



Public Notice

DEQ Requests Comments on Proposed Prospective Purchaser Agreement for Cop's Towing Property in Banks

Date posted: 8/1/26

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality invites the public to submit written comments on a proposal to enter into a Prospective Purchaser Agreement with the City of Banks to facilitate the acquisition of the Cop's Towing property in Banks.

How to provide public comment

Facility name: Cop's Towing

Project location: 13621 NW Main St., Banks

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

Submit written comments:

By mail: Kevin Dana, Oregon DEQ, 700 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 600, Portland, OR 97232

By email: kevin.dana@deq.oregon.gov

Proposal highlights

The City of Banks plans to acquire the Cop's Towing property to construct a road connecting Main Street with the Sunset View residential development. The city intends to develop a hard-surfaced open public square on the remainder of the property. The Cop's Towing property is located at 13621 NW Main Street in Banks.

Background

A public school building was present at the site as of 1921, the year the City of Banks was incorporated. The site was cleared of all structures in the early 1950s, and the current on-site buildings were constructed around 1956 and 1960. David Cop has owned and operated at the site since at least 1987, and the site has been used for retail gasoline sales and auto sales and repair in addition to towing.

Three underground gasoline storage tanks were excavated and removed from the site in 1998, in addition to 62 tons of petroleum-contaminated soils. Investigation of the site in 2024 identified diesel and oil in the soils, gasoline in groundwater near the former underground storage tanks, and chlorinated solvents in the groundwater adjacent to Main Street.

DEQ's Prospective Purchaser Agreement program was created in 1995 through amendments to the state's Environmental Cleanup Law. The agreement is a tool that expedites the cleanup of contaminated property and encourages property transactions that would otherwise not likely occur because of the liabilities associated with purchasing a contaminated site.

The agreement provides a release from liability for claims by the State of Oregon under ORS 465.200 to 465.545 and 465.990, 466.640 and 468B.310 regarding existing hazardous substance releases at or from the property. The agreement as proposed will also provide the City of Banks with third-party liability protection.

For more information

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

If you do not have web access and want to review the project file, contact Kevin Dana at 503-229-5369 or kevin.dana@deq.oregon.gov to view the documents in person at a DEQ office in Portland.

The next step

DEQ will consider all public comments received by the date and time stated above before making a final decision regarding this prospective purchaser agreement.

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.

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