



Oregon

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November 19, 2024

Michael Watts

Stormwater Special Projects Coordinator

Oregon Department of Transportation

4040 Fairview Industrial Drive, SE

Salem, Oregon 97302-1142

via electronic delivery (email)

**Re: Conditional Approval of the Source Control Monitoring and Analysis Work Plan
ODOT Facility in the Portland Harbor Project Area
Portland Harbor Superfund Site Stormwater Source Control
ECSI# 5437**

Dear Michael Watts:

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) reviewed the *Source Control Monitoring and Analysis Plan*¹ (Source Control Monitoring Plan) prepared by Herrera Environmental Consultants, Inc. (Herrera) on behalf of Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). The Source Control Monitoring Plan describes stormwater monitoring, analysis, and reporting to demonstrate progress towards achieving source control objectives after the approved SCMs are implemented.

The Source Control Monitoring Plan was revised based on DEQ's and EPA's comments^{2,3} on the *Draft Source Control Monitoring and Analysis Plan*⁴ (draft Monitoring Plan). The revised Source Control Monitoring Plan is adequately responsive to DEQ's and EPA's comments. DEQ conditionally approves the Source Control Monitoring Plan pending resolution of the comments and clarifications provided below. Please provide a final version of the Source Control Monitoring Plan that is stamped by Oregon-licensed Professional Engineer or Registered Geologist per DEQ's *Professional Stamping of Cleanup Program Documents Internal Management Directive*⁵.

General Comments

- 1) As stated in Section 4.2.1, DEQ agrees that at least one of each type of structural source control measure will undergo performance monitoring. DEQ anticipates that the harbor-wide source control effectiveness demonstration described in Section 5.2.3 will require monitoring multiple installations of similar source control measures. The experimental design approach described in Section 4.2 includes criteria to prioritize monitoring locations and proposes development of QAPP Addendums specific to proposed monitoring locations each year. DEQ believes it will be more efficient for ODOT to prepare a proposed monitoring schedule for the first three years of performance monitoring. The

¹ Herrera. 2023. Source Control Monitoring and Analysis Work Plan, ODOT Facility in the Portland Harbor Project Area. August 14.

² DEQ. 2023. Letter to Paul Wirfs (ODOT), Re: DEQ Comments on the Draft Source Control Monitoring and Analysis Work Plan, Oregon Department of Transportation Facility, Portland Harbor Superfund Site Stormwater Source Control, ECSI# 5437. September 25.

³ EPA. 2023. Memorandum to Wes Thomas (DEQ), Subject: Draft Source Control Monitoring and Analysis Work Plan, Oregon Department of Transportation Site, Portland, Oregon, ECSI #5437. September 22.

⁴ Herrera. 2023. Draft Source Control Monitoring and Analysis Work Plan, ODOT Facility in the Portland Harbor Project Area. August 14.

⁵ DEQ. 2019. Professional Stamping of Cleanup Program Documents Internal Management Directive. May 19. Available for download at the following address: <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/FilterDocs/cu-stamping.pdf>

schedule should consider the anticipated source control measure construction schedule. A single QAPP may be applied to all performance monitoring. Once approved, ODOT may amend the performance monitoring schedule, as needed, with DEQ's approval without the need to amend or revise the QAPP.

- 2) Lead has been added as a site-specific comparison parameter in Table 10 but is not included in the bullet lists of parameters in Sections 5.2.2 and 5.3. It is unclear if this is an intentional or unintentional omission. If intentional, the rationale for these discrepancies should be provided.

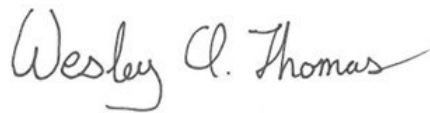
Specific Comments

- 1) **Section 5.2.1, Comparison Levels.** DEQ has the following comments:

- a) DEQ does not approve the bold and underlined values as 'selected' site-specific comparison levels. For clarification, DEQ considers each of the columns of comparison levels provided in Table 10 as individual lines of evidence that ODOT may use to evaluate stormwater sampling results. Further, DEQ considers the "DEQ Background" values to be a weak line of evidence. Background values in water, particularly for metals, are highly affected by geochemical factors on a small/localized scale and background values should be developed on a site-specific basis. While Table 1 of the *Human Health Risk Assessment Guidance*⁶ included literature-based background values for certain contaminants, DEQ no longer considers these values appropriate as a stand-alone line of evidence when considering potential background conditions.
- b) DEQ recently updated the *Tool for Evaluating Stormwater Data*⁷, included as Appendix E of the *Guidance for Evaluating the Stormwater Pathway at Upland Sites*⁸ with rank-order curves for dioxins/furans. We request that ODOT use these curves to evaluate dioxins/furans stormwater results.
- c) Section 5.2.1 only includes screening level values for stormwater sampling results. DEQ requests that ODOT clarify screening level values applicable to stormwater solids.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (971) 263-8822 or Wesley.Thomas@deq.oregon.gov if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,



Wesley Thomas, P.E.
Project Manager
NWR Cleanup Section

EC: Dave Lacey, DEQ
Jonathan Horowitz, ODOT
Paul Wirfs, ODOT

⁶ DEQ. 2010. Human Health Risk Assessment Guidance. October.

⁷ DEQ. 2024. Tool for Evaluating Stormwater Data. Included as Appendix E of the DEQ Guidance for Evaluating the Stormwater Pathway at Upland Sites. July.

⁸ DEQ. 2017. Guidance for Evaluating the Stormwater Pathway At Upland Sites. July.

Jess Brown, Herrera
Laura Hanna, EPA
ECSI No. 5437 File