



Lower Duwamish Waterway Site Seattle, Washington



May 2002

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) invite comments on the draft community involvement plans for the Lower Duwamish Waterway site. This fact sheet provides information about the plans and an update on other community involvement and sediment investigation activities for the site.

EPA and Ecology Invite Comments on Draft Community Involvement Plan and Draft Hispanic Community Involvement Plan Through June 21, 2002

Ecology and EPA have drafted a community involvement plan that records community concerns and describes ways the agencies intend to involve the community in the investigation and cleanup of the Lower Duwamish Waterway site. The plan is based on interviews and other input from individuals who live or work in or represent the community around the site.

A large number of the people who live near the Lower Duwamish Waterway speak Spanish. EPA and Ecology have therefore prepared a complementary plan that reflects concerns of and community involvement methods for Hispanic members of the community.

The two draft plans are available now in English at the site information repositories and on EPA's Lower Duwamish Waterway web site. (See "For More Information" at the end of this fact sheet.) Both plans are being translated into Spanish. The Hispanic Community Involvement Plan will be sent to everyone on the Spanish mailing list for the Lower Duwamish Waterway site for comments. EPA and Ecology welcome comments from all members of the community.

To receive copies of the draft plans in English or Spanish, to send comments on them, or to be added to the list to receive documents in Spanish, please contact the EPA Community Involvement Coordinator for the site:

Cindy Colgate
EPA Region 10, ECO-081
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101
E-mail: colgate.cindy@epa.gov
Telephone: 206-553-1815

Following the public comment period, the agencies will make needed changes to the draft plans and place the plans in the repositories. The plans can be updated at any time.

**Si desea hablar con alguien que habla español,
llame a Lilibeth Serrano Vélez, EPA, 206-553-1388.**

¿Está preocupado usted por el canal del Río Duwamish?

Health Assessment Will Be Available for Comment This Spring

The Washington State Department of Health is completing a health assessment for the Lower Duwamish Waterway site. The assessment evaluates whether people are being exposed to hazardous substances from the site and, if so, whether that exposure is harmful and should be reduced or stopped.

The health department will announce a public review period for the draft assessment through its mailing list for the site. If you are interested in being on their mailing list or would like more information, please contact Marcia Henning at marcia.henning@doh.wa.gov or toll-free at 1-877-485-7316.

Ecology and EPA Award Community Involvement Grants

In June 2001, Ecology awarded People for Puget Sound a \$60,000 public participation grant to inform the Duwamish community about the site investigation and involve them with the site work. In August 2001, EPA awarded a \$50,000 technical assistance grant to Waste Action Project, mainly to pay a technical advisor to interpret technical information about the site for the community.

Community Advisory Group Invites Your Participation

Both grant recipients mentioned above are members of the community advisory group for the site, called the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition. The group's activities have included hosting community meetings about the Lower Duwamish Waterway site and a boat tour of the river, as well as commenting on documents about the site. If you are interested in joining this group or would like more information, please contact the group at info@duwamishcleanup.org, or BJ Cummings at 206-227-3811.

Ecology and EPA Answer Questions for Business and Community Groups

Ecology and EPA are available to meet with business and community groups to discuss the Lower Duwamish Waterway site. A meeting handout titled "Questions and Answers for Business and Property Owners" is available on EPA's Duwamish web site, at the information repositories, and from the persons listed at the end of this fact sheet. Contact Cindy Colgate if you would like for us to arrange a meeting with your group.



Students learn about Duwamish site from EPA and Ecology project managers.

Ecology Awards Remedial Action Grant to Local Governments

A \$500,000 remedial action grant Ecology awarded to King County, the Port of Seattle, and the City of Seattle will help pay for their investigation work on the Lower Duwamish Waterway. An additional \$1,500,000 will be added to the grant this spring. Ecology offers these grants to local governments to expedite cleanups and lessen the effects of cleanup costs on local taxpayers. The three recipients may apply for additional grant funds to support future work at the site.

Sediment Investigation Work Proceeds

Four major property owners on the waterway, called the Lower Duwamish Waterway Group, are investigating the contaminated waterway sediments. Because the first phase of the investigation is more complex than was anticipated, EPA and Ecology agreed to extend its completion date from December 2001 to late 2002. The revised schedule calls for completion of three major reports in 2002:

- Sediment contamination summary and human health and ecological risk assessment

This report will summarize data from ten years of previous investigations of chemical contamination in sediments, fish, and shellfish in the Lower Duwamish Waterway. The risk assessment will consider ways people and wildlife might be exposed to the contaminated sediments and health risks from that exposure.

