

Jorgensen Forge sediment cleanup

Jorgensen Forge is a steel and aluminum forging and distribution facility on the banks of the Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund Site. It is located at 8531 East Marginal Way South in Tukwila, Washington.

The banks and sediments adjacent to the Jorgensen Forge facility contain metals and PCBs that pose a risk to human health and the environment. Removal of a portion of the banks and sediments was performed in 2014 before the larger Superfund cleanup. It is next to other hot spot cleanups, including Boeing Plant 2 (north of Jorgensen), and across the Waterway from Terminal 117. The cleanup of the Jorgensen Forge facility beyond the river bank is being led by Washington State Department of Ecology.

Originally developed in 1942 by the Navy to produce naval equipment, the property has had several owners over 70 years. Star Forge LLC is the current site owner.

What are PCBs?

Human-made chemicals that build up in the environment (including fish and shellfish tissue). PCBs may cause cancer when a person is exposed to them for a long time. PCBs are linked to health effects like low birth weight, thyroid disease, immune system disorders and learning disorders in children.



In the past, PCBs were widely used in many products like electrical transformers, electrical equipment, caulk and paint.

Cleanup activities of Jorgensen Forge sediments

Under a series of agreements with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Earle M. Jorgensen Company (EMJ), a prior land owner, has performed investigations, analyses and cleanup work at the Site. Work undertaken at the Site includes:

- **2011** – The EPA published its cleanup determination in the “Action Memorandum,” describing the cleanup activities required for the Site. This document defined the cleanup levels needed to protect human health and the environment, and required removal of all sediments and bank material that exceeded the cleanup level for PCBs.
- **2013-2014** – Preparation of removal design and removal action work plans, detailing how EMJ would implement EPA’s cleanup determination.
- **2014** – EMJ removed some of the contaminated sediments and bank material. EMJ then replaced these excavated and dredged areas with clean backfill materials. Samples collected during removal work found sediments left in place above the cleanup levels.



- **2015** – The EPA decided \$216,500 in stipulated penalties for 5 separate violations of the approved work plans during the 2014 in-water cleanup activities, and 1 late submission of a required report.
- **2015-2016** – Sediment sampling beneath the backfill and surface sediments throughout the site for any remaining contamination. The samples found PCB concentration in sediments above the cleanup goals, which were established to protect human health and the environment.

Because the sampling data collected in 2015 and 2016 exceed the EPA’s cleanup goals, and poses risks to human health and the environment, the EPA is requiring EMJ evaluate additional cleanup work to address the sediment contamination. This evaluation will be captured in a “Supplemental Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis.”

Next steps: Supplemental Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis

Public Comment Period

During the public comment period, the EPA will ask for public input on cleanup ideas in the supplemental EE/CA. The EPA will provide written responses to comments received.



Sediment sampling indicates that PCBs may continue to pose a threat to human health and the environment in the sediments of the Jorgensen Forge facility. EMJ has agreed to prepare a supplemental Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) to evaluate ways to address the remaining PCB contamination. The EPA will seek public comment on the final draft supplemental EE/CA. Depending on the outcome of the supplemental EE/CA and public input, the EPA may decide to revise its existing cleanup decision. If so, this will be detailed in an Action Memorandum, to address any remaining risks to human health and the environment from the contaminated sediments at the Jorgensen Forge site.

For more information


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