

BACKGROUND

For nearly 80 years, Occidental Chemical (Oxy) manufactured dry-cleaning chemicals along the Hylebos Waterway, in Commencement Bay, Tacoma. Decades of poor housekeeping practices and improperly disposing of waste has resulted in the groundwater and soil being contaminated by many hazardous materials, like bleach, heavy metals and cancer-causing compounds.

MOST TOXIC SITE IN TACOMA

The resulting pollution plume is the worst unaddressed contamination in Commencement Bay. Today, the pollution plume is the size of five CenturyLink Fields, is deeper than the Tacoma Dome is tall, and stretches underneath the Hylebos to Marine View Drive.

We have to push for a comprehensive cleanup, not a cheap one!

WE'RE HOLDING Oxy ACCOUNTABLE

Oxy is responsible for leaving toxic pollution at dozens of sites across the US. Currently, Ecology is pushing Oxy for a cleanup that will remove only 41% of the toxic pollution left behind. Ecology's final cleanup remedy will be released in their draft Cleanup Action Plan in early 2019. This plan will outline how much and what parts of the pollution will get cleaned up.

The Department of Ecology makes the decision on how much pollution Oxy has to clean up. Your public input informs this decision. Right now, Ecology is asking Oxy to clean up less than half of the mess they made. This is unacceptable for Tacoma. We need to continue to pressure Ecology to form a cleanup plan that gets rid of the most amount of pollution as possible.

STAY INVOLVED

- ★ Join our Arising Issues email list – sign up here or online at www.healthybay.org/arising-issues-list/
- ★ Check out www.healthybay.org to get caught up on the history of the site
- ★ Keep an eye out for our next forum on Occidental. We'll review the Cleanup Action Plan and get prepared to attend the public hearing and submit comments



CLEANUP STARTING SOON

The severity of Occidental's pollution landed the site on the federal list of Superfund cleanups in the early 1980s. Decades later, we are finally nearing the start of a cleanup. The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) is currently deciding on a cleanup plan. This will determine how much pollution gets removed, and how much will stay in the environment forever.