

# Harbor Island Area Superfund Sites



1. Pacific Sound Resources
2. Lockheed West Seattle
3. Harbor Island



Region 10

August 2009

## Lockheed West Seattle and Harbor Island/East Waterway Community Involvement Plan

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed this community involvement plan to promote meaningful community participation during the study and cleanup of the Lockheed West Seattle Superfund site and the East Waterway of the Harbor Island Superfund site. This plan summarizes community concerns about these two cleanups and describes how we will inform and involve the public.

Community members have asked EPA to take a unified approach to community involvement for nearby sites. EPA began combining community involvement for Harbor Island area sites (Harbor Island, including the East Waterway; Lockheed West Seattle; and Pacific Sound Resources) in 2008. This community involvement plan focuses on Lockheed West Seattle and the East Waterway of Harbor Island, because the Pacific Sound Resources site and most of the Harbor Island site have already gone through the Superfund cleanup process.

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### EPA Invites Your Comments

If you have comments on this plan, please contact:  
Cindy C. Schuster  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
206-553-1815  
[schuster.cindy@epa.gov](mailto:schuster.cindy@epa.gov)

During interviews with community members, EPA heard the concerns summarized below. EPA will provide detailed responses to these concerns in a fact sheet later this year. It will be posted on our Lockheed West Seattle and Harbor Island Web sites and announced through our Harbor Area Superfund sites mailing list and e-mail list.

We will continue to respond to concerns through the Lockheed West Seattle and East Waterway Superfund cleanup processes and through coordination with other organizations involved with these projects. These organizations include the Washington State Departments of Health, Ecology, and Natural Resources; the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; the Muckleshoot and Suquamish Tribes; and local groups such as People For Puget Sound.

### People EPA Interviewed

EPA contacted almost fifty people for interviews, including all who responded to a mailing to about 8,000 people. Twenty-nine local people were interviewed, and most were residents, workers, and business owners. These organizations were represented:

King County Council	Sustainable West Seattle
Manufacturing Industrial Council	West Seattle Blog
People For Puget Sound	West Seattle Chamber of Commerce



*EPA encourages the community to get involved as we oversee the study and cleanup of Lockheed West Seattle and the East Waterway of Harbor Island.*

Original photo courtesy of Don Wilson, Port of Seattle

## Community Members Voice Their Concerns

### ■ Eating Fish

The most often stated concern was that people eat fish that might be contaminated, because it comes from areas near the East Waterway and Lockheed West Seattle. Residents and workers observe a lot of fishing, most often near the Spokane Street Bridge or in the East Waterway, and sometimes near Lockheed West Seattle. Usually this fishing is for migrating salmon, but sometimes for bottom fish, crabs and clams. There is concern that contaminated fish from these areas may be sold to local stores. There is also concern that homeless people, tribal fishers, and Southeast Asian immigrants may eat more of this contaminated fish than other community members.

### ■ Working

There is much concern that people, especially workers on Harbor Island who might be exposed for years, may be harmed by contamination. Some workers have the perception that they are surrounded by contamination or have heard that there are tons of hazardous waste in containers on Harbor Island. Others mentioned greater than average health risks, or lots of people with cancer, in the areas near the East Waterway or Lockheed West Seattle.

### ■ Recreation

There is concern that kayakers or bicyclists might go onto contaminated beaches and that they can not safely picnic in areas near the East Waterway and Lockheed West Seattle. A few people are concerned that swimmers or dogs could be affected by contamination running off into Elliott Bay or leaching into the East Waterway. Others said that people do not have contact with contamination in the East Waterway and Lockheed West Seattle areas. One noted that there is no public access to the Lockheed West Seattle site.

### ■ Fish and Wildlife

After concerns about people, most of the community concerns are about the health of fish, birds, and other animals, especially salmon, seals, and osprey. Seagulls, cranes, cormorants, kingfishers, hawks, eagles, great blue herons, sea lions, river otters, raccoons, opossums, coyotes, octopus, crabs, starfish, jellyfish, and bottom-dwelling organisms were also mentioned. Concerns included fish getting sick, birds eating contaminated fish, and both fish and

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## Community Members Voice Their Concerns

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birds decreasing in number. A few people interviewed do not have concerns about fish or animals in the East Waterway or Lockheed West Seattle areas.

### ■ Habitat

Several people are concerned about loss of habitat in the East Waterway and Lockheed West Seattle areas, including eelgrass and other plants.

### ■ Drinking Water

Two people expressed concern that their drinking water might be contaminated. (Drinking water for the Harbor Island area is clean water from the Cedar River.)

### ■ Other Water Pollution

People are concerned that water in the East Waterway and Lockheed West Seattle areas is being polluted by companies dumping into pipes in the south end of the East Waterway, by cruise ships dumping waste, and by ships releasing ballast water and bringing in invasive species.

