



ARSENIC

Glacier's land will be the cleanest area on Maury Island after its cleanup of arsenic tainted soil

“Based on the results of leachability tests and other water quality analyses, metals (such as arsenic) are not expected to present a risk to groundwater when contaminated soils are disturbed during mine expansion.” Washington Department of Ecology (DOE) Maury Island Gravel Mining Impact Studies Final Fact Sheet, June 2000

“The arsenic in surface soils from the Asarco plume does not leach to deeper soils or to groundwater. Much data has been collected that illustrates this and Ecology (DOE) has published these data as part of the state's area-wide contamination studies.” Legislative testimony of Lori Herman, state licensed hydrogeologist and engineering geologist and nationally certified groundwater professional, March 21, 2007

- Despite nearly 100 years of operation, contamination from the now closed Asarco smelter has not impacted Maury Island's water supply at Dockton. Contaminant levels there remain similar to those found in wells in other areas of Puget Sound not subjected to smelter fallout.
- Glacier and the Department of Ecology (DOE) first agreed to a voluntary cleanup program to isolate the contaminated topsoil at the mine site in a containment cell.
- On June 25, 2008 the Department of Ecology announced that it was going to commence a more formal Model Toxics Control Act clean-up process for the arsenic tainted topsoil. This cleanup will be overseen by DOE and includes extensive public involvement and regulatory oversight.
- Glacier supported the decision by Ecology to a more formal cleanup process.
- DOE will first require Glacier to study contamination at the site. Glacier will then prepare a feasibility study under DOE's direction, standards and criteria to evaluate alternative remedies. Glacier's proposal to build a containment cell on its property will likely be one of the remedies considered.
- DOE will choose the remedy it considers best based on the site investigation and evaluation of remedies and Glacier will implement selected remedy.
- Ecology requires detailed studies and plans for any selected remedy to ensure that it properly, securely and permanently contains contaminated soils.