



City of Portland Portland Harbor Year-End Report

November 2018

Update on EPA Actions

In January 2017, EPA released its decision on how the Portland Harbor Superfund site will be cleaned up. In that decision, EPA announced that the 10-mile site would require removal of approximately 3 million cubic yards of sediment, capping a total of 365 acres, and excavation of around 23,300 feet of river bank. EPA estimates that this cleanup will cost \$1.05 billion and take a total of 30 years to reach cleanup goals after cleanup starts, making it one of the largest and most complicated sediment cleanup sites in the nation. This year Portland Harbor was placed on a priority list by the EPA Administrator, which calls for immediate and intense action.

Over the last year, EPA has been working to establish the baseline conditions of the site to prepare to track progress as the cleanup moves forward. EPA has also been planning how to implement the cleanup at this large site. Top leadership from EPA's headquarters will be visiting Portland in December to share their vision on how implementation of the cleanup will occur.



A Proposed Change to the Record of Decision

Shortly after EPA released the Portland Harbor cleanup plan in January of 2017, EPA separately released an update on the science of one chemical: benzo(a)pyrene. Five years of scientific review has shown that the chemical is seven times less toxic than previously thought. This new toxicity information is incorporated

into cleanup sites across the country and was also adopted at the state level by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality earlier this year. It took some time for EPA to review the implications of this change for the Portland Harbor cleanup. In October 2018, they released a proposed update to their cleanup plan, called an “Explanation of Significant Difference” (ESD). Because of the lower toxicity of this chemical, not as much sediment work is needed to achieve EPA’s objectives of protecting human health and the environment. As a result, the ESD proposes to reduce the areas of the Harbor slated for capping and dredging by about 4%, or 17 acres out of 2,200. This also reduces the overall cost of the remedy by an estimated 3.4% (approximately \$35 million). In addition to this update, EPA used the ESD to correct some calculations used in the original cleanup decision. The full proposed update and ESD summary are available on *EPA’s website*¹ for public review and comment. Comments are due to EPA by December 21, 2018.

Initiation of Quarterly Public Forums

This June, EPA began convening quarterly public forums to provide community members with an opportunity to receive updates on the cleanup. The meetings offer members of the public the chance to engage directly with public agencies and parties performing work, and to learn more about cleanup plans. The last EPA forum of 2018 will take place on December 12 from 5:30-8:30pm at Revolution Hall. Please email Laura Knudsen, EPA’s public involvement coordinator for Portland Harbor, at knudsen.laura@epa.gov for more information.

Baseline Sampling Results

A group of four private parties calling themselves “the Pre-Remedial Design Group” – Arkema Inc., The Marine Group LLC, Evraz Inc., and Schnitzer Steel Industries Inc. – agreed to perform baseline sampling of the Portland Harbor. This is a standard part of the cleanup process at Superfund Sites and provides an updated data set by which to compare the effectiveness of upcoming cleanup actions. In addition, some of the data collected may help refine the areas where sediment work is needed. The pre-Remedial Design Group has been collecting samples of sediment, fish tissue, surface water, and other environmental media for several months, and the results of their extensive efforts are starting to come in. Their preliminary reports indicate that the sampling has generally gone as planned. EPA and others await the detailed chemistry data to better understand current conditions at the site.

¹ <https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/SiteProfiles/index.cfm?fuseaction=second.cleanup&id=1002155>

Update on City of Portland Actions

Environmental cleanups this large and complex take time and an enormous amount of work. The City continues to work closely with our partners to move the cleanup forward efficiently and effectively while supporting EPA's efforts to engage Portlanders in the process. We've made progress this year in moving individual sites forward, increasing public agency collaboration, and building relationships with those in our community who are most impacted by the contamination and the cleanup.

Below are updates on our major work areas.

Recontamination Prevention

This year marked a major milestone for the Portland Harbor program. In August we submitted the *Source Control Assessment Report*² to the Department of Environmental Quality, which culminates over 15 years of work and partnership with the State to investigate and control potential sources of contamination to the Superfund site. The conclusion of this work is a critical step in preparing the site for in-river cleanup.

River Mile 11 East

The River Mile 11 East project area lies on the east side of the river, roughly between the Fremont and Broadway bridges. Since 2013, the City has partnered with five other parties to move toward cleanup in this area ahead of the rest of the Harbor. These parties include PacifiCorp, Cargill, Glacier Northwest, CBS Corporation, and DIL Trust, and are called the River Mile 11 East Group. The primary focus of the River Mile 11 East Group this past year has been on two studies that are required to move forward with engineering designs for the cleanup work: 1.) a Recontamination Assessment, and 2.) a Basis of Design Report.



