

Quendall Terminal (UD#2 X-3)  
Renton, Washington  
30 June 1985

### **Location and Nature of Site**

The Port Quendall Property, which is owned by Puget Timber, Inc. and Altino Property, Inc., is a 20-acre area on the southeastern shore of Lake Washington presently leased by Seaboard Lumber for log storage. The Reilly Tar and Chemical Company ran a chemical processing and landfill operation on the property from about 1915 until 1960.

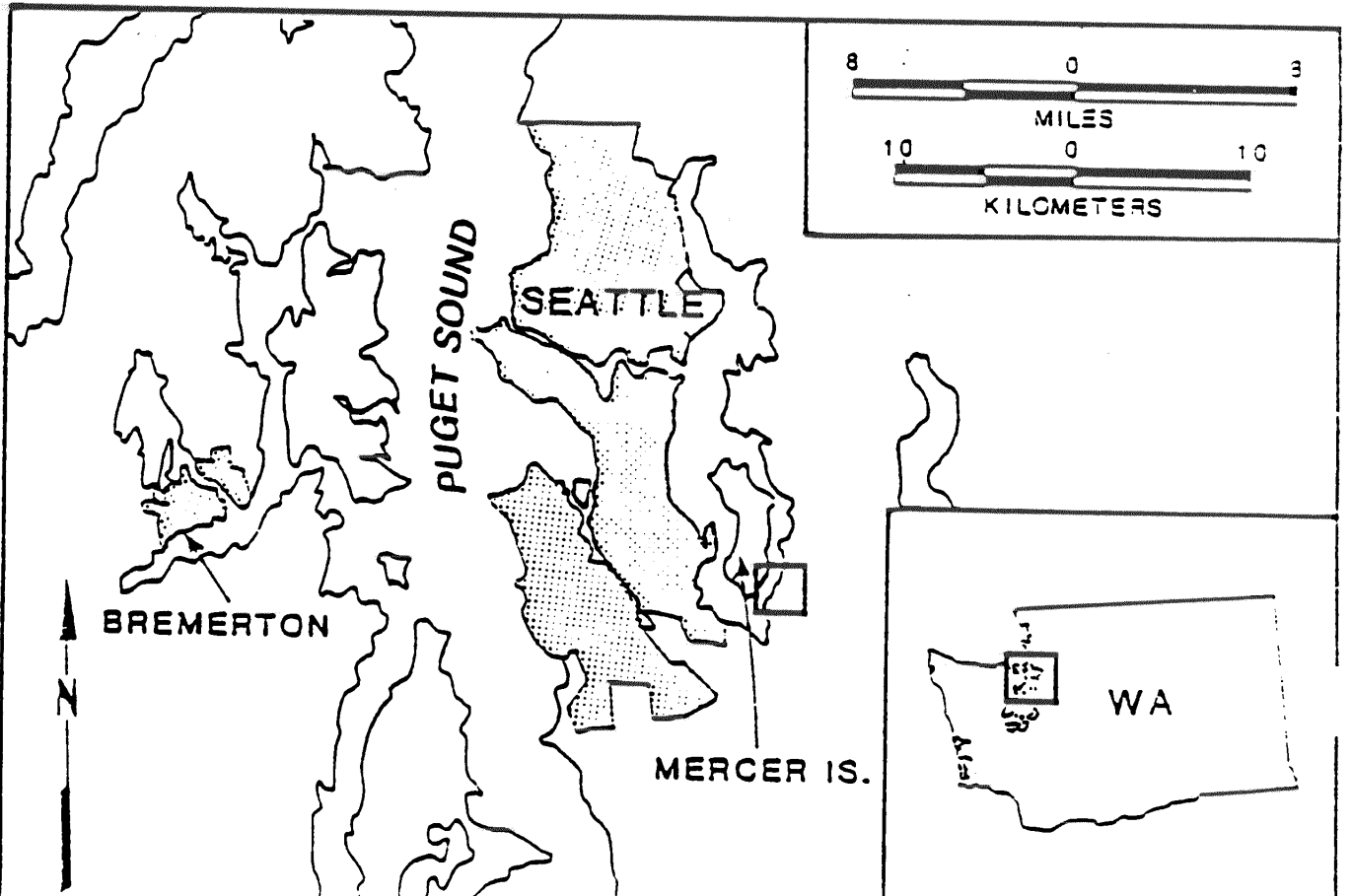
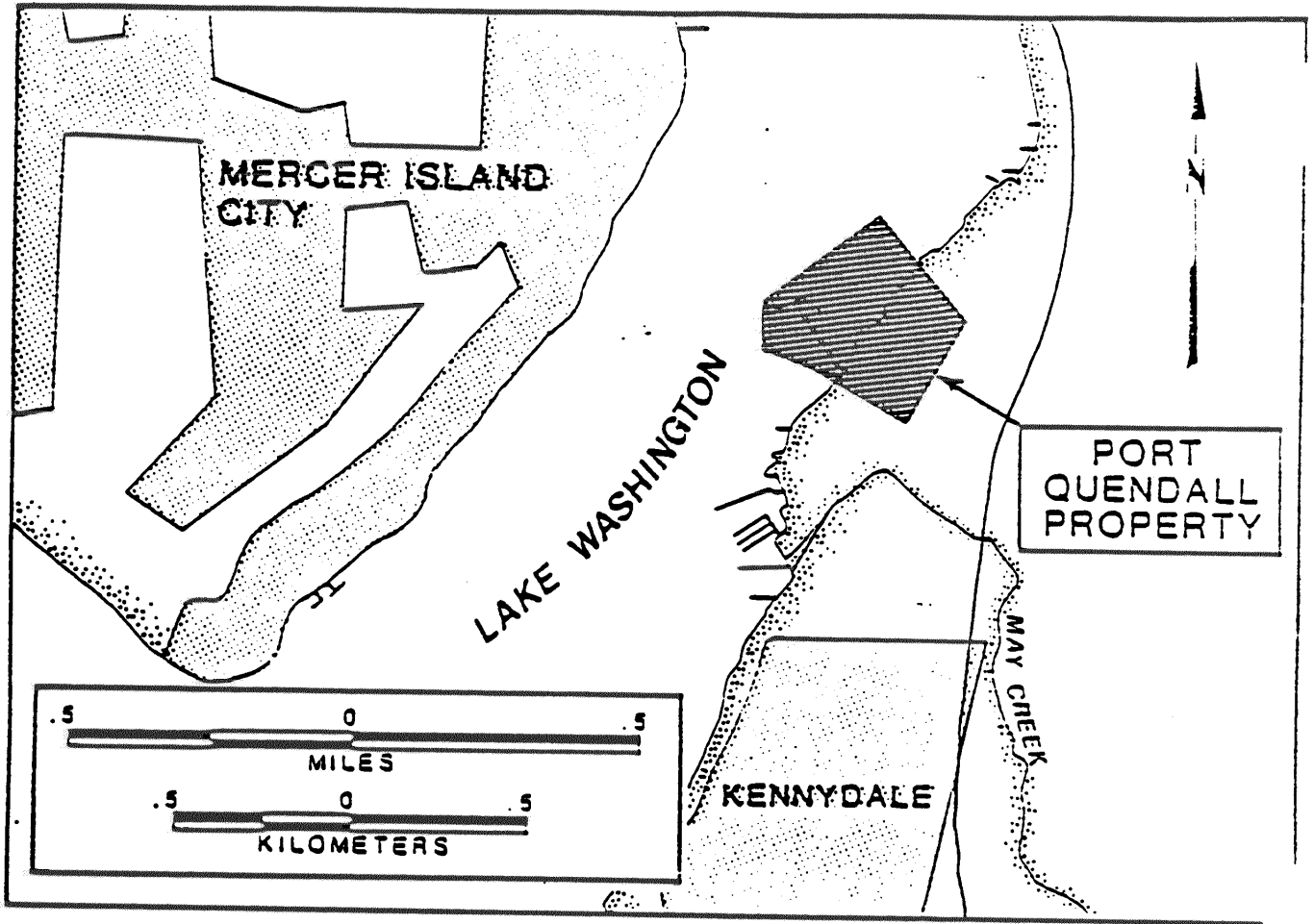
The site is located on an alluvial fan at the mouth of May Creek and is bordered by Lake Washington on the west. The original flow of the creek through the site was altered and the creek bed used as a disposal area. A "T" shaped pier extending into the lake from the property was used to offload coal tar residues from barges for reprocessing at the facility.

