

## Senate Bill 262: Fee increase for Oil Spill Contingency Planning

### Introduction

Senate Bill 262 allows DEQ to continue its work to implement the state's oil spill prevention and contingency planning law. It raises the oil spill prevention fee paid by the maritime and petroleum transportation industry to continue the appropriate level of staffing to implement the law. The bill also allows DEQ to use the Oil Spillage Control Fund for planning and preparedness activities when funds are available.

Fee Category	Current	Proposed
<b>Tank Barge by Volume:</b>		
<25,000 Barrels	\$60	\$85
>25,000 to 99,000 Barrels	\$70	\$110
>100,000 Barrels	\$100	\$250
<b>Cargo Vessel per trip</b>	\$70	\$105
<b>Dredges per day</b>	\$36	\$50
<b>Tank Vessels per trip</b>	\$1,200	\$2,100
<b>Facility Annual Fee</b>	\$5,900	\$9,250

### What's the environmental concern?

When oil or hazardous material spills into the marine environment, initial response and cleanup is critical to prevent significant or long-term impacts. DEQ reviews and approves spill prevention and response plans, leads or participates in response drills and works with federal, local and other state governments to ensure a quick, coordinated response to marine spills. DEQ cannot continue a viable marine spill planning program without adequate staffing.

Petroleum products contain various components that can cause both acute and chronic illnesses, including cancer. In addition, oil spilled to state waters could devastate natural resources and affect the economy. Particularly at risk are birds, wetlands and sensitive shorelines.

### What does the program do?

The Oregon Legislature passed the Oil Spill Prevention Act in 1991. DEQ works with industry to develop response strategies and tactics and has coordinated the development of several Geographic Response Plans. These plans help mitigate the damage to natural resources when spills occur because they allow the spiller to respond immediately with pre-approved tactics. DEQ reviews 25 individual industry response plans on a five-year cycle. Vessels and

facilities that handle large volumes of petroleum products must submit these plans, which list specific procedures to respond quickly and efficiently to spills. DEQ also participates in several drills and exercises each year. These events not only ensure that response personnel understand how to execute their emergency response plans, but also help in understanding response goals and objectives established by state agencies.

### Why the fee increase is needed

DEQ's Oil Spill Prevention and Contingency Planning Program is funded by fees from vessels and barges that transport large quantities of petroleum in bulk and large facilities that transfer petroleum by pipeline or over water. Fees were last increased in 2007. DEQ proposes a fee increase to allow us to continue to protect water and natural resources from the risk of oil spills and to ensure that spills are cleaned up appropriately.

This program was originally funded to support four full-time/FTE positions. The proposed fees will support slightly over three FTE. DEQ can perform the originally-planned level of service with three positions but needs to maintain this level of staff to provide a viable program. DEQ has worked with interested parties on the fee increase and planned program activities.

### What happens if this bill doesn't pass?

Without this fee increase DEQ would be unable to maintain adequate staff to:

- verify that industry has maintained equipment and response staff resources identified in their plans
- participate sufficiently in and evaluate industry drills and exercises
- provide timely review and approval of industry oil spill contingency plans
- provide technical assistance to citizens and other government agencies.

### For more information

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