



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

## **Public Participation Plan**

**Reserve Silica Corporation  
26000 Black Diamond & Ravensdale Rd,  
Ravensdale, WA 98051**

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*Facility Site ID: 2041*

*Cleanup Site ID: 4728*

October 2018



## Publication and Contact Information

This plan is available on the Department of Ecology's website at:  
<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=4728>

For more information contact:

Northwest Regional Office  
3190 160<sup>th</sup> Ave SE  
Bellevue WA 98008  
425-649-7052

Washington State Department of Ecology – [www.ecology.wa.gov](http://www.ecology.wa.gov)

- Headquarters, Olympia 360-407-6000
- Northwest Regional Office, Bellevue 425-649-7000
- Southwest Regional Office, Olympia 360-407-6300
- Central Regional Office, Union Gap 509-575-2490
- Eastern Regional Office, Spokane 509-329-3400

*To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 425-649-7000 or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.*

**Public Participation Plan**  

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**Reserve Silica Corporation**

Toxics Cleanup Program  
Northwest Region  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
Bellevue, Washington

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## **Public Involvement in Contamination Cleanup**

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) developed this public participation plan (plan) in cooperation with Reserve Silica Corporation and Holcim (US) Inc., the parties responsible for cleanup costs. The purpose of the plan is to promote meaningful community involvement during cleanup.

The plan describes ways Ecology will inform the public about contamination investigations and cleanup options throughout the cleanup process. Ecology encourages the public to learn about and get involved in decision-making opportunities. This plan identifies how and when the public can get involved during different stages of the investigation and cleanup of contamination.

This plan is for the Agreed Order for investigation and cleanup of contamination for the Reserve Silica Corporation site.

### **Site contacts**

To be included in the site record, comments about the cleanup process must be submitted during comment periods. Questions and informal comments or information about the site's history are welcome anytime.

#### **Ecology**

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580-421-8926



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## Public Participation Grants

Grants may be available to neighborhood committees, non-profits, and other groups interested in the site. For contaminated sites, these funds can be used to:

- Hire an expert to help interpret technical information<sup>1</sup>
- Conduct activities that enhance the public's understanding of, and participation in, the cleanup process

For more information about public participation grants, please contact Lynn Gooding at 360-407-6062 or [lynn.gooding@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:lynn.gooding@ecy.wa.gov). You may also visit the [Public Participation Grant website](#).<sup>2</sup>

## Washington's Cleanup Laws

Ecology uses the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) and accompanying regulations for cleanup activities.

This plan is required under MTCA, a law that passed in 1989. MTCA provides guidelines for contaminated site cleanup in Washington State and sets standards to ensure the cleanup protects human health and the environment.

### Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)

MTCA began as a grassroots citizen's initiative in 1988, and started the process of systematically cleaning up contaminated sites in Washington. Under MTCA, a current or past property owner or operator may be held responsible for cleaning up contamination on, or coming from, their property to standards that are safe for human health and the environment.

Ecology enacts MTCA and oversees cleanups in the state and issues regulations and guidance governing those cleanups. The regulations are found in [Chapter 173-340 Washington Administrative Code \(WAC\)](#).<sup>3</sup> Ecology investigates reports of property contamination, and if the contamination is seen as a significant threat to human health or the environment, the contaminated property is placed on the Hazardous Sites List, and the cleanup process begins.

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<sup>1</sup> Ecology currently does not have a citizen technical advisor for providing technical assistance to citizens on issues related to the investigation and cleanup of the site.




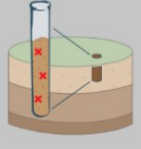





<sup>2</sup> [ecology.wa.gov/About-us/How-we-operate/Grants-loans/Find-a-grant-or-loan/Public-participation-grants](http://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/How-we-operate/Grants-loans/Find-a-grant-or-loan/Public-participation-grants)

<sup>3</sup> <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/publications/9406.pdf>

Public participation is an important part of cleanup under the MTCA process. Participation needs are assessed at each cleanup site according to the level of public interest and the degree of risk posed by the contamination. Individuals who live near the site, community groups, businesses, government, other organizations, and interested parties have the opportunity to get involved by commenting on the cleanup process.

Under MTCA, the cleanup process generally includes five phases. Each phase includes an opportunity for the public to review and comment on cleanup documents.

