

3/21/2017

Kerry Graber, Site Manager
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Re: Comments on Feasibility Study, Occidental Chemical Corp.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide comments on the Occidental Chemical Superfund cleanup, the worst contamination left in Commencement Bay.

My name is Bob Fredrickson and I live up the road from this site in Browns Point. I am deeply concerned about toxic contamination from the Occidental Chemical Corporation. Having lived in the area all my life and have spent countless hours fishing, crabbing, windsurfing and numerous other water related activities in these very waters. It is very scary what is being proposed. We should hold Occidental liable for the entire cleanup and not let them off the hook by letting them clean up a portion of the site.

The contamination from Occidental is staggering. Hundreds of thousands of pounds of toxic, cancer-causing chemicals are spread under the site, the Hylebos Waterway, and potentially Commencement Bay. The pollution is so bad, it actually dissolves rock into jelly.

In order to cut costs, Occidental Chemical Corporation is setting the stage to be able to walk away from this mess without a comprehensive cleanup. Occidental is proposing a cleanup plan that would leave nearly two thirds of their pollution in the ground – highly toxic pollution right underneath a vulnerable aquatic ecosystem.

This is absolutely not acceptable - this is not acceptable for me, for my family, for my community, or for my environment. Tacoma deserves more.

We cannot afford to let Occidental walk away from their mess – they must be held accountable for the strongest cleanup possible. I urge Ecology to choose a cleanup plan that removes as much toxic pollution as possible. We cannot allow the profits of polluters to outweigh the importance of environmental protection.

Occidental should not be able to argue that it's too big of a mess – they created it and they should clean it up. For the safety of our environment, Ecology needs to hold them fully accountable for a real cleanup to the "maximum extent practicable" as required by the Model Toxics Control Act. What Occidental is proposing is unacceptable.

Sincerely,

Bob Fredrickson
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