Portland Harbor Superfund Site - Introduction

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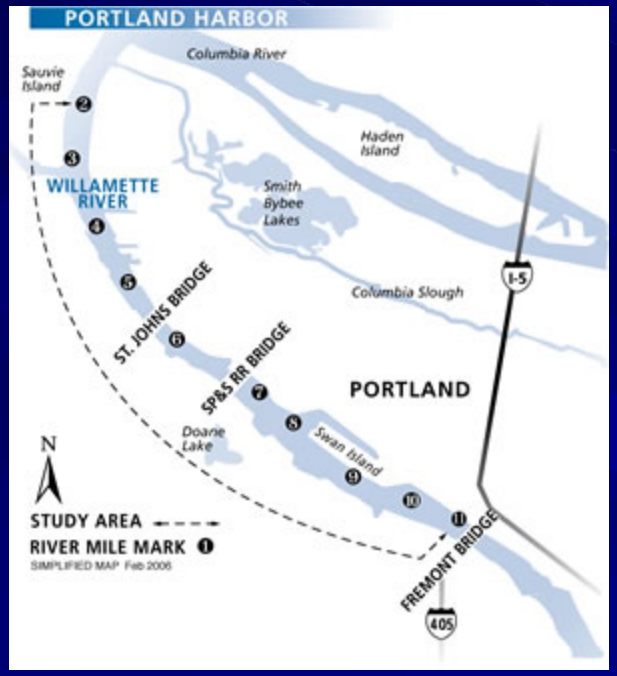
Overview

- Describe Portland Harbor
- Explain Superfund and other efforts associated with clean-up of Portland Harbor
- Describe the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) process for clean-up of contaminated sediments in the Willamette River

Portland Harbor Superfund Site



- Designated as a Superfund Site by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2000
- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA)
  - Identify parties responsible for contamination and compel cleanup
  - Historically federal Superfund tax supported cleanup efforts; now limited annual funding for smaller sites

Stakeholders in the Process

- **Local industries and businesses**
- **Public entities - City, Port, OR Dept. of Transportation (ODOT) and OR Dept. of State Lands (DSL)**
- **Local citizens**
- **Environmental and other groups**
- **Lead regulatory agencies (EPA and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)**
- **Tribal governments**
- **Natural Resource Trustees**

State and Federal Agency Roles in the Process

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is lead agency for In-Water Work:

- 10 Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) formed the Lower Willamette Group (LWG) and conducted the draft Remedial Investigation (RI) and draft Feasibility Study (FS)
- Sediment investigation and risk assessment
- Determining protective remedial actions
- > 100 parties identified as potentially responsible parties (PRPs)

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is lead agency for Upland Work:

- Investigations of soils, groundwater, and stormwater at upland sites
- Focus is identification of sources and implementation of source control
- Over 75 sites have agreements with DEQ Cleanup Program

Related Effort - Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA)

- NRDA is separate from the EPA clean-up. Under NRDA, a Trustee Council will:
  - evaluate how the natural resources were harmed over the time that the area has been contaminated
  - develop a restoration plan to compensate for those losses.

City Has Complex Role

- **Member of Lower Willamette Group (LWG)**
  - Actively participate in and help fund the draft Remedial Investigation (RI) and draft Feasibility Study (FS).
- **Potentially Responsible Party (PRP)**
  - Evaluating potential of stormwater system to convey contamination to sediments
  - Interested in fair allocation among parties
- Local **Government Agency**
- Stewardship role - concerned with watershed health
- Established relationships with other governments

Source Control Program

- Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) is working with OR Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to identify and control potential sources of contamination
- Goal: Minimize potential for recontamination of sediments following cleanup

Portland Harbor Superfund Milestones

We are here

2000 – – – – → 2010 2011 2012 2013 and beyond

2000-11

Superfund Listing, Research, Sampling, Analysis, Early Actions, Uplands Cleanup

Remedial Investigation (RI) and Risk Assessment

What and where are the risks?

Draft Feasibility Study (FS)

What are the cleanup options?

EPA's Proposed Clean-up Plan

EPA's Proposal for formal public comment

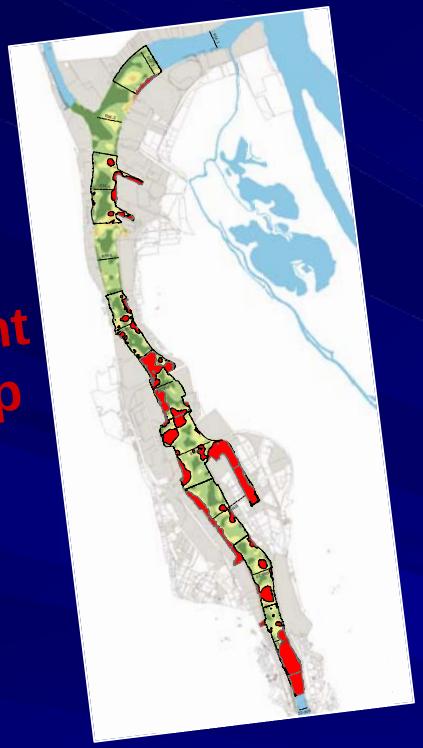
EPA's Record of Decision (ROD)

