

Jason Morris

My comment is in relation to the plan to cap 10 acres of contaminated soil rather than remove it altogether from the Port Angeles Rayonier Mill site. This is not an acceptable solution.

Contaminated soil should be completely removed from the site to return it to closer to its natural state. Even the Dept. of Ecology itself acknowledges that this would be the best option.

Nonetheless, Ecology has decided to choose the cap option, with the reasoning that the cost of removal would outweigh the benefits. I disagree strongly with this opinion. Having these chemicals in the environment does immeasurable harm to us as humans as well as the fish and mammals which live in the Port Angeles Harbor area. Not to mention the risks that natural disasters like earthquakes and tsunamis present to the long-term viability of any cap placed on contaminated soil. I understand this remedy will be designed with predicted future disasters in mind, but the risks of having these contaminants escape the cap in the future, whether due to natural disaster or poor design or construction, are far too great. There is no cost too great when it comes to removal of toxic waste that is doing harm to people and the environment. Rayonier saw fit to release these substances into the environment in the first place (and leave them there when they moved out of the site) and now they should be required to pay the price to clean up their mess completely, regardless of how much it costs. It is high time that companies begin to pay the true price of the messes they have made in the past and to stop placing the burden of cleaning those messes on taxpayers.