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February 20, 2024 *Via Email*

Erich Wilhelm
Wilhelm Trucking Company
PO Box 10363
Portland, Oregon 97210-0363

RE: DEQ comments on Technical Memorandum: Source Control Evaluation Summary
3250 Northwest Saint Helens Road
Portland, Oregon, 97210
ECSI #6420

Erich Wilhelm:

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has reviewed the September 18, 2023, technical memorandum entitled *Source Control Evaluation Summary* (Memo) for the Wilhelm Trucking property (Site) submitted by Evren Northwest on your behalf. The purpose of the Memo is to summarize source control evaluation work completed at the site and respond to comments related to historical operations and alleged discharges at and from the stie that have been asserted by third parties to DEQ. DEQ has prepared the following comments:

General Comments

1. The Memo provides a good summary of the source control work that has been performed at the Site to investigate and control the stormwater pathway. Implementation of source control measures (SCMs) and available data suggests that the stormwater pathway at the site has likely been sufficiently addressed. However, as discussed below, additional evaluation is needed to support a source control decision for the site.

2. Following implementation and performance monitoring of the 2013-2014 SCMs (i.e. installation of new stormwater conveyance and treatment system, and installation of new asphalt pavement cap on high-traffic areas), the need for additional SCMs and evaluations were identified by DEQ in our June 7, 2018 letter[1]. Wilhem provided responses and updates in an August 7, 2018 letter[2] but has not yet been provided a final source control evaluation documenting which actions have been completed as requested in our letter. Additionally, in 2023 the site was divided into two sites: Wilhelm Trucking Facility (ESCI 6420) and Magnus site (ESCI 0069). Although some of the issues

[1] DEQ, 2018. Letter to Eric Willhelm, RE: Comments on Post-Source Control Measures Implementation Performance Stormwater Sampling, Interim Letter Report, Third Sampling Event (December 2017) February 3, 2018. Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. June 7, 2018.
[2] Wilhelm, 2018. Letter to Jim Orr, RE: Additional Source Control Measures. Wilhelm. August 7, 2018.

identified in DEQ's letter are related to the Magnus site and will be addressed separately, a clear summary of how each of DEQ's concerns will be addressed for the Site is needed. DEQ reviewed the Memo in the context that a source control evaluation will be submitted for the Wilhem Trucking (Tax Lot 600) (ECSI 6420).

3. It is not clear from the Memo if the post-SCM stormwater sampling completed under the DEQ-approved source control work plan is representative of the current stormwater system and hence, all stormwater from the site, or if additional modifications to the stormwater system were made after the 2013-2014 SCM.

4. Surface and subsurface sediment sampling near City Outfall-18 (OF-18) has detected dioxins/furans at concentrations that exceed Portland Harbor Record of Decision, Table 21 remedial action levels indicating that discharge from OF-18 is a potential source of dioxins/furans. Additional investigation of dioxin/furans is warranted prior to completion of the source control evaluation. Based on the Portland Harbor Joint Source Control Strategy (JSCS) guidance, four sampling events should be considered. After the first two sampling events, fewer samples may be proposed if supported by analytical results. DEQ requests that Wilhelm prepare a work plan for dioxins/furans monitoring.

Specific Comments

5. **Section 4.0 Source Control Measures**. The summary of the SCMs implemented at the Site and available post-SCM stormwater data does not indicate which SCMs and monitoring was completed under a DEQ-approved work plan. Providing references to available SCM work plans, completion reports, and performance monitoring reports will provide clarity on the weight that should be given to each data set.

6. **Section 4.0 Source Control Measures.** In addition to the 2013-2014 SCM, a summary of the stormwater management plan should be presented to describe operations and maintenance tasks, best management practices, tracking measures, and an implementation schedule. A summary of the past and current National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) 1200z Industrial Stormwater General Permit requirements for the Site should be included and if there a current stormwater pollution control plan for the Site.

7. **Section 4.1 SCM Implementation (2013-2014).** This section states SCM were completed in 2014; however, according to historical aerial photographs, the eastern portion of the property appears to have been unpaved until 2019. DEQ estimates the unpaved area is over 1-acre in size and the change from unpaved to paved would cause an increase in stormwater runoff directed to catch basins CB03 and CB06. The majority of the post-SCM sampling was conducted between November 2014 and December 2017. Additional discussion should be presented in the source control evaluation and post-SCM sampling should be considered to account for this change.

8. **Section 4.3 Post SCM Storm Water Sampling (2014, 2017).** It not clear if the post-SCM stormwater samples were collected from sampling point SP01. Additional discussion should be included in the source control evaluation report.

