

## FINAL Meeting Summary

EPA (with support from DEQ and the CAG) Portland Harbor Superfund Site Community Café & Public Forum  
Wednesday, April 17, 2019| 6:00 – 8:30pm | Portland State University (PSU)

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) held its fourth quarterly Portland Harbor Superfund Site Public Forum (with support from the Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality) at Portland State University (PSU) in Portland, Oregon. The public forum took place from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. and was divided into two main sessions as follows:

1. **Community Café: 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**
2. **Public Forum: 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.**

### Community Café

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The Community Café portion of the meeting featured an informal time for networking and dialogue around questions that matter. Participants received a ‘Passport Book’ where Community Café Hosts (Hosts), representing various groups involved in the cleanup of the Portland Harbor Superfund Site, were listed along with at least one optional question to help participants prompt discussion during the activity.

Participants were encouraged to identify and engage in discussion with at least one Host selected from several categories of topics. Hosts were available to provide information and updates in the various geographic areas of the clean-up. For the most up-to-date map of the work at the Portland Harbor Superfund Site, please see the document titled [April 2019 Portland Harbor Superfund Site Updates 11” x 17”](#).

### Public Forum: Welcome and Overview

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The Facilitator, Triangle Associates, welcomed the group and introduced EPA and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) staff present at the meeting. The Facilitator clarified the purpose of the meeting: **to provide a forum for members of the public to receive updates regarding the Portland Harbor Superfund Site and the opportunity to ask questions of the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs).** Laura Knudsen, EPA Region 10 Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC), provided a recap of the December 12, 2018 public forum and thanked attendees for their time and attendance. Laura also provided an update about the Community Involvement Plan (CIP). Laura noted that the CIP has been delayed and EPA continues to work on updating the document. The plan is to release a draft of the CIP for public feedback by the end of the year. Laura also mentioned the [Superfund Job Training Initiative \(SuperJTI\)](#). She informed everyone that EPA is scouting out how to use the SuperJTI at the Portland Harbor Superfund Site.

Michael Pouncil, Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group (CAG), shared brief updates about upcoming CAG meetings. These updates included a May 8, 2019 meeting with Jim McKenna to discuss updates related to the St. Helens Lagoon and a July 12, 2019 meeting about restoration. More information is available on the [Portland Harbor CAG website](#).

(b) (6) a public health educator, brought several of her students to the Public Forum to learn about the Portland Harbor Superfund Site cleanup. She introduced (b) (6), who performed a song with her keyboard piano.

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### Community Café Hosts and Participant Report-Out (Voluntary)

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The Facilitation Team invited Community Café Hosts and participants to provide brief high-level report-outs and feedback about the Community Café. The information shared during the report-outs was as follows.

- One participant mentioned being impressed by the experience and knowledge of the meeting participants attending the Public Forum.
- Another participant mentioned having a good conversation with a Kinder Morgan Remedial Design fellow. They discussed some ways to involve the community in future projects.
- One participant talked with attendees about innovative remedial technologies.
- One participant mentioned the importance of talking to Oregon State Legislators about Source Control and funding for the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).
- Another participant learned about Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) water solutions and involving various educational aspects of the community.
- Another participant spoke with a Fulbright student from Indonesia.

### Presentation – Update on Pre-Remedial Design Investigation and Baseline Sampling

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Sean Sheldrake, EPA Region 10, Remedial Project Manager, and Nicki Pozos with the Pre-Remedial Design Group provided a presentation on Pre-Remedial Design Investigation and Baseline Sampling. The presentation highlighted the sampling that has taken place since the Pre-Remedial Design agreement was signed between EPA and some of the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) in late 2017 to begin the study. Sean and Nicki noted that the sampling area is broad as the Pre-Remedial Design looks at the entire site, including the Downtown Reach and the Upper Reach, to understand what pollutants might be coming into the Superfund site. The full [presentation from the April 17<sup>th</sup>](#) meeting is available.

Nicki spent time discussing the bathymetric study of the river that the Pre-RD Group performed. Bathymetry is looking to see how the river depth has changed and whether parts of the riverbed are experiencing erosion, in a neutral status (staying the same over time), or are depositional (losing material). This is examined to see how contaminants might be exposed over time, especially in areas that are being scoured (erosional areas). This bathymetric study also helps to understand how well monitored natural recovery may work over time.

