

Comment on the Draft Agreed Order and Draft Public Participation Plan for Sonoco Products Company



photo courtesy of Mady Lyon

Key information here

- 12:01 am, April 16, 2026 through 11:59 pm, May 27, 2026
- Virtual Public Meeting: May 19 at 6 pm on ZOOM
- Cleanup Site ID: 17058
- Facility Site ID: 39542787
- Location: 1802 Steele Ave, Sumner

- By mail:

Aidan McCooey
 Department of Ecology
 Industrial Section
 PO Box 47600
 Olympia, WA 98504-7600

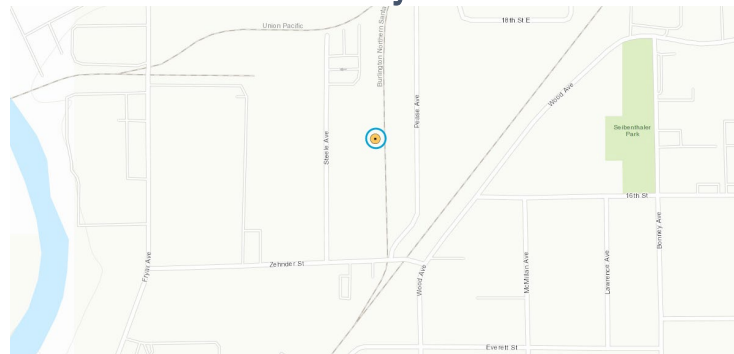
Comment on the draft Agreed Order and draft Public Participation Plan

The Department of Ecology invites you to comment on the draft Agreed Order and draft Public Participation Plan for Sonoco Products Co. (Sonoco) in Sumner (Pierce County).

Comments may be submitted:

- Online: <https://bit.ly/Ecology-Sonoco-Cleanup-Comment>.
- At the virtual public hearing: May 19, 2026 at 6:00 pm on ZOOM. Registration is required: <https://bit.ly/SonocoMeeting>.

Site Location and History



Sonoco is located at 1802 Steele Avenue in Sumner, Washington. The property is considered industrial in a light industrial neighborhood. The facility is located less than a quarter of a mile from the White River and about three-tenths of a mile from Seibenthaler Park. Seibenthaler Park is in a residential neighborhood just on the other side of

the railroad tracks from the light industrial neighborhood.

Northern Paperboard constructed the facility in 1915. In a letter dated March 3, 1980, Sonoco notified Ecology that Sonoco purchased the Site from the Fibreboard Division of Louisiana-Pacific (Fibreboard) and is the current owner and operator of the Site. The Site operated as a recycled pulp and paper mill from 1915 to 2024.

Overview of the Agreed Order and Public Participation Plan

The proposed Order requires Sonoco to complete cleanup activities that protect human health and the environment. Actions include investigating the site to determine the nature and extent of contamination for the site. This investigation will include testing soils and groundwater for compliance with MTCA's risk-based standards. The results of the investigation will then be used to determine the remedial actions needed at the site.

The proposed Public Participation Plan is Ecology's plan for public outreach. It has information on how we will reach out to the public about this cleanup project, and how the public can share input with us.

Why it matters

This is an opportunity to provide input on the process that will be used to investigate and cleanup the site. You can also provide input on how Ecology will communicate with you throughout the process.

Industrial practices and historical land use by the mill's owners and operators have potentially resulted in contamination at the site. Over the years, there have been documented releases and spills. Contamination at the site has not been fully investigated. The liable party will conduct remedial work which will provide additional information on the location and types of contaminants at the site and develop a path towards cleaning up the site.

Public Hearing

A tentative virtual public meeting followed by a hearing to provide information on the cleanup and receive comments from the public is scheduled for May 19, 2026, on ZOOM at 6:00 p.m. Register online <https://bit.ly/SonocoMeeting>. Registration is required. For help with registration, please contact Tara Roberts 360-280-4325 or tara.roberts@ecy.wa.gov. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the hearing. The public hearing will be held if Ecology receives significant public interest. Ecology will notify interested parties prior to cancelling the tentative public hearing if we have not received significant interest by May 18, 2026.

What happens next

When the comment period ends, we will review all comments received before we make a final decision on the documents.

If you would like to be added to the list of interested parties for the cleanup at the Sonoco site and receive updates on Ecology's Industrial Section actions at the site, contact Tara Roberts at (360) 280-4325 or tara.roberts@ecy.wa.gov.

Contact information:

For more information about the cleanup documents contact:

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PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
564-233-5597

To find out more about the cleanup process please visit our website: <https://ecology.wa.gov/mtca-process>.

Where to find the documents

Read or get a copy of the proposed actions and supporting documents at the following locations:

- Department of Ecology
300 Desmond Drive SE,
Lacey, WA,
(360)280-4325 – by appointment;
- Sumner Pierce County Library,
1116 Fryar Ave, Sumner, WA,
253-548-3306
Hours: Mon-Thur 10am - 7pm; Fri-Sun 10am – 6pm
- Online at <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/17058>.