

# Mt Baker Group WA State Chapter Sierra Club

Mt Baker Group  
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To: WA Department of Ecology  
Ecology-Bellingham Office  
Brian Sato, Site Manager Georgia Pacific West Site  
Re: GP West Cleanup: Pulp and Tissue Mill and Chlor-Alkali Area  
Date: April 9, 2018

The Mt Baker Group Sierra Club is very concerned about the planned cleanup of the GP West Site. The preferred plan #4 does not adequately address the containment of the mercury and phosphorus levels. In fact in reading from other comments that the cost of securing the pilings etc. has been severely underestimated.

We are concerned that this level of cleanup does not address the severity of the environmental impacts of the mercury and phosphorus which if continued leaching occurs into the ground and water can be most detrimental to the habitat and severely limits the type of building and use of this area for future generations.

In studying the other alternatives, alternative #6 would bring us much closer to broader cleanup. The advantage of 6 is that it removes mercury for groundwater protection, full removal of chlorine and neutralizes ground water to 8.5. While this alternative does not remove all contamination it does address the piling removal and contamination.

The cost of alternative #6, could almost double (if projected costs stay on target) the chosen alternative #4, however would enhance the effectiveness of cleanup by 30%. The cost could be recovered from Georgia Pacific since they did not fully disclose the level of contamination. We feel all avenues need to be pursued to cover the cost of a more thorough cleanup. While no plan is perfect since the extent of the contamination from all the waterfront areas is so great we feel that we need to protect our environment and the bay to the greatest extent possible.