River Mile 11 East

² www.deq.state.or.us/Webdocs/Controls/Output/PdfHandler.ashx?p=79c81f32-b5a6-4747-9858-f52b01a7f8f1.pdf&s=City_of_Portland_2018_Effectiveness_Monitoring_Report_without_lab_reports.pdf

The Recontamination Assessment evaluates potential threats of recontamination to this area of the river after cleanup is completed, such as from bank erosion or groundwater plumes. The report concludes that with the exception of what may be coming into the Site from upriver in the watershed, the potential sources of recontamination at the Site are sufficiently controlled, and that engineering design work for the cleanup can begin. EPA approved the final report in November.

The Basis of Design Report provides the underpinnings of the engineering work needed to design the details of the cleanup and may identify additional information gathering or sampling needs to ensure the cleanup will be effective. It also starts to address some of the cleanup challenges specific to the River Mile 11 East area, such as: a desire for minimal disruption to active marine-dependent businesses; a potential need to relocate active, buried power cables under the project area; and managing any capping or dredging activities adjacent to over-steepened riverbank slopes so as not to compromise the banks. The River Mile 11 East Group agreed to complete the Basis of Design Report as part of a larger body of engineering design work incorporated into a January 2018 amended agreement signed with EPA. The Group anticipates submitting a draft Basis of Design Report to EPA in early 2019.



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River Mile 11 East is home to several active businesses.

Community Involvement Program Development

Portland Harbor community involvement program staff dedicated the first half of 2018 to building and strengthening relationships with diverse community stakeholders. These efforts resulted in new and stronger connections with 30 community organizations and dozens of advocates focused on environmental and social justice issues impacting Portlanders. Examples of organizations directly engaged by city staff include the Bonneville Environmental Foundation, Ecotrust, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission,

Get Hooked! Foundation, JOIN, NAACP, Northwest Council of Water Protectors, Oregon Tradeswomen, Portland African American Leadership Forum, Right2Survive, Self-Enhancement Incorporated, Sierra Club, Street Roots, Village Coalition, Willamette Riverkeeper, and Wisdom of the Elders. As a result of the City's new relationship with Oregon Tradeswomen, the Portland Harbor team has started conducting educational workshops and Superfund tours as part of their quarterly Green Construction Workforce trainings.

This year the City of Portland provided grants to the Portland Harbor Community Coalition, the Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group, and the Audubon Society of Portland to collect input directly from environmental justice constituents including communities of color, immigrants, people who are low-income, people who experience homelessness, and communities that live near the Superfund site.

Each organization submitted reports this month outlining the priorities, concerns, questions, and recommendations voiced by the communities they engaged. Together the three grantees collected input from approximately 405 individuals and 15 organizations and attended or hosted 31 events. City staff is now in the process of reviewing the reports and will use the input to shape the City's public involvement program.

In addition to the valuable input collected by the grantees, Portland Harbor community involvement program coordinator Jessica Terlikowski collected input from approximately 150 Portlanders. Activities included tabling at community events like Jade Night Market and Sunday Parkways and facilitating dialogues with organizations including the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and Northwest Council of Water Protectors. Feedback is now being analyzed to develop the program plan. Jessica will report back to stakeholders on the proposed plan to ensure the City's program is reflective of the community's priorities.



