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State of Oregon  
Department of  
Environmental  
Quality

**Community Involvement Plan  
Astoria Marine Construction Company  
Astoria, Oregon  
April 2012**

Community involvement is an important part of the investigation and cleanup of contaminated properties. Understanding community priorities, issues and concerns can help the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality make better decisions about the cleanup and build connections to the communities we serve. DEQ takes seriously our vision: “To work collaboratively with all Oregonians for a healthy, sustainable environment.”

Oregon DEQ’s intent is to listen to and engage with the Astoria community, surrounding communities, and regional stakeholders to ensure that we consider their views as we guide the cleanup at the Astoria Marine Construction Company. This plan is our roadmap for ensuring that Astoria and regional stakeholders can effectively interact during the project.

**Who are your DEQ primary contacts?**

Chuck Harman, Project Manager – 503-229-5125; [harman.charles@deq.state.or.us](mailto:harman.charles@deq.state.or.us)

Marcia Danab, Northwest Region Communications and Outreach – 503-229-6488;

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**What you can find in this plan**

How would you like to be involved?  
Community Involvement Action Plan  
Site History

**What’s going to happen next?**

Further investigation is needed on the site to more fully define the environmental and health risks the site poses from historic releases of contaminants over its long history of ship building and refurbishing. DEQ is proceeding with developing an investigation and cleanup plan with Astoria Marine, with the assumption that site oversight will be deferred from the Federal cleanup program by EPA Region 10 to the State. DEQ will take on the oversight role for the project, guiding and approving work plans developed by Astoria Marine and their consultant.

At important stages of the project, DEQ will communicate with the community and key regional stakeholders to inform them of the proposed work, inform and educate them about that work, and allow them the opportunity to question, comment or make recommendations, before approving moving forward.

**A brief history of the Astoria Marine Construction Company site operations and environmental issues.**

Astoria Marine Construction Company was incorporated in 1926. In 1955, the Company had approximately 1,100 employees, but by 1960, the company had decreased in size to 15 employees due to a downturn in military ship building. Between 1926 and the 1940s, the Company manufactured and repaired wooden-hulled sail- and motor-powered fishing boats. During WW II, the facility was converted to build military craft such as wooden-hulled mine sweepers. In the 1960s, the Navy contract ended and

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operations at the site consisted primarily of fishing and tow boat repair. In 1962, due to the reduction in business, the owner, Joe Dyer, decided to sell the company. At that time 15 employees, including Don Fastabend, bought the company from Joe Dyer. After 1985, Astoria Marine began working primarily on fishing boats. Over time, Don Fastabend bought out other partners and is now the sole owner.

Until 1989, the company used copper-based paints containing organotins, notably tributyl tin, known as TBT. TBT is used as an anti-fouling agent to keep grass, marine organisms, and barnacles off boat bottoms. TBT is known to be toxic to marine organisms. In approximately 1989, it became illegal to use paints containing this compound, except for larger vessels, primarily based on effects observed in shellfish and marine snails in harbors contaminated by TBT.

In 1996, DEQ received a complaint describing poor waste management practices, including storage of hull sand-blasting grit. Subsequent inspections verified certain aspects of the complaints and the Company took actions to remove significant amounts of the sand blast grit. In 2009, the Environmental Protection Agency, through a contractor, completed a Site Inspection investigation that collected soil, groundwater and Lewis and Clark River sediments. The sampling results show elevated concentrations of several metals and several man-made compounds at levels that pose human health and ecological threats. In 2011, EPA moved to place Astoria Marine Construction Company on the National Priorities List, but in 2012, placed the listing on hold in order to allow DEQ and the Company to work out a plan that would allow the deferral of cleanup oversight to occur under Oregon guidance.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality is developing this plan in collaboration with Astoria Marine, members of the community, local stakeholders, Tribes and other state and federal agencies who are interested in the site.

If you have questions about the project, this community involvement plan, or would like additional information please contact Marcia or Chuck

### **How would you like to be involved?**

There are many different ways you can be involved in the Astoria Marine Construction Company investigation and cleanup. In this plan we have identified activities to respond to three primary types of community involvement needs.

