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Settlement with US EPA for certain Portland Harbor Remedial Design Costs

If you wish to speak to Council, please print your name, address and email

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Portland Harbor Superfund agreement aims to drive new cleanup plans throughout the Lower Willamette River

City and state to provide \$24M in incentive funding to bring responsible parties into river wide cleanup planning

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SEATTLE – Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced an agreement in principle with the city of Portland and state of Oregon to help fund detailed cleanup plans for the 10-mile Portland Harbor Superfund. The site is on the EPA Administrator’s national Superfund emphasis list for intense and accelerated effort.

“We’re pleased to reach this agreement with the city of Portland and the state of Oregon, and see it as an innovative approach to advance the cleanup of the Lower Willamette River,” said **EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler**. “With today’s agreement, the city and state are showing strong leadership and a solid commitment to keep the cleanup moving toward our shared goals of reducing risks to people and the environment, and returning the Lower Willamette to a healthier and more vital working waterway for all. Our hope is that with this agreement, all responsible parties will step up to take advantage of this unique funding opportunity and commit to keep up this good momentum.”

The city and state have agreed to provide up to \$24 million in reimbursement funding to act as an incentive for responsible parties to come forward to complete detailed cleanup designs across the entire Superfund site. This agreement aims to encourage all responsible parties to step up quickly as the offer expires at year end. The agreement will help advance EPA’s goal to work with responsible parties to achieve agreements for 100 percent cleanup design for 100 percent of the site by the end of June.

“Today’s agreement is part of our collaborative work with the state and the city, with our tribal and federal partners, with the responsible parties, and with the community to keep the cleanup moving ahead,” said **EPA Region 10 Regional Administrator Chris Hladick**. “The cleanup will reduce health risks to people, fish and wildlife in the Lower Willamette River, and set the stage for commercial and industrial redevelopment and revitalization of the river and waterfront in the economic heart of Portland.”

Background

EPA placed the Portland Harbor Superfund Site on the Superfund National Priorities List in 2000. In 2017, EPA issued the Record of Decision or final cleanup plan for the site, a 10-mile stretch of the Lower Willamette River, located in Portland, Oregon. EPA is working with over 100 Responsible Parties and coordinating with tribal, state, federal and local partners to implement the Record of Decision. EPA is actively negotiating agreements with Responsible Parties to develop remedial design plans and move forward with Specific Action Area, or hot spot, cleanups. Active cleanup construction work is expected to take approximately 13 years and cost approximately \$1 billion. Find more information about Portland Harbor at www.epa.gov/superfund/portland-harbor.