### ■ Air

Several people are concerned about air pollution in the areas around Harbor Island and Lockheed West Seattle, particularly from steel and cement plants, and also from ship painting and cruise ship idling. Although the main concern is that people breathe polluted air, one person is concerned that some air pollution settles into the water and impacts the water quality.

### ■ Culture and Image

One person is concerned that the health of natural areas affects the health of our local culture, especially for tribes, whose culture is closely tied to nature. Another person mentioned that the Harbor Island and Lockheed West Seattle areas should be consistent with the image of Seattle as a “green” city. A couple of people mentioned the view of the

city seen by passengers on cruise ships or other tourists, and one does not want to say “Welcome to a Superfund site.”

### ■ Economy

Several people are concerned about effects of contamination on the economy. They commented that fewer fish means more expensive fish, less wildlife could mean fewer tourists, and EPA contamination reports could affect real estate prices. Other people are concerned that land is less useful if it is not cleaned up for recreational, business or industrial purposes.

### ■ Cleanups

There is a lot of concern about the actual cleanup work at Lockheed West Seattle and the East Waterway. People are concerned that dust or contamination might go into the air, and that dredging of contaminated mud could affect people or the water. There is also concern that residents and businesses in the area might be affected by cleanup noise, and by traffic and mud from trucks, and that roads or Jack Block Park might be closed. One person is concerned that cleanup of these areas has taken so long. Some people are concerned that the cleanups should be final and that cleaned areas should not be contaminated again, such as by upstream dredging or polluted storm water.

### ■ Signs and Information

Several people are concerned that there may not be enough warning signs about contaminated fish, especially signs that can be seen by boaters or read by people who can not read English. One person is concerned about reaching out to new immigrants in West Seattle who are just learning English. Another person is concerned that because some contaminated areas lack fences and signs, workers may not know that they are on Superfund sites.

## Community Members Tell Us How to Reach Them

About half the people interviewed said that they would like information only when there are milestones or significant changes, when EPA is taking public comments or making decisions, or when there is an effect on the community or transportation. Others said that they prefer information on a regular basis, most often saying quarterly.

Almost everyone interviewed would like mailings.

There is a preference for brief mailings written in layman’s terms, with links to Web sites for more details.

Almost two-thirds of the people interviewed would like for EPA to hold public meetings. Suggestions included short meetings with non-technical presentations, held in the community with adequate advance notice. Other suggestions were that EPA

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## Community Members Tell Us How to Reach Them

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should partner with other organizations to hold a public meeting, or attend meetings or events of community, business, and environmental organizations. Still others would like for EPA to hold tours or work parties.

Most people interviewed also want to get information electronically, most preferring e-mail, and one wanting to make public comments by e-mail. Others

would visit an EPA Web site, especially if an e-mail directed them to the site. Several people would like to find information on the West Seattle Blog.

Some people interviewed consider local newspaper, radio, and television to be useful means of providing information about the cleanups. About a third said that EPA newspaper advertising is not effective.

## EPA Invites the Community to Get Involved

Based on what EPA heard during the interviews, we will use a variety of activities to keep the community informed and involved in the study and cleanup of the Lockheed West Seattle site and the East Waterway of the Harbor Island site. Below are ways that you can get involved in these activities.

### ■ Read EPA Fact Sheets

EPA will send mailings, including announcements of public meetings, opportunities to make comments, significant decisions or other milestones, and effects on the community or area transportation. Most of our mailings will be short fact sheets or post cards, and they will be in plain language. The mailings will include links to Web sites for more detailed information. We plan to translate some of our mailings into Spanish and can provide translations into other languages, such as Chinese or Vietnamese. Contact Cindy Schuster at [schuster.cindy@epa.gov](mailto:schuster.cindy@epa.gov) or 206-553-1815 to get on our mailing list.

### ■ Read EPA E-mail Messages

EPA will also send most fact sheets and post cards for the Harbor Island area sites by e-mail. In some cases, we may e-mail brief information that is not in a fact sheet. Contact Cindy Schuster at 206-553-1815 or [schuster.cindy@epa.gov](mailto:schuster.cindy@epa.gov) to be added to our e-mail list.

