

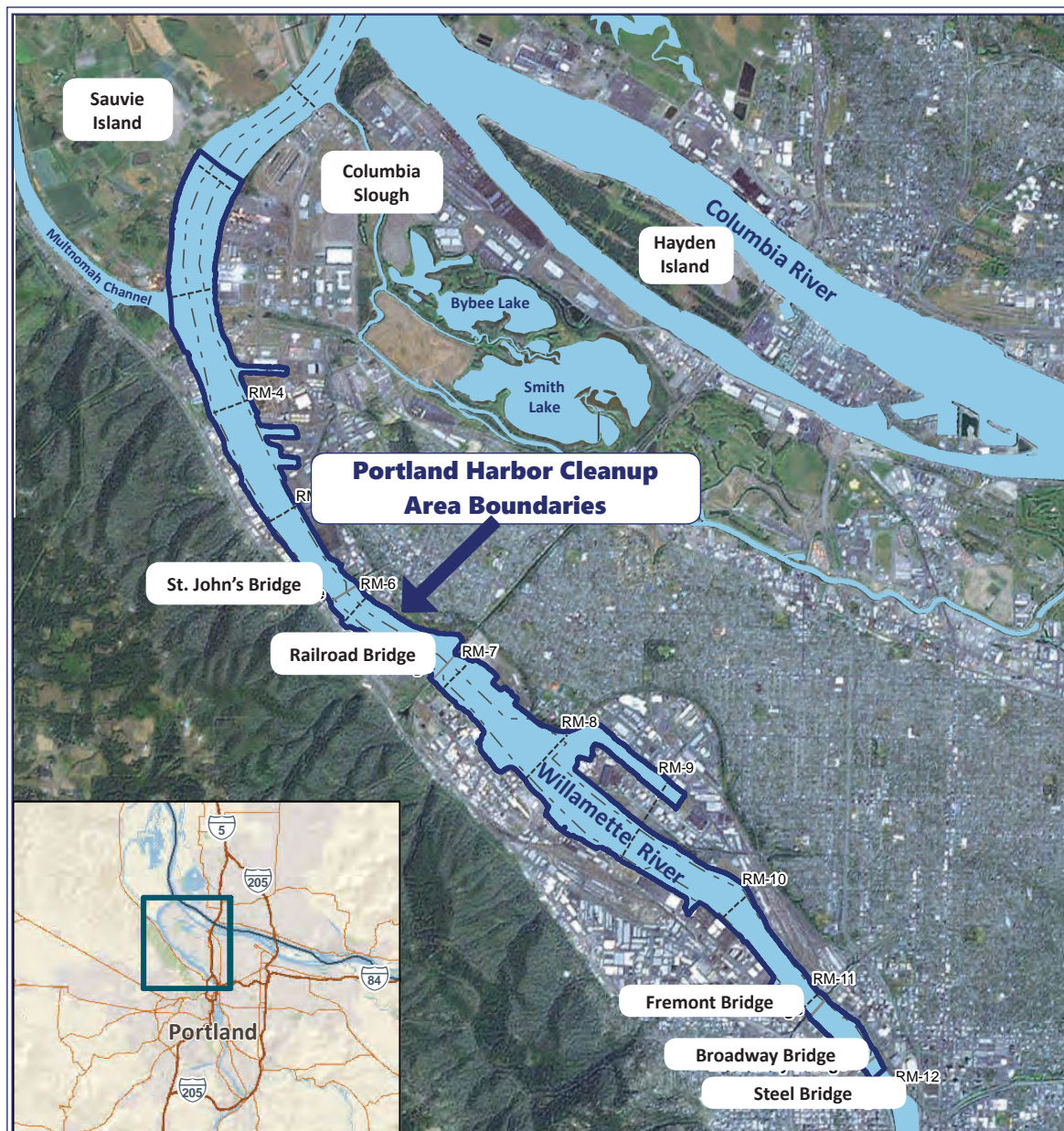
Proposed Changes to the Portland Harbor Cleanup Plan

Portland Harbor Superfund Site

October 2018

Superfund Site History

The Portland Harbor Superfund Site spans 10 miles of the Lower Willamette River in Portland, Oregon, from river mile 1.9 to river mile 11.8. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency listed Portland Harbor on the Superfund national priorities list in 2000, due to high levels of chemicals in the river sediments, water, and fish. These contaminants pose a risk to people's health, especially for subsistence and tribal fishers. In January 2017, EPA issued a cleanup plan or Record of Decision, which includes dredging, capping, and natural recovery of 2,200 acres of contaminated sediments.



