

# Public Comment Period for the Former WestRock Tacoma Pulp and Paper Mill Cleanup Documents



Photo courtesy of Emily Toffol

## Comments accepted:

12:01 a.m., May 14 – 11:59 p.m.,  
June 26, 2026

## Submit comments:

Online at <https://bit.ly/WestRock-Comments>

Or by mail to:

Emily Toffol  
Department of Ecology  
Industrial Section  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

## Site info:

<https://bit.ly/WestRock-Tacoma>

Facility Site ID: 39  
Site Cleanup ID: 16842

## Document review locations:

Online: <https://bit.ly/WestRock-Tacoma>

Ecology Headquarters Lacey  
300 Desmond Dr. SE  
Lacey, WA 98503  
Phone: 360-280-4325  
By Appointment

Tacoma Public Library: Main Branch  
1102 Tacoma Ave S.  
Tacoma, WA  
Hours: Tues - Wed Noon - 8 p.m.  
and Thurs - Sat 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

## Comment on the draft Agreed Order and draft Public Participation Plan

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) invites you to comment on the proposed Agreed Order and Public Participation Plan for the former WestRock Tacoma Pulp and Paper Mill site.

Ecology is providing a draft Agreed Order and associated Public Participation Plan for public review and comment. The Agreed Order initiates an upland investigation process under Ecology supervision, and if the investigation shows that cleanup is required, the order outlines the steps forward for Ecology supervised cleanup. The proposed Public Participation Plan is Ecology's plan for public outreach throughout the cleanup process. 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.

Read or get a copy of the draft Agreed Order and Public Participation Plan at the following locations: Department of Ecology, 300 Desmond Drive SE, Lacey, WA, (360) 280-4325; Tacoma Public Library, Main Branch, 1102 Tacoma Ave. S, Tacoma, or online at <https://bit.ly/WestRock-Tacoma>.

## Attend a meeting and hearing.

A public meeting to provide information on the cleanup process followed by a hearing to receive comments on the Agreed Order and Public Participation Plan is scheduled for 6 p.m. on June 15, 2026, at Stadium High School Auditorium in Tacoma. Stadium High School is close to public transit and has a parking garage available for those

attending the meeting. If you have questions regarding the meeting or need interpretation services, please contact Tara Roberts 360-280-4325 or [tara.roberts@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:tara.roberts@ecy.wa.gov).

## Site location and history

The former WestRock Pulp and Paper Mill is located at 801 East Portland Avenue in Tacoma (Pierce County), Washington in the Tideflats next to where the Puyallup River connects to Commencement Bay. The site is a former Kraft and recycled pulp and paper mill that produced bleached and unbleached products. The mill was built in 1928 and permanently shut down in 2023.

## Why it matters

Industrial practices and historical land use by the mill's owners and operators have potentially resulted in contamination at the site. There are records of releases of petroleum oils, acids, lime waste, and black liquor (spent pulping chemicals) on the upland area of the site. While there is a history of releases of hazardous substances at this site, to Ecology's knowledge, there has been no historic sampling investigation of the site to determine the type and quantities of contaminants present.

[Your voice matters.](#)

Public participation is an important part of the cleanup process. Ecology wants to know about your community and how we can best keep you informed about this cleanup process. This is an opportunity to provide information on your community and input on the process that will be used to investigate and clean up the site.

## What happens next?

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

## ADA Accessibility

To request an ADA accommodation, email [tara.roberts@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:tara.roberts@ecy.wa.gov), call 360-280-4325, or dial 711 to call through the Washington Telecommunications Relay for services like text telephone (TTY). Visit [Ecology.wa.gov/ADA](https://ecology.wa.gov/ADA) for more accessibility information.

## En Español

El Departamento de Ecología está comprometido a ofrecer servicios de idioma, incluidos traducción e interpretación, para personas cuyo idioma principal no es el inglés. Para solicitar estos servicios, envíe un correo electrónico a [tara.roberts@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:tara.roberts@ecy.wa.gov) o llame al 360-280-4323. Si llama, pida que le conecten con un intérprete.