PORTLAND HARBOR COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

Portland Harbor Environmental Justice Tour

Fish Advisory Outreach and Education Program

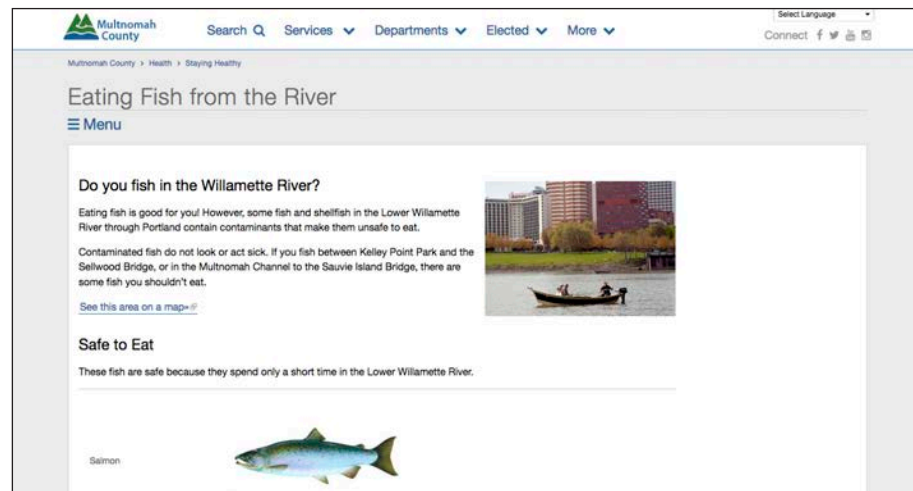
This year the City, State, and Port of Portland initiated a Fish Advisory Outreach and Education program. The three public agencies dedicated a total of \$345,000 over two years to improve public understanding of the risks of eating fish from the Portland Harbor Superfund. This program is administered by the Multnomah County Health Department with a portion of the resources dedicated to a full-time health educator. The program is currently in the process of conducting creative, hands-on workshops with culturally specific groups. The first workshops were with the East European and the Vietnamese communities. The County plans to focus the other workshops on recent immigrants and refugees, Latinx community members, those already connected with Portland Harbor, Native communities, African-Americans, people who are houseless, and young people. The health department's communication team will develop sample materials of the concepts to share with the impacted communities.

Multnomah County developed a website to increase awareness of the fish advisory and worked closely with BES staff to ensure coordinated messaging with the Columbia Slough fish advisory.

The Allocation Process – Who Pays for What

The City is one of approximately 100 parties participating in an out-of-court settlement process to allocate cleanup costs among all parties. The goal of the allocation is to get parties to an agreement so that they can present a settlement offer to EPA for implementing the remedy.

This allocation settlement process began in 2008 and will not conduct final negotiations until after the completion of the baseline sampling (described above). These final negotiations are likely to be a multi-year process because of the number of parties and complexity of assessing responsibility for 120+ years



Multnomah County fish advisory website at multco.us/health/staying-healthy/eating-fish-river

of industrial activity. EPA has notified parties that while that is taking place, it expects parties to enter into agreements to start site-specific remedy designs that must be conducted before the cleanup can begin. The City is one of the parties working on these next steps for design at RM11E and possibly Willamette Cove.

Ultimately, parties will settle their liabilities with EPA by performing the cleanup or funding other parties who will be doing the work. The Portland Harbor cleanup will be costly, but much of expenditures will be spread out over many years across every stage of the cleanup including the engineering of the cleanup remedy, construction, and long-term performance monitoring.

Upcoming Projects

The City has partnered with Port of Portland, the State of Oregon and the Department of Defense to start discussions with EPA about work at Willamette Cove. This site has been identified as a priority site by EPA and DEQ due to high public use. We expect to have more information about this site in early 2019.

The City has also partnered with the State to assist EPA in thinking about long-term information and data management and the best methods for information sharing across the Portland Harbor site to ensure there is consistent, efficient, and transparent information available throughout the entire site. We expect to have more information about this project in 2019.



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Willamette Cove is located on the east side of the river and north of the railroad bridge.

Update on The Portland Harbor Natural Resource Trustee Council

The Natural Resource Damage Assessment

The Portland Harbor Natural Resource Trustee Council includes the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, and The Nez Perce Tribe. The Trustee Council oversees The Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) process which is separate from the EPA's cleanup process. The NRDA process evaluates how natural resources were harmed from contaminants in the Superfund Site and how restoration and compensation should occur. This March the Trustee Council issued an **updated Natural Resource Damage Assessment Plan**³. The City has been a major supporter in this process and has contributed funds to encourage tribal participation. In 2015, the City purchased about \$3 million of credits towards the Alder Creek restoration project at the former Alder Creek Lumber facility. Updates on that restoration project can be found at www.wildlandsinc.com/banks/alder-creek-restoration-project. The Trustee Council is currently working with a number of parties that participated in funding the damage assessment, including the City, on a process for early settlement of natural resource damages liability.



WWW.WILDLANDSINC.COM/ALDER-CREEK-RESTORATION-PROJECT

The Alder Creek Restoration Project is located on a 52.3-acre property on the southern tip of Sauvie Island.

³ https://casedocuments.darrp.noaa.gov/northwest/portharbor/pdf/Portland_Harbor_Addendum_to_Nat_Res_Damage_Assess_Plan_0309_2018_Public.pdf



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