



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Environmental Quality

Western Region - Salem Office

750 Front St. NE, Ste. 120

Salem, OR 97301-1039

(503) 378-8240

(503) 378-3684 TTY

July 28, 2005

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Tom Penpraze
Public Works Department
City of Corvallis
1245 NE 3rd Street
P.O. Box 1083
Corvallis, OR 97339-1083

**Re: DEQ ECSI #317
Preliminary No Further Action for Ecological Assessment
United Chrome Products Site, Corvallis**

Dear Mr. Penpraze:

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) received and reviewed a succession of reports pertaining to the evaluation of the potential ecological risks associated with the residual contamination from the former United Chrome Products Superfund site. Please find enclosed Attachment A which contains a list of these reports.

The reports, *United Chrome Abandoned Ditch Remedial Action* and *United Chrome Surface Drainage Ditch – Sediment Bioassay Results*, prepared by CH2MHILL and submitted to DEQ on June 30, 2005, summarize a recent ditch fill and the most recent chromium data collected in the slough and the corresponding bioassay results, respectively. Based on the information presented in these reports, DEQ has preliminarily concluded that no further investigation is required in the drainage ditch or Booneville channel (Attached Exhibit 1 illustrates the ditch, channel, and sample locations) and unless new or previously undisclosed information becomes available which warrants further investigation, DEQ will be recommending no further action for the ecological component of the United Chrome cleanup in the future. This decision is based on the following:

- Sediments in the Booneville channel are not a hazard to benthic invertebrate populations. Bioassays passed the acceptable criteria of less than 20% effect.
- Bioassay results indicate that significant effects on benthic invertebrates start above ~650 mg/kg total chromium concentrations in sediment. Several ditch samples (Locations B-1, B-2, C, and E) contained chromium levels above this concentration in the latest sampling event of 2005. However, Locations C and E had total chromium concentrations much lower than this concentration in the 2003 sampling event in which composite sampling occurred. Locations B-1 and B-2 were filled with clean fill this spring and no longer serve as part of the ditch system.



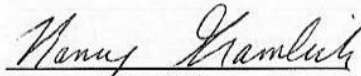
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- Significant sediment loading to the Slough are unlikely because flow is minimal in these ditches and up to location E, the ditch contains a vegetative mat reducing scouring.

DEQ also consulted with Mary Jane Nearman (EPA Region X) on this decision and confirmed that the ecological component of the cleanup will be acknowledged during the future site closeout activities under EPA.

DEQ appreciates and acknowledges your documented commitment to site rehabilitation. Please feel free to contact me at (503) 378-8240 ext. 259 if you have questions.



Nancy Gramlich
Western Region Cleanup

encl: Attachment A; Exhibit 1
cc: Mary Jane Nearman, EPA
Scott McKinley, CH2MHILL
Marilyn Daniel and Angie Obery, DEQ Western Region - Eugene