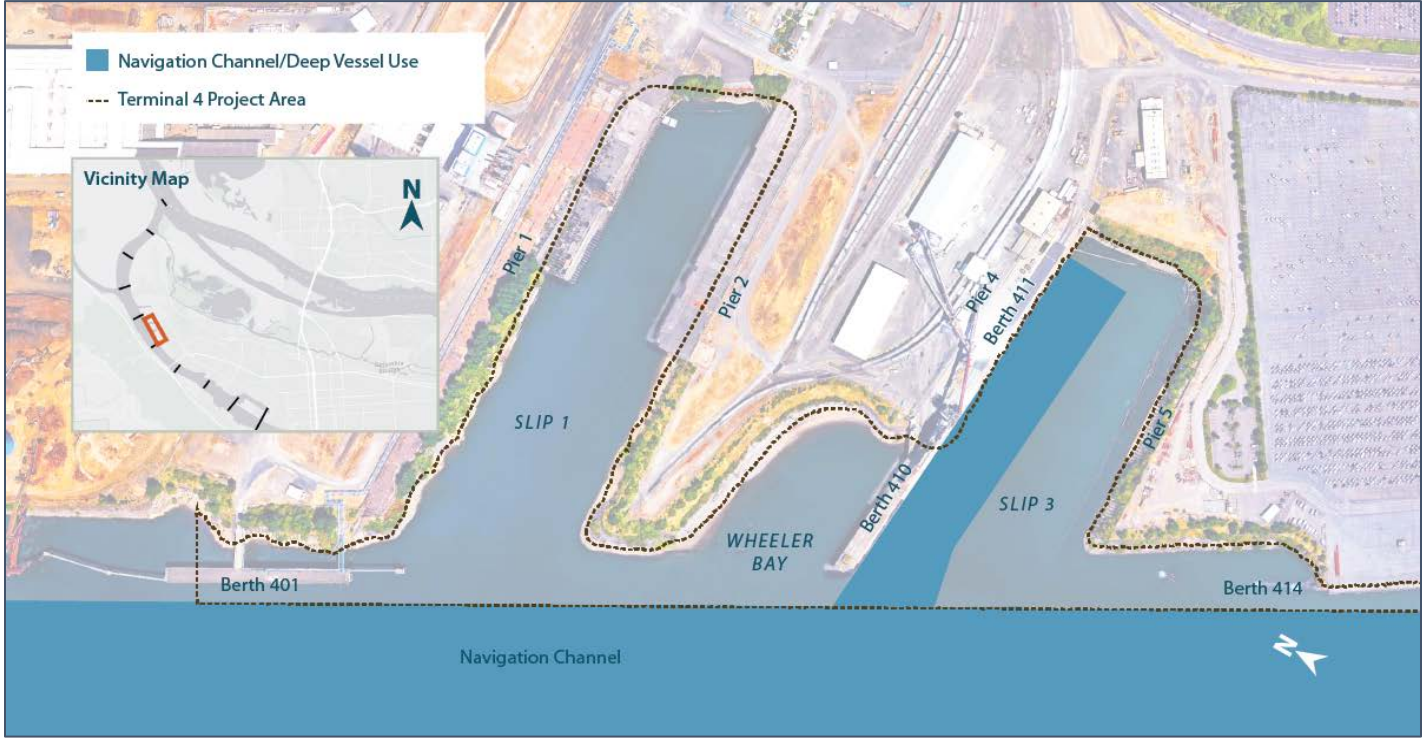


The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Port of Portland (Port) have prepared this fact sheet to provide community members with updated information concerning the Terminal 4 (T4) project area, which is part of the Portland Harbor Superfund Site. EPA issued the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Portland Harbor Superfund Site in January 2017. The ROD selects the environmental cleanup to address contamination in the Willamette River and identified the T4 project area requiring cleanup.

Terminal 4

T4 is a 262-acre multipurpose marine facility capable of handling a variety of cargo, located just north of the St. Johns Bridge on the east bank of the Willamette River between river miles 4.2 and 5.0. It is one of the Port’s busiest marine terminals, where soda ash from Wyoming is exported and many of the Toyotas sold on the West Coast are imported. T4 is a significant source of economic activity for the region; operations at T4 directly provide 759 jobs.

Figure 1
Terminal 4 Project Area



Project Area Description

Historical activities—including unloading pencil pitch (product used in the aluminum industry), metal ore transloading, oil loading and storage, and general maritime and industrial operations—resulted in contamination at T4. EPA identified the following contaminants of concern: polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The focus of cleanup will be in Slip 1, Wheeler Bay, and Slip 3, which are shown in Figure 1 and summarized as follows:

- Slip 1 is inactive with no existing water-dependent use but may be developed in the future for shallow-draft barge use.
- Wheeler Bay is an inactive bay with no existing water-dependent use and none anticipated in the future.
- Slip 3 contains Berths 410 and 411, which are the main site of active marine operations (80% vessel occupancy) serving deep-draft ocean-going vessels. Berths 410 and 411 are along the north side of Slip 3. The south side of Slip 3 is inactive.

Completed Cleanups at Terminal 4

The Port has already conducted substantial cleanup work at the terminal and as a result, have detailed information about the site conditions that remain:

- In 1995, the Port removed 35,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment from Slip 3.
- The Port was the first party in Portland Harbor to sign an “early action” cleanup order with EPA for further cleanup at T4. In 2008, the Port dredged approximately 12,800 cubic yards of contaminated sediment, capped approximately 8,000 square feet of contaminated sediment, and stabilized and improved 850 feet of shoreline.
- The Port also conducted upland cleanups under Oregon Department of Environmental Quality oversight. These include cleanup actions to address soil, groundwater, stormwater, and bank erosion.

This sets the stage for a timely, efficient, and protective cleanup of the contaminants that remain at the terminal.

Planned Terminal 4 Remedial Design Activities

EPA and the Port share a common goal of implementing the ROD in an expeditious manner. The two parties are currently working together to resolve outstanding questions and identify data needed to inform the design of the in-water cleanup. The existing administrative order between EPA and the Port was amended in June 2018 to conduct environmental sampling and complete preliminary design work. Pre-design sampling was completed in 2019 and will be used to inform a series of preliminary design reports. In 2020, EPA and the Port plan to complete the Basis of Design Report, which summarizes existing information at Terminal 4 and applicable design criteria to inform the remedial design.

Questions or Need More Information?

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