



BC Crown Contaminated Sites Program Site Summary



Union Bay

Location: 49° 35' 33" N, 124° 53' 04" W

Status: Remedial Planning

The Union Bay Waste Coal Pile is located south of Courtenay, BC, in the town of Union Bay. Canadian Collieries (Dunsmuir) Ltd. used the site for coal washing and shipping from the Cumberland mines. Approximately a million cubic metres of low-grade coal and rock were piled on the shoreline, forming a 13-hectare point. The land is currently leased by the province to West Fraser Mills Ltd.

The waste coal releases acid rock drainage into Baynes Sound. West Fraser Mills Ltd. has designed an engineered cover to reduce the discharge. The detailed design is being reviewed by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. An access road has been constructed and installation of a cover is planned for 2021. The site will be used as green space after grasses are established on the covered pile. The Province will monitor and maintain the site in the long term.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact the Crown Contaminated Sites Program by emailing contaminated.sites@gov.bc.ca or visit our website <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/site-remediation/contaminated-sites/crown-contaminated-sites-program>.