

Pre-Remedial Design Investigation and Baseline Sampling (Pre-RD Project)

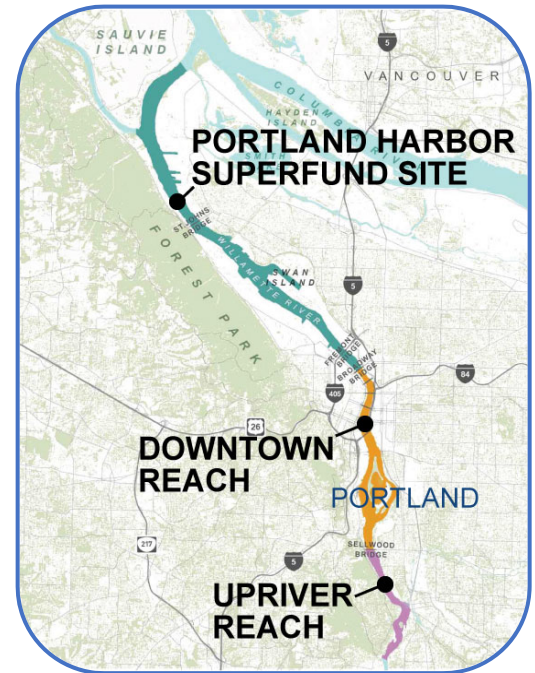
Portland Harbor Superfund Site

September 2019

What is the Pre-RD Project?

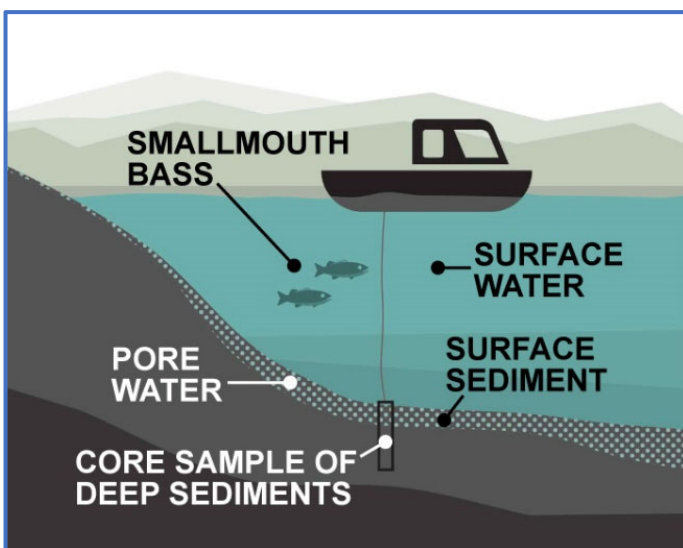
The Pre-Remedial Design (Pre-RD) Project is a two year sampling and analysis program being conducted under an Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (ASAOC) signed between the EPA and a group of four potentially responsible parties (PRPs). The four signatories (the Pre-RD Group) operated industrial facilities on the harbor, either now or in the past, and are Arkema Inc., Evraz Inc. NA, Schnitzer Steel Industries Inc., and The Marine Group. The Pre-RD Project collects a portion of needed data identified in EPA's Record of Decision (ROD). EPA provided independent oversight of all sampling and data analysis under the Pre-RD Project. No information is considered final until it is EPA approved. Goals of the Pre-RD Project are:

1. Provide a record of current conditions, throughout the Superfund Site and in the Downtown and Upriver Reaches located upstream.
2. Provide more information on sediment management areas where remediation efforts will occur.
3. Provide a baseline to evaluate the effectiveness of future remediation efforts.



What is being sampled as part of the Pre-RD Project?

The Pre-RD Project collected samples from different parts of the river, across the Superfund Site. Samples were also collected in the Downtown and Upriver Reaches, upstream of the harbor, to understand contaminants coming onto the site. The Pre-RD Project also included an acoustic fish tracking study to show where smallmouth bass are living and how small or large their home range is.



When will this work be completed?

The sampling phase of the Pre-RD Project is complete. A revised version of the *Pre-RD Remedial Footprint Report* was delivered to EPA in April 2019. This report documented surface sediment samples and bathymetry (river bottom mapping) results. EPA expects all baseline sampling data, in addition to other data collected during remedial design, will be used to make decisions under the ROD. The *Pre-Remedial Design Investigation Evaluation Report* discusses overall results, including data analyses required in the ASAOC. The report was submitted to EPA on June 17, 2019. EPA is reviewing the report and will submit comments and any requested changes by September 15.

Preliminary Results from the Pre-RD Remedial Footprint Report

Preliminary results from the Pre-RD Remedial Footprint Report include bathymetry (river bottom mapping) and surface sediment sampling results. Preliminary bathymetry results are shown on the figure to the right. These analyses have not been fully reviewed by EPA.

The figure shows a comparison of river elevations in the current bathymetric survey to elevations measured in previous surveys. The comparison shows whether there is deposition at a location (areas where sediment is accumulating, shown in green) or if sediment is being removed (areas where the river is naturally removing sediment by scour or where there has been dredging, shown in red). Areas shown in yellow are neutral, meaning there is less than an inch of change in elevation per year.

Deposition and erosion areas vary across the site. The site is net depositional – there are more areas under deposition than scour. Areas with deposition and erosion are similar to those in previous surveys. Most of the deposition is in areas identified for Monitored Natural Recovery (MNR) in the ROD.



Preliminary bathymetry results from the Pre-RD Remedial Footprint Report.

Questions or Need More Information?

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- Visit EPA's Portland Harbor Superfund Website: www.epa.gov/superfund/portland-harbor
- Review the document *Questions and Answers: Portland Harbor Superfund Site Pre-Remedial Design Agreement* (September 2018): <https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/10/100109419.pdf>

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.