

# Patricia Tyvand

Kerry Graber, Site Manager  
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Re: Public Comments on Feasibility Study, Occidental Cleanup

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

As a resident of Tacoma and a citizen concerned about the health of Puget Sound, I am very alarmed about toxic contamination from the Occidental Chemical Corporation and about the possibility that your department may allow a truncated and ineffective cleanup.

As you well know, although contamination from Occidental is staggering, with hundreds of thousands of pounds of toxic, cancer-causing chemicals spread under the site, the Hylebos Waterway, and potentially Commencement Bay, Occidental Chemical Corporation 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.

For the safety of our environment, the Washington State Department of Ecology must hold Occidental fully accountable for a real cleanup to the "maximum extent practicable" as required by the Model Toxics Control Act.

I urge you to choose a cleanup plan that removes as much toxic pollution as possible, as soon as possible. Further, Occidental must create a performance bond, reserve account or an equivalent fund to ensure that cleanup costs will be covered regardless of the company's future financial status. Ecology has the authority to order this via a unilateral order.

What Occidental is proposing is unacceptable. We cannot allow the profits of polluters to outweigh the importance of environmental protection.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Tyvand  
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