

Portland Harbor Superfund Site

Portland Utility Board Quarterly Update



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EPA's process

It has been one year since the final cleanup plan or Record of Decision (ROD) was issued for the Portland Harbor Superfund Site. In that plan, EPA estimates that the cleanup will take around 30 years and cost approximately \$1.05 billion. In December, EPA Administrator Pruitt placed Portland Harbor on a list of 21 priority superfund sites calling for immediate, intense action. Since that announcement top EPA officials have visited the Portland Harbor site and have remained closely involved in the process.

Since the release of the ROD, EPA has been working on three main areas to make progress towards cleanup.

Baseline Sampling

EPA has reached an agreement with a group of responsible parties to conduct site-wide baseline sampling. This sampling work will establish baseline conditions of the site and serve as the reference point to evaluate progress towards achieving cleanup goals. Data gathered in this sampling effort will also assist in refining the scope and extent of some individual remedial action areas. An Agreement and Order on Consent (AOC) has been signed to conduct this work and is now underway. This work is expected to wrap up in the end of 2019.

More information about this Baseline Sampling can be found here;

<https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/SiteProfiles/index.cfm?fuseaction=second.Cleanup&id=1002155#bkground>

Remedy design at specific priority areas

While baseline sampling is taking place, three priority sites have stepped up to move forward with their individual cleanup areas. All three of these sites have started the remedial design process. The sites are:

- Northwest Natural's GASCO site, the former gas manufacturing plant located on the west side of the river between the St. Johns Bridge and the Railroad Bridge. Northwest Natural is the lead for this site.
- The Port of Portland's Terminal 4, located on the east side of river just north of St. Johns Bridge. The Port of Portland is the lead for this site.
- The River Mile 11 East site, located in between the Broadway and Fremont Bridges. This site is described in more detail below. The parties working together at this site include the City of Portland, Cargill Inc., CBS Corporation, DIL Trust, Glacier Northwest, and PacifiCorp.

Revised Community Involvement Plan

EPA is continuing to conduct interviews and consolidate information to update the Portland Harbor Community Involvement Plan (CIP). The CIP will describe how EPA will provide information and work with communities on the Portland Harbor Superfund Site as it moves towards cleanup actions. EPA is planning to produce a final, revised CIP this year. If you are interested in being interviewed

for the CIP or would like more information about the update to the CIP, please contact Laura Knudsen with the EPA (knudsen.laura@epa.gov, 206-553-1838).

City of Portland's work on Superfund

Since the release of the ROD, the City has been working closely with its agency partners to move the cleanup towards implementation. The City has remained committed to be a leader in building partnerships and coalitions to get the site successfully cleaned up as soon as possible.

The Portland Harbor team grows

As the city shifts its focus from research and analysis to implementation of the cleanup, we have increased our capacity to support EPA in educating and engaging the public. We're very pleased to introduce Jessica Terlikowski as the newest member of the Portland Harbor Team. Jessica will be developing and managing the City's public involvement program for the Portland Harbor Superfund site. Jessica comes to us from the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, where she served as the Senior Director of Advocacy and Community Mobilization. She has an extensive background in developing, implementing, and managing programs on diverse issues, including environmental justice, health equity, food security, and safety net programs. Jessica will be spending the next few months meeting with community groups to understand their priorities for the cleanup and gathering feedback for program development.

City enters partnership to establish a fish advisory outreach program

When EPA evaluated the risks to people and wildlife from the contaminants in the Portland Harbor, they determined that the greatest health risk to people is from eating resident fish like carp, bass, and catfish. To protect public safety, EPA has required fish advisories to be issued for the site. On December 20, the City entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the State of Oregon and the Port of Portland to provide funding to Multnomah County Public Health Department to create a new fish consumption advisory outreach program for Portland Harbor. The City, State, and Port agreed to pay a total of \$345,000 over the next two years to Multnomah County. These resources will be used to hire a full-time health educator dedicated to the program, develop outreach materials, and provide a grant program to support community partners.

This program will be administered by Multnomah County and will be focused on education and outreach to improve public understanding of the risks of eating fish from the Superfund Site.

EPA will establish a long-term program and funding source for advisories. The City, State, and Port are taking this step now to help EPA start that process and to improve public understanding of the risks as soon as possible.

The River Mile 11 East (RM 11E) site advances to remedy design phase

The RM11E project area is located along the east bank of the Willamette River between approximately river mile 10.9 and river mile 11.6, just south of the Fremont Bridge. It includes approximately 38 acres of river bottom and shoreline adjacent to the historic Albina district. This area hosted a variety of historical industrial facilities and overwater operations for more than 100 years and continues to provide industrial and marine services. The Willamette River in this area has been redirected, filled, and deepened during the last century to make it useable for navigation and commercial shipping. The Remedial Investigation found that contamination at this site is predominantly PCBs, which present a risk to humans and wildlife.

The River Mile 11E Group is a group of six parties, including the City, who either have in the past or currently own property and/or have business operations near the RM11E project area. Members of the RM11E Group include the City of Portland, Cargill Inc., CBS Corporation, DIL Trust, Glacier Northwest, and PacifiCorp. In 2013 this group entered into an agreement with EPA to conduct a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study of the site, a step that happens before the site's cleanup plan is designed.

In January 2018, RM11E Group and EPA amended their 2013 agreement to move the project forward and complete remedy design. The RM11E Group is now one of three individual project areas within the Superfund Site that have committed to move toward full remedy design. Work on remedy design for RM11E is now underway and is expected to take 3-4 years to complete.

Reports documenting work completed to date for the RM11E Work project area are available at EPA's RM11E web site: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/11e>.