

**Bill Dewey followed up with the Department of Ecology, about the very bad “Natural Gas” smell we experienced on the island last Friday, June 2:**

“Based on Tom’s note that the Coast Guard was following up to see if there was also a discharge to the water I reached out to my contacts at the Department of Ecology Spills program this morning. With all of the shellfish resources in Samish Bay any potential water discharge is an immediate concern. Pasted below is the response I just received from David Byers at Ecology:

*We did receive notification of this from the clean air agency last night. The clean air agency and local emergency management dispatched a team and monitored residences that were reporting orders.*

*Nothing outdoors was detected, but there were lingering odors detected inside one residence, described as natural gas smelling. They advised the residents to ventilate the home. This odor description could very well be attributed to a vapor release from a ship transporting sour crude oil, however we currently have no information regarding the contents in the tankers.*

*The Coast Guard attempted to make contact with the masters of three foreign tankers that were anchored in the area. Our responders were mobilizing to the scene, when they receive the report from the clean air agency who advised us to cancel our field response based on their air monitoring findings. We would have use the same air monitoring detection technology as the clean air agency team, so there was no advantage of us continuing to respond.*

*The clean air agency also let us know today that they received a total of 23 reports about this incident. One of the reports stated that they could see a vapor release from one of the anchored tankers, but could not identify the name of the tank ship.*

*We followed up with the Coast Guard this morning about their attempts to contact the vessel masters, the Coast Guard said they have been unsuccessful in a couple of attempts to connect with the vessels.*

*We have not received any reports regarding and oil release from any of these vessels, or any reports of oil in the water near this area.*

*Best Regards,  
David Byers  
Ecology Response Manager  
(360) 407-6974*