

Duwamish River Superfund Site: Jorgensen Forge



Community Fact Sheet

Prepared by the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition/Technical Advisory Group (DRCC/TAG)

What is Jorgensen Forge?

The Jorgensen Forge facility is scheduled for cleanup as part of the Duwamish River Superfund cleanup. **The site is located at 8531 East Marginal Way South in Tukwila, Washington.** Originally developed in 1942 by the Navy to produce naval equipment, the property has had a variety of owners over the last seven decades. Currently the facility is owned and operated by the Jorgensen Forge Corporation and is still in use as a steel and aluminum forge for various industrial clients. **Jorgensen Forge Corporation will conduct the cleanup with EPA oversight.**

Legacy contaminants of concern at the facility include **polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), metals, and semi-volatile organic compounds** (contained in the footprint of the PCBs) found in sediments and on the shoreline adjacent to the Facility.

When the Duwamish River became a Superfund site, several sediment contamination "hot spots" were found that must be cleaned up before the riverwide Superfund cleanup begins, to address risks to human health and the environment. Jorgensen Forge is one of five hot spots identified. Three other hot spot cleanups are located nearby: Slip 4 and Boeing Plant 2 to the North of Jorgensen, and Terminal 117 across the river.



Overall Cleanup Goals

The biggest health risk from Duwamish River sediments is for people who eat fish, shellfish, and crabs that live in the Duwamish all year ("resident" seafood). Duwamish River seafood is not safe to eat because it collects contaminants from the sediment in its bodies.

EPA's cleanup plan for Jorgensen Forge sediments is designed to protect tribal fishers and other people who eat a significant amount of fish and shellfish from the river. For toxic chemicals like PCBs that move up through the food chain, the cleanup level at Jorgensen Forge is based on estimates of health risks from eating resident seafood.

The cleanup level for toxic metals is based on the state's sediment standards to protect the tiny organisms that live in the sediments, as well as fish, birds, and other animals in the Duwamish.

EPA intends to choose the most protective values for the cleanup plan and will explain their selection in the *Final Decision and Response to Comments*.

GET INVOLVED!

EPA Public Meeting

Thursday – June 16th

South Seattle Community College - Georgetown

6737 Corson Avenue S

Seattle, WA 98108

Open House: 6:00 p.m.

Presentation: 7:00 p.m.

Public Comments: 8:00 p.m.

Interpretación en español disponible

Food will be available

Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition/TAG

1620 – 18th Avenue, Suite #10 Seattle, WA 98122 • 206.954.0218 • contact@duwamishcleanup.org • www.duwamishcleanup.org

Who Speaks For The River?

The Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition is EPA's Community Advisory Group for the Superfund Site. DRCC/TAG represents community, environmental, tribal and small business organizations serving the Duwamish River Valley and greater Seattle. DRCC/TAG has commissioned an independent review of EPA's proposed cleanup plan, and has solicited input from the community. This Fact Sheet summarizes DRCC/TAG's assessment of the cleanup plan.

Questions?

Contact James Rasmussen at DRCC/TAG: james@duwamishcleanup.org or (206) 954-0218, or visit our web page for more information: www.duwamishcleanup.org/superfund

HOW TO COMMENT

EPA has released the draft cleanup plan for Jorgensen Forge and will accept public comments on the plan until June 30, 2011.

Email comments can be sent to EPA at blocker.shawn@epa.gov

Please cc: DRCC-TAG on your letters at contact@duwamishcleanup.org

Or via postal mail to:

Shawn Blocker

U.S. EPA, Region 10

1200 6th Avenue, Suite 900, AWT-121

Seattle WA, 98101

Join us this summer for **BOAT AND KAYAK TOURS** of the Duwamish River, the **DUWAMISH RIVER FESTIVAL** on August 27, **DUWAMISH ALIVE!** volunteer days, and other fun ways to **GET INVOLVED** in protecting and restoring Seattle's hometown river.

Visit www.duwamishcleanup.org for more info!

DRCC/TAG RECOMMENDED CLEANUP PLAN:

EPA's selection of Alternative 4 which proposes complete removal of all contaminated sediments above the Washington State Sediment standards, followed by a thick layer of clean backfill.

Additional Considerations

- The successful cleanup of sediments depends on preventing recontamination from chemicals in soils, groundwater, and stormwater at Jorgensen Forge as well as from other nearby contaminated properties.
- The successful cleanup of the Jorgensen Forge sediments also depends on controlling upriver sources of pollution to prevent recontamination. This is not part of the Jorgensen Forge cleanup plan, but must be included in the final Riverwide cleanup order.
- Before and during cleanup, fishermen must be protected by (1) educating the tribal, subsistence and recreational fishing communities about increased contamination during and after cleanup activities and (2) providing culturally competent alternatives to established fishing practices, such as providing alternate sources of free or low-cost fish and assistance accessing alternate fishing locations or opportunities.
- A site-specific assessment to determine the most effective and protective state-of-the-art removal method is necessary in order to protect human health and the environment during cleanup.