- **Staying informed** – A community member or stakeholder would like to stay informed about the cleanup through mailings, website and news articles.
- **Actively participating** – A community member or stakeholder would like to participate in a Community Advisory Group. This group could review draft documents, interact with the Department of Environmental Quality project manager, site owner (or representative) and consultants in order to make sure the decision-making process fully incorporates the concerns of the community.

### **Cleanup Process and Lines of Communication**

A cleanup project usually follows a sequence of an investigation, analysis of investigation results, and review of possible actions that will clean up contamination that is determined to pose a risk to human health and the environment. These steps can sometimes be complex and costly to implement. At significant milestones in the investigation and review of cleanup options, DEQ will prepare materials to present to the public and other stakeholders before finalizing decisions.

Below is a brief summary of the steps typically involved when completing a cleanup:

- A. Remedial Investigation – This investigation will be very thorough and is intended to collect enough data so that DEQ can analyze all possible human health and ecological risks. This

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typically entails sampling of soils, groundwater, surface water, and sediments, and can also include analysis of air or subsurface vapors.

- B. Risk Assessment – Once sufficient data has been collected, an analysis of the expected exposure risks, both human health (for instance, exposure through drinking water) and ecological (for instance, direct toxicity to sediment-dwelling organisms) is completed. This step in the process refines the actual extent of contamination in different media (soil, groundwater, air, surface water and sediments) that actually poses a risk.
- C. Feasibility Study – The Feasibility Study proposes a range of possible remedial actions that will eliminate the risk posed by the contamination. The Feasibility Study presents alternatives that must be protective (eliminate unacceptable health risk), and also weighs several other factors such as the ability to implement the proposed remedy, the cost of the cleanup and the reliability of the cleanup over the long term.
- D. Record of Decision – After considering the alternatives presented in the Feasibility Study, DEQ will then select one of the alternatives in a report called a Record of Decision. The Record of Decision can select a mix of several proposed remedial alternatives. Before finalizing the Record of Decision, DEQ will seek formal public comment.
- E. Remedial Action – Once the cleanup plans are finalized, the responsible party will then perform the work. At the conclusion of the remedial actions, and review by DEQ, a Certificate of Completion is issued, verifying that all the cleanup goals identified in the Record of Decision were met.
- F. Operation, Maintenance and Monitoring – Following completion of the remedy, and depending on the nature of the remedies implemented, there are usually requirements for maintaining elements of the remedy by monitoring for a specific period of time to ensure that the remedy is working as intended.

Attachment A to this Plan provides a more detailed, but still summary-level outline of the process and opportunities for updating and involving the community during the work that will proceed on the site.

DEQ fully intends to communicate and consult the public and stakeholders prior to and during these stages of the cleanup at the Astoria Marine Construction Company. DEQ will work to inform the public in a manner that is understandable and approachable. At each key stage, DEQ will consider the public's and stakeholder's comments on the plans and proposals and incorporate them appropriately into our decision making. DEQ is seeking input on how members of the community would like to be informed and involved.

DEQ will consider each comment we receive, and will attempt to address all input and requests that we receive, in a manner that is consistent with Oregon cleanup laws and other applicable federal and state regulations.

### **Community Demographics**

Astoria has a population of 9,737; a land area of 6.16 square miles; a water area of 3.95 square miles; and a population density of 1,581.97 people per square mile according to the US Census Bureau estimate of July 1, 2009.

### **Initial List of Possible Organizations, Stakeholders and Community members**

The list below represents the initial governments, organizations, Tribes or individuals that DEQ would regularly communicate with and involve at key points in the project. However, DEQ recognizes that additional community members or organizations may also want to be involved and informed on the project and we will include them.

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## Community and Local Government:

1. City of Astoria Government
2. City of Warrenton Government
3. Clatsop County Government – Board of Commissioners
4. Clatsop County Diking District No. 5
5. Clatsop Community College
6. Tillamook County Government – Board of Commissioners
7. Columbia River Estuary Study Task Force (CREST)
8. North Coast Watershed Association (NCWA)
9. Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership (LCREP)
10. Port of Astoria Commission
11. Columbia River Keeper
12. Oregon Dept of State Lands
13. Oregon Dept. of Human Services (health)
14. Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
15. Salmon for All
16. Columbia Land Trust
17. Clatsop Soil and Water Conservation District
18. Northwest Power and Conservation Council
19. Bonneville Power Administration
20. Private Residences near Astoria Marine