9. **Section 4.3 Post SCM Storm Water Sampling (2014, 2017).** DEQ appreciates the inclusion of the rank order curves for the post-SCM stormwater samples in Appendix C; however, to support DEQ's proposed source control decision additional lines of evidence

should be used to evaluate the post-SCM stormwater samples. Data should be evaluated using a weight-of-evidence approach presented in the JSCS.

10. **Section 4.5 Additional Post SCM Storm Water Sampling by Wilhelm.** The source control evaluation report should state where the June 2022 and May 2023 stormwater samples were collected. Additionally, please include the June 2022 and May 2023 data on the tables.

11. **Section 4.5 Additional Post SCM Storm Water Sampling by Wilhelm.** The 2022 polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) and dioxin data were not collected under a DEQ-approved work plan and have not been evaluated to determine if they were collected in accordance with DEQ's stormwater guidance.

12. **Section 6.0 Conclusions.** The conclusion regarding DEQ issuance of a source control decision and no further action determination for the site are not consistent with the stated objectives of the Memo. As noted in the Memo, several outstanding issues identified by DEQ have not been addressed and a source control evaluation for the Site consistent with the JSCS needs to be submitted for DEQ evaluation.

13. **Table 4-4 Stormwater Dioxin Data.** While the limited observed detections of dioxin/furans in stormwater is encouraging and suggest a limited potential for stormwater to impact Willamette River sediment, the detection limits for most congeners are elevated compared to other stormwater data sets. DEQ requests a work plan be developed to further evaluate dioxin/furan concentrations in stormwater.

The Memo provides a good overview of the status of source control for the Site and provides a very useful bridge to the anticipated source control evaluation report. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the report and provided comments to DEQ. EPA's comments should be considered in development of the source control evaluation report. Please call me at (503) 229-5354 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

David Lacey
Project Manager
Northwest Cleanup Section

Ec:

Rebecca Digiustino, DEQ
Laura Hanna, EPA
Carson Bowler, Law Office of Carson Bowler
Lynn Green, Evren Northwest
ECSI File # 6420

Attachment(s): EPA Review Letter

Attachment
EPA Review Letter

REGION 10
SEATTLE, WA 98101

February 15, 2024

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Comments on the Technical Memorandum: Source Control Evaluation Summary
Wilhelm Trucking, Portland, Oregon
ECSI # 6420
September 18, 2023

FROM: Laura Hanna, RG, Remedial Project Manager
Superfund and Emergency Management Division, EPA

TO: David Lacey, Project Manager/Portland Harbor Source Control Lead Worker
NWR Cleanup, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

The following are the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) comments on the document titled *Technical Memorandum: Source Control Evaluation Summary* (SCE Summary). This document was prepared by EVREN Northwest, Inc. (ENW) for Wilhelm Trucking Company (Wilhelm). The Wilhelm property is identified as Tax Lot 600, located at 3250 NW St. Helens Road in Portland, Oregon and listed as Environmental Cleanup Site Information (ECSI) #6420. The site is located approximately 3,800 feet from the Willamette River upland of the River Mile 9 West (RM9W) project area within the Portland Harbor Superfund Site (PHSS). The stormwater conveyance system at the site discharges to the City of Portland stormwater conveyance, which discharges to the Willamette River at City of Portland Outfall 18.

EPA understands the primary objectives of this SCE Summary are to summarize source control evaluation (SCE) work completed to date at the subject site, including Source Control Measures (SCMs) that have been implemented, and to respond to comments related to historical operations and alleged discharges at and from the Site. EPA reviewed this report as though this technical memorandum was a Source Control Evaluation report so EPA's comments are categorized as "Primary", which identify concerns that must be resolved in a future SCE report to achieve the objective; "To Be Considered," which, if addressed or resolved, would reduce uncertainty, improve confidence in the future SCE's conclusions, and/or best support the objectives; and "Matters of Style," which substantially or adversely affect the presentation of the technical information provided in the future SCE report.

Primary Comments

1. The future SCE should compare the post-SCM stormwater sampling results to surface water cleanup levels (CULs) from Table 17 of the PHSS Record of Decision (ROD) and evaluate data using a weight-of-evidence approach consistent with the Joint Source Control Strategy (JSCS) (DEQ and EPA 2005) and DEQ stormwater guidance for upland sites (DEQ 2010). Section 4 describes sample results relative to their position on the rank order curves but does not describe sample results relative to CULs, or discuss any of the other lines of evidence specified in EPA and DEQ guidance (DEQ 2010; DEQ and EPA 2005).

