


State of Oregon  
Department of Environmental Quality

Memorandum

**Date:** Jan. 12, 2017  
**To:** Environmental Quality Commission  
**From:** Richard Whitman, Director   
**Subject:** Agenda item C, Informational and discussion item: Portland Harbor updates  
Jan. 17-19, 2017, EQC meeting

**Purpose of item** Director Whitman will provide an informational update about EPA's Record of Decision and next steps to implement that decision.

**Background information** The Portland Harbor Superfund Site in Portland is located within the lower Willamette River from the Broadway Bridge, River Mile 11.8, to Kelly Point Park, River Mile 1.9, and is the result of decades of industrial use along the Willamette River. The Portland Harbor Superfund Site was added to EPA's [National Priorities List](#) in December 2000.

Water and sediment at the Portland Harbor Site are contaminated with many hazardous substances, including polychlorinated biphenyls, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, dioxins/furans, pesticides and heavy metals. These compounds are harmful to people and the environment. Health risks at the site are great enough for cleanup to be needed under the Superfund law.

EPA and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality are working with potentially responsible parties to clean up contaminated sediment and control sources of contamination. DEQ's primary responsibility is for land-based contamination, while EPA has jurisdiction over all in-water work.

**EQC involvement and next steps** There is no commission action associated with this update. DEQ will continue to provide informational updates on Portland Harbor as requested by the commissioners.

Report prepared from EPA and DEQ information by Stephanie Caldera  
*Commission assistant*