

ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



Wyckoff / Eagle Harbor Superfund Site, Bainbridge Island, Washington

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

July 2007

West Beach Cleanup Update

This fact sheet provides an update on the status of investigation and cleanup activities in the West Beach portion of the Wyckoff Superfund Site. The Wyckoff West Beach extends approximately 1,600 feet along the southern edge of Eagle Harbor, from the western edge of the Former Process Area to the western edge of the property. This beach was constructed by removing a failing wooden bulkhead and excavating the sediments behind the bulkhead to create a new beach.

History

In the summer of 2005, EPA received reports from Bainbridge Islanders about odors on the West Beach. Upon inspection, EPA found evidence of residual oily contamination and sheen on the beach in the area where the bulkheads, as well as contaminated soils and sediments behind the bulkheads, had been removed. It now appears that some of the contaminated sediments were not completely removed.

What has been done so far?

EPA roped off the portions of the West Beach with visible signs of contamination and posted signs restricting access to these portions of the beach. EPA conducted extensive sediment sampling along the beach during a period of extreme low tides in spring 2006. The objectives of the sampling program were to:



Roped-off Area 1A

- Assess the nature and extent of the contamination in the two roped-off areas;
- Determine if other portions of the West Beach were contaminated; and
- Collect data to support the cleanup action in areas where contaminated sediment was found.

The investigation determined that the extent of visual and chemical contamination at the surface of the beach was limited to the roped-off areas, but that sediment near the surface (i.e., within

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4 feet of the surface) in several additional areas was also contaminated above levels that are protective of marine aquatic life. The levels also may pose a risk to humans with prolonged exposure. The data support the view that the West Beach sediments were contaminated by historical operations along the shoreline. No evidence was found to indicate that other sources up on the hillside are feeding contamination to the beach. The area of contaminated surface and near-surface sediment is shown in Views A and B of Figure 1 (attached).



Sediment sampling during low tide in spring 2006

How will the contamination be addressed?

The West Beach is part of the East Harbor Operational Unit (OU 1). Previous cleanup actions in the East Harbor are covered by the 1994 Record of Decision (ROD) issued by EPA. The primary cleanup objectives for the East Harbor sediment are compliance with the Washington State sediment quality standards (SQS) and reduction of contaminants in fish and shellfish to levels protective of human health and the environment. Over 70 acres of heavily contaminated subtidal (under water) sediments in the East Harbor OU have already been capped.

EPA coordinated with the State of Washington Department of Ecology, the Suquamish Tribe, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration, the City of Bainbridge Island, and other state and federal agencies to develop the appropriate cleanup approach.

To address the newly discovered contamination, an exposure barrier system (EBS) will be constructed over the contaminated portions of the West Beach and over nearby subtidal sediments that were not capped during previous phases of the cleanup action in the East Harbor. The barrier system will effectively isolate the contaminated West Beach sediments and includes two primary elements:

1. **Beach Cover System.** A beach cover system will be placed on top of the existing beach sediments and previously placed habitat fill in the intertidal zone. The area to be covered includes locations where contaminant concentrations have recently been found to exceed cleanup levels and visual evidence of contamination has been observed in the upper 4 feet of sediment. The cover system will consist of a porous geotextile placed on the original beach, a 1-foot-thick layer of 3-inch cobbles placed on top of the geotextile, and a 2-foot-thick layer of fish habitat fill placed on top of the cobble layer.
2. **Subtidal Cap Extension.** The existing Eagle Harbor sediment cap will be extended from its current southern edge to a transition with the new beach cover system. The materials, placement methods, and placement tolerances for this cap extension will be similar to those used for the existing Eagle Harbor cap, and the cap extension will have the same overall thickness as the beach cover system. The result will be a 3-foot-thick layer of sand and gravel covering the subtidal area immediately north of the West Beach and extending up to the southern edge of the existing harbor cap.

View C in Figure 1 shows the areas where the barrier system will be constructed. Cross-sectional views are illustrated in Figure 2 (attached).

The cleanup action will address the residual contamination and will provide a protective and durable exposure barrier. This system will allow typical recreational activities on the beach and in the harbor.

When will the cleanup occur?

The design and construction drawings for the barrier system have been prepared and EPA is beginning the procurement process for construction. Construction is scheduled to begin in late fall of 2007 and will take approximately four weeks to complete.

For safety reasons, it will be necessary to close the West Beach to the public during construction. EPA is coordinating the construction activities with the City of Bainbridge Island and the Park District in an attempt to minimize the public impact.