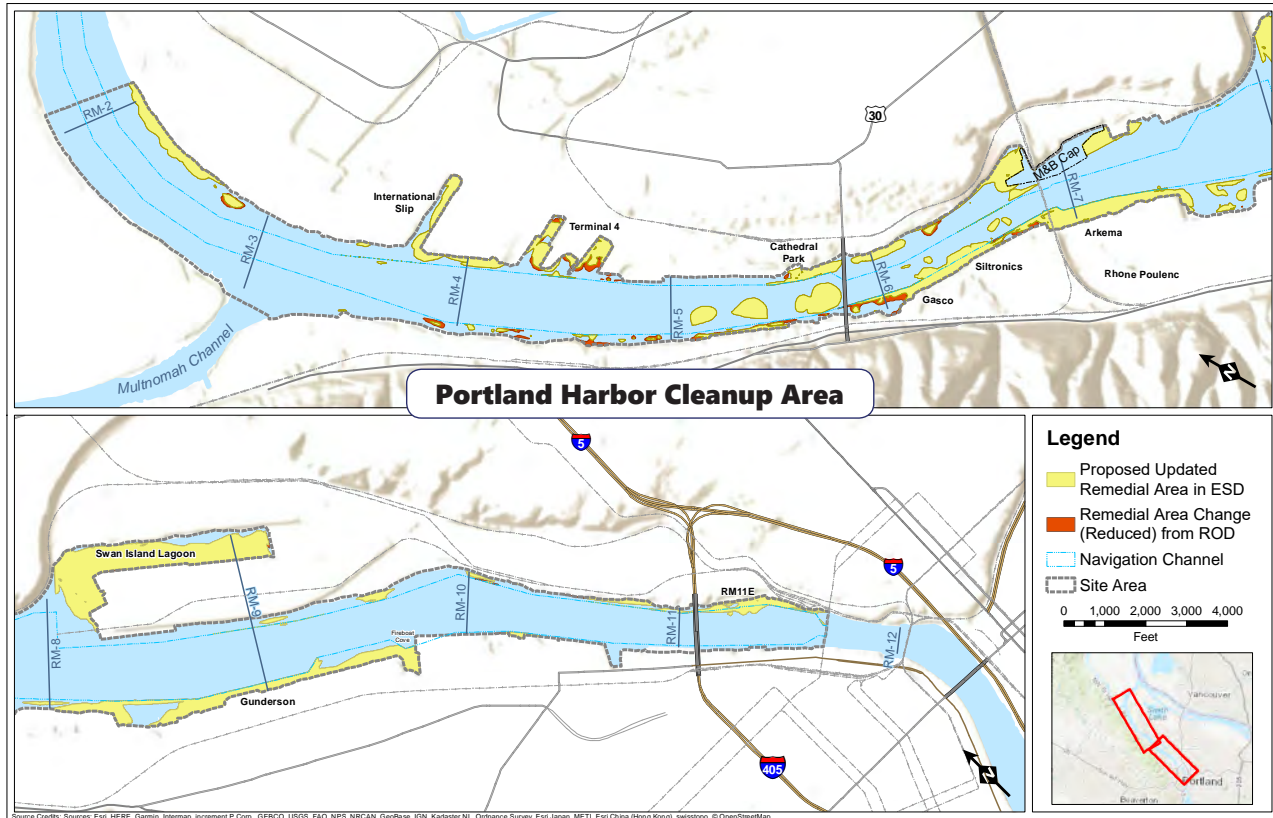
Updated Contaminant Health Risk

The chemical benzo(a)pyrene (BaP) is a type of carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (cPAH). cPAHs break down slowly in the environment, accumulating in soils, sediment and some organisms. BaP and other cPAHs are targeted for cleanup at Portland Harbor. In 2017, EPA updated the estimated health risk for BaP based on over five years of research that showed that it is less toxic for people who contact or ingest the chemical than previously thought. This updated health risk assessment can be viewed in the Integrated Risk Information System, EPA's centralized database of current research on chemical toxicity: www.epa.gov/iris.

Proposed Changes to the Cleanup Plan

Based on the lower health risks, EPA is proposing to change some of the cleanup levels for cPAHs in the Selected Remedy, listed below. All other parts of the 2017 cleanup plan will remain unchanged.

- Change beach sediment cleanup levels for cPAHs from 12 to 85 micrograms per kilogram ($\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$), based on the risk calculations for recreational beach use. This applies to recreational beaches only.
- Add a direct contact sediment cleanup level for cPAHs of $774 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ for nearshore sediments, based on the tribal fishing contact risk. This applies to all nearshore sediments, except beach areas.
- Correct and update the sediment cleanup levels for cPAHs based on shellfish consumption from 3,950 to $1,076 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, for a subsistence fisher risk. This applies to the entire Site.
- Change the target tissue level for cPAHs in shellfish tissue from 7.1 to $51.6 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, based on a subsistence fisher risk. This applies to the entire Site.
- Change the Principal Threat Waste (PTW) threshold for cPAHs from 106,000 to $774,000 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$. This applies to the entire Site. Principal threat wastes are source materials considered to be highly toxic or highly mobile, that cannot be reliably contained, or would present a significant risk to human health or the environment. PTWs are expected to be addressed through treatment or removal wherever practicable.
- Change the total PAH remedial action level from 13,000 to $30,000 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$. This applies to sediments outside the navigation channel. The "remedial action level" is the contaminant concentration level that the Selected Remedy requires to be removed or isolated by dredging or capping.



