



Harper Estuary Phase II Assessment: Summary of Sampling Procedure

In 2013, the Legislature directed \$4.1 million in funding to restore Harper Estuary, which is located approximately 1.5 miles north of the Southworth Ferry. Harper Estuary became a candidate restoration site as part of the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Program (PSNERP). PSNERP evaluated a variety of degraded ecosystems in Puget Sound and identified actions and projects to restore important nearshore habitats. The Harper Estuary Restoration project was selected by Ecology in collaboration with PSNERP for funding through the natural resource damage funds associated with the cleanup settlement account for the ASARCO smelter site in Tacoma. The site is within the affected area of the ASARCO smelter.

Harper Estuary was once an active industrial area and home to the Harper Brick and Tile Factory until the 1930s when the factory closed. After closing its doors, the factory was bulldozed into the adjacent Harper Estuary. Remnants of the factory including kilns, smoke stacks, and bricks are visible in piles within the estuary and in filled areas off of Olympiad Drive. As part of PSNERP's site evaluation efforts, a Level I Survey was performed to determine the potential current and historical influence of contamination from activities on or near the site. This investigation did not reveal any contamination or potential contaminant sources on or in the vicinity of the project area. However, the Level I Survey recommended that a Level II Survey be performed.

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program, with the assistance of one of our prime contractors, is leading a Phase II Assessment (equivalent to a Level II Survey) to address potential areas of concern within the restoration footprint. A Phase II assessment consists of:

- 1) Preliminary field review and review of historical information to identify locations for sampling
- 2) Collection of soil samples
- 3) Analysis of samples
- 4) Report of findings
- 5) Recommendations for future work, if needed

At Harper Estuary, we've identified six locations that are representative of the site to take samples. The samples have been collected and sent to the lab. We will test for volatile organic compounds, petroleum products, metals, and dioxins/furans. This analysis is commonly performed for project sites with known historic industrial use that will be restored or redeveloped. We expect the results and recommendations to be available in April.

This assessment will help determine if contaminants are present at the site and if identified contaminants need to be addressed independent from the proposed restoration to help ensure that a comprehensive restoration can be accomplished with the available funding.