## Federal and other Trustees:

1. Army Corps of Engineers (Portland District)
2. Cowlitz Tribe
3. Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde
4. National Marine Fisheries Service
5. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
6. Nez Perce Tribe
7. Siletz Tribe
8. Umatilla Tribe
9. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services
10. National Park Service (Fort Clatsop National Memorial)
11. Warm Springs Tribe
12. Yakama Nation

## Legislative:

1. State Senator Betsy Johnson
2. State Representative Deborah Boone
3. U.S. Senator Ron Wyden
4. U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley
5. U.S. Representative Susan Bonamici

## Media:

1. Local newspaper – Daily Astorian
2. Local radio – KAST, KMUN (local public radio station)
3. State radio – Oregon Public Broadcasting

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## Community Involvement Action Plan / Priorities for 2012

### General:

- a. Maintain lines of communication with the community and stakeholder group members
- b. Gauge level of interest and level of organization needed for community members in order to determine if a more formal, representative group, may provide an effective method for engaging community members and providing information.
- c. Update DEQ mailing lists for notifications and important documents.
- d. Establish and update DEQ Astoria Marine Construction website and add technical documents section.
- e. Create information repository at Astoria Library and DEQ office.
- f. Establish schedule for initial kick-off and then periodic community meetings

### January – March 2012

#### Significant milestones anticipated:

- a. Identify initial contacts with City and County government, local community groups, and other potential local or regional stakeholder groups to raise awareness of Community Involvement Plan and solicit ideas for interacting and informing the community.
- b. Establish a list of organizations and individuals who will be contacted during implementation of remedial investigation and activities.
- c. Draft Community Involvement Plan and share/coordinate with EPA Region 10.

### April-June 2012

#### Significant Community involvement milestones anticipated:

- a. DEQ sends out Community Acceptance letter to primary community organizations and members. Conversations with community members will be used to inform development of the Community Involvement Plan.
- b. After Community Acceptance responses are received, DEQ will share a draft of the Community Involvement Plan with Community and Stakeholders, and solicit further conversations on how best to proceed.
- c. Convene a community kickoff meeting. Explain investigation and cleanup process and important elements of how the cleanup will be conducted. Identify specific points where the community representatives, and other important stakeholders, will be directly informed and consulted during this process.
- d. Finish complete contact list for important notifications through mail and email.
- e. Finalize Community Involvement plan in coordination with community.
- f. Determine if a formal community group is an appropriate vehicle for involving and informing the community. DEQ does want to know if community members may need financial assistance to support some independent technical review and support.

#### Project Milestones:

- a. DEQ-Astoria Marine Construction Company Order on Consent for Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study finalized and signed.
- b. Initial draft of Remedial Investigation Proposal, followed by a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Work Plan submitted to DEQ.
- c. Establish Memorandum of Understanding with each participating Tribe.
- d. First meeting and presentation to community.

### July-September 2012

#### Significant Community involvement milestones anticipated:

- a. Update Community Involvement Plan based community feedback and input.

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- b. Possible Community site visit to better understand site and setting [NOTE: Before conducting such a visit, DEQ would need to seek permission of the owner and ensure that safety is paramount.]

### Project Milestones:

- a. Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Work Plan approved by DEQ.
- b. Initiation of field activities for Remedial Investigation.

### **October-December 2012**

#### Significant Community Involvement milestones anticipated:

- a. Review of draft Remedial Investigation report.
- b. Community group meeting with presentation of summary of Remedial Investigation results

### Project Milestones:

- a. Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study field work completed.
- b. Initial report of field results from Remedial Investigation.

### With all milestone activities:

- a. Update information repositories
- b. Update Astoria Marine contact list
- c. Update Astoria Marine web site and add technical documents section
- d. News releases
- e. Respond to incoming requests for information and presentations
- f. Fact sheets

### As needed

- a. Update information repositories
- b. Update Astoria Marine contact list
- c. Update Astoria Marine website and add technical documents section
- d. News releases
- e. Respond to incoming requests for information and presentations
- f. Fact sheets
- g. Share technical documents with CAG and post to website

### **Ongoing Community Involvement Activities**

**Fact Sheets:** DEQ will issue topic specific fact sheets about cleanup activities, significant milestones in the investigation, technical information, and project findings. Fact sheets will be mailed to the AMCC contact list, and be posted on the DEQ Astoria Marine Construction Company Web page.

