



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Dredging underway at former Alcoa aluminum smelter**

Clean-up of the Columbia River adjacent to Alcoa's former Vancouver smelter started in December, just one year after planning for the major project commenced.

Dredging of PCB-contaminated sediment is the subject of a consent decree between Alcoa and the Department of Ecology and was fast tracked in response to community feedback.

"I am very pleased that we have started work on the dredging as so soon after commencing the planning process," said Mark Stiffler, Alcoa's director of asset management.

"A project of this nature normally takes at least two years from concept to completion, but we have worked very aggressively to turn it around in approximately one year, in line with our commitment to stakeholders."

"We knew that putting a river sediment cleanup on the fast-track would be difficult, pushing Ecology and Alcoa to go beyond what could normally be accomplished in that amount of time, said Jay Manning, director of the Washington Department of Ecology. "But it was the right decision, and I'm pleased this cleanup is so close to completion."

Already more than 5,000 cubic yards of sediment have been removed from the river and shoreline. This volume contained the highest PCB concentrated sediment and accounted for 90% of the PCB mass targeted for removal. Clams found in the area are also being removed as part of the project.

Once the dredging is complete, sand will be placed within the project area to further enhance recovery of the riverbed.

In addition to dredging, upland soil removal and bank stabilization work is proceeding along the river bank adjacent to the dredged areas. The upland aluminum manufacturing and fabrication buildings have been removed and demolition of the ore storage silos that remain along the Columbia River will occur in early 2009.

The project is targeted for completion by the end of February 2009.

"We are very pleased to be nearing completion of this work and look forward to the Port of Vancouver returning the location to a productive asset that will generate economic benefit for the entire region," said Mr. Stiffler.

Alcoa has spent almost two decades and more than \$45 million cleaning up the site which will soon be owned by the Port of Vancouver.

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