EPA's Final Decision

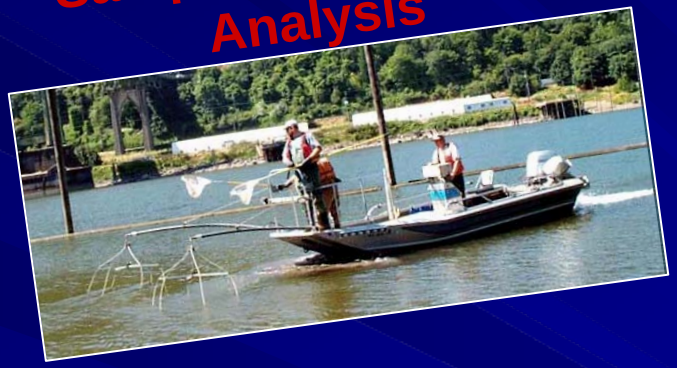
Harbor Cleanup

Activities Since 2000

US EPA: River & Sediment Cleanup

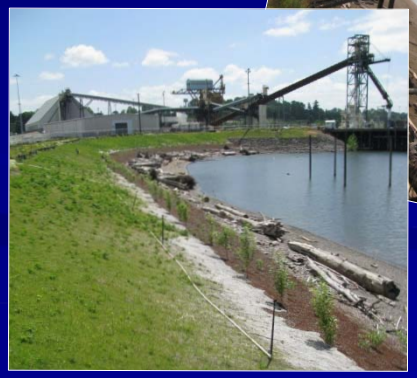


Sampling, Testing & Analysis



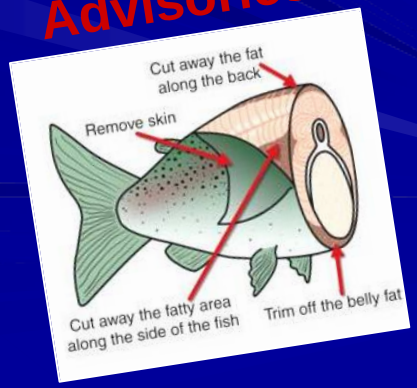
Oregon DEQ: Upland Cleanup & Source Control

Early Cleanup Actions



Citizen Advisory Group (CAG)

Fish Advisories



Portland Harbor Remedial Investigation

Primary Risk Drivers

- PCBs
- Pesticides (e.g. DDT)
- Dioxins and furans
- PAHs

Feasibility Study (FS)

The Draft Feasibility Study evaluates the effectiveness, feasibility and cost of a wide range of alternatives for handling contaminated sediments:

- dredging,
- capping,
- monitored natural recovery

Next Steps

- Lower Willamette Group will submit Draft Feasibility Study to EPA (March 30, 2012)
- EPA will review the document
- EPA will ultimately issue a proposed clean up plan – available for public comment
- EPA will issue a record of decision with clean up requirements after considering comments

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Public Information Sessions for Draft Portland Harbor Feasibility Study

- **Wednesday, April 11, 2012,** 6 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Open House 5:30 to 6 p.m.) St. John's Community Center, 8427 N. Central St., Portland, Oregon

  Thursday, April 12, 2012, 1 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Open House 12:30 to1 p.m.) Portland Building Auditorium, 1120 SW 5th Avenue, 2nd Floor, Portland, Oregon

  Wednesday, April 18, 2012, 6 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Open House 5:30 to 6 p.m.) June Key Delta Community Center, 5940 N. Albina Street, Portland, Oregon

  Thursday, May 10, 2012, 6 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Open House 5:30 to 6 p.m.) Ecotrust Building- Billy Frank Jr. Conference Center, 721 NW Ninth Avenue, Portland, Oregon

More Information

- EPA and the Lower Willamette Group are co-hosting a series of public forums on the Feasibility Study
- Information is available on the City's Portland Harbor website:

  www.portlandonline.com/bes/portlandharbor

Common Portland Harbor Acronyms

- EPA – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- DEQ – Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality
- DSL – Oregon Dept. of State Lands
- PRP – Potentially Responsible Parties
- LWG – Lower Willamette Group
- RI/FS – Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
- CERCLA – Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980
- NRDA- Natural Resource Damage Assessment
- DSAY – Discounted Service Acre Years