For More Information

Technical Information:

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General Information:

Jeanne O'Dell, EPA Community
Involvement Coordinator
206-553-6919 or toll-free at 1-800-424-4372

EPA Web Site:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/CLEANUP.NSF/sites/wyckoff>

Documents: The Administrative Record is a file that contains all information used by EPA to make decisions on the cleanup actions. The Administrative Record can be reviewed at:

EPA Region 10 Superfund Records Center
1200 Sixth Avenue, ECL-076
Seattle, WA 98101
206-553-4494 or toll-free at 1-800-424-4372
Please call for an appointment.

Select documents can be viewed at the Information Repository located at:

Bainbridge Island Public Library
1270 Madison Avenue North

If the library does not have the document you need, feel free to call Jeanne O'Dell, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, at (206) 553-6919.

To request reasonable accommodations:

For people with disabilities: call Jeanne O'Dell at the number above.

For TTY users: call 1-800-877-8339 and give the operator Jeanne O'Dell's phone number.

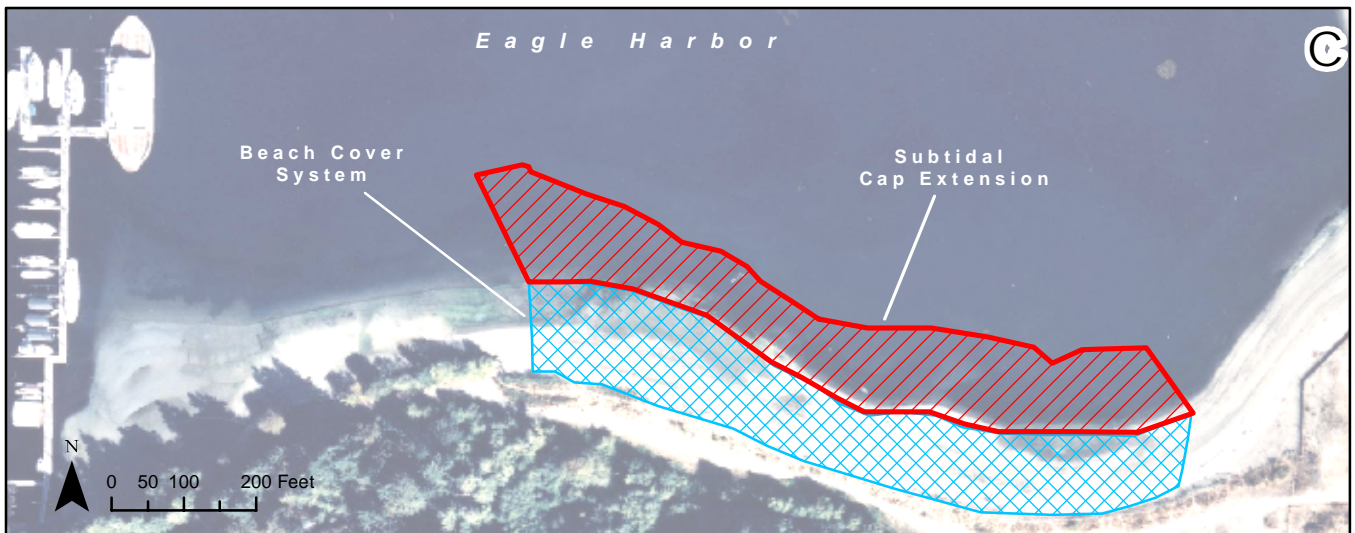
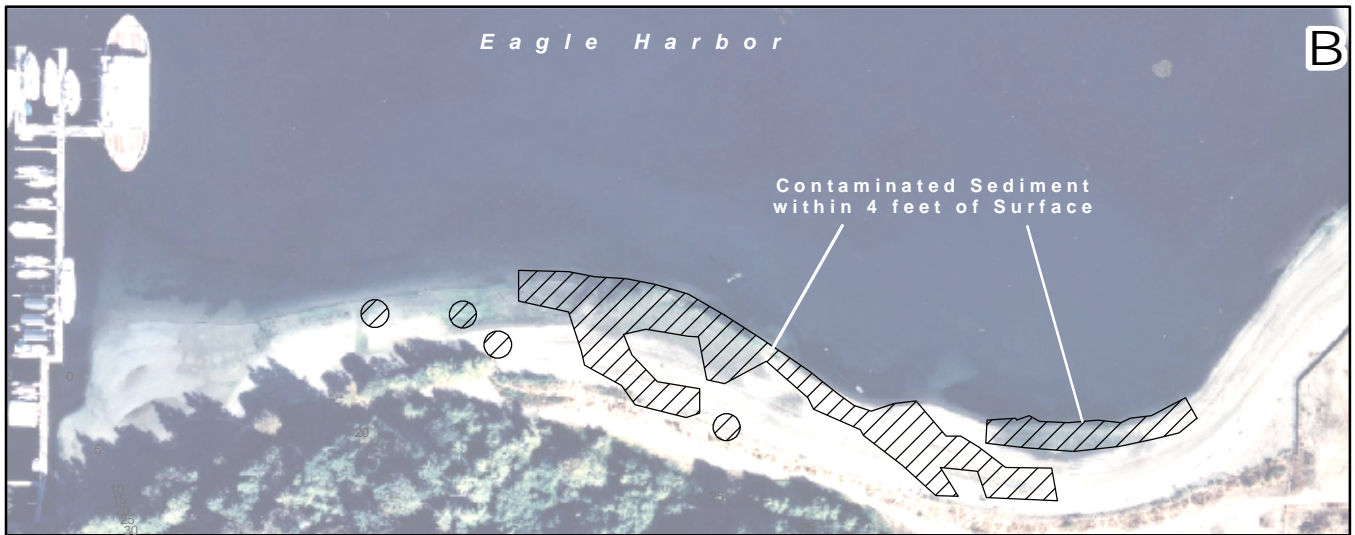


