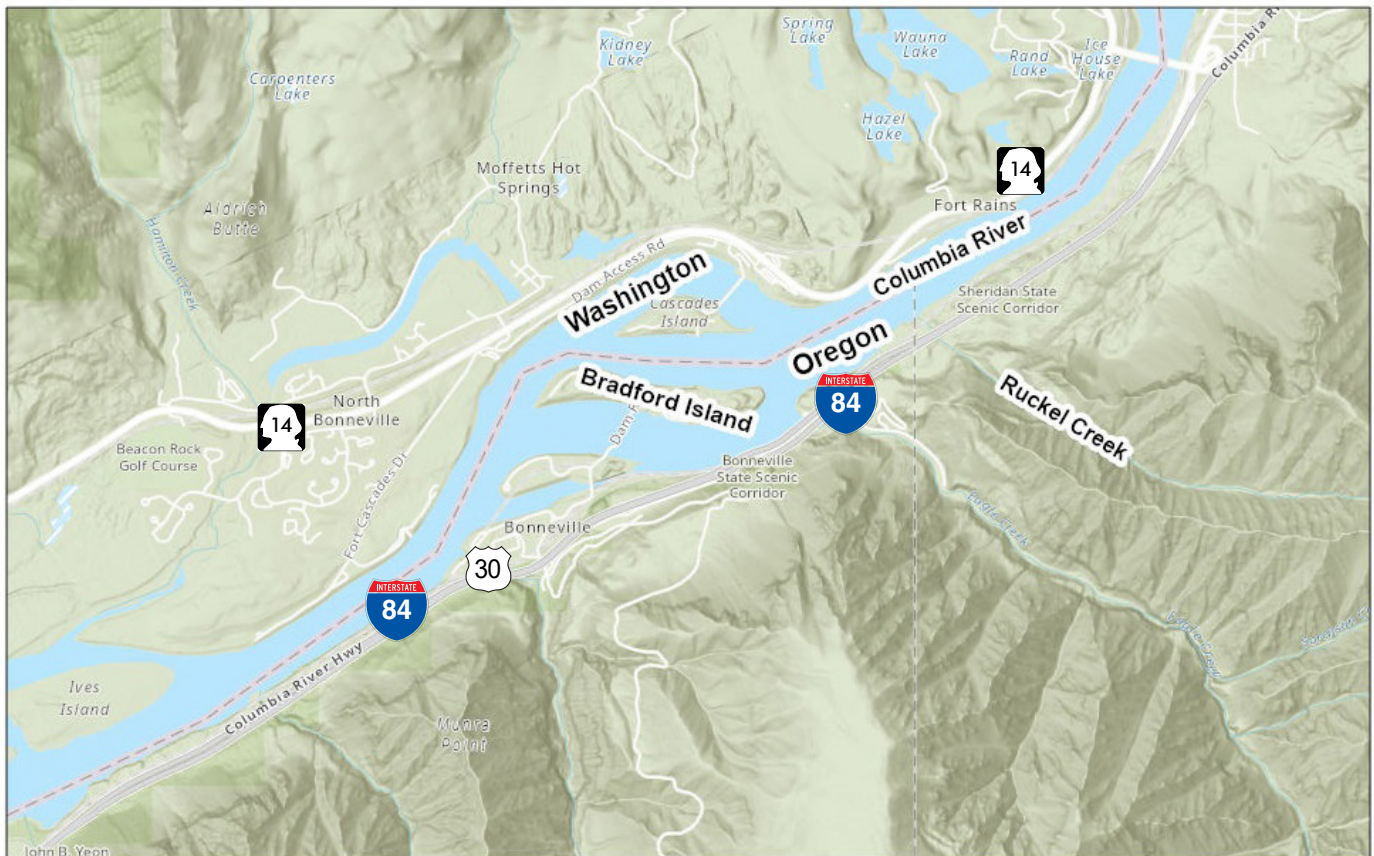


The United States Environmental Protection Agency added Bradford Island as a Superfund Site on the National Priorities List. The NPL is the list of sites across the country prioritized for cleanup due to known or threatened releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants. Bradford Island is operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and is located within the Bonneville Dam complex on the Columbia River. EPA is listing Bradford Island on the NPL because historical discharges of wastes on Bradford Island and contamination from disposal of electrical equipment directly into the Columbia River present risks to human and ecological health. The Corps is responsible for conducting the cleanup.

