

State of Oregon  
Department of Environmental Quality

Memorandum

**Date:** Nov. 23, 2011

**To:** Environmental Quality Commission

**From:** Joni Hammond, Deputy Director

**Subject:** Agenda item C, Informational item: Completion of the City of Portland's combined sewer overflow control and Big Pipe project  
Dec. 15-16, 2011, EQC meeting

**Purpose of item** This item will inform the commission about the completion of the City of Portland's Big Pipe project, a 20-year endeavor to control and reduce combined sewer overflows at outfalls on the Columbia and Willamette Rivers in Portland.

**Background** In 1991, the commission and the city entered into a legal agreement through a stipulation and final order that established the framework for a twenty-year combined sewer overflow control program that would drastically reduce overflow frequency and volume. The agreement was amended in 1994.

As part of the final amended stipulation and order, the commission approved Portland's post-2011 Combined Sewer Overflow Facilities Plan in February 2011.

**EQC involvement** At the Dec. 15, 2011, EQC meeting, staff from the City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services will present an overview of the combined sewer overflow program, discuss milestones in the project, explain plans for future control of combined sewer overflows and share a video about the process and successes of the project. As the state's policy body for water quality, the commission has ultimate oversight over the project, and the completion of the project is a major environmental success for Oregon.

**Additional resource** The city's Bureau of Environmental Services maintains a website about the combined sewer overflow control program at [www.portlandonline.com/bes/](http://www.portlandonline.com/bes/).

*Information provided by the City of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services*