

Anonymous Paulson

Rayonier MUST be held accountable for the full and complete clean-up of the Port Angeles mill site. They enjoyed many years of profit running the mill, and harvesting trees from Olympic Peninsula.

I do not believe covering contaminants with fabric and soil and letting Rayonier check for leaks is adequate protection against exposure to toxic wastes that can harm health, including cancer risks. Sea-level rise, extreme weather, and disturbances by animals and people could cause leaks.

I support the City of Port Angeles and many other governmental entities, nonprofit organizations, and individuals for almost every comment submitted to the State Department of Ecology during the last comment period — in 2019 — that Rayonier must be required to remove ALL contaminants from its former mill site. For the latest report, Ecology officially released about five years later — June 12, 2025 — Ecology has moved its preferred cleanup level only from Level 2 to 3, out of 5. Level 5 is the only alternative that would excavate ALL contaminants and move them to a landfill, like one in eastern Oregon, where they can be safely contained.

Rayonier was in operation for years. While living up hill from the mill I could watch the smoke from their stack. When the west wind blew the pollutants from the mill carried to Gales Addition. In the 1980s the area east of Rayonier Mill was known as the 'cancer area'. I did not understand the name until I noticed when the wind was blowing from the west it settled in Gales Addition. When the wind blew northwest the pollution/contaminants traveled up the hill to where I lived. I needed to close my home's windows and come inside if I was gardening.

I knew which way the wind was blowing because I could taste an acidic element in the air. The people of Port Angeles have suffered enough from the effects and negligence of Rayonier and the lack of adequate protection from government.

I worked for a business along Front Street. I was outside caring for merchandise and could not only see the gray cloud of pollution but taste it in the air. I mentioned this to a customer who told me he was from the government monitoring the air quality. He said they just fined the Mill \$300.00. I gave a small laugh and said that was what they spend on lunch.

I am happy to see something is finally getting done but it must be thorough and not just a patch. People's lives are at risk. Do the right thing get rid of these contaminants.