Reserve Silica – Comment Period for Agreed Order

Drainage ditch at Reserve Silica site

Comments accepted:

November 5 – December 7, 2018

Submit comments:

Online at
http://wt.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=WfVB3
Or by mail to:
Madeline Wall, Site Manager
3190 160th Ave SE
Bellevue, WA 98008
Email:
Madeline.Wall@ecy.wa.gov

Site info:

https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=4728

Facility Site ID: 2041
Site Cleanup ID: 4728

Document review locations:

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

Ecology NW Regional Office
3190 160th Ave SE
Bellevue, WA 98008
Please call for appointment.
Phone: 425-649-7190

Public comment invited

Ecology is entering into a legal agreement called an Agreed Order with Reserve Silica Corporation and Holcim (US) Inc. These Potentially Liable Parties (PLPs) are responsible for cleaning up contamination at the Reserve Silica Site.

We'd like your input on the following documents:

- **Agreed Order** – requires the PLPs to further investigate contamination and develop a cleanup plan.
- **Public Participation Plan** – describes how Ecology will inform the community about site activities and opportunities to be involved in the cleanup process.

Under this Order, the PLPs will complete a Remedial Investigation (RI), Feasibility Study (FS), and Cleanup Action Plan (CAP).

Site location and boundaries

The Site is generally located at 28130 Black Diamond–Ravensdale Road near Ravensdale, Washington.

Earlier investigations suggest that the Site may be contained on King County Tax Parcel Numbers 3522069018, 3622069138, 0121069011, and 3522069046. (See map on page 3.) Under this Order, the results of the RI will determine the final boundaries of the Site.

Site history

Reserve Silica and previous owners and operators 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. A company now owned by Holcim (US) Inc. disposed of a corrosive material called cement kiln dust (CKD) in two of the open 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.

These 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. Additional sand-mining pits on the property were filled with materials that are not suspected to be CKD. Reserve Silica is now filling the final surface mine area with inert waste, under permits issued by King County, Public Health, and Ecology.

Chemicals of concern

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

- High pH (corrosive) water.
- Metals, including arsenic and lead.

Cleanup work so far

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.

Figure 1. Treatment system installed to reduce pH and remove arsenic from the seepage.

Since 2002, Holcim (US) Inc. has conducted various activities to reduce and control the drainage. (For more information about this work, please visit the project website.) Now, a two-foot thick clay soil cover prevents rainwater from entering the Lower Disposal Area. A trench and drain pipe 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. (See Figure 1.) 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.

Why does this cleanup matter?

Contamination from this site has the potential to affect plants, wildlife, surface water, and groundwater on and near the property.

What happens next?

Ecology will review and respond to all comments received. We may change the Agreed Order or the Public Participation Plan based on your input. If we do not make significant changes, we will finalize and sign the documents. Then Reserve Silica Corporation and Holcim (US) Inc. will begin drafting the RI work plan. The community will have further opportunities to comment when the draft RI, FS, and CAP are complete.

Reserve Silica site map

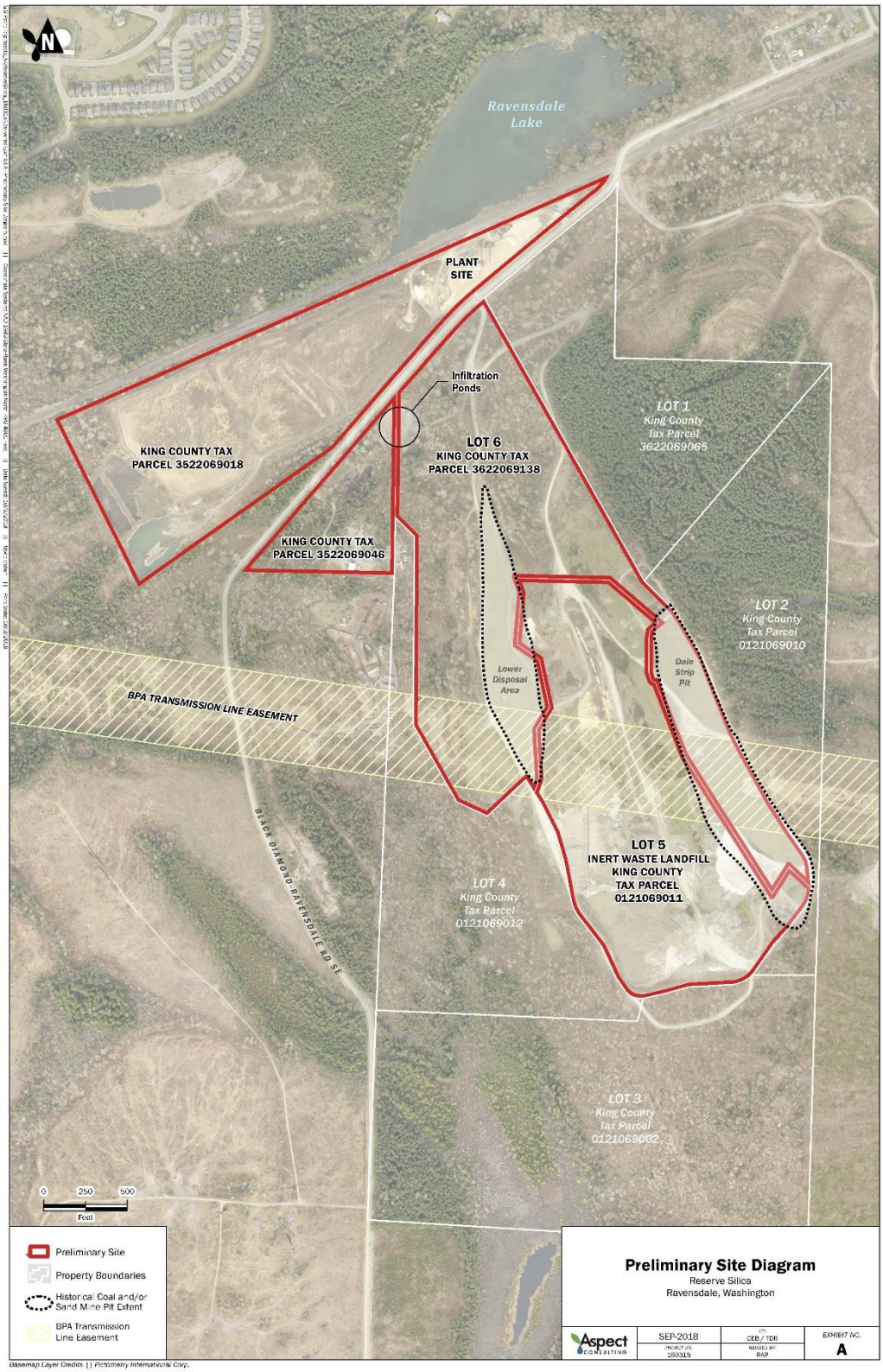

Figure 2. Satellite map of Reserve Silica site showing Lower Disposal Area, Dale Strip Pit, infiltration ponds, and King County Tax Parcels.

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Solid Waste Management Program
3190 160th Ave SE
Bellevue, WA 98008

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Questions? Attend the Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council's special meeting

Date: Friday, November 16, 2018

Time: 7-9:30pm

Maple Valley Fire Station
22225 SE 231st St
Maple Valley, WA 98038
SE corner of intersection of SE 231st St & SR-169 (Renton-Maple Valley-Black Diamond Road SE)

Accommodation Requests: 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.