### **Chemical Hazards**

#### **Proximity to Marine Waters**

Port Quendall is immediately adjacent to Lake Washington, which connects to Puget Sound via Lake Union, the Ship Canal, and the Hiram Chittenden Locks, a distance of approximately 32 kilometers. May Creek forms the southern boundary of the property.

Recent investigations by EPA have found contaminants in areas of the lake bottom near former barge loading areas. Transfer of material from barges to shoreside facilities may have resulted in large amounts of material being released into the lake.



## **Contaminants and Concentrations**

PAH contamination exceeds 1% over the large areas of the site, with some samples containing 48% total PAHs. The predominant PAH compounds include naphthalene, phenanthrene, 2-methylnaphthalene, fluoranthene, and acenaphthene. Concentrations of volatile organics range from 100-2,000 ppm.

Bottom sediments in the area of the pier show similar types of contamination, with PAH levels of up to 1.3% in some sediment cores.

## **Physical Extent of Contamination**

Portions of the entire 20-acre site show some level of contamination. The areas of highest contamination include chemical processing buildings, storage tanks and sumps, landfilled industrial wastes, and the filled channel of May Creek.

Sampling of soils on site has revealed large areas of land on the site contaminated with a tarry substance saturated with PAHs and volatile organics. Lake sediments out to 18 meters of water depth 1.4 kilometers from the pier are contaminated with PAHs. However, the majority of contamination is adjacent to the site.

## **Duration of Contaminant Release**

Releases may have occurred during the entire period of site operations. Offsite migration of material through surface runoff and groundwater transport may still be occurring.

## **Marine Resources**

### **Resources at Risk**

Salmon utilization extends to all accessible stretches of May Creek. Coho salmon are the dominant species, with chinook and sockeye occurring rarely. A selected race of sockeye salmon may use the shallow gravel beach areas along the site; such use is typical along the eastern lake shore. Total Lake Washington escapement are about 150,000 sockeye, 30,000 coho, and 10,000 chinook. Freshwater aquatic life reported along the Port Quendall pier near the mouth of May Creek included crayfish, trout, small mouth bass, sculpin, and small crustaceans.

### **Ability to Document Injury or Loss**

The lower five kilometers of May Creek are heavily residential, while the upper watershed contains urban areas and small farms. The principal factors affecting salmon production in this drainage are water quality, water supply, general habitat deterioration, and detrimental effects caused by the Port Quendall contamination. In addition to the contaminated areas of Port Quendall, large scale residential developments on May Creek create water quality problems from storm drains, siltation, road construction, and culverts.

### **Feasibility of Habitat or Resource Restoration**

Contamination levels in May Creek are not known at this time. If sediments are contaminated, dredging is a likely cleanup alternative. Restoration of contaminated sediments in Lake Washington may also be possible. Little baseline data is available on the numbers of salmon utilizing habitats affected by the site.

## **Site-Related Actions**

### **Summary of EPA/State Response Actions**

In the early 1970's, the Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle (METRO) and the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) discussed potential problems with proposed site development plans but no formal action was taken. EPA first became aware of the site in 1982, although no enforcement action has been taken to date. A study of contaminated sediment conducted in 1983 is the most recent Federal work at the site. Contractors for Washington DOE ranked the site in 1984 for inclusion on the NPL.

### **Present Stage of EPA Action at the Site**

Public comment on inclusion of the site on the NPL is due by July 1985. No additional action is anticipated by EPA until a final determination is made on inclusion of the site on the NPL. Once that determination is made EPA will begin negotiations in the summer of 1985 with the present owners concerning the completion of a RI/FS. NOAA has requested the opportunity to comment on the scope of any proposed studies under the RI/FS.

### **Responsible Parties with Adequate Means Identified**

The present owners have been identified as a responsible party and have been cooperating with EPA. The former owners and operators of the site may also be responsible parties.

### **Interest of Co-Trustees in Damage Assessment Investigations**

Neither the U.S. Department of Interior nor Washington DOE have made a determination of potential natural resource damages which may be associated with this site.

### **Site Chronology**

1915	Reilly Tar and Chemical begins operations.
1960	Reilly ends operations.
1967-79	Present owners acquire site.
Mid-1970's	Oil tanks on site used for waste oil storage.
1978-9	Oil tanks on site removed.
1980	Site leased for log storage.
1983	Owners conduct on-site contamination survey.
1983	EPA conducts offshore sediment contamination survey.
1984	Proposed listing on NPL.

NOAA Reviewer: Robert Pavia, NOAA Hazardous Materials Response Branch  
EPA Contact: John Meyer, Project Manager

### **References**

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1983. Port Quendall Offshore Sediment Investigation. Seattle, Washington.
- Washington State Department of Fisheries, 1975. A Catalog of Washington Streams and Salmon Utilization. Volume 1, Puget Sound. Washington State Department of Fisheries, Olympia, Washington. Section WRIA 08.
- Washington State Department of Fisheries, 1985. Status of the Salmon of Puget Sound and Coastal Regions. Washington State Department of Fisheries, Olympia, Washington, pp.24-25.