2. Additional data evaluation should be provided for the dioxins/furans sample results to support the conclusion that the site is not a source of dioxins/furans to sediment in the RM9W project area. The text in Section 4.5 and Section 5 acknowledges the 2,3,7,8-TCDD eq concentration exceeds the CUL in the one stormwater sample collected at the site but indicates that the site is an unlikely source of dioxins/furans because of facility operation history. Additional lines of evidence should be included to evaluate the sample results, such as comparing the dioxin/furan congeners that were detected in stormwater to the congeners in sediment adjacent to Outfall 18, or comparing dioxin/furan concentrations detected at the site to concentrations that have been detected in Outfall 18 stormwater sampling.

3. EPA recommends Wilhelm clean out the stormwater conveyance lines through and downstream of their property as an action prior to receiving a Source Control Decision from DEQ. Figure 1 below shows the three sections of the lines and four manholes (from upstream manhole: ANB968 to AAX265, then to AAX182, and then to the furthest downstream manhole AAT470) EPA would like Wilhelm to clean out (City of Portland 2023). Based on conversations with the City of Portland and the findings of the 2022 RM9W Pre-Design Investigation sampling (FMC 2022) the stormwater lines downstream of Wilhelm are prone to collecting solids and the solids that are there now exceed PHSS remedial action levels for DDx, PCBs, PeCDD, and TCDD. The last time these stormwater pipes were cleaned out was in 2001, 12 years before Wilhelm completed source control measures on the site. It is highly likely that Wilhelm contributed to the contamination in the stormwater pipes, and that residual material should be removed before it travels into the Lower Willamette River. After remedial action, if remedial action objectives are not met in-water or recontamination is identified in the vicinity of Outfall 18, additional evaluation and work may be required of upland parties, like Wilhelm, as there is a known potential recontamination issue from historical solids in the stormwater lines. EPA believes it is prudent for Wilhelm to clean out the lines and remove any potential for recontamination from their facility now rather than wait.