## Steps in Washington’s Cleanup Process

 <p><b>Interim Action</b></p>		<p>If contaminants pose an immediate risk to people or the environment, action can be taken at any point in the cleanup process to reduce the risk. Interim actions may also be used to progress cleanup when only a brief opportunity is available.</p>
 <p><b>Remedial Investigation (RI)</b></p>		<p>Environmental investigation to identify the nature, extent, and magnitude of pollution at a site, and how people, plants, and animals may be exposed to the pollution.</p>
 <p><b>Feasibility Study (FS)</b></p>		<p>Uses information gathered during the Remedial Investigation to develop cleanup alternatives, and then evaluates them through an environmental benefit vs. cost analysis. This process determines a preferred alternative.</p>
 <p><b>Cleanup Action Plan (CAP)</b></p>		<p>Ecology identifies a cleanup plan based on information in the RI/FS and public input. The CAP includes cleanup standards, a schedule for design and construction work, and requirements for monitoring, operation, and maintenance.</p>
<p><b>Cleanup &amp; Monitoring</b></p>		<p>The CAP is used to clean up the site. After construction is complete, monitoring occurs. Environmental covenants prohibit or restrict activities that would expose any remaining contamination or adversely affect the cleanup.</p>

 Opportunities for public comment

Figure 1. Steps in Washington's Cleanup Process

## State Environmental Policy Act

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) is followed during review and development of cleanup plans.

## **Site History**

### **Land use**

Reserve Silica and previous owners used the property for coal and sand mining until 2007. Now the mine pits are in the reclamation phase - backfilling with materials from construction sites.

### **How the site became contaminated**

A company now owned by Holcim (US) Inc. disposed of cement kiln dust (CKD) in two of the mine pits.

- Lower Disposal Area – a former open pit sand mine reclaimed between 1979 and 1982.
- Dale Strip Pit – a former open pit coal mine reclaimed in the 1980s.

The open pits were filled and closed under solid waste permits issued by Public Health Seattle King County (Public Health). Now they are maintained under a Post Closure Maintenance Permit issued by Public Health.

### **Contamination**

Groundwater moving through the CKD in the Lower Disposal Area discharges to the surface in seeps. Groundwater and surface water contaminants include:

- High pH water.
- Metals, including arsenic and lead.

### **Cleanup plans**

Public Health inspection reports document drainage seeping through the waste in the Lower Disposal Area as early as 1986. Trenches were installed around that time to control the drainage but were not effective.

Since 2002, Holcim (US) Inc. has conducted various activities to reduce and control the drainage. Now, a two-foot thick clay soil cover prevents rainwater from entering the Lower Disposal Area. A trench and drainpipe system diverts rainwater and groundwater away from the Lower Disposal Area. It directs the water to infiltration ponds on the north side of the property. Holcim (US) Inc. routinely reports sampling results for dissolved metals, general chemistry, and other data about surface water and groundwater.

In June 2016, Ecology's Water Quality Program issued a Notice of Violation for high pH water draining into the infiltration ponds. In 2017-2018, Holcim (US) Inc. installed a treatment system to lower the pH and remove arsenic from the seepage before it enters the infiltration ponds. They extended the existing collection trench to the north to capture additional seepage. They also installed fencing around the seeps, drainage ditches, and infiltration ponds. Ecology and Public Health reviewed and approved the system design before construction. The treatment system began operating in 2018.

## **Area community**

The Site is located in a rural area with a mix of mining, forestry, and residential zoning. The Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council has shown interest in being involved in the cleanup process for this site.

Ecology will reach out to cultural community organizations as part of our outreach and provide information in other languages as appropriate following federal guidance.<sup>4</sup> When appropriate, Ecology will provide outreach in non-English language(s). According to census data, less than 5% of the population in this area speaks English "less than very well." We strive to make our public participation efforts as inclusive as possible and welcome your input about how to best reach the nearby community.

The Muckleshoot Tribe is a federally recognized tribe that owns land nearby. Ecology will ensure that the Tribe stays informed of the decision-making process for this site and has ample opportunity to be involved throughout the process on a government-to-government basis.

## **Public Participation Activities**

Members of the public may ask questions, submit informal comments, or share site information at any time. Interested parties do not need to wait for a formal public comment period to contact Ecology.

However, to be included in the formal site record, comments about the site investigation, cleanup alternatives, or cleanups must be submitted during formal comment periods. In addition, the public is invited to review site documents before they become final. This is the most direct and influential way to learn more about the site and be involved in the cleanup's decision-making.

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<sup>4</sup> Guidance to Environmental Protection Agency Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons, 69 Fed. Reg. § 35602 (June 15, 2004).

## How we share information with the community

During specific stages of the cleanup, Ecology will mail notices about public comment periods to addresses surrounding the site. The mailing list area will vary depending on the type of contamination and where it's located, but the list will at least include addresses within a 1/4-mile radius of the site and other interested organizations and individuals. These notices will provide general information about the site, contact information for submitting comments, and times and locations of public meetings or hearings or how to request one if not yet scheduled.

