



# Public Notice

## DEQ Requests Comments on a Proposed Conditional No Further Action for the Union Pacific Railroad - Barnes Yard

Date posted: 04/01/2026

### How to provide public comment

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**Facility name:** UPRR-Barnes Yard

**Project location:** 10827 N. Swift Ct., Portland

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

**Submit written comments:**

**By mail:** Rob Hood, Oregon DEQ, 700 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 600, Portland, OR 97232

**By email:** [Robert.Hood@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:Robert.Hood@deq.oregon.gov)

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### Proposal highlights

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality proposes to issue a Conditional No Further Action determination related to the former underground storage tank releases at the Union Pacific Railroad – Barnes Yard property in Portland.

### Background

Four underground storage tanks were discovered in May 2015 at the site during horizontal drilling for installation of electrical utilities. In May 2015, Belfor Environmental decommissioned the underground storage tanks. During removal of the initial tank, three additional tanks were found. The tanks were partially full, and remaining fuel products were removed and properly disposed of. All four tanks were removed, and approximately 500 tons of petroleum-contaminated soil were excavated and disposed of.

Confirmation soil samples were collected following the removal of the tanks and excavation of soil. Based on the results of these samples, contaminated soils remain at the site. A laser-induced fluorescence investigation along with soil boring data confirmed that the soil contamination is present but is above the groundwater table. Based on data from four quarters of groundwater monitoring conducted from 2018 to 2019 and a round of sampling in 2025, the results show that groundwater has not been affected by the former underground storage tanks.

Ecological and human health risk assessments were conducted for the site. Ecological risks were not identified. Human health risks were identified for total petroleum hydrocarbons as diesel and naphthalene detected at concentrations that exceed the following standards:

- Risk-based concentration for construction workers.
- Risk-based concentration for occupational workers, specifically for volatilization into outdoor air and possible vapor intrusion into buildings. However, soil gas sampling was not completed.

Total petroleum hydrocarbons as gasoline exceeded the risk-based concentration for leaching to groundwater.

The site is paved, and future use is anticipated to remain as auto storage.

The highest concentration of naphthalene found in subsurface soil exceeds risk-based concentration values for outdoor air exposure for workers, with a cancer risk of two in one million. However, when using the average concentration, the estimated cancer risk is one in one million and remains within DEQ's acceptable range. Additionally, the natural breakdown of petroleum hydrocarbons in soil reduces the likelihood that vapors would reach outdoor air or buildings. This means the calculated risks likely overestimate actual conditions.

Potential future risks from contact with subsurface soil contamination by construction workers will be managed with institutional controls consisting of an Easement and Equitable Servitudes recorded on the property deed and a Contaminated Media Management Plan, which details how contaminated materials will be safely handled if encountered. No construction of buildings will be allowed unless sampling shows no vapor intrusion risk, or if engineering controls are implemented to properly address the risk. The Easement and Equitable Servitudes and Contaminated Media Management Plan will apply only to a portion of the property where contaminated soil remains.

Groundwater samples from the contaminated source area and immediately downgradient and upgradient demonstrate that groundwater is not impacted.

A Conditional No Further Action is recommended based on the data and institutional controls to prevent unacceptable exposure to contamination.

## **For more information**

View project information and documents online by visiting the site's [Your DEQ Online profile](#).

If you do not have web access and want to review the project file, contact Rob Hood at 503-860-9661 or [Robert.Hood@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:Robert.Hood@deq.oregon.gov) to view project documents in person at a DEQ office.

Environmental Cleanup Site Information ID: 6472

## **The next step**

DEQ will review and address any comments received during the public comment period before making a final determination on issuing the Conditional No Further Action determination and Easement and Equitable Servitudes.

## **Non-discrimination statement**

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