



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

Memo

To: Interested Stakeholders
From: Cheryl Grabham, SB 737 Project Coordinator *CG*
Date: June 1, 2010
Re: SB 737 Legislative Report

DEQ is pleased to release a final report on Reducing Persistent Pollutants in Oregon's Waters: SB 737 Legislative Report. The report was delivered to the Oregon Legislature on June 1, 2010, as required by SB 737, which was passed by the 2007 Legislature. It represents the culmination of 2 years' effort by DEQ to identify priority persistent pollutants, sources of those pollutants, and opportunities to reduce their discharge into water. An electronic version of the final report and associated documents are available on the project website, <http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/SB737> (click on "Legislative Report" in the column on the right side of the Senate Bill 737 web page).

DEQ consulted with hundreds of Oregonians throughout the report development process. Last fall, DEQ released a final list of 118 persistent pollutants in Oregon waters, after working closely with a wide range of scientific experts, stakeholders, environmental and industry groups, other state and federal agencies, tribes and the general public. The list formed the focal point for this report. To openly explore and document opportunities for toxics reduction in Oregon, DEQ hosted a workshop in November 2009, which was attended by over 150 people. As part of its efforts to gather public input on a draft of this report, DEQ held information sessions at four locations in Oregon from April 5-7, 2010. Members of the public were invited to provide input on the draft report. DEQ evaluated the input it received and significant changes are reflected in the final report. Most notably, input received by DEQ resulted in the expansion of Chapter 2 describing potential sources of persistent pollutants.

The report describes sources of priority persistent bioaccumulative toxics that have a documented effect on human health, wildlife and aquatic life. These sources include "legacy" pollutants that remain in the environment from past human practices, "nonpoint" sources such as runoff from lawns, farmland, parking lots and industrial facilities; and "point" sources such as wastewater discharge pipes from industries and wastewater treatment facilities.

DEQ's report to the Legislature also offers measures that could be followed by various entities for reducing these pollutants' entry into Oregon waters. The report contains a particular emphasis and priority on pollution prevention practices, in part based on DEQ's conclusion that the most environmentally and cost-effective way to reduce pollution is through prevention that targets toxic pollutants at the source. In general, prevention measures are less expensive and more effective, efficient and reliable than treating, recycling or cleaning up pollutants after use.

In finalizing this report, DEQ wishes to extend sincere appreciation to all of the people who provided input and feedback toward its completion.