



PUBLIC NOTICE

Date posted: 1/2/26

DEQ Requests Comments on Proposed Hazardous Building Materials Cleanup at Former Wheeler Hospital

HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT

Facility/property: Former Wheeler Hospital

Project location: 278 Rowe Street, Wheeler

Comments due by: Feb. 2, 2026 at 5 p.m.

Submit written comments:

By mail: Kara Master, Oregon DEQ, 700 NE Multnomah St., Ste 600, Portland, OR 97232

By email: kara.e.master@deq.oregon.gov

Proposal highlights

Nehalem Bay Health District plans to redevelop the former Wheeler Hospital located at 278 Rowe Street in Wheeler, Tillamook County for workforce housing.

Hazardous building materials were identified during a survey in 2023 and include several asbestos-containing materials, lead-based paint, and electrical equipment and fixtures suspected to contain polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, and mercury. DEQ is proposing a mitigation option to address the hazardous building materials, which includes proper removal of these materials to prepare the building for demolition and eventual redevelopment.

DEQ is seeking public comments on the proposed mitigation option presented in the Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives, or ABCA. An ABCA involves evaluating various remediation strategies, their effectiveness, ability to implement, costs, and regulatory considerations to address environmental contamination at underused or abandoned sites.

Background

The former Wheeler Hospital is one of several buildings owned by the Nehalem Bay Health District. The district operated the hospital onsite from approximately 1955 until 1989. The two-story, approximate 25,000 square-foot building has been used intermittently since the hospital closed. A structural assessment of the building was conducted in 2018 and indicated that upgrades and repairs to rehabilitate the structure were not economically feasible. In August 2023, a pre-demolition hazardous building materials survey was conducted. In November 2025, an ABCA was prepared for the district to evaluate potential cleanup options. The proposed cleanup alternative requires proper abatement of hazardous building materials prior to demolition of the building to reduce potential risk of exposure to the public. The district intends to use a grant from Business Oregon's Brownfield Cleanup Fund Program to pay for the recommended cleanup alternative.

For more information

View project-specific information and documents through the [Your DEQ Online Public Records Portal](#).

Translation or other formats

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800-452-4011 | TTY: 711 | deqinfo@deq.state.or.us

If you do not have web access and want to review the project file, contact Kara Master at (503) 229-5585 or kara.e.master@deq.oregon.gov to view the documents in person at a DEQ office.

Environmental Cleanup Site Information (ECSI) ID: 6775

The next step

DEQ will consider all comments received by the date and time stated above before making a final decision on the recommended cleanup alternative in the ABCA.

Non-discrimination statement

DEQ does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status in the administration of its programs and activities. Visit DEQ's [Civil Rights and Environmental Justice page](#).