





OUR CONTAMINATED RIVER HURTS OUR CITY.

Clean and Healthy Rivers are linked to a healthy and robust economy. A clean and healthy river is a community right - one that residents of the city of Portland are being denied today. Ten miles of the Willamette River are contaminated with a high degree of pollution. PCBs, heavy metals, oil based products known as PAHs, and DDT need to be removed.

In 2000, this area was listed under Federal law as a Superfund site. Over the last decade significant progress has been made determining the nature and extent of this pollution. The Superfund process is now in its final phase, which will determine how the river will be restored to health. Simply put, it is time for the community to make sure the pollutants are removed properly and adequately for the health of our community, wildlife and economy.

This booklet provides basic information about the current status of the Superfund project along with how you can help make sure it gets cleaned up effectively by sending in the attached postcard and staying involved. **Thank you in advance for helping YOUR river.**

A QUICK SUPERFUND REFRESHER:

The Portland Harbor Superfund site is a highly contaminated stretch of the Willamette River that extends approximately 10 miles, near the confluence with the Columbia River to the Fremont Bridge. In 2000 this area was designated a Federal Superfund Site under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). This means the federal government has recognized this portion of the Willamette among the most polluted sites in the nation. Clean and healthy rivers are part of the Public Trust that holds that our rivers are held "in common, and belong to all." Our river should be clean and healthy, to benefit all of us.

The Cleanup involves the following steps:

| 0 | Remedial Investigation: I dentify the extent and type o |
|---|--|
| 2 | Feasibility Study: Proposed Cleanup options, and evalue (Released in March 2012 but under review by the EPA.) |
| 3 | Proposed Draft Cleanup Plan: Outlines the specific appro comment period opens, enabling the EPA to receive fee |
| 4 | Record of Decision: The final plan that directs the Clean |
| 6 | Cleanup and restoration. (2016 and beyond.) |

of contamination. (Completed.)

luation of options.

roach and options. Official public eedback. (Likely 2015.)

inup process. (Expected in 2016.)

THE POLLUTION IN THE SEDIMENT **OF THE RIVER IS EATEN BY** SMALL AQUATIC CREATURES WHICH ARE THEN EATEN BY FISH WHICH ARE THEN EATEN BY PEOPLE. THIS IS HOW BOTH WILDLIFE AND PEOPLE ARE HARMED BY THIS CONTAMINATION.



WHO IS INVOLVED IN THE CLEANUP?

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for overseeing the Superfund process on behalf of the public and is taking the lead with the in-water portion of the Cleanup. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality is taking the lead on uplands next to the river to ensure more contamination does not make its way to the river. The EPA oversees DEQ's work.

Over 100 companies along the river have some responsibility for the pollution. The City of Portland and the Port of Portland also share some liability. Based on the Polluter Pays Principle, these Potentially Responsible Parties (PRP) that either directly caused the pollution or purchased contaminated property, are responsible for the cost and cleanup the pollution. The federal government expects purchasers of industrial lands to do their due diligence before acquiring property and that costs of cleanup are factored into the decision to purchase the property. In 2000 a subset of the PRPs called the Lower Willamette Group signed an agreement with the US EPA to lead the research of the contaminants, then formulate cleanup options in a document called the Feasibility Study (FS). Today the US EPA is taking leadership for finishing the FS and creating the draft Cleanup Plan expected in 2015.

THE LAW STATES THIS IS WHO SHOULD PAY FOR THE CLEAN UP:

Entities who caused the contamination.

Entities still causing contamination.

Entities who currently own land contaminated by previous entities.

FOR EVERY DOLLAR **INVESTED IN** THE CLEANUP, MORE THAN A **DOLLAR WILL BE GENERATED FOR OUR ECONOMY***

*Economic Impacts of the Portland Harbor Superfund Cleanup, EcoNorthwest on behalf of the City of Portland, June 2012.



WHAT CAUSED THE CONTAMINATION?

