

Tara Roberts
Department of Ecology
Industrial Section
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

July 8, 2024

**In the Matter of Remedial Action by: Rayonier A.M. Properties, LLC DRAFT
Agreed Order No. DE 17992**

Information from recent newspaper articles and mailers notifies the public of a draft clean-up plan for the Rayonier Industrial site formerly located at 801 23rd Street in Hoquiam, Washington. A public comment period is available, but a public hearing will be conducted only if 10 or more people request it.

After wading through the documents on the DOE website, as adjoining landowners we are very concerned about previous poisons and pollutants leaching and wafting onto our properties from the now abandoned Rayonier A.M. sites.

How the site became contaminated: Industrial practices and historical land use by the mill owners and operators has resulted in air, soil, and groundwater contamination at the site that exceeded existing standards for effluents and emissions. Previous independent investigations conducted by previous site owners and operators have detected the following contaminants in soil or groundwater at the sites.

- Total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) from diesel, gasoline, and oil
- Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)
- Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
- Metals including lead, chromium, and mercury
- Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene, Xylene (BTEX)
- Volatile Organic Carbons (VOCs)

Rayonier Inc. conducted independent investigations and remedial actions at the site, including on both the paper mill and pulp mill properties, beginning in 1993. Records show there had been releases of hazardous substances at the site into soil and groundwater that present a threat to human health and the environment.

These hazardous pollutants are not contained by property line fences.

Based on the foregoing facts, Ecology believes the remedial actions required by this Order are in the public interest.

Per DOE, RAMP (Rayonier A.M. Properties LLC) shall prepare a Remedial Investigation Work Plan (Work Plan). The Work Plan shall include an overall description and

schedule of all RI activities. The Work Plan shall clearly describe the project management strategy for implementing and reporting on RI activities.

Leaving the fox in charge of the henhouse?

We are seriously concerned about air, groundwater, and soil contamination from historically exceeding standards for effluents and emissions, including mitigated and non-mitigated leakages and accidents. The DOE has determined no public informational meeting is necessary unless at least ten people request one.

We request a public informational hearing to better inform adjoining landowners of actions previously taken, the out-of-compliance findings, and the remedial investigation plan implementation.

Seriously,

Barbara James
2311 Pacific Avenue
Hoquiam, WA 98550

Amelia Renhard
Marta McLaughlin
Michael McCormick
Debbie Riley
Sandra Sterling
Paul Sterling
Kathy Westby
Gerri Durham
John Durham

CC: The Aberdeen Daily World
Senator Kevin VanDeWege
Representative Mike Chapman
Representative Steve Tharinger
U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell
U.S. Senator Patty Murray
U.S. Representative Derek Kilmer
Mayor Ben Winkleman, City of Hoquiam