Sean and Nicki also talked about the preliminary results for the surface sediment sampling and that this information appears to be consistent to what was assumed in EPA's Record of Decision (or final cleanup plan).

Following the Pre-Remedial Design Investigation and Baseline Sampling presentation, the Facilitator opened the meeting up for additional questions regarding this topic. The following were questions asked and responses provided.

#### **Q1: How is the data approved and when will the data that is approved by EPA be available?**

**A1:** Data approval involves EPA making sure that the way the data was collected and analyzed adheres to EPA's quality assurance standards. EPA review of data also depends on what media (surface water, sediment, etc...) was being sampled. This data will be publicly available on the interim [Portland Harbor Superfund Site Data Portal](#) as it is approved by EPA.

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### **Q2: What is the timeframe for data and data approval?**

**A2:** Again, this depends on the media and can vary widely. Typically, EPA receives complete data packages from the performing parties within a few months after field work is completed. It usually takes EPA about a month to review and approve the data, and another week for the information to be posted.

### **Q3: Can members of the public be notified when the results are uploaded?**

**A3:** Data is being uploaded as it is approved by EPA to the interim [Portland Harbor Superfund Site Data Portal](#). Unfortunately, the data portal is not set up to send out notifications, so we suggest that interested parties visit the data portal weekly to view what data has been recently uploaded. To make this as easy as possible, we have added a page titled “What’s New” that is a running list of all the data packages that have been posted. The “What’s New” page should allow you to easily see what has been added since your last visit to the website.

### **Q4: For data samples, how are they archived, and will the data samples be held until the data analysis is complete?**

**A4:** Sediment and tissue samples submitted to the different labs are archived in cold storage at less than -10 °C and water samples at 0 to 6 °C. Extracts (i.e., solids) from water samples are also archived at -10 °C. These samples will be stored by the analytical labs for up to 12 months after data validation is completed and will not be disposed until authorized to do so by the Pre-RD Group and/or EPA.

### **Q5: For the bathymetry, why is the entire site not being shown in the presentation?**

**A5:** For the presentation only, a segment is being shown because it can be hard to see the results and the color when showing the full map at once. However, EPA plans to make the full bathymetric map available on the Portland Harbor website under the “[Stay Updated, Get Involved](#)” section.

### **Q6: Is the accuracy of the bathymetry affected by environmental factors such as floods?**

**A6:** Flood waters from the Columbia can back up into the Willamette and slow down the flow, encouraging deposition rather than erosion.

### **Q7: Why are only six contaminants (PCBs, PAHs, DDx, 2,3,7,8-TCDD, 1,2,3,7,8-PeCDD, 2,3,4,7,8-PeCDF) being analyzed? Are these the only contaminants at the site?**

**A7:**

- These six contaminants are called the ‘focused contaminants of concern’ and are a focus of both the ROD and this Pre-RD sampling effort for some of the samples that were collected (specifically targeted surface sediment samples and targeted subsurface sediment cores for design work) because if we understand where these six contaminants are located, the other contaminants at the Site tend to be located in the same areas and we are able to understand where active clean-up should occur.
- However, for other samples that were collected under this agreement (such as unbiased surface sediment samples, sediment traps, surface water, and fish tissue), all of the contaminants of concern (i.e. all those posing risk) were analyzed that are listed on Table 17 of [EPA’s Record of Decision for the Portland Harbor Superfund Site](#) (go to page 240 of 3012).
- Lastly, porewater samples were analyzed for arsenic and manganese because of the need for additional information about these contaminants in porewater.

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**Q8: As part of this study, there were 655 samples collected, is this over the breadth of the Superfund Site?**

**A8:** These 655 samples were taken throughout the Superfund Site in both random areas and in targeted areas where we know that contamination is a concern.

**Q10: What will happen at Cathedral Park?**

**A10:** The Cathedral Park area was included as part of the Pre-Remedial Design study. The next step for the Cathedral Park area will be to complete remedial design work.

### **Wrapping Up and Next Steps**

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The Facilitator thanked the presenters for sharing information, attendees for their time, questions and thoughtful participation. The next Portland Harbor Public Forum is scheduled for Wednesday, June 12, 2019 (location TBD).