELLESTRA POINT PROSPECT  
Date: 9/16/04  
Drawn by: AES  
10:START-2\03010002\fig 1

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**APPENDIX A**  
**PROJECT DATA SOURCES**

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**PROJECT DATA SOURCES:**  
**RESEARCH FACILITY CONTACTS**

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210 Central Avenue  
Bellingham, Washington 98225  
Margaret Ziegler, Reference Librarian

Center for Pacific Northwest Studies/Washington State Archives: Northwest Regional Branch  
Goltz-Murray Archives Building  
Western Washington University  
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