



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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December 19, 2017

Mr. Chris Hladick, Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue Suite 900
M/S ECL-122, Seattle, WA 98101

RE: Progress on the Portland Harbor Superfund Site

Regional Administrator Hladick:

I appreciate you and Albert Kelly traveling to Portland last week for meetings with representatives from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Governor Brown's office, the City of Portland, the Port of Portland, Oregon's congressional delegation, Tribal governments and key stakeholders. As you undoubtedly heard, cleaning up Portland Harbor is a top priority for all stakeholders.

I want to acknowledge the significant progress that we have made over this past year. Since issuing the Record of Decision (ROD) in January, EPA has initiated remedial design at the Gasco "sediment management area" and just today signed an administrative order on consent with several parties to begin collecting important baseline data. Discussions are also well underway with the City and others to begin remedial design at the River Mile 11 East sediment management area and with the Port of Portland at Terminal 4. Furthermore, the State of Oregon has initiated discussions with EPA for remedial design work at Willamette Cove.

In addition, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt has placed Portland Harbor on EPA's list of 21 highest priority Superfund Sites targeted for immediate and intense attention. Oregon DEQ appreciates the administrator's recognition of the importance of this site, and the opportunities it presents. DEQ strongly supports early and aggressive implementation of the ROD.

In my June 14 letter to Administrator Pruitt, I identified DEQ's top priorities for 2017. These were to begin remedial design at three of five priority sediment management areas and initiate baseline sampling to update current site conditions and refine the active cleanup area boundaries. As we look toward 2018, DEQ reaffirms our desire for EPA to move more priority areas into remedial design as quickly as possible. We also support swift resolution of the allocation process so that other liable parties promptly step forward to participate in their share of the cleanup.

We are pleased to hear that EPA will not allow the collection and analysis of baseline data to be used as a pretext for reopening or amending the ROD, nor as an excuse for delaying remedial design and cleanup.

DEQ's priority remains moving the Portland Harbor Superfund Site toward the active cleanup phase to protect the people, fish and wildlife that rely on this river, and to return Portland Harbor to its full potential as the economic centerpiece of the Portland metropolitan region.

DEQ is committed to supporting and assisting EPA as your agency leads the implementation of the Portland Harbor Superfund Site Record of Decision.

Sincerely,



Richard Whitman, Director
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Cc: Albert "Kell" Kelly, Superfund's Senior Advisor to Administrator Pruitt
Jim Woolford, Director, EPA OSRTI
Sheryl Bilbrey, Director, EPA Office of Environmental Cleanup
Cyndy Mackey, Director, EPA Office of Site Remediation Enforcement
Davis Zhen, Manager, EPA Region 10 Site Cleanup Unit 2
Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon
Nez Perce Tribe
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife