

SITE FACT SHEET

Tatoosh Island *Site 22*



Description: Features on this 21-acre island included a lighthouse facility, a weather station, and a radio direction finder station. Several structures associated with these facilities remain. From 1919 to 1941, the U.S. Navy leased a portion of the island for a radio direction finder station. In 1883, the U.S. Army Signal Corps established a weather station on the island; the station was transferred to the U.S. Weather Bureau in 1891. In 1966, the Weather Bureau left the island and its responsibilities were transferred to the USCG. The weather station was demolished, reportedly in a Navy SEALs exercise. The lighthouse, constructed in 1857, is currently operated by the U.S. Coast Guard. Tatoosh Island was returned to the Makah Tribe in 1977.

Community Impacts: Abandoned structures with asbestos and lead-based paint; physical hazards; underground storage tanks and associated petroleum-contaminated soils; PCB-contaminated soil near powerhouse.

Investigations and Actions to Date: In 1998, the U.S. Coast Guard had an underground storage tank and two aboveground storage tanks removed. A site inspection was performed by the Makah Environmental Restoration Team in September 2002, and a limited remedial investigation was conducted in September 2003. In October 2005, waste material characterization, soil removal, and confirmation sampling were performed at various locations. Approximately 90 to 95 cubic yards of petroleum-contaminated soil were removed from near the former 45,000-gallon aboveground storage tank and 6 cy of soil were removed from near the sump near the New Powerhouse.

Planned Activities: Inventory asbestos-containing materials and lead-based paint; remove asbestos-containing materials, contaminated soils, underground storage tanks, abandoned structures, and debris.