

Lower Duwamish Waterway Site

February 2006

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites you to comment on a proposal for cleaning up contaminated sediment (mud) at Slip 4 on the Lower Duwamish Waterway in the Georgetown neighborhood of Seattle.

What Will Be Cleaned Up?

Slip 4 is one of four areas at the Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund site chosen for early sediment cleanup. The cleanup area is the northern half of Slip 4, on the east side of the waterway just north of Boeing Plant 2. Properties around the slip are publicly or privately owned, with Crowley Marine Services now owning most of the underwater lands at the slip.

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and other chemicals have been found in sediments at the bottom of the slip. PCBs are man-made chemicals that are toxic to organisms in the mud, build up in fish, and can harm the health of people who eat contaminated fish or shellfish.



Photo courtesy of Washington State Dept. of Health

The cleanup of Slip 4 will significantly reduce the risk that the contaminated sediments pose to people and the environment.

How Can I Comment?

Send written comments by **March 18, 2006**, to **Karen Keeley**, Project Manager, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 1200 Sixth Ave., ECL-111, Seattle, WA 98101 or keeley.karen@epa.gov.

You can also comment at a public meeting:
Tuesday, March 7, 2006
5:30 p.m. open house
6:30 p.m. public meeting
Georgetown Gospel Chapel,
6606 Carleton Avenue South, Seattle

To request interpretation of the meeting into Spanish or another language, please contact **Cindy Schuster** of EPA at 206-553-1815 or schuster.cindy@epa.gov.

Bilingual childcare and refreshments will be available. To register for childcare, call the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition at 206-954-0218.

What Are the Cleanup Alternatives?

Under EPA's oversight, the City of Seattle and King County have developed four cleanup alternatives for Slip 4 sediments. The alternatives are fully described in the draft "Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis," which is now available for review. (See "For More Information" on page 3.)

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Cleanup Alternatives

EPA has carefully considered the four alternatives, which have several things in common:

- Protecting people, fish, and organisms in the mud by reducing exposure to PCB-contaminated sediments.
- Removing and disposing of some sediment in the slip and soil along the bank of the slip.
- Covering some areas with engineered caps of clean sand, gravel and rock.
- Considering habitat and land use.

EPA’s preferred alternative is Alternative 2, because it is protective of people and the environment, is practical and cost-effective, and preserves habitat.

How Do the Alternatives Differ?

Alternative 1 consists primarily of capping contaminated sediments. The cap would enhance the habitat for fish and other creatures. Some sediment would be removed. Crowley Marine Services would have decreased area for docking ships. Crowley would need, and is willing, to sell the affected area to the City.

Alternative 2 focuses on removing the sediments near the surface with the greatest contamination and then capping. As in Alternative 1, the cap would enhance habitat. Also as in Alternative 1, Crowley would have decreased use of their property. Crowley would need, and is willing, to sell the affected area to the City.

Alternative 3 includes removing more contaminated sediments than Alternatives 1 or 2 and capping. The additional dredging would restore the depths historically permitted to Crowley for ship traffic. The deeper water and the type of rocks needed to protect the cap would decrease habitat quality.

Alternative 4 includes removing more sediments than the other alternatives, so that contaminated materials are removed wherever feasible. As in Alternative 3, dredging of contaminated sediments would return the depth of the slip to the depth needed for ships and would affect habitat quality.

The alternatives vary in the amount of material removed and placed, as well as cost:

	Material removed (in cubic yards)	Material placed for cap and fill (in cubic yards)	Estimated Cost
Alternative 1	8,100	27,000	\$ 6,000,000
Alternative 2	14,000	27,000	\$ 6,900,000
Alternative 3	27,000	20,000	\$ 8,700,000
Alternative 4	40,000	29,000	\$ 11,200,000

What Happens Next?

EPA will consider comments on the alternatives and respond to them in a document called a responsiveness summary. EPA plans to complete this summary and make the cleanup decision in the spring of 2006. After the cleanup design and other preparatory work, the actual cleanup should begin in about the summer of 2007. The City and the County will fund the work and perform it under EPA oversight.

In addition, EPA and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) are continuing to work with the Port of Seattle, the City of Seattle, King County, and The Boeing Company on an investigation of sediments in the entire Lower Duwamish Waterway. When this study is completed, EPA and Ecology will propose a cleanup plan for contaminated sediments remaining after the early cleanups.

What Is Being Done to Limit Recontamination of Sediments?

Studies by the City and Boeing indicate that there are ongoing discharges of PCBs to Slip 4 from storm drains and upland sources. The City, the County and Boeing are working to identify and control the sources of these PCBs so that the Slip 4 cleanup can proceed on schedule. Ecology is the lead agency for source control activities for the Lower Duwamish Waterway site. The draft "Source Control Action Plan for Slip 4" describes sources of contamination and the actions necessary to control them. This plan is available for public review in the administrative record.

For More Information

The Slip 4 documents described in this fact sheet are available in an EPA collection called the administrative record, and at two other locations. Please call for an appointment:

EPA Region 10 Records Center
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA
206-553-4494

Georgetown Gospel Chapel
6606 Carleton Avenue South
Seattle, WA
206-767-3207

Washington State Department of Ecology
3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA
425-649-7190

The Slip 4 proposal is also on the EPA website:
<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/lduwamish>



Alternative formats are available. For reasonable accommodation, please call Cindy Schuster. TTY users, please call the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339 and give the operator Cindy Schuster's phone number.

Background

The Lower Duwamish Waterway has served as Seattle's major industrial corridor since it was created in the early 1900s by the widening and straightening of the Lower Duwamish River. Sources of past and present discharges to the waterway include boat manufacturing and repair, marina operations, airplane parts manufacturing, and metals fabrication. In addition, twelve combined sewer overflows and over one hundred storm drains discharge to the waterway.

EPA added the Lower Duwamish Waterway site to the Superfund list of hazardous waste sites in 2001.

Questions?

If you have questions about the Slip 4 cleanup, please contact one of the following persons:

General Information

Cindy Colgate Schuster, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator
206-553-1815 or toll-free at 800-424-4372
schuster.cindy@epa.gov

Technical Information

Karen Keeley, EPA Project Manager
206-553-2141 or toll-free at 800-424-4372
keeley.karen@epa.gov

Source Control

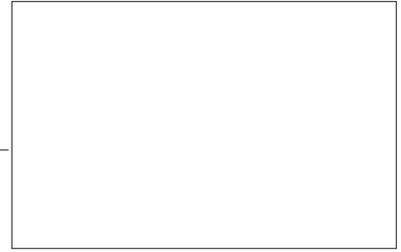
Dan Cargill, Ecology Project Manager
425-649-7023 or daca461@ecy.wa.gov

Community Advisory Group

BJ Cummings, Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition
206-954-0218 or info@duwamishcleanup.org



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1200 Sixth Avenue, ETPA-081
Seattle, Washington 98101-1128



*Lower Duwamish Waterway/ Slip 4
Public Comments Invited
Seattle, Washington
February 2006*

Si desea hablar con alguien que
habla español, llame a Pamela
Emerson, EPA, 206-553-1287.

<> *Add your voice to decisions about your community.* <>