

State of Oregon  
Department of Environmental Quality

Memorandum

**Date:** May 21, 2012

**To:** Environmental Quality Commission

**From:** Dick Pedersen, Director

**Subject:** Agenda item G, Informational item: Portland Air Toxics Solutions update  
June 21-22, 2012, EQC meeting

**Why this is important** DEQ has completed work with the Portland Air Toxics Solutions Advisory Committee and opened a public comment period May 11 to gather input on how DEQ may use the advisory committee recommendations. The commission will have an opportunity to hear from committee members at the June meeting before the comment period closes June 22. In August 2012, the commission will consider the recommendations and next steps.

**Background and other information** Under the Oregon Air Toxics Program, DEQ created the Portland Air Toxics Solutions project to work with local communities to develop an air toxics reduction plan for the Portland region. DEQ's goal is to reduce air toxics levels to ambient benchmark concentrations, which are health-based clean air goals established in regulations. From August 2009 through October 2011, DEQ collaborated with a diverse stakeholder group, the Portland Air Toxics Solutions Advisory Committee, to consider a technical study and develop a framework for an air toxics reduction plan.

Together with the advisory committee, DEQ developed ground-breaking analysis, understanding of air toxics problems and potential solutions in the Portland area. Included in the Portland Air Toxics effort are: white papers that lay an initial technical foundation for future emission reduction strategies; future steps for additional technical analysis; and future steps for stakeholder involvement, including representation and consideration of environmental justice communities and issues.

The committee identified five high-priority emission categories for near-term follow-up action, along with potential emission reduction recommendations for each category. This prioritization is based on total modeled risk, practicability of emission reductions, and the Oregon air toxics regulation's directive to address both area-wide and localized risk.

The five priority categories are:

- Residential wood combustion
- Cars

- Trucks
- Construction equipment
- Industrial metals facilities

DEQ is currently sharing the project's technical findings and follow-up recommendations with the public and inviting public comment on how DEQ will use the committee's recommendations. DEQ will offer advisory committee members and others an opportunity to speak with the commission at the June commission meeting. In August 2012, DEQ plans to present the public comments and next steps to the commission.

Public outreach	Public outreach on the Portland Air Toxics project began in 2008 when staff presented information at five neighborhood and three local government meetings in the Portland area. The advisory committee met 14 times over two years, and staff has made many presentations to government, public interest groups and industry associations. DEQ has scheduled four public meetings during the last two weeks of May 2012, and is collaborating with advisory committee members and government partners to maximize public participation.
Next steps and commission involvement	Air Quality Division staff will be available to answer any questions, provide additional materials or briefings on the Portland Air Toxics project and committee recommendations.
Attachments	A. Factsheet: Portland Air Toxics Solutions Report and Recommendations B. PATS Report Executive Summary, Introduction and Recommendations C. List of PATSAC members
Available upon request	1. Full PATS report and appendices

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