

FINAL Meeting Summary
EPA (with support from DEQ and the CAG) Portland Harbor Superfund Site Public Forum
Wednesday, March 11, 2020 | 6:00 – 8:30 pm | Online Only

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) held its eighth quarterly Portland Harbor Superfund Site Public Forum (with support from the Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group (CAG) and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)). The public forum was held as an online only webinar and took place from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. The public forum was divided into sections as follows:

1. **Welcome:** 6:00 – 6:25 p.m.
2. **Opportunities for Public Feedback and Public Comment:** 6:25 – 7:35 p.m.
3. **Break (if needed):** 7:35 – 7:45 p.m.
4. **Presentation - Willamette Cove In-Water Cleanup:** 7:45 – 8:25 p.m.
 - **Presenters:** EPA, the Willamette Cove In-water Remedial Design Group: City of Portland, Port of Portland, State of Oregon, through its Department of State Lands
5. **Wrapping Up and Next Steps:** 8:25 – 8:30 p.m.

Public Forum: Welcome and Overview and EPA Updates

Welcome and Overview

The Facilitator started the meeting by acknowledging the time and participation of all attendees in the online webinar. 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).

The Facilitator introduced Jim McKenna (State of Oregon, Governor’s Resource Office) to provide remarks regarding the Oregon Governor’s response to Covid-19 in Oregon. He noted the level of priority Covid-19 is and highlighted a scheduled press conference on March 12, 2020, to share the latest recommendations and information with the public.

The Facilitator introduced Michael Pouncil (Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group (CAG)) to provide updates from the CAG’s work in the community and with public agencies, including efforts with the Port of Portland to host a Willamette Cove presentation and to host a session with the City of Portland to share updates regarding the Information Management Plan. He pointed out several upcoming comment periods, including DEQ’s Portland Harbor Proposed City Outfalls Source Control Decision and a comment period for the Willamette Cove site.

The Facilitator introduced all the agency staff participating in the meeting and welcomed tribal representatives and a Congressional delegation representative participating in the online webinar. The Facilitator reviewed the agenda topics for the evening and reviewed ground rules.

Introduction of New Portland Harbor Team Lead

The Facilitator welcomed Sean Sheldrake (EPA Region 10 Remedial Project Manager). Sean introduced Caleb Shaffer as the new EPA Portland Harbor Team Lead and explained his role. Caleb provided an overview of his background working for EPA Region 9, time spent leading Superfund programs, and experience in a management role with EPA for over a decade.

EPA Update: Signed In-Water Agreements for Remedial Design

Sean provided EPA Updates regarding the signed In-Water Agreements for Remedial Design for the Portland Harbor site. Sean explained approximately 57% of the river is now under newly signed agreements to move forward into design. The signed agreements include sites on the west and east side of the river.

During this portion, Sean also provided an overview of a comprehensive map showing the project areas of all signed agreements. The updated version of [EPA’s March 2020 Portland Harbor Superfund Site Updates fact sheet](#) is now available online. He outlined some next steps for EPA including meetings for each of the design

agreements and working on plans to develop remedial design guides to help ensure designs are consistent and flexible to meet site-specific needs.

Sean explained EPA remains committed to its 100% design goal and is still working towards reaching agreements for the final areas of the river. He clarified there is no timetable for the rest of the agreements to be signed.

Opportunities for Public Feedback and Public Comment

Brief Summary of EPA Community Involvement Plan (CIP) Updates and Public Feedback Period

The Facilitator introduced Laura Knudsen (EPA Region 10 Community Involvement Coordinator) to provide EPA's Draft Community Involvement Plan (CIP) updates. Laura thanked those that participated in interviews to inform the draft plan and those that provided input prior to the release of the draft. She then shared a presentation regarding the draft CIP including the purpose of the draft plan and how the draft plan was developed. Please review the [full CIP presentation](#) for more information.

Laura explained the CIP was developed by EPA in coordination with Triangle Associates and includes information from interviews conducted between 2017-2018, informal feedback with several key groups, quarterly meetings, and ongoing community involvement. She explained the draft CIP has been reviewed by EPA Region 10 staff, the Technical Coordinating Team (TCT) members, and is now available for public feedback until April 27, 2020. Laura also explained this CIP update is responding to the Superfund law stipulation that after the final cleanup plan is signed, EPA needs to reevaluate the CIP. In developing this updated plan, EPA made an extensive effort to gather tribal and public input. It drew upon many information sources, including numerous and detailed interviews and meetings.

The Facilitator provided a demo of the digital outreach platform called Konveio which will be used by EPA to collect feedback. The draft CIP can be viewed online in the [Konveio platform now](#). Laura noted the EPA will review all feedback received during the 45-day comment period and incorporate necessary revisions and suggestions.

DEQ 30-day Public Comment Period: Portland Harbor Proposed City Outfalls Source Control Decision and DEQ's Update on the Implementation of the Portland Harbor Stormwater Strategy to Prevent Recontamination

This agenda topic was led by Alex Liverman (DEQ Portland Harbor Stormwater Coordinator) and Cindy Ryals (City of Portland, Technical Program Manager). Alex and Cindy provided updates regarding DEQ's 30-day public comment period on the Portland Harbor Proposed City Outfalls Source Control Decision. Alex also provided information on DEQ's update on the implementation of the Portland stormwater strategy to prevent recontamination.

Alex provided information about the City Outfalls Source Control Decision public notice process and gave an overview of the proposed decision. A staff report on the proposed decision will be available for a 30-day public comment period, City and DEQ staff will be available to contact during the review period and all comments will be considered before finalization of the decision. She also provided a brief overview of the Portland Harbor stormwater strategy with a focus on the three components of controlling upland legacy source control, stormwater permitting for on-going discharges, and monitoring and adaptive management. She also provided an overview of DEQ's Harbor-wide stormwater contaminant load study and its results that confirm effectiveness of cumulative stormwater source controls.

