



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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January 22, 2013

Bob Ziegler, SEPA/NEPA Coordinator  
WA State Department of Fish & Wildlife  
Regulatory Services Section  
600 Capitol Way North  
Olympia, WA 98501-1091



Your address  
is in the  
**Deschutes**  
watershed

Dear Mr. Ziegler:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the determination of nonsignificance for the McCallister Creek Hatchery Demolition project located at 10119 Southeast Steilacoom Road in Olympia as proposed by Douglas Mackey, WA State Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW). The Department of Ecology (Ecology) reviewed the environmental checklist and has the following comment(s):

**TOXICS CLEANUP: Mohsen Kourehdar (360) 407-6256**

This proposed project is located in an area that may have been contaminated with heavy metals due to the air emissions originating from the old Asarco smelter in north Tacoma (visit Ecology's Tacoma Smelter Plume map search tool: <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/smeltersearch/>).

Soil contamination from the former Asarco smelter poses a risk to human health and the environment. Children are at especially high risk from direct exposure to contaminated soil. Construction workers, landscapers, gardeners, and others who work in the soils are also at risk.

Ecology recommends that the lead agency include the following as conditions of approval:

- Sample the soil and analyze for arsenic and lead. The applicant shall contact Elizabeth Weldin with Ecology's Toxics Cleanup program at (360) 407-7094 or via email at [ewel461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:ewel461@ecy.wa.gov) for guidance about soil sampling within Tacoma Smelter Plume. The soil sampling results shall be sent to the local land use permitting agency and Ecology for review.
- If lead or arsenic are found at concentrations above the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) cleanup levels (Chapter 173-340 WAC); the owners, potential buyers, construction workers, and others shall be notified of their occurrence. The applicant shall also contact the Environmental Report Tracking System Coordinator at the Ecology Southwest Regional Office at (360) 407-6300. The MTCA cleanup level for arsenic is 20 ppm and lead is 250 ppm.

- If lead, arsenic and/or other contaminants are found at concentrations above MTCA cleanup levels, the applicant shall:
  - 1) Enter into the Voluntary Cleanup Program with - Ecology prior to issuance of any site development permits for this proposal and/or the initiation of any grading, filling, or clearing activities. For more information on the Voluntary Cleanup Program, visit Ecology website at:  
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/vcp/vcpmain.htm>.
  - 2) Obtain an opinion letter from Ecology stating that the proposed soil remediation will likely result in no further action under - MTCA prior to the issuance of any site development permit and/or the initiation of any grading, filling, or clearing activities. The issued site development permit plans shall be consistent with the plans reviewed and deemed consistent with MTCA by Ecology. The applicant shall provide to the local land use permitting agency the opinion letter from Ecology.
  - 3) Prior to finalizing site development permits, provide to the local land use permitting agency “No Further Action” determination from Ecology indicating that the remediation plans were successfully implemented under MTCA.

If Ecology determines this project should not be part of the Voluntary Cleanup Program, Ecology will contact the lead agency and discuss possible options.

- If soils are found to be contaminated with arsenic, lead, or other contaminants, extra precautions shall be taken to avoid escaping dust, soil erosion, and water pollution during grading and site construction. Site design shall include protective measures to isolate or remove contaminated soils from public spaces, yards, and children’s play areas. Contaminated soils generated during site construction shall be managed and disposed of in accordance with state and local regulations, including the Solid Waste Handling Standards regulation (Chapter 173-350 WAC). For information about soil disposal contact the local health department in the jurisdiction where soils will be placed.

The link below provides a fact sheet that explains more how the arsenic and lead clean-up levels were set and why Ecology sees that they are protective for human health:

[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites\\_brochure/tacoma\\_smelter/2011/brochuresAndPubs.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites_brochure/tacoma_smelter/2011/brochuresAndPubs.html) - Click on “Level and Action Level FAQ.”

For assistance and information about Tacoma Smelter Plume and soils contamination, contact Elizabeth Weldin at (360) 407-7094 or via e-mail at [ewel461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:ewel461@ecy.wa.gov).

**SEPA REVIEWER: Sonia Mendoza**

**WATER QUALITY CONTACT: Deborah Cornett (360) 407-7269**

Any discharge of sediment-laden runoff or other pollutants to waters of the state is in violation of Chapter 90.48 RCW, Water Pollution Control, and WAC 173-201A, Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters of the State of Washington, and is subject to enforcement action.

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Erosion control measures must be in place prior to any clearing, grading, or construction. These control measures must be effective to prevent stormwater runoff from carrying soil and other pollutants into surface water or stormdrains that lead to waters of the state. Sand, silt, clay particles, and soil will damage aquatic habitat and are considered to be pollutants.

Proper disposal of construction debris must be on land in such a manner that debris cannot enter water of the state (e.g., McCallister Creek, wetlands and their buffers) and stormdrains draining to waters of the state or cause water quality degradation of state waters.

Ecology's comments are based upon information provided by the lead agency. As such, they may not constitute an exhaustive list of the various authorizations that must be obtained or legal requirements that must be fulfilled in order to carry out the proposed action.

If you have any questions or would like to respond to these comments, please contact the appropriate reviewing staff listed above.

Department of Ecology  
Southwest Regional Office

(SM:13-0048)

cc: Deborah Cornett, WQ  
Mohsen Kourehdar, TCP  
Elizabeth Weldin, TCP  
Douglas Mackey, WDFW (Proponent)