EPA Grants Port of Portland's Request to Delay Cleanup at Terminal 4

November 15, 2007

Background

In August 2007, the Port of Portland requested a delay for the cleanup action at Terminal 4, because the Port believes that several issues that emerged during the project design cannot be resolved without information from the upcoming Portland Harbor Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS). EPA conditionally accepted the delay in a letter dated November 15, 2007.

Measures to Abate Current Site Risks

As a condition of the delay, EPA asked the Port to take action in order to reduce the immediate threats from uncontrolled contamination at the site. These abatement measures include:

- Dredging sediments with the highest chemical concentrations from Slip 3 and north of Berth 414 and disposing of them off-site;
- Capping petroleum contaminated sediments at the head of Slip 3 to protect aquatic life and control a potential ongoing source of contamination to nearby areas;
- Stabilizing the shoreline at Wheeler Bay to reduce the amount of contaminants that can reach the river.

How will the delay affect the overall cleanup of Terminal 4?

The cleanup measures at the head of Slip 3 and the Wheeler Bay shoreline will partially complete the cleanup for these areas that was described in the EPA Action Memo for Terminal 4 in May 2005.

Construction of the on-site Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) is postponed, along with other cleanup actions within Slip 3, Slip 1 and Berth 401. Information gathered during the harbor-wide RI/FS will be key to the CDF design, since the facility has capacity to receive sediments from the harbor-wide cleanup.

When will this work take place?

The Port of Portland will begin the abatement work during the 2008 in-water work window.

For More Information

Copies of the August 25 letter to EPA from the Port of Portland requesting a delay in project schedule and the October 22 Draft Abatement Measures Proposal are available by request from Judy Smith at smith.judy@epa.gov or 503-326-6994. The documents are also available on the EPA website: http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/t4

For more information, contact EPA Project Manager Sean Sheldrake at sheldrake.sean@epa.gov or 206-553-1220

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