

PROJECT OVERVIEW

City Light is removing burned debris and impacted soil from the area immediately surrounding the Ladder Creek Settling Tank outside Newhalem, WA under a CERCLA Time Critical Removal Action. During the 2015 Goodell Wildfire, the tank's protective building burned, and a debris field of charred remains was left surrounding the tank. Due to contamination risks to nearby Ladder Creek posed by the debris and residual metals and PAH contamination in soil, the debris and impacted surface soil surrounding the tank is being removed. The tank interior is also being cleaned to remove impacts from airborne fallout during the fire.

PROJECT LOCATION

The Ladder Creek Tank Site is approximately 1/4 mile from the Gorge Powerhouse and across the Skagit River from Newhalem. The site is approximately 300 feet in elevation above the Powerhouse. The project is within the Ross Lake National Recreation Area, which is part of the North Cascades National Park Complex.

PROJECT PHASES

- 1) Clean and remove debris from settling tank interior.
- 2) Remove debris and impacted surface soil surrounding the tank, and stage materials in bulk bags.
- 3) Fly bulk bags of debris and soil to Newhalem via helicopter and haul to disposal site.
- 4) Restore site to pre-Removal Action conditions.

ACTIVITIES COMPLETED SINCE LAST UPDATE

Phase 1 was completed on September 1, 2017.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED

City Light and its contractors are making plans to complete Phases 2-4 starting in spring 2018. Phase 2 is expected to require up to two weeks, and Phase 3 and 4 are expected to require up to 2 weeks.

IMPACT TO PARK VISITORS

There is no direct public access to the tank. Access is limited to a rugged hiking trail originating at a footbridge over Ladder Creek behind the Gorge Powerhouse. Public access to the trail is blocked by a locked gate on the bridge.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Access to the tank site is restricted. There are no anticipated impacts to public safety associated with planned work.

**INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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