



# Portland Harbor Superfund Site

## Community Involvement Plan (CIP) Summary



### What does Superfund mean and do?

- In 1980, the U.S. Congress passed the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), commonly called Superfund, in response to public concern about health and environmental threats from hazardous waste sites.
- Through the EPA, Superfund addresses abandoned, accidentally spilled, and illegally dumped hazardous substances that remain in the environment before laws preventing such pollution existed.

### What is the Portland Harbor Superfund Site (Site)?

- Since the mid-to-late 1800s, the Portland Harbor Superfund Site (Site) area has served as Portland's major industrial corridor and since then, the shoreline of the river near the city was altered for urban development.
- Industrial activities led to contaminated sediment (river bottom), surface water, groundwater, and riverbanks at the Site; this threatens the environment and the health of people.
- For a factsheet on Superfund and the Portland Harbor Superfund Site, see: <https://semspub.epa.gov/work/10/100201529.pdf>

### What is the Community Involvement Plan (CIP)?

- The Community Involvement Plan (CIP) is the foundation of EPA's Superfund community involvement and outreach program for the Site cleanup.
- The CIP specifies the outreach activities EPA will use to address the Tribes<sup>1</sup> and community members' concerns and expectations throughout the Site's cleanup process.

<sup>1</sup> While the CIP addresses tribal engagement, EPA understands that federally recognized Tribes are sovereign governments and that there is a formal tribal trust relationship between EPA and the Tribes. EPA's interactions with the Tribes at a government-to-government level are a formal process that differs from how it interacts more broadly with tribal members, tribal representatives, and community members as detailed throughout the CIP.

## Why was the CIP developed?

- To assist the EPA Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC) in finding effective and appropriate ways to inform and engage the Tribes and communities that are key to the success of the cleanup.
- For the Tribes and community members to use and make sure that EPA is responsive to their needs and concerns.

## Who developed the CIP?

EPA in coordination with Triangle Associates (under contract by EPA).

## How was the CIP developed?

The CIP was developed through numerous feedback opportunities including:

- Over 60 interviews with tribal members, tribal representatives, and community leaders.
- Input received during EPA's quarterly Community Leaders Group and Public Forum meetings.
- EPA's ongoing community involvement actions related to the Site, such as attending community events, one-on-one discussions with community members, and engaging with community leader subgroups.
- Approximately 700 comments received including feedback from the Site's Technical Coordinating Team (TCT) members and from the public over a 60-day EPA comment period.

## When was the CIP Developed?

The CIP was developed between 2017 – 2020.

## What are EPA's goals and objectives/actions identified in the CIP?

### GOALS

1. **Education Outreach:** Establish, maintain, and expand educational outreach to the Tribes and communities.
2. **Information Dissemination:** Provide accurate and timely information through the avenues and in the formats best suited to reach all interested people.

### OBJECTIVES/ACTIONS

1. Coordinate with Tribes, community, and neighborhood groups, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), other government agencies, and potentially responsible parties (PRPs).
2. Attend tribal and community events and provide printed material.
3. Promote transparency, communicate early, provide opportunities for informal feedback, and inform of formal public comment periods.
4. Invite tribal members, tribal representatives, and community members to EPA-sponsored meetings and events, especially to quarterly meetings.
5. Support technical assistance needs and economic development opportunities.
6. Maintain accurate, thorough, and up-to-date information.
7. Apply specific Environmental Justice (EJ) actions for the PHSS.

## What Comments Were Received & What Changes Were Made Before Releasing the Final CIP?

The EPA received approximately 700 comments on the Draft CIP and in response, made numerous edits and revisions. The following are the most significant high-level changes that were made before the CIP was finalized:

- Expanded upon the information provided and created dedicated CIP sections for the: (1) tribal background and concerns, and (2) environmental justice history and considerations.
- Provided additional clarity on community involvement during remedial design and remedial action.
- Made recommended improvements to the document's organization and graphics to make the CIP easier to understand and visually appealing.

## How were my comments used?

EPA reviewed the comments received during the public comment period and incorporated necessary revisions and suggestions into the Final CIP to reflect as many suggested changes as possible. If you have any questions about how your comments were incorporated into the CIP please contact Laura Knudsen (see contact information below).

## When may I next provide feedback in the cleanup process?

- The CIP outlines that at a minimum, EPA will encourage and work with performing parties at each project area to provide an information session to the public before or at the time the 30% remedial design phase is complete (or earlier depending on the agreement and area).
- EPA plans to take and consider informal feedback during any information session and for a period after the session (to be determined on a case-by-case basis).
- While EPA is not required to incorporate any feedback received, EPA will use the feedback to inform the remedial design process whenever possible.
- EPA hosts quarterly public meetings in partnership with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and the Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group that provide opportunities to update the public on Site developments, address community questions, build relationships, as well as hear concerns, ideas, and informal feedback. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please visit EPA's Portland Harbor website for information on these quarterly meetings ([www.epa.gov/superfund/portland-harbor](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/portland-harbor)).

## Who May I Contact if I Have a Question About the Final CIP?

Please contact Laura Knudsen, EPA Region 10 Community Involvement Coordinator:

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**St. Johns Bridge, Portland OR**

*photo credit: Hunter Young, EPA*