**Mass Media:** When appropriate, DEQ will issue press releases to inform the news media of major events and items of general public interest. DEQ will also respond to incoming inquiries for information from the press.

**Meetings:** The DEQ Project manager and community group members will be available to attend regularly scheduled meetings of community groups and neighborhood associations upon request.

**Open Houses and Workshops:** The DEQ Project manager and designated community action group members will consider whether there is community interest in holding open houses and workshops to make information widely available at significant milestones in the investigation and cleanup process.

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**Project Mailing List:** DEQ will maintain and regularly update the Astoria Marine contact list to make sure stakeholders and neighbors receive information about the site. To get on the contact list, send a request by email, phone or mail to Chuck Harman at DEQ.

**Information Repositories:** DEQ will provide all significant documents and information on our web site. In order to allow access to persons that do not have access to computer information systems, DEQ will also establish hard copies of important information and documents at the Astoria library. Information may also be requested from DEQ's Northwest Region office.

**Web Sites:** DEQ will maintain a project web site where most publicly available information about the project can be viewed.

**Informal Public Review:** DEQ will ensure interested stakeholders have access to draft documents and will provide reasonable review times. The community will provide their comments back to DEQ in a reasonable timeframe. These comments will be shared with the DEQ project team, and then placed in the administrative record, but they may not receive a written response from DEQ.

**Formal Public Comment Opportunity:** Official public comment periods will be established and advertised as required by Oregon Cleanup Law when the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study is completed and the proposed remedial action plan is issued. Opportunity to comment will be provide

**Technical Assistance:** Community members may need technical assistance to interpret, understand and provide input on some of the technical details inherent in remedial investigations and actions. If community members request technical assistance, DEQ will identify available services or resources to ensure all who wish have the tools to understand and interact in the cleanup process. If the community decides that it would like to retain an independent technical consultant (or equivalent) DEQ will work to find funding, if needed to support such assistance.

**Citizens Advisory Groups:** If formed, an Astoria Marine Community Advisory Group can be a conduit for information between project managers and the community. During initial conversations and meetings, DEQ will identify key community officials or organizations that can lead a discussion about gauging interest in forming a more formal advisory group.

**Outreach to targeted populations:** In addition to measures outlined elsewhere in this document, special efforts may be taken to reach the following parts of the affected Community:

Subsistence anglers: Work with community groups and agencies to communicate with subsistence fishing populations who may be at additional risk.

Recreational users: The Oregon Department of Human Services generally takes on communications and warnings for recreational users and DEQ will work with DHS not develop messages. DHS will develop messages and determines locations for informational signing in locations such as boat launches and community parks. Have interagency information booths or displays at boat and fishing shows and other local events.

Non-English speaking: EPA will translate information into other languages if there is sufficient need and interest.

Tribal populations: DEQ will work with each Tribal government interested in the AMCC site to identify the specific information and education needs for Tribal members. DEQ will solicit Tribal review at important milestones in the investigation and cleanup of the site, likely concurrently with the CAG and other stakeholders.

**Contact Information**

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Department of Human Services

tbd

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**Attachment A  
ASTORIA MARINE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY  
OUTLINE OF IMPORTANT PROJECT STAGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
INVOLVEMENT**

The following presents an outline of the important stages and decision points that would occur during an Oregon DEQ-lead cleanup project that includes a remedial investigation, feasibility study and remedial action implementation. This outline provides important information to parties that may want to be informed and potentially involved with DEQ as a cleanup project proceeds at the Astoria Marine Construction Company site. This outline represents the expected project stages in anticipation of the AMCCO site being deferred to the Oregon DEQ from EPA through a National Priorities List Deferral Agreement.

This outline was developed from DEQ’s standard scopes of work for the remedial investigation and feasibility study, plus remedial action stages. No investigation or remedial work would proceed without DEQ approval under the terms of the Consent Order that will be put in place to satisfy the NPL Deferral requirements.

