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PORT OF OLYMPIA TO BRING PART OF CASCADE POLE SITE BACK TO PUBLIC USE

The Port of Olympia is preparing to cap and make improvements to about four acres of the Cascade Pole remediation site at the tip of the Port Peninsula in downtown Olympia. The work will continue activities agreed upon by the Port and the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) to remediate the area. The goal of the project is to restore this area to public use while continuing to protect people and the environment from exposure to possible contamination.

The project is scheduled to begin in August 2008, and completion is targeted for October. When finished, the project will provide a paved four-acre parking area that will serve the Swantown Marina launch ramp and future commercial development of the area, the first phase of a walking trail along the north part of the Port peninsula, and a new location for the KGY Radio station antenna.

The work is being carried out under an existing legal agreement between the Port and Ecology, and the project plans and specifications have been reviewed by Ecology.

Access to Swantown Marina and businesses in the NorthPoint area will not be blocked during construction. The majority of the work will be done off the road, although truck traffic will enter and exit the site from Marine Drive.

“The Cascade Pole site has been unavailable to the public since the early 1990’s when the Port and Ecology began cleaning up the area,” said Port Commission President Bill McGregor. “The new walking trail and parking area will enhance the community’s access to the waterfront, and we are pleased to be able to provide a new location for the KGY Radio antenna.”

A number of improvements will be accomplished by the project. The first part of the walking trail that will eventually extend to the end of the peninsula will be developed and fenced with a combination of boulders and a low fence. Signage will be installed to discourage the public from walking onto the beach area or intertidal sediments. Two stairways will be constructed from the paved parking area to provide access to the trail, and one of the stairways will be accessible for people with disabilities. Landscaping will be planted to screen the area from nearby neighborhoods, and lighting will be installed to provide for security while

limiting excessive glare. Sub-surface systems will be placed underneath the asphalt of the parking lot to accommodate relocation of the KGY Radio antenna,

The portions of the site not paved with asphalt will be capped with at least 18 inches of clean soil over a special layer of material designed to prevent contact with any potential contamination. This treatment will be used along the side slopes of the parking lot and along the shoreline. The soil cap and shoreline areas will be planted with native vegetation that will be irrigated by reclaimed water from the Lacey Olympia Tumwater Thurston County (LOTT) treatment plant.

On July 14, the Port Commission approved awarding a contract for this work to Active Construction Inc. The amount of the contract was \$1.9 million.

Cascade Pole Remediation - Background Information:

From 1939 to 1986, wood-treating companies operated on an eight-acre site at the tip of the Port Peninsula. These companies used chemicals to preserve structural wood products, such as utility poles and railroad ties. Chemicals entered the environment at locations near the treatment plant and adjacent offshore areas of Budd Inlet.

In 1990, the Port, the wood treating companies, and Ecology agreed to a strategy for remediating the site. Since 1992, a number of actions have taken place to address contamination in both off-shore sediments and adjacent upland parcels, including:

- Construction of a containment wall or “slurry” wall that prevents contaminated groundwater from migrating into the inlet.
- Installation of a groundwater treatment plant that operates using an extraction well system 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Dredging off-shore, contaminated sediments and backfilling the area with clean sediments to restore about 650 feet of shoreline.
- Construction of a seven-acre confined upland containment facility to hold contaminated dredged sediments.
- Implementing a long-term monitoring program for site ground water.

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About the Port of Olympia

The southernmost deepwater port on Puget Sound, the Port of Olympia is Thurston County’s partner in economic opportunity. The Port owns and operates a diversified international shipping terminal, a strategically located regional airport, a vibrant 656-slip recreational marina and boat haulout/repair facility, and a thriving real estate division. A community port, it generates an estimated 2,600 jobs in Thurston County and indirectly over 5,000 jobs in Washington State.