



PUBLIC NOTICE

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DEQ Requests Comments on Proposed Certification of Completion and Conditional No Further Action Determination for Property in Astoria

HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT

Property: Astoria Marine Construction Company

Project location: 92134 Front Road in Astoria

Comments due by: Monday, March 4, 2024 at 5 p.m.

Submit written comments:

By mail: Mark Pugh, Oregon DEQ, 710 NE Multnomah St., Suite 600, Portland, OR 97232

By email: Mark.Pugh@deq.oregon.gov

Proposal highlights: The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality is preparing to certify that all actions to clean up the property as required under a consent judgment with DEQ have been satisfactorily completed. As a result, DEQ is proposing to issue a Certification of Completion and a Conditional No Further Action determination.

Background: Astoria Marine Construction Company, or AMCCO, was founded in 1924 to manufacture and repair wooden-hulled fishing and ferry boats, tugboats and yachts. During World War II, the shipyard added larger shipways and expanded operations for construction of military vessels. During the Korean and Vietnam wars, the company built wooden-hulled minesweepers and submarine chasers and refurbished older warships. During the peak production period from 1940-1960, the facility employed more than 400 full-time workers. In the 1960s, work for the U.S. Navy decreased and operations transitioned to fishing and tugboat repair. After 1985, AMCCO's business primarily involved repairs of fishing boats.

DEQ signed a consent order with AMCCO to guide the investigation and evaluation of potential cleanup actions to meet federal and state cleanup standards. DEQ also coordinated and consulted with Tribal governments and a community advisory group as cleanup work progressed at the facility.

AMCCO's investigation found that past operations resulted in the release and accumulation of potentially hazardous chemicals on the property and in the nearby riverbed sediment in the Lewis and Clark River.

A human health risk assessment found potential health risks for people who may come in regular contact with the soil, such as employees of AMCCO or construction workers. The human health risk assessment identified that in the absence of mitigation or further remedial action, exposure to chemicals in the soil could result in a slight increase in cancer risk or other health effects. An ecological risk assessment found potential risks to fish and wildlife from metals, tributyltin, and other chemicals in the soil on the site and the nearby riverbed sediment that in the absence of mitigation or further remedial action, could accumulate in fish and increase health risks to people eating the fish that live in the area.

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DEQ approved a final cleanup plan in 2017, which AMCCO has implemented under terms of a consent judgment with DEQ. The most contaminated upland soil and in-water sediment was excavated and removed from the site. Remaining upland soil contamination was capped in place. Remaining in-water sediment contamination was covered with a layer of clean imported sand. AMCCO's future requirements for inspection and maintenance of the upland cap, and implementation of contaminated media plan during any intrusive activities, are memorialized in an Easement and Equitable Servitudes recorded on the property deed. AMCCO will maintain the upland cap, and DEQ will perform long-term monitoring and maintenance of the sediment caps using DEQ orphan program funds.

DEQ reviewed the requirements of the consent judgment and the corresponding actions and has made a preliminary determination that all obligations of the judgment have been satisfactorily performed, and that a Certification of Completion should be issued. DEQ further concludes that because all environmental concerns have been addressed, issuance of a Conditional No Further Action determination is warranted.

The Certification of Completion confirms AMCCO's release from liability for potential claims by the State of Oregon under ORS 465.200 to 465.545 and 465.990, 466.640, and 468B.310 regarding existing hazardous substance releases at or from the property. The consent judgment and Certification of Completion also provides AMCCO with third party liability protection.

For more information: Visit DEQ's Environmental Cleanup Site Information database at: <https://ordeq.org/ecsi>.

Environmental Cleanup Site Information (ECSI) ID: 1898

If you do not have web access and want to review the project file, contact Mark Pugh at 503 229-5587 or Mark.Pugh@deq.oregon.gov to view the documents in person at a DEQ office.

The next step: DEQ will consider all public comments received during the public comment period prior to issuing the Certification of Completion and conditional No Further Action.

Non-discrimination statement

DEQ does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age or sex in administration of its programs or activities. Visit DEQ's [Civil Rights and Environmental Justice page](#).