Project Milestone or Document & Content	Timing/Sequence
<b>Community Acceptance Letter</b> - Letter asking for community’s input on whether NPL Deferral should occur.	Action to satisfy NPL Deferral requirements and prior to Deferral from EPA.
<b>Community Involvement Plan</b> - Description of how DEQ will involve public and major stakeholders	Prior to Deferral Agreement from EPA
<b>Project Kickoff Meeting (public)</b> - Introductions of primary contacts and stakeholders - Project Description - Project Plan and timeline - Community Involvement Plan - DEQ and Tribes Coordination	After Consent Order with DEQ is signed. Likely completed before a Deferral Agreement between EPA and DEQ is finalized.
<b>Remedial Investigation Proposal</b> - Summary document that outlines the tasks that will be completed in the remedial investigation	Pre-cursor to full Remedial Investigation Plan submittal.
<b>Remedial Investigation Work Plan</b> - Detailed Work Plan for data collection to determine the nature and extent of contamination and to complete a risk assessment. - Evaluation of contaminant exposure pathways and receptors. - Evaluation of beneficial uses of land and water in area impacted by contamination.	Prior to implementation of Remedial Investigation.  Requires DEQ approval before sampling can occur.
<b>Remedial Investigation Implementation (2-3 months)</b> - Monthly updates on work completed. - Some site visits	After approval of Remedial Investigation Work Plan
<b>Remedial Investigation Report (draft)</b> - Draft report that presents remedial investigation results. - Finalized after community comments are reviewed.	After completion of remedial investigation and prior to completion of risk assessment and feasibility study
<b>Supplemental Remedial Investigation Work Plan (if needed)</b> - If remedial investigation finds that additional data collection is necessary, additional work will be proposed.	After review of remedial investigation report, if findings indicate further sampling is needed to fill data gaps.
<b>Human Health Risk Assessment Report</b> - Analysis of human health threat.	As part of final Remedial Investigation and before Feasibility Study
<b>Ecological Risk Assessment Report</b> - Analysis of threat to ecological species.	As part of final Remedial Investigation and before Feasibility Study

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Project Milestone or Document & Content	Timing/Sequence
<b>Interim Removal Assessment Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Analysis to determine if immediate removal actions are needed to reduce significant site risks.</li> <li>- Recommends if removal is needed.</li> </ul>	Following Remedial Investigation and risk assessments.
<b>Interim Removal Work Plan (if needed)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Description of removal actions proposed, site controls and post-removal restoration.</li> </ul>	Following Remedial Investigation and risk assessments – if it is determined that an interim removal action is needed.
<b>Feasibility Study</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Analysis of a range of remedial action alternatives that will remove human health and ecological risks</li> <li>- AMCCO will propose one of the remedy alternatives or a combination of the evaluated alternatives.</li> </ul>	Following Remedial Investigation and risk assessments.
<b>Record of Decision or ROD (DEQ)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- DEQ’s documentation of selected remedy, based on alternatives evaluated and proposed in Feasibility Study.</li> <li>- Selected DEQ remedy could be similar to AMCCO proposal or combination of alternatives.</li> <li>- Record of Decision will go out for public comment.</li> <li>- Record of Decision will be finalized after public comment.</li> </ul>	Following submittal of Feasibility Study
<b>Order on Consent for Remedial Action (DEQ)</b>	Following DEQ Record of Decision
<b>Remedial Action Work Plan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Detailed plan for remedial actions based on ROD.</li> </ul>	Following Record of Decision
<b>Remedial Action Implementation (4-6 months)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Site preparation and implementation of remedial actions.</li> <li>- Weekly updates and some site visits.</li> </ul>	Following approval of Remedial Action Work Plan
<b>Remedial Action Completion Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Description of actions taken and any modifications necessary during implementation.</li> </ul>	Following completion of remedial actions.
<b>Operation, Maintenance and Monitoring Plan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Description of any ongoing maintenance or due care needed to maintain remedy.</li> <li>- Description of periodic monitoring of remedy (e.g. cap inspection – if part of remedy) and reporting schedule.</li> </ul>	Originally outlined in Record of Decision. Following completion of remedial actions.
<b>Certificate of Completion (DEQ)</b>	After acceptance of remedial action completion report and Operation, Maintenance and Monitoring Plan.
<b>Order on Consent Closed (DEQ)</b>	