

Resolution for Public Comment on Port Angeles Rayonier Mill Cleanup

Resolution 2025-09

Whereas The Washington State Department of Ecology has established this current period until 11:59 p.m., August 12, 2025, for public comment on the proposed action plan for environmental cleanup at the Port Angeles Rayonier property where industrial pollution has occurred for over 100 years; and (1)

Whereas The Clallam County Democrats' Mission includes promoting wise environmental stewardship, including Clean Air and Clean Water and it is important that we stand up and have our voices counted (2); and

Whereas Investigations by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Washington Department of Ecology have revealed that dangerous chemicals and sediments exist at levels of concern and pose a risk to marine and wildlife, humans and the environment (3); and

Whereas Democrats believe it is in the best interest today to build a healthy environment, respect the humans, wildlife and marine creatures that historically will follow us inhabiting our land, waters, air and forests. (4)

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Clallam County Democratic Party (CCD) unequivocally demands removal of all contaminants from the Upland Study Area and transport of contaminated materials to an appropriate disposal site such as one in Eastern Oregon; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CCD calls upon The State Department of Ecology to modify its Interim Action Report to require such removal; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this Resolution be adopted by the Clallam County Democrats and distributed to the State Department of Ecology administration, Washington Governor Bob Ferguson and our representatives in Congress and the State Legislature.

Submitted by: Robbie Mantooh, and Bill Biery - Clallam County Democrats

Adopted: July 11, 2025, by the membership of the Clallam County Democrats



References

1 Public Comments Welcomed

<https://ecology.wa.gov/spills-cleanup/contamination-cleanup/cleanup-sites/puget-sound/port-angeles-harbor/rayonier-mill>

² Clallam County Democrats' Mission

<https://www.clallamdemocrats.org/mission.html>

3 Contaminants in the upland and marine areas

ecology.wa.gov/rayonier page 3,

In the upland area, soil and groundwater are impacted by:

- Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)
- Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)
- Dioxins
- Ammonia
- Metals: Such as arsenic, iron, lead, zinc, thallium, copper, manganese, and nickel
- Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH): Diesel and heavy oils
- Elevated pH: Impacting groundwater quality

In the marine area, marine sediments and animal tissue are impacted by:

- Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)
- Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)
- Metals: Such as arsenic and lead
- Dioxins
- Phenols
- Phthalates
- Woody debris: May impact habitat and water quality

Contaminants pose a risk to human health through direct contact with contaminated materials or by eating fish and shellfish exposed to these substances. (Department of Ecology Publication 25-09-092, page 3)

4 Washington Model Toxics Control Act

(MTCA) Chapter 173-340 WAC Cleanup Standards

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70A.305&full=true>

<https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/laws-rules-rulemaking/closed-rulemaking/wac-173-340>

Washington State Department of Ecology publication 94-06

<https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/laws-rules-rulemaking/closed-rulemaking/wac-173-340>