

# General Business Update on Occidental Chemical Cleanup Status

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# Briefing Requested Occidental Chemical Cleanup Status



Ecology and Port Staff will provide an update on the Occidental Chemical Cleanup Action Status.  
No action is requested.

# Background

- Hooker Chemical Corporation, now Occidental, operated a chemical plant on the property from 1929 to 2002.
- Wastes were directed into drainpipes or ditches that then discharged to the Hylebos Waterway.
- Cleanup investigations initially began in 1979 and have been ongoing since then, with interim operations of a groundwater extraction and treatment system.



The Seattle-Tacoma (Sea-Tac) Shipbuilding Corporation on Tacoma's Tideflats employed 3,000 workers, most of whom drove back and forth to work. The workers' cars filled a large lot at the end of Alexander Avenue, just north of the Hooker Chemical plant (which is in the background).



Hundreds of electrolytic cells, in row after row, work 24 hours a day at Hooker Electro-chemical producing the basic ingredients of all Hooker Chemicals. In each of the Hooker cells, under the action of direct electric current, salt and water are broken down into a constant flow of caustic soda, chlorine, and hydrogen.



Hooker Chemical employee in hard hat spraying large piles of salt on company property. The huge pulp and paper industry in the Pacific Northwest created large new demands for pulp bleaching chemicals.



