

# ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



*Pacific Sound Resources, West Seattle, Washington*

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

April 2006

## Plans Move Forward to Protect the Pacific Sound Resources Cleanup

Engineers are working on a long-term plan to monitor the cleanup at Pacific Sound Resources on the south shore of Elliott Bay near Harbor Island. Now that the cleanup work is finished, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are designing the long-term monitoring program. The Army Corps of Engineers will do the monitoring, maintenance and on-going inspections with EPA oversight. Right now, they are checking groundwater to make sure that no contamination is going into Elliott Bay. The next step is the first inspection of the underwater cap of clean material north of the property this summer.

### Site Provides Recreation and Port Facilities

Part of the once contaminated property is now a popular community park. Jack Block Park is at 3443 West Marginal Way S.W., just off Harbor Avenue in West Seattle. With a view of the Seattle skyline and Mt. Rainier, the 15-acre park has a walking pier, 45-foot high observation tower, children's play area, public art, benches and parking. Beach access will be available soon, after the newly planted vegetation takes hold.

The Port of Seattle, which bought the property in 1994, has paved the southern portion of the area and is using it as a container terminal facility.

### How the Site Was Cleaned Up

Ten years of work on the property included:

- Dredging about 10,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment from the bay and removing 700 old creosote-soaked pilings. Barges, trucks and trains took the dredged material to Roosevelt Landfill in Klickitat County.
- Placing a clean cap of material on about 2,000 feet of shoreline that is exposed between high and low tides. The mix of clean sand and gravel forms a natural environment for several different species that live in the sediments. Some of the clean material was barged in from the Snohomish River,



Photo courtesy of Port of Seattle

*Jack Block Park in West Seattle has become a popular recreation area.*

northeast of Seattle. Newly planted beach grass and willows along the shore are also designed to improve the habitat for native species.

- Designing six caps for the offshore area. The caps are made up of several different mixes and sizes of materials, including layers of sand, gravel and broken rock. The caps prevent fish and wildlife from contacting contaminated material.
- Paying special attention to juvenile salmon and other native creatures. The cleanup work stopped during the migration of juvenile salmon, and the cap was designed to increase the area that is gently sloped for their benefit.

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*Alternative formats are available. For reasonable accommodation, please call Cindy Schuster: 800-424-4372. TTY users, please call 800-877-8339.*

## Background

Pacific Sound Resources, formerly Wyckoff West Seattle Wood Treating, is at the mouth of the Duwamish River. In 1909, the Wyckoff Company began operations and used preservatives, including creosote, pentachlorophenol (PCP) and chemonite (a solution of copper, arsenic and zinc salts). Wood-treatment processes, along with leaks and spills, led to contamination of a portion of the site. Disposing of process waste directly into the water was the main source of contamination of the sediments. In 1994, EPA added the property to the National Priorities List of sites targeted for investigation and cleanup.

## Report With Cleanup Details Now Available

EPA has written a report, called the preliminary Close-Out Report, which describes the cleanup process for the contaminated area. The report is available on the **EPA website** at [epa.gov/r10earth](http://epa.gov/r10earth). Go to *Index* in the left column, then “P” for Pacific Sound Resources. After the monitoring plan is approved, EPA will write the final Close-Out Report. In September, 2009 EPA will prepare a “five-year review” of the cleanup to make sure it continues to protect the environment.

## For More Information

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