

# SUPERFUND

## Fact Sheet

### HARBOR ISLAND SUPERFUND SITE Seattle, Washington



U S ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION

November 1999

#### West Waterway Operable Unit

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is recommending no action be taken for the marine sediments located in the West Waterway Operable Unit at the Harbor Island Superfund Site. The attached Proposed Plan summarizes information about the site and describes the proposed decision. EPA believes that no action is appropriate because site-specific risk assessments conclude that the West Waterway marine sediments pose no unacceptable risks to human health and the environment.

This fact sheet has been developed for those who would like a brief overview. EPA encourages you to review the entire Proposed Plan and comment on the no action proposal. EPA will **not** make a final decision until the public comment period has ended and all comments have been reviewed and considered. If you would like a copy of the Proposed Plan, please contact Krista Rave at (206)553-6686.

More detailed information can be found in the Information Repository, located at the EPA Records Center, 1200 Sixth Avenue, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor in Seattle. Please call 206-553-4494 to arrange a time to look at any of the Harbor Island documents. EPA would like your input on the proposed cleanup plan. If there is sufficient interest, EPA may hold a public meeting. Please contact **Krista Rave**, toll free, at 1-800-424-4372, by December 1, 1999, if you would like to have a meeting.

Written comments need to be postmarked before or on December 14, 1999 and sent to: Karen Keeley, Project Manager at U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Sixth Ave (ECL-111),

#### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Public Comment Period on  
EPA's Proposed No Action Decision  
From November 15  
To December 14, 1999

#### No Action Proposal

Since 1985, many environmental investigations have been completed on marine sediments at the site, including the West Waterway. The investigations were completed to identify possible negative effects on people or the environment from contaminated sediments. Human health evaluations focused on potential risks from contacting sediment or eating seafood from the West Waterway. Ecological evaluations focused on the potential negative effects of sediment contaminants on marine animals. These evaluations consisted of sediment chemical analyses, sediment toxicity testing, and testing for chemicals in the tissues of animals.

Based on study results, EPA believes that sediments in the West Waterway do not pose unacceptable risks to humans or the environment. Therefore, EPA is proposing that no action be taken to clean up these sediments.

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## Harbor Island

Harbor Island lies in an estuary at the mouth of the Duwamish River on the southern edge of Elliott Bay. The island has been used for ship building and maintenance, lead smelting, and other industrial activities.

Harbor Island was added to EPA's National Priorities List (NPL) in 1983 when hazardous substances were found in soils and sediments. The NPL is a list of sites targeted for further investigation and possible cleanup under Superfund authority.

For investigation and cleanup purposes, EPA divided the Site into an upland portion and a marine sediment portion. The Washington Department of Ecology is overseeing the work on one upland portion, called the Tank Farms. The remainder of the upland portion is being addressed by EPA in a 1993 cleanup plan for the Soil and Groundwater Operable Unit, and a 1994

cleanup plan for the upland Lockheed Shipyard Operable Unit. Cleanup activities are currently underway for the Soil and Groundwater Unit. The cleanup actions on the upland Lockheed Shipyard Unit have been completed and it has been removed from the NPL.

The marine sediment portion of the site consists of three "Operable Units": the Shipyard Sediment Operable Unit, the West Waterway Operable Unit, and the East Waterway Operable Unit (see map in the attached Proposed Plan). The Shipyard Sediment Operable Unit is addressed by a 1996 cleanup plan and includes marine sediments adjacent to the Todd Shipyard and the former Lockheed Martin Shipyard. The West Waterway Operable Unit is addressed in the enclosed Proposed Plan. The East Waterway Operable Unit will be addressed at a future time.

EPA and the Washington Department of Ecology are addressing contaminated sediments in the Lower Duwamish River separately.

## What Happens Next

All public comments will be considered by EPA before making a final decision. EPA may modify the proposal based on public comments or on new information. EPA will respond to public comments in a document called a Responsiveness Summary which will be attached to the final Record of Decision.

## ***For More Information***

If you have any questions about the proposed no action decision, please contact one of the following people:

**Karen Keeley**, EPA Project Manager (206) 553-2141  
**Krista Rave**, EPA Community Relations (206) 553-6686

All documents pertaining to this site are available for your review at the EPA Records Center mentioned at the beginning of this fact sheet.

*To ensure effective communication with everyone, additional services can be made available to persons with disabilities by contacting one of the EPA representatives.*



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Environmental Protection  
Agency

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