Explanation of Significant Differences

The 2017 Portland Harbor cleanup plan describes how the cleanup will be conducted and the final cleanup levels for cPAHs and other targeted chemicals. EPA is proposing changes to the cleanup plan based on the lower cPAHs health risk. The proposed changes to the cleanup plan are described in an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD). The updated cleanup levels will require less sediment capping and removal. The sediment cleanup area is expected to be reduced by about 17 acres from the total 2,200 acres and cost \$35 million less than the original \$1 billion cleanup estimate. EPA's updates to the cleanup plan will ensure that the cleanup levels are current with the latest science to protect people's health and the environment.

Public Participation Opportunities

The Proposed ESD will be issued on October 22, 2018 and public comments will be due November 21, 2018.

Comments can be submitted by:

- **E-mail:** HarborComments@epa.gov
- **Mail:** Attn: Portland Harbor Superfund Comments, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 805 SW Broadway, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97205

Online Webinar: EPA will present information and answer questions about the proposed ESD on November 1, 2018. The webinar will also be recorded and posted online.

In-Person Community Information Session: EPA will present information and answer questions about the proposed ESD on November 20, 2018.

For updated meeting times and locations, visit: www.epa.gov/superfund/portland-harbor.

If you or someone you know needs language interpretation or special accommodations, contact Laura Knudsen as soon as possible and we will do our best to accommodate your request.

EPA will review and consider all public comments, develop a summary of our responses, and issue a final ESD that will be available to the public.


For More Information

For more information on these public participation opportunities, contact:

Laura Knudsen, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator
206-553-1838 • knudsen.laura@epa.gov.

Portland Harbor Superfund Website: www.epa.gov/superfund/portland-harbor

If you need materials in an alternative format, please contact Laura Knudsen at 800-424-4372, ext. 1838.

 *TDD or TTY users, please call 800-877-8339 and give the operator Laura's phone number.*





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