Figure 1
West Beach Views

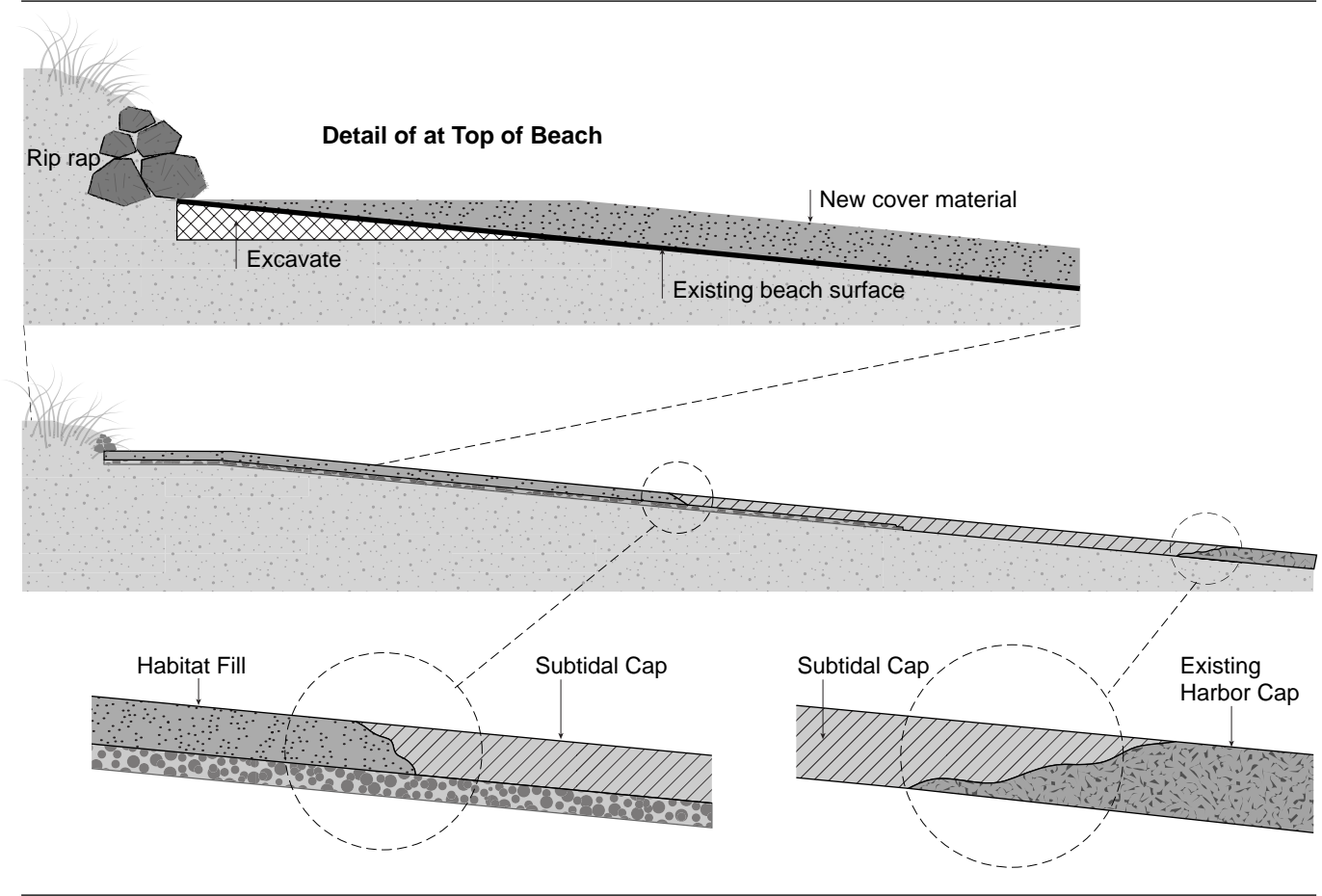


Figure 2
Barrier System