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Cindy discussed the overall goal of source control and the City’s work identifying, evaluating, and addressing potential stormwater contamination. Cindy noted some important elements of focus from the City’s Portland Harbor stormwater work, like controlling contaminants at the source and partnering with the state, which are outlined in the presentation. Please see [the full slide deck from this presentation](#) for more information.

DEQ’s Willamette Cove Upland Cleanup and Public Comment Period

The Facilitator introduced Dan Hafley (DEQ Hydrogeologist) to [provide updates regarding the Willamette Cove Upland Cleanup](#) public comment period. Dan started the updates by discussing the steps DEQ completed to create a proposed cleanup plan for the upland portion of the Willamette Cove site. In 2019, the Port prepared a Feasibility Study and Source Control Evaluation presenting potential cleanup options for the Upland, for which DEQ has oversight. Dan explained EPA’s role as overseeing the In-Water and riverbank cleanup and DEQ’s role as being responsible for upland cleanup. He also noted, Metro is the site owner and active participant and all work that would be completed under a consent order.

Cleanup of contamination in the site riverbank, beach, and the adjoining Willamette River will be overseen by EPA as part of Portland Harbor Superfund Site work. DEQ has prepared a staff report presenting a recommended cleanup plan for the Willamette Cove Upland, which he clarified is an action taken separately from the In-Water work conducted by EPA.

Dan outlined the several opportunities to obtain information and submit comments on the proposed plan including obtaining more information on the [DEQ website](#), reviewing the fact sheet and public notice, and reviewing the staff report prepared by DEQ staff regarding the proposed plan. Regarding submitting comments, Dan noted members of the public could email and mail their comments and attend public meetings to share comments. Dan explained the public comment period would be open until May 1, 2020 (**now extended through June 30, 2020**), for the proposed plan.

Katy Weil (Senior Science Analyst, Oregon Metro) also provided comments related to the Willamette Cove Upland Cleanup. Katy discussed Native Trees Preservation at the Willamette Cove Site. She highlighted Metro’s interest in preservation efforts for the native Black Cottonwood, Pacific Madrone, and Oregon White Oak. She noted Metro could provide a vegetation map related to the native tree preservation at the Willamette Cove site.

Please direct any questions on the DEQ Willamette Cove Upland project to Erin McDonnell (DEQ Cleanup Project Engineer) at MCDONNELL.Erin@deq.state.or.us or 503-229-6900.

Presentation: Willamette Cove In-Water Cleanup

The Facilitator introduced Eva DeMaria (EPA Region 10, Remedial Project Manager), Josh Bale (GSI Water Solutions, Inc. on behalf of the Willamette Cove In-water Remedial Design Group) and Jessica Terlikowski (City of Portland, Senior Community Outreach and Information Representative) to provide [a presentation on various aspects of the Willamette Cove In-Water Agreement](#). The presentation included an overview of the Willamette Cove Agreement, Remedial Design at Willamette Cove, and the City of Portland’s plans for Community Involvement.

Willamette Cove Overview

Eva discussed the Willamette Cove history and general health risks, described the purpose of the Willamette Cove agreement, and outlined the roles of the different agencies and responsible parties. She explained that the Willamette Cove In-River Agreement was signed in December 2019 for 100% of remedial design and will be integrated with the upland cleanup of Willamette Cove. These efforts are to help ensure recontamination does not occur.

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She also outlined several of the health risks associated with the site and explained health risks are caused primarily by dioxins and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Eva clarified all health risks should be considered in the long-term and are determined by the frequency of exposure, type of exposure, and amount of contaminated fish consumed.

Eva also clarified the roles for the In-Water cleanup. She noted, EPA is the lead for in-river cleanup, DEQ is the lead for the upland, and the performing parties implement the remedial design. Regarding the agreement, she discussed the pre-design investigation (PDI) and explained the PDI is used to determine what sampling is needed and to create a sampling plan. The outcome is a remedial design work plan. For additional information, please see the [full presentation slides](#).

Willamette Cove Remedial Design

Josh also presented information on the Willamette Cove In-Water work, including information regarding the remedial design process. He explained remedial design includes data collection, engineering analysis, monitoring, scheduling, process review, logistics, institutional controls, and community input. He clarified that while the in-water portion is adjacent to the upland portion of the site, remedial design for this portion is still being developed. He noted that remedial design helps refine the remedy concept and develop a plan, while remedial action is how the remedy is implemented.

Willamette Cove Community Involvement

Following this portion of the presentation, Jessica discussed community involvement related to the Willamette Cove site. She explained the various ways that the City of Portland, State of Oregon, and Port of Portland are working together to involve community with In-Water work at the Willamette Cove site. She noted that the performing parties for the Willamette Cove in-water design (the City of Portland, State of Oregon through its Division of State Lands, and Port of Portland) plan to make site information accessible, provide regular updates, maintain ongoing communication, and create space and structure to support these efforts.

Jessica also explained the new City of Portland Grant Program to support community involvement in the Information Management Plan and Willamette Cove In-Water Design Advisory Body. She noted, the City of Portland, State of Oregon, and Port of Portland are working with the community to co-develop the structure and process, build community capacity on remedial design topics, and include community voices in design.

Wrapping Up and Next Steps

The Facilitator thanked the presenters for sharing information and thanked attendees for their time, questions and thoughtful participation. The next Portland Harbor Public Forum is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, June 10, 2020.