



# Lower Duwamish Waterway Site Seattle, Washington



June 2003

*Seven contaminated areas of the Lower Duwamish Waterway have been proposed, and four have already been selected, for early sediment cleanup. This fact sheet identifies the seven proposed areas, discusses cleanup plans for the four selected areas, describes the selection process, and summarizes work on control of contamination sources.*

## Seven Areas Identified as Candidates for Early Cleanup

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) have accepted a report identifying seven areas of the Lower Duwamish Waterway as candidates for early sediment cleanup. King County, the City of Seattle, the Port of Seattle, and the Boeing Company prepared the report. For this site, these four parties are called the Lower Duwamish Waterway Group.

Cleaning up these areas should significantly reduce the risk that the waterway poses to the health of people and the environment. The areas were identified based on risks to people or wildlife in the river.

The identification criteria included areas where chemical concentrations at three or more sampling locations were higher than Washington State's standards to protect clams, worms and other creatures that live in the mud.

In addition, to protect human health, the areas with the highest levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were considered.

*(See map and list of the seven candidate areas on page 2.)*

## Public Input Considered

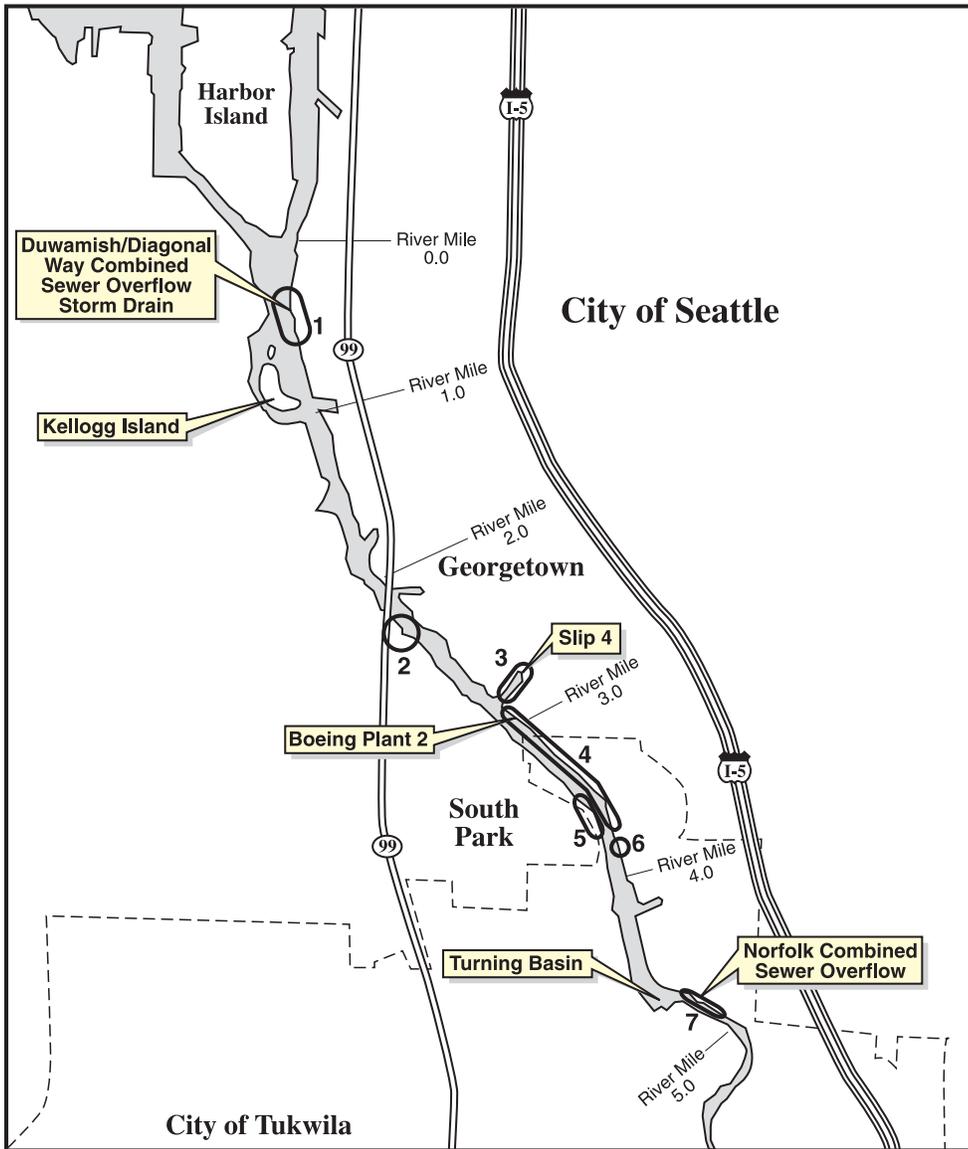
Last summer the public had an opportunity to review the Lower Duwamish Waterway Group's draft report on proposed areas for early sediment cleanup. EPA and Ecology asked the group to revise their report based on our comments and many of the comments we received. As a result, there were two major changes to the report:

- Two areas near Boeing Plant 2 merged into one.
- The area offshore from the Norfolk Combined Sewer Overflow was added.

