



# Public Notice

## DEQ Requests Comments on Proposed Certification of Completion for Boise Cascade – Minto Island Site

Date posted: 4/1/26

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality invites the public to submit written comments on the proposed certification that cleanup activities at the Boise Cascade – Minto Island site in Salem have been completed in accordance with a June 26, 2013, consent judgement between DEQ and the City of Salem.

### How to provide public comment

---

**Facility name:** Boise Cascade – Minto Island

**Project location:** The North end of Minto-Brown Island, in Salem

**Comments due by:** May 1, 2026, at 5 p.m.

**Submit written comments:**

**By mail:** Rachel Murphy, Oregon DEQ, 165 E. Seventh Ave., Eugene, OR 97401

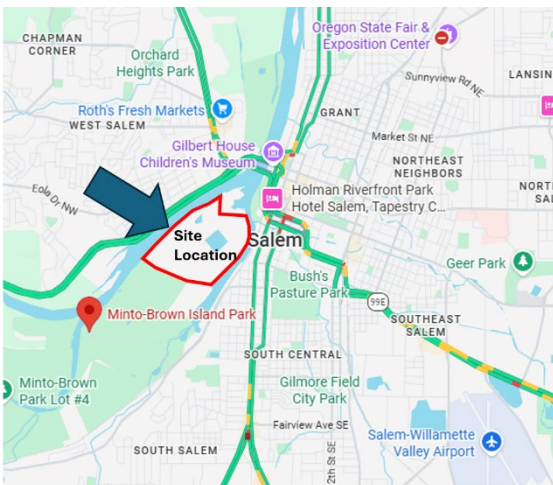
**By email:** [rachel.murphy@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:rachel.murphy@deq.oregon.gov)

---

### Proposal highlights

DEQ is proposing to issue a certification of completion to the City of Salem upon completion of the remedial actions required under the prospective purchaser agreement consent judgment from June 26, 2013, which were necessary to ensure the site is protective of human health and the environment.

Figure 1. Map of site location



The remedial actions and site controls required to make this site protective of human health, and the environment were established in the record of decision issued by DEQ on April 9, 2013. The City of Salem completed the required work and implemented the long-term institutional and engineering controls at the property. These actions included:

- Recording an easement of equitable servitudes requiring long-term site management and restrictions on property use.
- Prohibiting groundwater extraction or use except for approved monitoring, treatment or temporary dewatering activities.
- Maintaining engineered soil caps over the former landfill and pond areas in accordance with monitoring and maintenance plan.
- Installing and maintaining warning signs and/or fencing to prevent activities that could damage the soil cap.
- Limiting land to passive recreational uses and prohibiting residential or agricultural uses.

## Background

The property was used for agriculture prior to 1953. Beginning in 1953, Oregon Pulp and Paper Company stored spent sulfite liquor, a waste product, from its paper mill in ponds located on the north end of Minto Island in the Willamette River. Boise Cascade Corporation purchased the property in 1962 and continued operation of the industrial wastewater lagoons and later disposed of dried paper pulp and filter clay in the landfill areas on the island. The ponds discharged to the Willamette River prior to 1982, and Boise Cascade stopped pumping mill liquor into the ponds in 1984. These practices led to environmental contamination in the soil, groundwater, and sediment. Environmental studies led the DEQ to issue a conditional no further action determination which required the site to remain industrial use. By 2011 the ponds had been drained and the sediments capped. The City of Salem acquired the property as a conservation area to support long-term habitat protection and management in 2013. The city entered the prospective purchaser agreement program through a consent judgment in 2013.

## For more information

Visit DEQ's [Environmental Cleanup Site Information database](#).

If you do not have web access and want to review the project file, contact Rachel Murphy at 503-954-8350 or [rachel.murphy@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:rachel.murphy@deq.oregon.gov) to view the documents in person at a DEQ office.

Environmental Cleanup Site Information ID: 0355

## The next step

Upon completion of this 30-day comment period, DEQ will respond to and consider all comments prior to making our final decision to certify completion.

## 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.

For translation and other formats, visit DEQ's [Civil Rights and Environmental Justice page](#).