

Kerry Graber, Site Manager
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Sir / Madam,

Having worked with the Foss Waterway Development Authority until my retirement from Public Service, and assisted in the waterway clean-up of one of the most polluted inlets into Puget Sound, I understand the importance, and costs, associated with the clean-up of the Occidental Chemical Site on the Hylebos Waterway on the Tacoma Tide flats.

You are probably under pressure to get this area “cleaned-up” and get it ready for commercial use. One of the options is to clean-up 41% of the toxins and cover the remaining. This would be the most rapid choice and cost efficient, however, this would not protect the waterway in case of a disaster and/or land shift. This is not acceptable.

Another option would be to enforce the federal and state clean-up regulations by requiring Occidental Chemical to do a complete clean-up to the property and not leave nearly 2/3s of the toxins in the ground. As the regulations enforcement authority for the state, please ensure that Occidental Chemical does the right thing and not leave these chemicals in our community where it would be a continued threat to the health of our children or their children.

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.

Thank you for hearing my objections to Occidental Chemicals proposed clean-up on the Hylebos.

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