EPA and Ecology have accepted the group's final report, titled "Identification of Candidate Sites for Early Action." It is available on the EPA web site and at the three information repositories. (See "How to Get More Information.")

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**These seven numbered areas of the Lower Duwamish have been identified as candidates for early cleanup.**

The areas are listed from north to south:

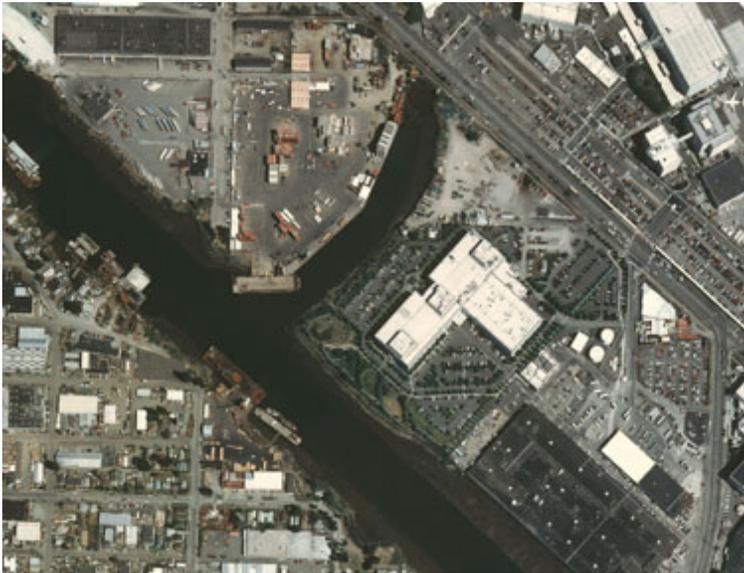
1. Duwamish/Diagonal Way Combined Sewer Overflow and Storm Drain
2. West side of the waterway, at about river mile 2.2
3. Slip 4
4. Boeing Plant 2
5. Terminal 117 (Malarkey)
6. South of Boeing Plant 2, at about river mile 3.8
7. Norfolk Combined Sewer Overflow

### Sediment Cleanups Planned for Four Early Action Sites

**Duwamish/Diagonal**—This fall, cleanup will begin for some of the contaminated sediments near the Duwamish combined sewer overflow and Diagonal Way storm drain. These sediments will be dredged and disposed of at an approved disposal site. Remaining contamination will be covered with clean sediments. Planning for the Duwamish/Diagonal Way sediment cleanup began before this area was included in the Lower Duwamish Waterway site. For more information, visit the King County web site <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/duwamish>, or contact Priscilla Hackney of King County at [priscilla.hackney@metrokc.gov](mailto:priscilla.hackney@metrokc.gov) or 206-684-1791.

**Boeing Plant 2**—This early action includes contaminated sediments along the shoreline of Boeing Plant 2. EPA and Boeing are discussing the boundaries for a sediment cleanup. Planning for the Plant 2 sediment cleanup began before this area was included in the Lower Duwamish Waterway site. For more information about Boeing Plant 2, please contact Anna Filutowski of EPA at [filutowski.anna@epa.gov](mailto:filutowski.anna@epa.gov) or 206-553-5122.

*(continued from page 2)*



**Slip 4**– Some members of the Lower Duwamish Waterway Group will study this area and propose boundaries for an early cleanup. Slip 4 is located on the east side of the waterway, just north of Boeing Plant 2. For more information about Slip 4, please contact Karen Keeley of EPA at [keeley.karen@epa.gov](mailto:keeley.karen@epa.gov) or 206-553-2141.

***The highest levels of PCBs at this early action site were found near the head of Slip 4.*** (2003 photo by Washington State Department of Health)

**Terminal 117 (Malarkey)**–The Port of Seattle, in coordination with the City of Seattle, will study this area and propose boundaries for an early cleanup. This area is located on the west side of the waterway, just south of the 16th Avenue South bridge. Currently owned by the Port of Seattle, the upland property was formerly owned by Malarkey Asphalt. The Port removed

PCB-contaminated soil from the upland property in 1999 and 2000. For more information about Terminal 117 (Malarkey), please contact Ravi Sanga of EPA at [sanga.ravi@epa.gov](mailto:sanga.ravi@epa.gov) or 206-553-4092.



***Terminal 117 (Malarkey) at low tide reveals sediments contaminated with PCBs.*** (2003 photo by Washington State Department of Health)

## Limited Cleanup Scheduled at One Candidate Site for August

**Norfolk Combined Sewer Overflow**—This site (*site 7 on the map on page 2*) is on the east side of the waterway. In 1999, King County dredged contaminated sediments from two acres next to the Norfolk combined sewer overflow and capped the dredged area with clean sand. Monitoring found recontamination at one edge of the cap. Boeing has agreed to work with Ecology to clean up about 100 cubic yards of contaminated sediments to keep them from migrating onto the cap. EPA will work to determine who is responsible for additional work needed in this area. For more information, please contact Brad Helland of Ecology at [bhel461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:bhel461@ecy.wa.gov) or 425-649-7138.