There are a variety of pollutants in Portland Harbor, including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), metals (cadmium, lead, zinc), dioxins, furans, polycyclicaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), arsenic, DDT and mercury. Some of these are also found in riverside "upland" areas.

Many of these pollutants are byproducts of past industrial activities. An example of this are PCBs, used decades ago, which now comprise one of the most widespread pollutants found in the river. Once released into the environment, many pollutants like PCBs take decades to breakdown and remain in the river with the potential to harm the health of fish, wildlife and people. These pollutants may react together in the environment to create even more toxic compounds.

Here are the top three ways these contaminants can harm the people and wildlife in our community:

Consumption of resident fish and shellfish taken from the Portland Harbor.

Infant consumption of breast milk from mothers who are exposed to contaminants.

Bioaccumulation: Contaminated sediment is eaten by plankton, which are eaten by bottom-feeders, which are eaten by fish, which are eaten by humans, birds and mammals thus harming all life forms along this line.

PCBS, DIOXINS/FURANS, **DDT, AND PAHS** WERE DETECTED IN MOST SAMPLES OF VARIOUS FISH AND INVERTEBRATE SPECIES COLLECTED. CONCENTRATIONS OF THESE POLLUTANTS VARIED GREATLY WITHIN AND BETWEEN SPECIES, WITH FISH TISSUE CONCENTRATIONS GENERALLY GREATER THAN THOSE IN INVERTEBRATES.

OUR RIVER IS HOME TO AN AMAZING ARRAY OF WILDLIFE, FROM OSPREY AND RIVER OTTER, TO SALMON AND STURGEON. **CLEANING UP OUR RIVER WILL**

HELP PROTECT THE WILD IN OUR WILLAMETTE.

HOW WILL THE POLLUTANTS BE CLEANED UP?

There are several options for cleaning up our river. These options include:

Removal of Sediment from the river environment and placing it in a landfill.

- Capping leaves pollutants in place and actively covers them with clean material (often including layers of clay, rock, and sand). This method includes many years of monitoring, and may provide less certainty in relation to human, fish and wildlife health.
- Alternative Treatments can include biochar, carbon enhancements and other emerging approaches that treat sediment both in the river, and once it is removed. These are still in their experimental stages and are unlikely to be the primary strategy.
- 4 Natural Recovery simply leaves pollutants in place and relies on the river's natural sediments to cover up the pollution over time. This is the least protective for the river.

None of the Cleanup options are perfect. Given that there are miles of contaminated sediment, the impact of the decision of whether to remove sediments, cap them, or leave them untreated, is significant. The final solution must adequately protect people and wildlife.

Estimates for cleaning up the Superfund site range from \$200 million up to \$1.7 billion. These companies have profited over the decades from the river, and now it is time for them to invest in the Willamette's health and restoration. This is our opportunity to ensure that the Willamette River will be clean and healthy for future generations.

REMOVING CONTAMINATED SEDIMENT FROM THE WILLAMETTE **RIVER IS** THE BEST LONG-TERM SOLUTION.

THE GOOD NEWS: THE CLEANUP WILL WORK.

BUT ONLY IF YOU MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

These are our suggestions for how to clean up the Willamette River Superfund area:

1 The highest priority is to **remove the contaminated sediment** from the Willamette River.

2 Ensure that any sediment disposal strategies provide **long-term protection** for the health of people and the environment.

3 Ensure that **polluters pay** for their full share of the Cleanup.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Take Action. <u>Simply send the attached card to the EPA</u>, or send your thoughts to: conley.alanna@epa.gov. The official comment period will occur in 2015, but sending your thoughts on the Cleanup today can help set the stage for a robust Cleanup plan. A separate email and physical address will be provided for the official comments in 2015.

