

Larry Lonegan

Swift Creek - Activities Prior

November 5, 2019

Swift Creek **activities prior** to Public Meeting Oct 9., 2019, and Comments Accepted time frame Oct.7 – Nov. 5, 2019

Please refer to attached "Consent Decree EXHIBIT A Site Diagram"

1. In mid September 2019, I, like many locals, set out to enjoy Sumas Mtn. by going for a walk. In doing so, I observed that the area described as a "Potential Future Repository Site" which is south of the "Canyon Reach Instream Sediment Traps" had been clear-cut.
2. Subsequently, and prior to the public meeting, I again went for a walk and observed another large clear-cut taking place, effectively from mid way of the sediment traps to the "Williams Pipelines". This clear cut approximates 1700 feet wide. This clear cut joins up with a clear area that begins at the point where the North and South forks of the Swift Creek join. This clear area approximates 900 feet wide and has piles of unprotected Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA). So effectively, there is now a clear area 2600 feet wide from the base of Sumas Mtn. to the William Pipelines.

Comments, questions, regarding the above include, but are not necessarily limited to:

1. Why were these clear-cuts taking place prior to the public hearing and the comments accepted time frame? These activities seem to negate any merits attributable to the meeting and comments. Apparently, the project moves ahead without consideration of the public.
2. It appears that the areas of the clear-cuts "contain critical areas, protective buffers and/or mitigation as defined by Chapter 16.16 and/or Chapter 23, Whatcom County Code" (PL4-86-002-C Rev: July 2014). The forest buffer has been eliminated. What happened here? How and why did these clear-cuts occur?
3. The rainy season is now beginning. As described in Wikipedia, "Prior to the March 2014 mudslide, the Oso area had heavy rainfall during the previous 45 days, up to 200 percent of normal". Given the loss of the forest buffer, it appears that property owners and their families have had a significant increase in the risk of a catastrophic event should the toe of the Swift Creek landslide give way. What is being done or will be done shortly to mitigate the loss of the forest buffer in this critical area?
4. The northeast winds will be coming. Given the loss of the forest buffer, what will be done to limit the NOA unprotected piles becoming airborne, and as a result, subject locals to unclean air and potentially resultant health issues?





## Swift Creek Action Plan

