April 4, 2013

Cleaning up the Lower Duwamish: What's at stake?

The cleanup of the Lower Duwamish Waterway has reached an important milestone. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed a cleanup plan that would take seven years to construct and cost at least $305 million, and is asking for your input.

The Lower Duwamish Waterway is a community and cultural treasure and a hub of maritime industry that generates 100,000 jobs. Now is the time to move forward on a plan to further protect the health and safety of people who use the river, as well as the wildlife that rely on river habitat.

Local businesses, utility ratepayers, and taxpayers will fund the cleanup so it's important that we invest our resources wisely in a cleanup that has the best chance of success. The cleanup plan should get done quickly, cost effectively, and with the best protection for human health and the environment while minimizing negative community and maritime industry impacts.

How can you get involved?

Visit EPA's website to learn more about the proposed plan, find information about public meetings, and give your comments. Comments are due by June 13, 2013.

Attend a community meeting:

- **April 30 in Georgetown**
- **May 15 in South Park**
- **May 29 in downtown Seattle**

What are the most important things a cleanup should achieve?

- Reduce human health and ecosystem risks as early as possible.
- Minimize construction impacts to the community, businesses and environment.
- Ensure the cleanup's long-term effectiveness and permanence through monitoring and adaptive management.
- Preserve the regional economy through an implementable, cost-effective, and minimally disruptive solution.

Lower Duwamish Waterway Cleanup

King County

City of Seattle

Port of Seattle

BOEING

THE LOWER DUWAMISH WATERWAY:

generates 100,000 **jobs**

has 38,000 **residents** living nearby

is home to **25% of King County manufacturing**

provides a migration route for **salmon**

has **businesses that handle** 7.2 million tons **each year of domestic and international traffic, valued at** $7.5 billion

provides **tribal fishing and recreation**

Working together

In 2001, EPA declared the Lower Duwamish Waterway a Superfund site. The Lower Duwamish Waterway Group, a partnership of The Boeing Company, King County, the City of Seattle and the Port of Seattle, stepped forward to work with EPA and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) for more than 12 years, studying the contamination so that we as a region can determine the best and most effective ways to clean up the waterway.

In 2011, we completed a detailed study with several options to clean up the river, which EPA and Ecology approved. EPA's proposed cleanup plan is based on those options and calls for removing the most contaminated sediments, capping less contaminated areas, and monitoring the Lower Duwamish Waterway extensively over the long term.

We're already halfway there: early cleanup, source control

We have gotten started on the cleanup, committing more than $95 million to early cleanup actions, reducing PCB contamination found in the waterway sediment by 50 percent. This work will be complete prior to implementation of EPA's proposed cleanup plan.

Our early action work is already cleaning up 29 acres of contaminated sediment, including some of the most highly contaminated areas. The work completed or underway includes:

- *Norfolk CSO remediation* - 5,190 cubic yards of contaminated sediment removed, 6,700 cubic yards of clean material added.
- *Duwamish Diagonal* - 68,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment removed, clean material added.
- *Slip 4* - 9,800 cubic yards of sediment removed, 3.5 acres of clean material added and habitat restored.
- *Boeing Plant 2* - removal of 200,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment is underway.
- *T117* - cleanup of yards, parking strips and alleys and river bank sediment is underway.

The City and County are also working with businesses to keep new and ongoing sources of pollution out of the river.

More information:

LDWG's website: **www.ldwg.org**

EPA's website: **yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/lduwamish**