Stay Informed. Friend or join the Facebook page: Portland Harbor Superfund Cleanup. Go to: willametteriverkeeper.org or audubonportland.org for additional information. Willamette Riverkeeper: 1515 SE Water Ave. #102, Portland, OR 97214 • 503.223.6418 Audubon Society of Portland: 5151 NW Cornell Road, Portland, OR 97210 • 503.292.6855

A HEALTHY **RIVER IS A RIGHT** BY LAW. **THOSE WHO** POLLUTE IT MUST CLEAN IT UP AND COVER THE COST, BY LAW. WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THE CLEANUP IS DONE **RIGHT.**

To US EPA Region 10 Administrator:

and I believe a clean and safe Willamette My name is River is critical to protecting our community, our environment, and our economy. Please consider the following points as you make key decisions about the cleanup of our river:

- want my river cleaned up by those who contaminated it and/or own contaminated land.
- The highest priority should be **removing contaminated sediment** from the river. 2
- People should be able to recreate in this area without worrying about the impact of 3 contaminated fish and sediment on their health.
- The past damage to the environment should be fully mitigated. 4
- Wildlife should be protected in the cleanup of Portland Harbor.
- More access points should be created to make recreation on our clean river easier.

Thank you for your consideration,

Signature (optional):

| Please add me to your mail and electronic lists for additional information. |
|---|
| Address: |
| Email: |

Willamette RIVERKEEPER

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AUDUBON SOCIETY of PORTLAND

US EPA Region 10 1200 Sixth Avenue Mail Code: RA-140 Seattle, WA 98101

NONPROFIT ORG US POSTAGE PAID PORTLAND OR PERMIT NO. 599

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Sent: To: Subject: Travis Williams <travis@willametteriverkeeper.org> Monday, July 28, 2014 6:22 PM Moore-Love, Karla [Approved Sender] Re: [User Approved] Re: Council

Portland Harbor Superfund and the Willamette River.

Travis Williams Willamette Riverkeeper 1515 SE Water Ave., #102 Portland, OR 97214 www.willametteriverkeeper.org 503-223-6418

On Jul 28, 2014, at 5:11 PM, Moore-Love, Karla <<u>Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov</u>> wrote:

Great.

All I need now is your topic.

Karla

Karla Moore-Love |Council Clerk Office of the City Auditor 503.823.4086

> From: Travis Williams [mailto:travis@willametteriverkeeper.org] Sent: Monday, July 28, 2014 4:03 PM To: Moore-Love, Karla Subject: [User Approved] Re: Council

> > 1

I think the 3rd would work great.

Travis Williams Willamette Riverkeeper 1515 SE Water Ave., #102 Portland, OR 97214 www.willametteriverkeeper.org 503-223-6418 Hello Travis,

The next available date to address the City Council is August 20th but, both the Mayor and Commissioner Fritz will be absent. After that September 3rd is also available and currently, all members are present.

Let me know what date will work for you.

Regards, Karla

Karla Moore-Love | Council Clerk City of Portland | Office of the City Auditor 1221 SW 4th Ave Rm 130 Portland OR 97204-1900 email: <u>Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov</u> phone:503.823.4086 Clerk's Webpage: <u>www.portlandoregon.gov/auditor/councilclerk</u>

> From: Reyes, Cindy Sent: Monday, July 28, 2014 1:44 PM To: Moore-Love, Karla Cc: <u>travis@willametteriverkeeper.org</u> Subject: Council

Hi Karla,

Travis Williams would like to speak before council. Travis is cc'd on this email so you can coordinate a day and time.

Best,

Cindy Reyes

Constituent Services Specialist Office of Mayor Charlie Hales | City of Portland 1221 SW 4th Ave., Suite 340 | Portland, OR 97204 E: <u>cindy.reyes@portlandoregon.gov</u> P: 503-823-4142

Request of Travis Williams to address Council regarding Portland Harbor Superfund and the Willamette River (Communication)

SEP 03 2014

PLACED ON FILE

Filed AUG 2 9 2014

LaVonne Griffin-Valade Auditor of the City of Portland By

| COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS: | | | | |
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| 1. Fritz | | | | |
| 2. Fish | | | | |
| 3. Saltzman | | | | |
| 4. Novick | | | | |
| Hales | | | | |