

Elizabeth Natalie

It is baffling to me that WBDG continues to go forward with this process knowing that the site contains toxic and harmful constituents (see 5.7 in Agreed Order No. DE 21726) that may never be fully remediated given the history of the site. If the first remediation in the early 2000s was not enough, and clearly it isn't, who is to say that toxic and harmful constituents will not resurface again after WBDG remediates now? The process should be stopped now and WBDG should cut their losses and hand the land over for "rewilding" via the Department of Ecology and the City of Olympia. If WBDG and DE continue with the Agreed Order, then it seems that the two organizations should work together more effectively rather than hoping WBDG will come through, but if not, the onus of responsibility shifts to DE (section 7.5). Will WBDG be biased in its plan? Seems there is a real possibility for that in spite of DE specifying the right to access and sample the site. What happens once construction begins, especially knowing that underground parking is in the design plan? Will toxic constituent levels again be found to be beyond tolerable health levels? Will construction disturb land and water to the point of continual harmful effects to residents of the new dwellings? The half life of these toxins could be more than we know given the long term effects of the fires. I realize I am not a scientist, but if someone (WBDG) buys land knowing it has contamination, then I do not think that is a responsible position. That site is seriously contaminated. Period. Remediation a second time is a bad sign compounded by the overall fragility of the property and its interaction with the tides of Budd Bay. Instead of following through on this Agreed Order, for the health of construction workers and future residents, WBDG should give it up. Find a graceful way out of this situation. And, it's even more surprising that DE let the situation get as far as Agreed Order 21726 knowing the level of potential harm to people and wildlife if this remediation attempt is not successful.