

I am also relaying information about how the proposed reduction options will affect DEQ's ability to protect and cleanup contaminated property throughout the state. Budget cuts are a part of working in a state agency and we are used to adjusting to them and getting on with our work. Some cuts, on the other hand, take away our ability to provide a safe environment for the people of Oregon. One such cut is to the Industrial Orphan Program that historically has been funded through state bonds. This programs clean up property that is dangerously contaminated but the responsible party is unknown, unable, or unwilling to clean up the contamination. Although the orphan program is not receiving funds this year, sufficient funds remain in the accounts to continue making modest progress at the limited number of sites currently being cleaned up in the next biennium. Because of the lack of funding in the upcoming biennium the orphan program will not be able to work on new sites that will be discovered or to fund unanticipated costs at sites where cleanup is already underway.

If the 30% reduction options are put in place, the program's balance would be reduced by nearly \$1,000,000. Unless more funding is available in the 2011-13 biennium, cleanup on these very important sites will stop completely. The impact of not funding the orphan account is that there are sites in the state that are contaminating the water we drink and the air we breathe and the state will be doing nothing about it.

Kevin Downing

AFSCME Local 3336

in relation to DEQ budget SB 5521

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