### ■ Read More about the Cleanups

EPA will post our fact sheets and more detailed technical documents for Lockheed West Seattle and the East Waterway on our Web sites:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/lockheedwest>

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/hi>

You may also be interested in the Web site for the neighboring Lower Duwamish Waterway site, which is further along in the cleanup process:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/lduwamish>

In addition, as several people requested, we plan to send information to the West Seattle Blog at

<http://westseattleblog.com/blog/>

You can also read about both cleanups at the EPA Records Center:

1200 Sixth Avenue, 7th Floor, Seattle, Washington  
Please call 206-553-4494 for an appointment.

### ■ Attend EPA Meetings

EPA will hold public meetings about Lockheed West Seattle and the East Waterway to get public comments at key times during the cleanup projects, such as before cleanup decisions are made. These meetings will be in the community. We will work to partner with other organizations for the meetings. We welcome people from business, industry, community, and environmental organizations, as well as area residents and workers.

### ■ Invite Us to Attend Your Events and Meetings

EPA and our partners are available to participate in your events and meetings to provide information about Lockheed West Seattle and the East Waterway. Please contact Cindy Schuster ([schuster.cindy@epa.gov](mailto:schuster.cindy@epa.gov) or 206-553-1815) if you would like for us to meet with your group.

### ■ Comment During Public Comment Periods

Comment periods are the primary means that EPA uses to get input from the community on proposed cleanup decisions. Comment periods usually last thirty days and are required at key points. Comments are usually made by writing a letter, or by speak-

# Projected Timelines

## Lockheed West Seattle

## East Waterway

## Glossary of Superfund Terms

June 2008	EPA-Approved Remedial Investigation Data Report	May 2010
April 2009	Human Health & Ecological Risk Assessments	December 2010
June 2010	Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study	2012
September 2010	EPA Proposed Plan	2013
November 2010	EPA Record of Decision	2013
August 2011	Remedial Design	After 2013
2011-2012	Remedial Construction	After 2013

**Remedial investigation:**  
An in-depth study to gather data to determine the nature and extent of contamination at a site, establish cleanup criteria, and identify preliminary cleanup alternatives.

**Human Health Risk Assessment:**  
A process to estimate the likelihood that exposure to contamination may have damaged or will damage the health of individuals.

**Ecological Risk Assessment:**  
A process to estimate the likelihood that exposure to contamination may have damaged or will damage natural resources, such as fish or plants.

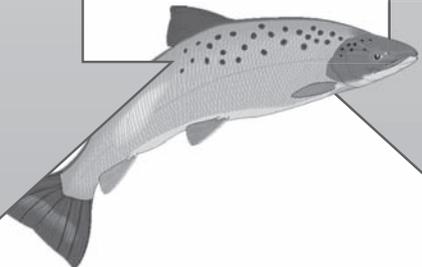
**Feasibility Study:**  
A description and analysis of potential cleanup alternatives for a site.

**Proposed Plan:**  
A cleanup plan that is made available to the public for comment.

**Record of Decision:**  
A document that explains which alternative(s) will be used for a cleanup.

**Remedial Design:**  
The development of engineering drawings and specifications for a cleanup.

**Remedial Construction:**  
The actual construction or implementation of a cleanup.



## **EPA Invites the Community to Get Involved**

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ing if there is a public meeting. We will also accept comments by e-mail during Lockheed West Seattle and East Waterway comment periods. EPA plans to take public comments for these actions:

- Proposed cleanup plans for Lockheed West Seattle and the East Waterway.
- Any major changes to these cleanup plans.
- Any legal agreements handled by a court.
- Removal of Lockheed West Seattle, the East Waterway, or the entire Harbor Island site from the Superfund list.

### ■ **Read Our Newspaper Ads**

EPA heard that the community prefers other ways to get information. We will use newspaper ads on a

few occasions, such as when federal law requires them for announcing public comment periods.

### ■ **Form a Community Advisory Group**

People may be interested in forming a community advisory group to represent the interests of communities around a Superfund site and provide input to EPA. For more information, please contact Cindy Schuster.

### ■ **Apply for a Technical Assistance Grant**

EPA awards technical assistance grants to help community members understand technical aspects of a site. If your group is interested in applying for a technical assistance grant for Lockheed West Seattle or the East Waterway, please contact Cindy Schuster.

## **Community Involvement Activities to Date**

### ■ **East Waterway**

**October 24, 2006**, EPA regional press release, “Superfund Investigation Target: Harbor Island East Waterway Sediments”

**January 2007**, beginning of EPA “stakeholder” meetings, including a representative of People For Puget Sound and the Green/Duwamish Watershed Alliance

**May 28, 2008**, EPA e-mail about two spills in the East Waterway sent to stakeholder group and posted on South Park and Georgetown listservs

**July 2008**, EPA fact sheet “East Waterway Study Progresses” and Spanish translation, “Progreso con el Estudio del ‘East Waterway’”

### ■ **Lockheed West Seattle**

**September 26, 2006**, EPA national press release, “EPA Adds 5 and Proposes 6 Sites to Superfund’s National Priorities List”

