

Virginia Myers

This is a request to require the Occidental Chemical Co. to conduct a comprehensive clean-up of their site on the Tacoma tideflats. This is a super fund site and the most polluted site in Commencement Bay.

Years of chemical production has left soil and groundwater pollution on the site. There are two polluted plumes of contaminated water under the site which is in an earthquake and lahar zone. In fact the plumes extend underneath the site of the proposed PSE LNG plant. An earthquake or other disaster could send this toxic soup into Puget Sound. Today, the pollution plume is the size of five CenturyLink Fields, is deeper than the Tacoma Dome is tall, and stretches underneath the Hylebos to Marine View Drive. It includes heavy metals, PCB's and a range of highly dangerous volatile organic chemicals. In some places, the pH is as high as 14, which is stronger than drain cleaner and enough to dissolve the rock into jelly. Imagine the damage to Puget Sound and its marine life! Occidental Chemical Corporation is pushing for a cleanup that would remove only 41% of the toxic pollution. Cleaning less than half of this dangerous contamination is unacceptable. Despite the fact that Occidental brought in a whopping \$152 million in pre-tax profits during last quarter alone, the company is advocating for a cheap option instead of an effective one. We cannot afford to let polluters walk away from their mess. We need the strongest and quickest cleanup possible.