## What is Bradford Island?

Bradford Island is in the Columbia River, about three miles west of Cascade Locks, Oregon and 40 miles east of Portland, Oregon. Beginning with the Bonneville Dam's operation in 1938, the Corps used Bradford Island to support a variety of projects within the Bonneville Dam complex such as chemical storage, equipment storage, and waste disposal. Until 1982, the Corps disposed of hazardous waste in a landfill on the eastern side of Bradford Island. The Corps also historically operated a pistol range on the island and disposed of light bulbs and electrical equipment on land and in the river. Since 1998, the Corps conducted studies to determine the extent of the contamination and explore cleanup options. The Corps also removed electrical equipment and some contaminated sediment from the river.



**Map of Bradford Island – Map shows the location of Bradford Island in the Columbia River**

Map Sources: Oregon Metro, State of Oregon GEO, WA State Parks GIS, Esri Canada, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, USDA

## How is Bradford Island contaminated?

Due to these past activities, the uplands portion of the island and the Columbia River are known to be contaminated. Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and heavy metals are found in river sediments around Bradford Island. PCBs have also been detected in fish and shellfish near the island. In 2013, the Oregon Health Authority jointly issued a fish consumption advisory with the Washington State Department of Health recommending that no one eat resident fish (fish that do not migrate to the ocean) from the Bonneville Dam complex at Bradford Island to Ruckel Creek, approximately 1 mile east or upstream. Past waste disposal and other practices have also affected soils and groundwater on portions of Bradford Island. Contamination in soils includes PCBs, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), heavy metals, and other contaminants. Exposure to these contaminants can cause adverse health effects to humans and wildlife.

## Why did EPA add Bradford Island to the National Priorities List?

The decision to add the site to the NPL followed formal written requests from the Yakama Nation, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, and the Washington State Department of Ecology, in addition to other requests from community and environmental groups. The final decision to list the site followed consideration of public comments on the September 2021 proposal listing submitted by 1,717 commenters. The overwhelming majority of comments received supported listing Bradford Island on the NPL as a Superfund site. The comments and EPA's responses can be found on EPA's Bradford Island website at [www.epa.gov/superfund/bradford-island](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/bradford-island). In addition to the Yakama Nation, six other tribes who include Bradford Island in their traditional hunting and fishing grounds (Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, and the Cowlitz Indian Tribe) expressed concerns regarding contamination at the site and possible impacts to natural and cultural resources.

## What happens now that EPA has added Bradford Island to the National Priorities List?

Because Bradford Island is owned by the federal government and operated by the Corps, the Corps will still be the federal agency responsible for the cleanup process, including community involvement. However, listing Bradford Island on the NPL will bring EPA into a more formal role of overseeing the Corps' cleanup work. In addition, NPL listing will require a legally-enforceable agreement, known as a Federal Facility Agreement, between EPA and the Corps that will define work schedules. The agreement also establishes a clear dispute resolution process that the Corps and EPA will follow.

A thorough analysis of cleanup options for both the upland and in-water portions of the area must be completed by the Corps and approved by EPA before proposing a cleanup remedy (or Proposed Plan) for public comment.

## How may I get more information?

- Site information and documents supporting EPA's NPL listing of Bradford Island are available at [www.epa.gov/superfund/bradford-island](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/bradford-island) and via [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) (use docket number [EPA-HQ-OLEM-2021-0462](https://www.regulations.gov/document/EPA-HQ-OLEM-2021-0462)).
- More information about the Bonneville Dam Fish Advisory at Bradford Island is available from the **Oregon Health Authority** at <https://go.usa.gov/xFEdy>.
- Other questions? Please contact **Laura Knudsen**, Community Involvement Coordinator, 206-553-1838 • [knudsen.laura@epa.gov](mailto:knudsen.laura@epa.gov).

*If you need materials in another language or an alternative format, please contact **Laura Knudsen** at 1-800-424-4372, Ext. 1838*