## Studies Planned for the Rest of the Waterway

EPA and Ecology are gathering information to determine whether the other three candidate sites (*2, 6, and 7 on the map on page 2*) will become early actions. The agencies are using four main criteria for their decisions:

- Ability to identify parties responsible for the cleanup costs.
- Relative risk the areas pose to human health and the environment.
- Timing of activities to control sources of pollution to the areas.
- Availability of agency resources for cleanup oversight.

While the early actions progress, the Lower Duwamish Waterway Group is writing a draft plan for additional sampling in the waterway. This plan will be available for informal public review in July 2003. If sampling identifies more areas that require cleanup, EPA and Ecology may add them to the list of early action sites or include them in a long-term cleanup plan.

## Source Control Focusing on Early Action Sites

Source control is the management of pollution sources to prevent or limit recontamination after a cleanup. Ecology is working with other public agencies that have responsibility and authority for source control, including King County, the City of Seattle, the Port of Seattle, and EPA. The agencies are coordinating source control schedules with upcoming sediment cleanups in the Lower Duwamish Waterway.

**Duwamish/Diagonal Way**—This seven-acre sediment cleanup is scheduled to begin in fall 2003. Ecology is reviewing information about contaminated soil and groundwater to determine if they may re-contaminate the sediments.

The City of Seattle and King County are inspecting many businesses in the Duwamish/Diagonal combined sewer overflow and storm drain system that drains to the waterway. Inspectors will identify ways that businesses can prevent pollution. For more information, please contact Beth Schmoyer, Seattle Public Utilities, at 206-386-1199 or [Beth.Schmoyer@seattle.gov](mailto:Beth.Schmoyer@seattle.gov), or Elsie Hulsizer, King County Department of Natural Resources, at 206-263-3010 or [elsie.hulsizer@metrokc.gov](mailto:elsie.hulsizer@metrokc.gov).

The Port of Seattle also inspects tenants on port-managed properties in the area. The inspections help ensure that the tenants are complying with federal, state and local environmental regulations. A Source Control Action Plan describing all of these activities should be available by mid-summer 2003.

**Boeing Plant 2**—Under a legal agreement with EPA, Boeing is continuing an investigation and cleanup of contaminated soils, groundwater, electrical vaults and drainage lines, and some near-shore sediments next to Plant 2 property.

## Background

The Lower Duwamish Waterway has served as Seattle's major industrial corridor since it was created by widening and straightening the Lower Duwamish River in the early 1900s. Activities on the waterway have included boat manufacturing and repair, marina operations, airplane parts manufacturing, and metals fabrication. In addition, eleven combined sewer overflows and about two hundred storm drains discharge to the waterway.

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.

In December 2000, EPA and Ecology signed an agreement with the Lower Duwamish Waterway Group. Under the agreement, the group is investigating the waterway contamination, assessing potential risks to human health and the environment, and evaluating cleanup alternatives. Agreements for the actual cleanup of the sediments and the control of contaminant sources may involve other parties.

## How to Get Involved with the Site

One way to get involved is to sign up with the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition. This group provides independent technical oversight of the site and performs independent public outreach. Activities include quarterly board meetings, briefings, river tours, volunteer cleanups and restoration projects, and review and comment for site documents. For more information, please contact BJ Cummings at [info@duwamishcleanup.org](mailto:info@duwamishcleanup.org) or 206-954-0218.

Other ways to get involved include attending public meetings, reading site documents, commenting during public comment periods, and being on the agencies' mailing list. To be added to the list, please contact Cindy Colgate Schuster at [schuster.cindy@epa.gov](mailto:schuster.cindy@epa.gov) or 206-553-1815.

## How to Get More Information

Call one of our information repositories for an appointment to review documents:

- Georgetown Gospel Chapel, 6606 Carleton Avenue South, Seattle, WA, 206-767-3207
- EPA Region 10 Records Center, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA, 206-553-4494
- Washington State Department of Ecology, 3190 160th Avenue SE, Bellevue, WA, 425-649-7190

Visit EPA's web site:

<http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/>  
Click on Index, then "L," and then "Lower Duwamish Waterway Site."

Call or e-mail us:

### General Information

Cindy Colgate Schuster  
EPA Community Involvement Coordinator  
206-553-1815 or toll-free at 1-800-424-4372  
[schuster.cindy@epa.gov](mailto:schuster.cindy@epa.gov)  
Also contact her to request reasonable accommodations for disabilities.

### Sediment Study

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

### Source Control

Rick Huey, Ecology Project Manager  
425-649-7256  
[rhue461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:rhue461@ecy.wa.gov)

*For TTY users: Please call the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 and give the operator Cindy Schuster's phone number.*

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



United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

Region 10 (ECO-081)  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle WA 98101



***FACT SHEET June 2003***  
**LOWER DUWAMISH WATERWAY SITE**  
***SEVEN AREAS IDENTIFIED AS CANDIDATES***  
***FOR EARLY CLEANUP***