



EPA Begins Dallesport Cleanup

Dallesport, Washington – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will begin the fourth phase of cleanup at the former RAMCO saltcake disposal site, located at the Port of Klickitat's Dallesport Industrial Park, during the week of July 19, 2010. Started in 2007 by the Washington Department of Ecology (DOE), the project involves crushing and removing a waste byproduct commonly called “saltcake”. From 2007 through 2009, over 71,000 tons of material were removed from the site.

The material was produced by the former Recycled Aluminum Metals Company (RAMCO) operation located at 102 Kreps Drive and stored in a permitted landfill located along the eastern boundary of the industrial park. The company recycled dross and other byproducts from the primary aluminum plants that once operated in the Mid-Columbia region, extracting the remaining aluminum which existed in quantities too small for the large plants to economically separate.

At A Glance...

Who:.....US EPA

What:.....RAMCO Cleanup Site

When:.....July 19, 2010

Where:.....Dallesport Ind. Park

Quick Facts:.....EPA will begin removing the final 15,000 to 25,000 tons (estimated) of saltcake material remaining at the RAMCO disposal site.

In 1990, changes to Washington environmental laws resulted in the reclassification of the saltcake from “nonhazardous” to “dangerous waste”, setting in motion a series of events that would ultimately lead to the cleanup efforts now under way. Though original estimates projected a two-year, two-phase project to remove a total of 52,000 tons of material, the density of the saltcake was much greater than expected, resulting in a cleanup effort that will ultimately remove nearly twice as much material and take twice as long as initially expected.

Current projections indicate another 15,000 to 25,000 tons of material will be removed over the next eight to ten weeks to complete the cleanup project. This phase of the project is being handled by EPA contractor Environmental Quality Management, Inc. located in Lynnwood, Washington. Prior cleanup work was awarded by the DOE to local contractor James Dean Construction.

About the Port of Klickitat

Economic development, transportation, and marine-based recreation are key functions of the Port of Klickitat. These are achieved through leasing industrial-zoned property, developing and renting industrial and commercial facilities, developing and maintaining rail spurs and dock facilities, assisting companies with an interest in locating in Klickitat County, creating and managing marine-based recreational facilities, and working closely with various partner organizations and agencies.

For more information, please contact:

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The Port of Klickitat is located in Klickitat County, Washington and was created in 1944. It is one of several port authorities located in the mid-Columbia region. It owns two industrial parks and several buildings, leases industrial property and space, operates a barge dock, and holds property set aside for a park and marina. Transportation access is provided via rail, river barge, highways 14, 35, and 197, and Interstate 84.

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