# Nature and Extent of Contamination CVOC Plume

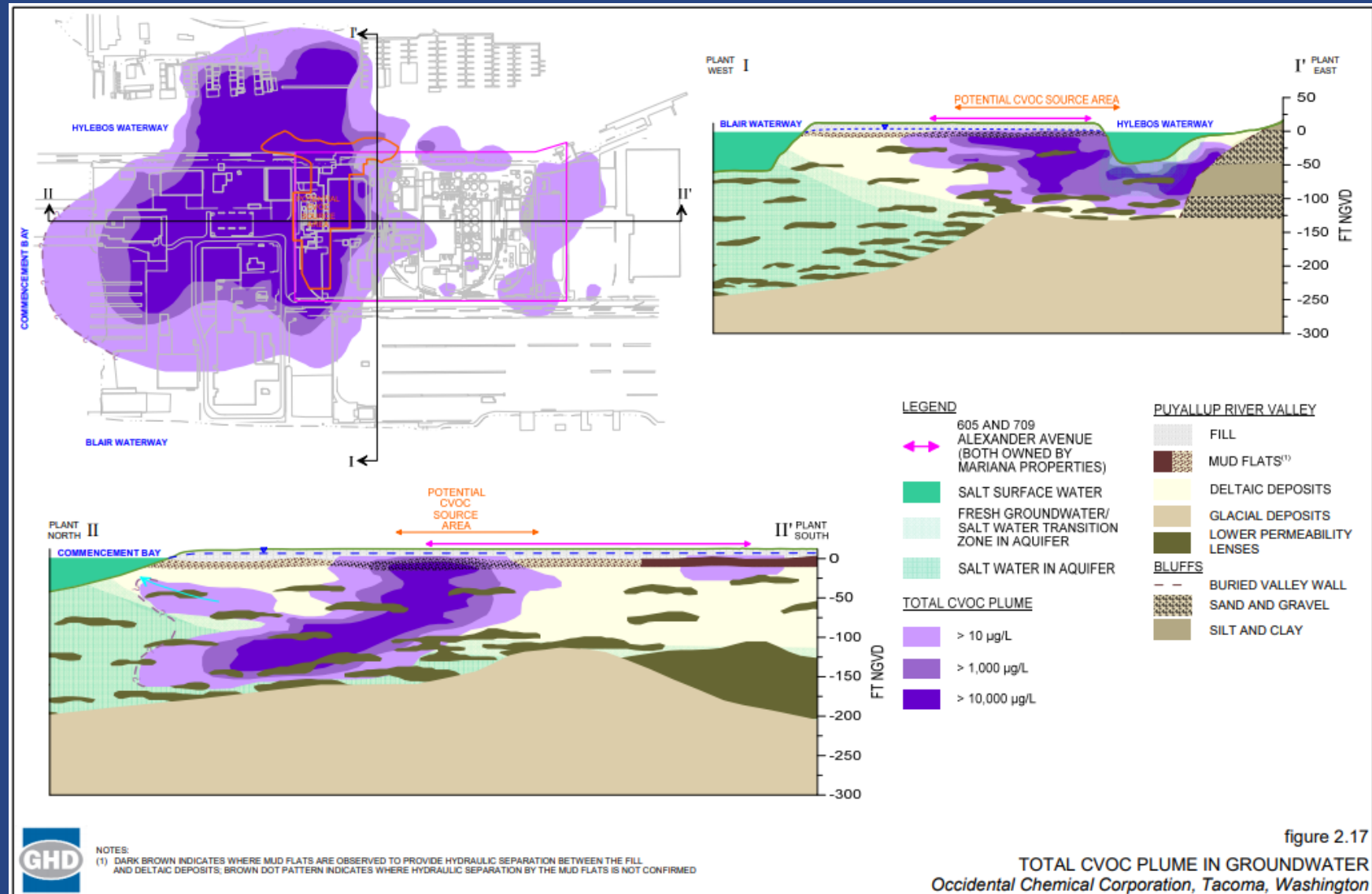


figure 2.17

TOTAL CVOC PLUME IN GROUNDWATER  
Occidental Chemical Corporation, Tacoma, Washington



# Nature and Extent of Contamination pH Plume

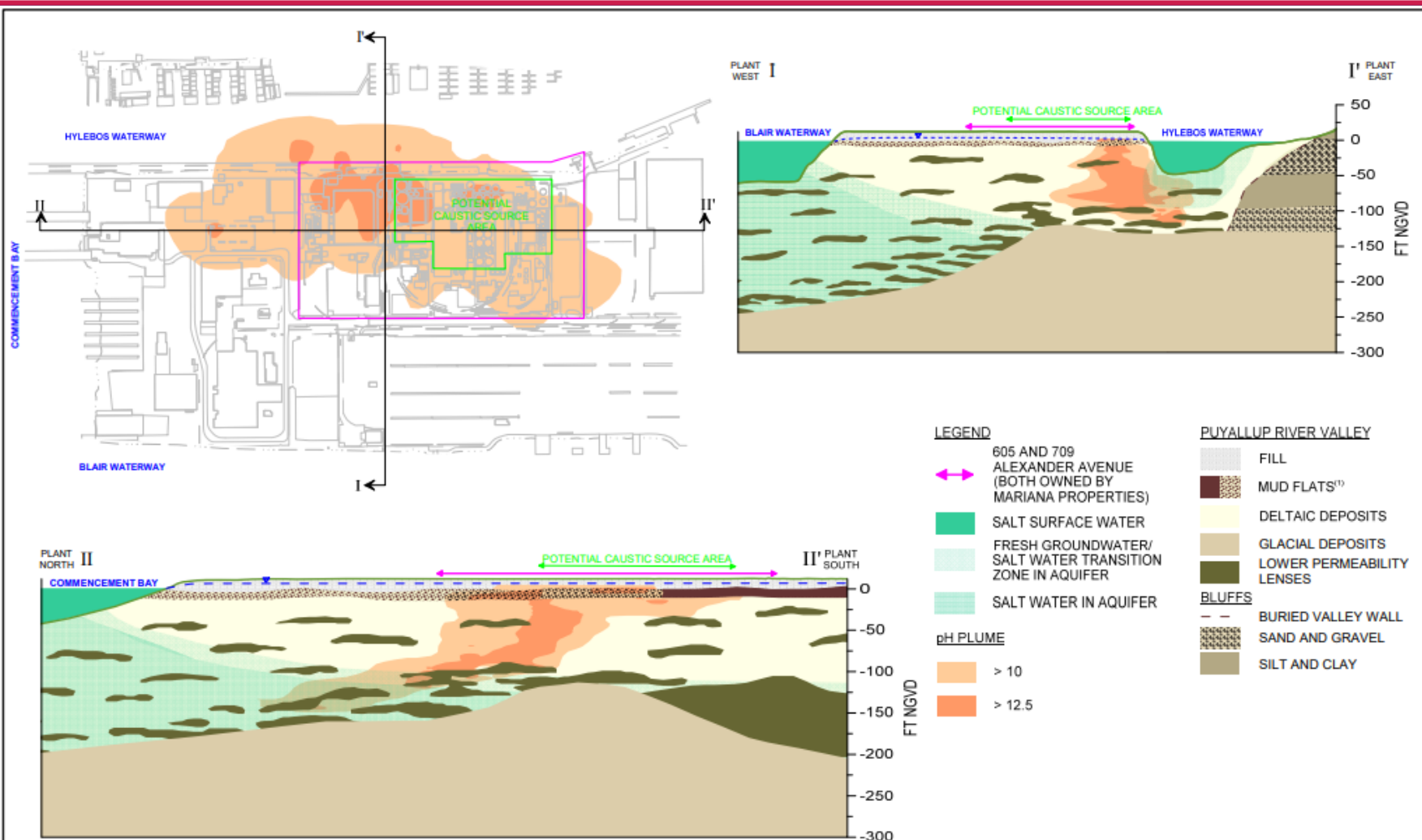


figure 2.15

# Transition to Ecology Slide Deck