Ecology may also develop documents outside of comment periods to keep the community updated on the site's status. These informational documents will be available online and at document repositories. Print copies may be mailed to the nearby community if we feel the message warrants the associated cost and resources.

Comment period notices and other site announcements may also be posted in various locations throughout the community (for example, local businesses, schools, libraries).

### Postal mailing list

Ecology maintains a mailing list that includes addresses within about a 1-2 mile radius of the site as well as relevant local, state, and federal government contacts.

These people receive public comment notices when draft documents are available.

We will add additional individuals, organizations, and other interested parties to the mailing list as requested. If you would like to be added to the mailing list for this site, please contact Nancy Lui at 425-649-7117 or [Nancy.Lui@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Nancy.Lui@ecy.wa.gov).

### Site Register

Public comment periods, events, and other cleanup notices are published in Ecology's [Site Register](#).<sup>5</sup> To receive the *Site Register* by email, please contact Cheryl Ann Bishop at 360-407-6848 or [cherylann.bishop@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:cherylann.bishop@ecy.wa.gov), or [subscribe online](#).<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> [ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Site-Register-lists-and-data](http://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Site-Register-lists-and-data)

<sup>6</sup> <http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=siteregister&A=1>

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## Newspaper display ads or legal notices

We announce public comment periods and events in ads or notices published in *Voice of the Valley*. We will also publish notice on our [Public Input & Events Listing](#).<sup>7</sup>

## Ecology's website and social media platforms

We maintain a website for the Reserve Silica Corporation site.<sup>8</sup> The website provides site information, and you may download cleanup documents.

We may also share information about cleanup sites through [news releases, our ECOconnect blog, and social media](#).<sup>9</sup>

## Document repositories

During public comment periods, you can find print documents at the following locations:

Maple Valley Library  
21844 SE 248th St  
Maple Valley, WA 98038  
Phone: 425-432-4620

Washington Department of Ecology  
Northwest Regional Office  
3190 160<sup>th</sup> Ave SE  
Bellevue WA 98008

To schedule an appointment, please contact Sally Perkins at 425-649-7190 or [nwro\\_public\\_request@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:nwro_public_request@ecy.wa.gov).

## Signs around the cleanup site

We may also install signs displaying information about project status, traffic impacts, and health risks around the cleanup site.

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<sup>7</sup> [ecology.wa.gov/Events/Search/Listing](http://ecology.wa.gov/Events/Search/Listing)

<sup>8</sup> <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=4728>

<sup>9</sup> [ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Get-to-know-us/News](http://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Get-to-know-us/News)

## **How to share information with us**

At minimum, MTCA requires 30-day public comment periods for draft cleanup documents and 14-day comment periods SEPA documents. SEPA documents are often made available for review with other cleanup documents. We may hold comment periods longer than 30 days.

We may also identify public concerns and cleanup goals by meeting with and soliciting information from interested community members and organizations. To collaborate with us about this site, please contact Nancy Lui at 425-649-7117 or Nancy.Lui@ecy.wa.gov.

## **Public comment periods**

Formal 30-day comment periods allow interested members of the public to comment on draft documents, legal agreements, and proposed cleanup actions. If there is significant interest, Ecology may extend the public comment period. When Ecology oversees SEPA determinations, we hold comment periods for at least two weeks.

Following a comment period, we publish all the input we received and respond to significant comments and questions. If the comments result in significant changes to the cleanup documents, then the documents will be revised and re-issued for public review. If the comments do not result in significant changes, then they become final.

## **Public events**

We hold public meetings, workshops, open houses, and public hearings based on community interest. If we have not scheduled a meeting, we will hold one if 10 people request it, and this may cause us to extend a public comment period so the meeting occurs during it.

Events are held at locations close to the site that meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards. Public meetings, workshops, open houses, and hearings are always announced in advance using a variety of methods.

## **Plan Amendments**

Ecology developed this plan following MTCA regulations (WAC 173-340-600). We review it as the cleanup progresses and amend it as necessary. You may suggest amendments to Nancy Lui at 425-649-7117 or Nancy.Lui@ecy.wa.gov.



This plan includes information for the public regarding opportunities for public involvement and comment. The outreach activities discussed in this section reflect Ecology's current plans for keeping the public informed and providing ways for those interested in the site to communicate their concerns and questions to us.

If you feel the planned outreach activities and mechanisms described in this plan are insufficient, or should otherwise be modified, we will work to find solutions. New outreach activities or outreach tools established as a result can be implemented right away, with or without amending this plan.

