



EPA issued the Record of Decision for the Portland Harbor Superfund Site in January 2017. The Record of Decision is the cleanup plan for the approximately 10-mile stretch of the Lower Willamette River in Portland. The detailed design of the cleanup work is called the Remedial Design. Remedial Design is anticipated to take three to four years. During this period and before the final cleanup is implemented, baseline samples will be collected and analyzed (the “Pre-Remedial” work) to help with establishing a current state of the river, also known as the “baseline” condition, and to inform the final cleanup.

Pre-Remedial Design Work

On December 19, 2017, EPA signed an Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (ASAOC) with the “Pre-RD” Group for baseline sampling at the Portland Harbor Superfund site. The Pre-RD Group is made up of four of the Potentially Responsible Parties for the site: Arkema Inc., Evraz Inc. NA, Schnitzer Steel Industries Inc., and The Marine Group LLC.

The ASAOC includes a Statement of Work and Work Plan for the sampling activities. The ASAOC, Statement of Work, Work Plan and associated tables, figures, maps, and appendices, can be found on the EPA website: <https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/10/100077191>

The documents detail the tasks the Pre-RD Group will conduct, with EPA oversight, from January 2018 through October 2019 and includes the following major activities:

Main Goals of the Agreement

- Update existing site-wide data
- Baseline data collected will be used with future long-term monitoring to evaluate trends in monitored natural recovery
- Refine sediment management areas

Bathymetric Survey

Creating a topographic map of the riverbed – mapping the peaks and valleys of the river – will identify areas for sediment sampling, inform future dredging and capping, and provide information on riverbed slope, natural recovery, and stability.

Surface Sediment Sampling

For Portland Harbor, the surface sediment is the top 12 inches of mud at the bottom of the river. This sampling will analyze the surface sediment for contaminants such as PCBs, DDx, total PAHs, and Dioxins/Furans. The results will help establish a baseline for these contaminants as well as help refine sediment management areas – these are the active construction areas.

Surface Water Sampling

Analysis of surface water samples collected at seven transects (“lines” that cross the river at specified locations), during three seasonal events, will help establish a river water contaminant baseline before cleanup.

Pre-Remedial Design Schedule (Proposed)

Field Plans

December 2017 to March 2018

Field Sampling / Laboratory Analysis

January 2018 to June 2019

Data Analysis / Evaluation

June 2018 to April 2019

Deliverables – data, reports, and analysis

December 2018 to October 2019

Fish Tracking and Tissue Sampling

Acoustic tracking will record date, time, and location of “tracked” smallmouth bass over the course of a year. This will allow us to better understand where these fish are being exposed to contamination as the remedy is implemented.

Tissue sampling will establish a pre-construction baseline of contaminants in the bodies of smallmouth bass that will allow us to evaluate the effectiveness of the cleanup over time.

Background Porewater Sampling

Determining concentrations of naturally occurring metals, such as arsenic and manganese, in the water between the grains of sediment on the riverbed to better understand achievable cleanup levels.

Sediment Coring

Sediment coring allows us to analyze sediment samples collected below the 12-inches of surface sediment. This information will help to refine the sediment management areas where there is limited data.

Downtown and Upriver Reaches

Additional sampling collected upstream of the Superfund site will provide more information about contaminants entering the site. This work entails:

Surface Sediment

Collect random surface sediment samples from the Downtown Reach and the Upriver Reach.

Fish Tissue

Collect smallmouth bass samples.

Surface Water

Collect surface water samples at 2 transects over 3 seasonal events.

Sediment Traps

Sediment traps (glass tubes to grab sediment coming into the site) will be sampled over the course of a year.

Some Other Components of the Agreement

- If requested, the Pre-RD Group shall support Community Involvement related to the work, and consider participating in EPA’s Superfund Job Training initiative.
- PRPs (Potentially Responsible Parties) shall reimburse EPA up to \$2 million for EPA response costs
- EPA will have the opportunity to review contractors selected by the pre-RD group to perform the field sampling work.
- EPA can impose financial penalties for noncompliance.
- A dispute resolution process may occur if the Pre-RD Group objects to an EPA decision or action in this agreement
- EPA can take over work from the Pre-RD Group. The Pre-RD group won’t have to pay for those costs under this agreement.
- Pre-RD Group shall have regular meetings with EPA.
- Pre-RD Group will provide regular progress reports to EPA.
- EPA will conduct site inspections or be on-site during field work.

Summary of Pre-RD Sampling Design	
Portland Harbor Record of Decision area – river mile 1.9 to river mile 11.8	
Media	Pre-Remedial Design data collection
Surface Sediment	606 samples – 428 random, 178 non-random for SMA delineation
Surface Water	7 transects at three seasonal events
Fish Tissue	95 whole body smallmouth bass samples
Fish Tracking	Transmitters allow for tracking of date, time, and location of smallmouth bass
Background Porewater	8 locations, 3 composites per location, samples analyzed for naturally occurring arsenic and manganese
Sediment Cores	90 cores, samples taken in 2 foot sections
Downtown Reach – river mile 11.8 to 16.6 / Upriver Reach – river mile 16.6 to 28.4	
Media	Pre-Remedial Design Data Collection
Surface Sediment	30 random samples in the Downtown Reach 30 random samples in the Upriver Reach
Fish Tissue	40 smallmouth bass samples
Surface Water	2 transects at RM 11.8 and 16.2
Sediment Traps	4 sediment traps sampled 3 times in one year

Update on the Early Action Sites

These three sites are areas where early cleanup actions have been conducted in the most heavily contaminated areas of the river:

Gasco / Siltronic

An Administrative Order is in place for remedial design. EPA is working with the NW Natural Gas Company and the Siltronic Corporation to design a cleanup plan. Once a rough draft of the cleanup design plan is complete, EPA will provide the document for public comment and provide an information session.

For more information, contact **Sean Sheldrake**, EPA Project Manager for Gasco/Siltronic
sheldrake.sean@epa.gov

River Mile 11 East

A draft Administrative Order for remedial design has been drafted and is expected to be signed soon. Once a rough draft of the cleanup design plan is complete, EPA will provide the document for public comment and provide an information session.

For more information, contact **Sean Sheldrake**, EPA Project Manager for River Mile 11 East
sheldrake.sean@epa.gov

Terminal 4

EPA and the Port of Portland have been meeting to discuss implementation of the Record of Decision. Those discussions include questions the Port has about the Record of Decision and amending the existing Administrative Order so the Port can proceed with remedial design.

For more information, contact **Rebecca Chu**, EPA Project Manager for Terminal 4
chu.rebecca@epa.gov

EPA's Community Involvement

We're continuing to explore a regular forum and/or roundtable concept.

Community Involvement Plan

- Currently compiling information from over 50 interviews.
- Draft CIP is anticipated available for community review Spring 2018.

Technical Assistance Grant

- EPA received a letter of intent from the Willamette River Advocacy Group on 12/8/2017.
- We plan to post a notice in the newspaper January 2018 announcing the availability of the technical assistance grant.

For More Information:

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Site documents and additional information are available at:

- EPA's website: epa.gov/superfund/portland-harbor
- **Multnomah County Central Library**, 801 SW 10th Ave., Portland
- **St. Johns Library**, 7510 N Charleston Ave., Portland
- **Kenton Library**, 8226 N Denver Ave., Portland

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

