

Eric Olsen

Dear Ms Graber,

My name is Eric Olsen and I live in NE Tacoma. I have lived here for over 15 years and I am now retired. I have been following the cleanup of Commencement Bay for some time and I am very interested in what you plan on doing with the clean up of the Occidental site. From what I am reading in our neighborhood website, I am deeply concerned about how the toxic contamination at the Occidental Chemical Corporation site will be cleaned up.

Part of what I love about Tacoma is its story of moving from a historical legacy of industrial pollution to a community with a revitalized connection to its waters. Similar to other cities around this fine nation. Commencement Bay, including the Hylebos Waterway, can be a source of pride with a full and long-lasting cleanup. One that will leave the site in question pristine.

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. It is my understanding, the pollution is so bad, it actually dissolves rock into jelly.

Occidental Chemical Corporation is setting the stage 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 toxic space in the tide flats – 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 profits to outweigh the importance of environmental protection for all.

The argument made by Occidental that their toxic land is too big of a mess for them to cleanup should not be considered as a credible argument. Occidental created the toxic dump and they have the responsibility to the community, from which they earned their profits, to clean up this mess in its entirety. The land should be left as if Occidental's plant was not there, pristine. To leave anything less is not acceptable nor does it show good faith with the community.

For the safety of our environment, Ecology needs to hold Occidental fully accountable for a real cleanup to the "maximum extent practicable" as required by the Model Toxics Control Act. What Occidental is proposing is not acceptable.

Thank you for your time.

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