- Early cleanup actions

This report will propose priority areas for early sediment cleanup.

- Data gaps report

This report will identify gaps in existing information and recommend additional sampling needed to complete the second phase of the sediment investigation. The recommendations are likely to include sampling of sediments and fish and shellfish tissue, as well as surveys of locations of organisms in the waterway.

Ecology and EPA will make these three reports available for public review and hold a public meeting to discuss them in late summer 2002. The Lower Duwamish Waterway Group has also developed a database of existing sediment, fish and shellfish chemistry data. This database is posted on Ecology's web site: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/smu/sedqual/sedqual_duwamish.htm

Ecology Investigates Sediment Contamination Sources

Ecology is working with industries, the City of Seattle, King County, and the Port of Seattle to manage sources that pollute the waterway sediments. Sources can include spills, leaks, inappropriate industry management practices, and contaminated properties. The pollution can be conveyed to the waterway through storm drain and combined sewer overflow outfalls, and groundwater.

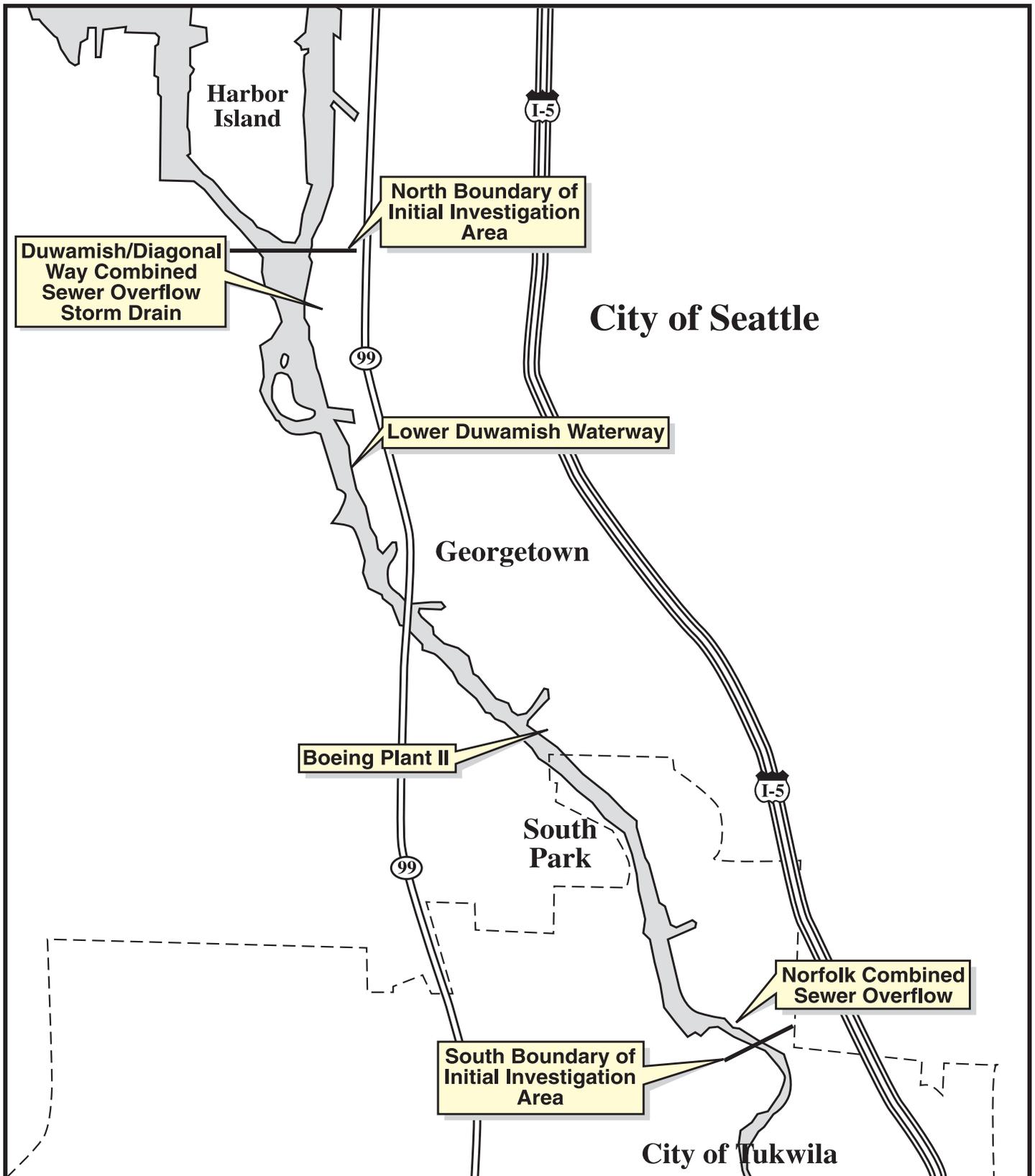
The agency has reviewed eighty storm water pollution prevention plans from industries in areas that drain to the waterway and has asked that some be revised. Ecology is also evaluating whether pollution sources have been adequately controlled at the 1999 Norfolk combined sewer overflow sediment cleanup, and at the two projects described below.