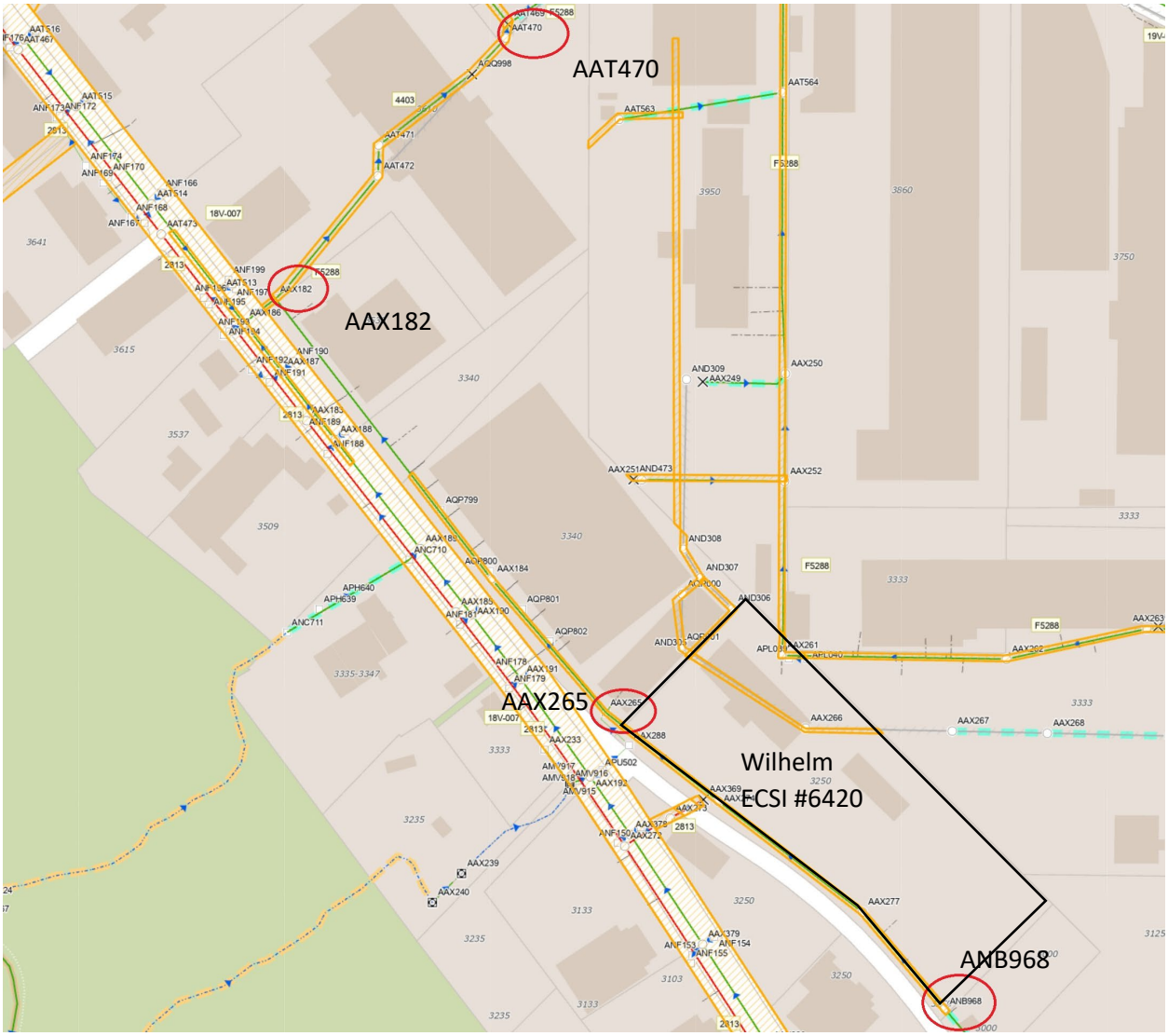

Figure 1. Location of Nearby Manholes

To Be Considered

1. Required maintenance and any associated ongoing monitoring should be described in the future SCE. Several of the SCMs described in the SCE Summary require maintenance for optimal performance, including two-chamber catch basins, the sedimentation interceptor manhole, and the oil-water separator. Routine removal of sediment is required to maintain the functionality and effectiveness of these SCMs and reduce the likelihood of remobilizing captured solids during storm events. A maintenance plan should be implemented so that effectiveness of the SCMs is not diminished over time.

2. The capacity of the treatment system and frequency of overflow bypass should be described in the future SCE . This should include information on design flow rates, design storm events, and estimated percentage of stormwater runoff being captured and treated by the system on an annual basis. Any samples collected during overflow events should be identified and discussed to inform potential water quality impacts during high flow conditions.

3. The future SCE should demonstrate that samples were collected in accordance with JSCS protocols. Hydrographs of discharge from outfalls or hyetographs showing precipitation timing should be provided to allow for assessment of sample collection timing with respect to rainfall runoff and rainfall amounts during each storm. At a minimum, the sampling time and time when discharge was observed in conveyance lines should be identified in the SCE Summary to document adherence to JSCS sampling guidance and first flush sample collection recommendations.

4. Additional discussion should be provided to describe why some concentrations that plot at or above the knee of the rank order curves were not indicative of potential uncontrolled sources. There are several instances in Sections 3.2 and 3.3 that describe data that plot at or above the knee of the rank order curves but are not considered an uncontrolled source (i.e., lead in erodible soils, total PAHs in erodible soils, cadmium in stormwater, copper in stormwater, lead in stormwater, total PAHs in stormwater). Absent additional lines of evidence to discuss these data, it is unclear why these are dismissed as potential uncontrolled sources.

5. EPA recommends additional sampling of dioxins/furans for Tax Lot 600. The single stormwater sample collected in May 2023 contained 2,3,7,8-TCDD eq at a concentration four orders of magnitude greater than the ROD Table 17 CUL. Without supplemental lines of evidence to conclude that this concentration does not represent a potential source to the in-water project area, additional sampling should be completed to more fully characterize dioxins/furans concentrations in site stormwater.

Matters of Style

1. Include Sample ID, date, Screening Level Value (SLV), and CUL on every table, as applicable (e.g., pages 3 and 4 of Table 2 do not include sample date).

References

City of Portland. 2023. *Portland Maps Website*. www.portlandmaps.com Accessed: November 22, 2023.

DEQ. 2010. *Guidance for Evaluating the Stormwater Pathway at Upland Sites*. Updated October 2010.

DEQ and EPA. 2005. *Portland Harbor Joint Source Control Strategy*.

FMC. 2022. *Portland Harbor Superfund Site - River Mile 9 West Final Pre-Design Investigation Evaluation Report and Response to EPA Comments*. December 12.

cc: Josie Clark, EPA
Rebecca Digiustino, DEQ
Katie Young, CDM