

RE Sources

Dear Cris Matthews,

Thank you for taking the time to consider our comment on the Agreed Order and Public Participation Plan for the Sea K Fish Site.

RE Sources is a non-profit organization located in northwest Washington and founded in 1982. We work to protect the health of northwest Washington's people and ecosystems through the application of science, education, advocacy, and action. Our priority programs include Protecting the Salish Sea, Freshwater Restoration, Climate Action, and Fighting Pollution—all critical issues affecting our region. Our North Sound Baykeeper is also a member of the Waterkeeper Alliance, with over 300 organizations in 34 countries around the world that promote fishable, swimmable, drinkable water. RE Sources has thousands of supporters in Whatcom, Skagit, and San Juan counties, and we submit these comments on their behalf.

We appreciate this opportunity to comment on this Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) cleanup site. As we observed from a site visit in September 2020, this site certainly needs to be addressed in a timely manner and we appreciate your efforts to keep this site moving along quickly while following due process. We generally support a full removal cleanup if that's what the Remedial Investigation supports and encourage on-going monitoring of the site to ensure that the oil leak is kept under control in the meantime.

Having a Public Participation Plan in place early in the process is always important as public participation is a key component of the MTCA process. We encourage Ecology to post public meeting materials online as soon as possible, so that more public can see these materials even if they are unable to attend any scheduled public meetings. We also feel it is important to ensure that the employees on the impacted site(s) are properly informed. They are entitled to know what contaminants and associated hazards are present in their work area. During a previous MTCA site tour in the area we found out that employees were not aware of the public comment period or cleanup plans. Signage around the area could help inform more of the public, including employees at the site. Properly informed employees might also be another set of eyes at the site to notify the Port of Bellingham and/or Ecology whenever the boom is not containing the oil seepage.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Hines, Lead Scientist/North Sound Baykeeper
Kirsten McDade, Pollution Prevention Specialist
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