

The City of Seattle, King County, and Boeing Statement on EPA's Unilateral Administrative Order

July 18, 2024

The City of Seattle, King County, and Boeing are pleased that on Thursday, July 18, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) signed a Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO), allowing cleanup construction to begin this fall on the Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund Site.

Seattle, King County, and Boeing all agree with the need for a UAO to ensure that the cleanup is not delayed. Seattle, King County, and Boeing are excited to continue working with the EPA as well as with Tribes and stakeholders to implement the sediment cleanup. The cleanup will advance the restoration of this vital waterway in order to protect its ecosystem and the people who use the river.

The UAO serves as a bridge mechanism, which allows in-water cleanup work to begin as scheduled this year. Meanwhile the City, County, and Boeing are committed to completing negotiations for a Consent Decree with the EPA and the Washington State Department of Ecology, plus dozens of other parties that include state and federal agencies with responsibility to help pay for the cleanup.

Construction in the river's upper reach is set to begin in October 2024 and will take place during the months of October through February to limit potential impacts to certain fish species based on the National Marine Fisheries Service and US Fish and Wildlife established fish work window. The upper reach cleanup will continue over the next three years, ending in February 2027. After this portion of the cleanup is complete, construction will continue in the middle and lower reaches over the next decade, culminating at the south end of Harbor Island.

Since 2000, Seattle, King County, and Boeing have cooperated together as the Lower Duwamish Waterway Group to complete investigations, studies and cleanup alternatives to support the EPA's cleanup plan for the Lower Duwamish Waterway sediments. More information about work completed to date on the Lower Duwamish and plans for cleanup construction can be found at LDWG.org.