

mike doherty doherty

I was raised, educated and employed in Port Angeles. After service in the US Navy, I returned to Port Angeles and enrolled at Peninsula College. While attending Peninsula, I worked full time at the Rayonier mill, primarily "grave yard" shifts. On numerous occasions I worked "overtime" which periodically involved "cleaning boilers", where one worked in the inside of the boiler, in over 100 degree temps, breathing without protection... It was good money for a college student. But in subsequent adult years you often wondered what the chemical makeup was of the air you had been breathing, without any warnings. Several of the mill jobs involved health and safety risks.

Rayonier was very profitable through most of its operational years.

When the Rayonier mill finally closed, local employment suffered dramatically and lasted for many years. Retraining programs were offered, but real success was marginal.

The clean-up of the former mill site has been prolonged at the convenience of Rayonier. I believe that it is long past the appropriate time for the Rayonier Corporation, and successor owners, to be required to perform a complete cleanup at the site. As I listened to the discussions in our City Council meetings, I found myself supporting the concept summarized by the statement "require a cleanup, not a coverup". From what I have learned in the several discussions over recent years, for the quantities of material to be removed for treatment, barge transport would be most efficient and in the best interests of public health.

Thank you for the opportunity to make public comment.