Two Other Sediment Cleanups Being Planned

EPA and Ecology are coordinating the Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund site work with other sediment cleanups on the waterway.

The Boeing Company has sampled and plans to clean up the sediments in the waterway immediately adjacent to Plant 2, located at 7755 East Marginal Way. For more information about this project, please contact Anna Filutowski at EPA at filutowski.anna@epa.gov or 206-553-5122.

The Elliott Bay/Duwamish Restoration Program recently announced its proposed alternative for cleaning up contaminated sediments around the Duwamish/Diagonal Way combined sewer overflow and storm drain. The proposed cleanup area is on the east side of the Duwamish, immediately downstream from Kellogg Island. For more information about this project, please contact John Phillips at King County at john.phillips@metrokc.gov or 206-263-6543.



Site Description and Background

The Lower Duwamish Waterway has served as Seattle's major industrial corridor since it was created by a widening and straightening of the Lower Duwamish River, completed in 1911. Past and present discharges to the waterway include boat manufacturing and repair, marina operations, airplane parts manufacturing, and metals fabrication. In addition, over one hundred storm drains and combined sewer overflows discharge to the waterway.

In 1999, EPA completed a study of approximately six miles of the Lower Duwamish Waterway, from the southern tip of Harbor Island to just south of the turning basin near the Norfolk combined sewer overflow. Contaminants found in the waterway include polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), poly-aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), mercury and other metals, and phthalates. These contaminants may pose threats to people, fish and wildlife.

EPA added the Lower Duwamish Waterway site to the Superfund list on September 13, 2001. This is EPA's list of the nation's most contaminated hazardous waste sites that are targeted for investigation and cleanup. Ecology added the site to the Washington State Hazardous Sites List on February 26, 2002.

In December 2000, EPA and Ecology signed an agreement with four of the major property owners on the waterway with potential liability for cleanup of the site. These four are the Port of Seattle, King County, the City of Seattle and The Boeing Company. Under the agreement, the group will further investigate the waterway contamination, assess potential risks to human health and the environment, and evaluate cleanup alternatives. Separate agreements for the actual cleanup of the sediments and the control of contaminant sources may involve other parties.

For More Information

The draft Community Involvement Plan, Hispanic Community Involvement Plan, and other documents about the site are available for review at the following locations:

- **South Park Community Center**, 8319 Eighth Avenue South, Seattle, WA 206-684-7451
- **EPA Region 10 Records Center**, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA 206-553-4494
- **Department of Ecology**, 3190 160th Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA 425-649-7190

The plans and some other site documents are also available on the EPA Region 10 web site: <http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/> Click on Index, then "L," and then "Lower Duwamish Waterway Site."

If you have questions or need more information, please contact one of the following EPA and Ecology representatives for the Lower Duwamish Waterway Site.

General Information:

Cindy Colgate

EPA Community Involvement Coordinator
206-553-1815 or toll-free at 1-800-424-4372
colgate.cindy@epa.gov

Sediment Investigation:

Allison Hiltner, EPA Project Manager
206-553-2140 or toll-free at 1-800-424-4372
hiltner.allison@epa.gov

Source Control:

Rick Huey, Ecology Project Manager
425-649-7256
rhue461@ecy.wa.gov

To ensure effective communication with everyone, the EPA representatives listed above can make additional services available to persons with disabilities.