**September 26, 2006**, EPA regional press release, “EPA Proposes ‘Lockheed West Seattle’ Site for National Priorities List”

**September 27, 2006**, *Federal Register* announcement of 60-day public comment period on proposal to add Lockheed West Seattle to National Priorities List

**September 27, 2006**, EPA “Lockheed West Seattle” Web page goes live

**September 27, 2006**, *Seattle Times* display ad for public comment period on proposal to add Lockheed

West Seattle to National Priorities List

**September 28, 2006**, EPA fact sheet, “EPA Proposes Lockheed West Seattle to National Priorities List” mailed to 342 people

**March 7, 2007**, *Federal Register* announcement of Lockheed West Seattle addition to National Priorities List

**March 7, 2007**, EPA regional press release, “EPA Adds ‘Lockheed West Seattle’ Site to Superfund National Priorities List”

**March 7, 2007**, EPA fact sheet, “EPA Adds Lockheed West Seattle Site to Superfund List” mailed to 210 people

**About May 2008**, beginning of participation in Lockheed West Seattle “stakeholder” meetings by a representative for People For Puget Sound and the Green/Duwamish Watershed Alliance

**August 23, 2008**, Duwamish River Festival, “Lockheed West Seattle Superfund Site” poster on display and EPA staff available for questions and discussion

### ■ **Harbor Island Area Sites**

The activities listed below apply to both Lockheed West Seattle and the East Waterway.

**November 2008**, fact sheet “Harbor Island Area Superfund Sites” with invitation to participate in a community interview

**December 8, 2008-April 20, 2009**, EPA community interviews with 29 people.

## Background on the Community

People interviewed for this plan note that the community includes densely populated residential areas near business and industry. The West Seattle Chamber of Commerce describes the community around Lockheed West Seattle and the East Waterway as one of the largest industrial areas within the city of Seattle, with tourist destinations nearby. People for Puget Sound comments that the community includes office and maritime workers, boaters and park goers, and homeless people. People also noted that the community is changing, with new people arriving and new businesses starting.

According to summaries from the last U.S. cen-

sus, large numbers of people living in census areas that come within a mile of the East Waterway or Lockheed West Seattle speak languages other than English. For the East Waterway, the most common other languages are Spanish, Vietnamese, Tagalog, and Chinese. For Lockheed West Seattle, the most common other languages are Spanish, German, Chinese, Tagalog, French, and Japanese.

In addition, the census shows that areas near the East Waterway, especially “SODO,” have a much larger percentage of households below the poverty level than other areas near the two cleanup projects.

## Background on the Cleanups

Lockheed West Seattle is located at 3443 West Marginal Way SW, on the southwest side of Elliott Bay in Seattle. Shipbuilding and ship maintenance by Lockheed Shipbuilding and other companies released metals and PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls).

EPA added the site to its “Superfund” list in 2007. The listing means that the site will be studied and cleaned up under EPA’s Superfund program. With EPA oversight, Lockheed Martin Corporation is studying the site to better understand the contamination and risks and to develop a cleanup plan.

The East Waterway flows by the east side of Har-

bor Island, which is at the mouth of the Duwamish River on the southern edge of Elliott Bay. Lead smelting, shipbuilding and maintenance, and other industrial activities contaminated the island and the waterways beside it with PCBs, metals, and other chemicals.

EPA added Harbor Island to its Superfund list in 1983. With EPA oversight, the Port of Seattle has already removed over 200,000 cubic yards of contaminated material from the waterway. The Port and EPA are now studying the waterway to better understand the remaining contamination and risks and to develop a cleanup plan.

## Contacts for More Information

### U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Lockheed West Seattle: Piper Peterson Lee  
206-553-4951

[peterston-lee.piper@epa.gov](mailto:peterston-lee.piper@epa.gov)

East Waterway: Ravi Sanga  
206-553-4092

[sanga.ravi@epa.gov](mailto:sanga.ravi@epa.gov)

General information about both cleanups:  
Cindy C. Schuster  
206-553-1815

[schuster.cindy@epa.gov](mailto:schuster.cindy@epa.gov)

### Washington State Department of Health

Health information about both cleanups:

Lenford O’Garro  
877-485-7316 (toll free)

[Lenford.Ogarro@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Lenford.Ogarro@doh.wa.gov)

Health outreach for both cleanups:

Erin Kochaniewicz  
877-485-7316 (toll free)

[Erin.Kochaniewicz@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Erin.Kochaniewicz@doh.wa.gov)

For alternate formats, please call Cindy Schuster. TTY users, call 1-800-877-8339.

*Si desea hablar con alguien que habla español, llame a Jonathan Freedman, EPA, 206-553-0266.*



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Permit No. G-35  
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Seattle, Washington August 2009*



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