

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

What is the Portland Harbor Superfund Site?

The Portland Harbor Superfund Site is an 11-mile stretch of the Willamette River, from the Broadway Bridge to the Columbia River. Over a century of industrial pollution has left toxic substances –including heavy metals, PCBs, dioxin, and pesticides – in the river bottom and the land on its banks. Fish that live year-round in the Portland Harbor – such as bass, carp, and catfish – pose a health risk to those who eat them because of these toxins.

How does the cleanup process work?

Those that polluted the river are called “potentially responsible parties” (PRPs). The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandates that PRPs pay for the river’s cleanup. For over 15 years, the EPA, the State Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and PRPs have conducted studies to determine a cleanup plan.

What does the plan say? How can I give my input?

The EPA released the proposed cleanup plan for public review and comment in early June. The public has until September 6th to review the plan and formally comment on it (see front of this guide). The EPA will respond to all public comments, and consider them in the final Record of Decision (ROD).

What is the Portland Harbor Community Coalition (PHCC)?

PHCC is a coalition of over a dozen Native, African American, immigrant and refugee, and houseless groups and supporters. Our goal is to raise the voices of those most impacted by pollution. We think the Proposed Plan does NOT do enough to protect our families and environment.

For more information...

- **Submitting written public testimony** www.cleantupportlandharbor.org
- **The Portland Harbor Community Coalition** www.ourfutureriver.org
- **Information about the Superfund Site** www.portlandharborcag.info/



PORTLAND HARBOR SUPERFUND SITE

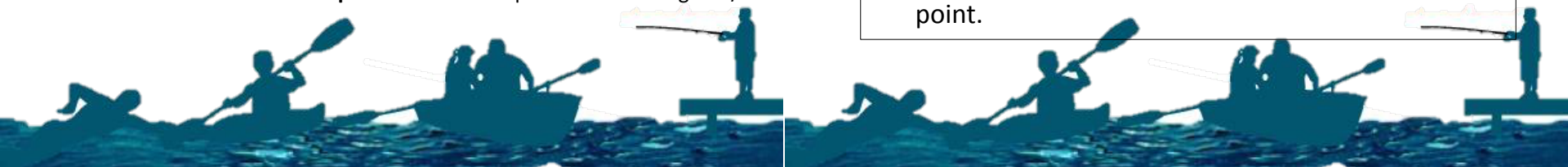
PUBLIC TESTIMONY GUIDE

*The Proposed Cleanup Plan does NOT
protect people, wildlife, and plants.*

*Tell the EPA to **get the poison out of our rivers!***

Tips for Submitting Comments

1. **For oral testimony, keep it under 2 minutes, and stick to one main point.** Write your statement ahead of time and practice, so you know you can say it in under 2 minutes.
2. **Make it personal.** Share your story as a mother, someone who fishes in the river, etc.
3. **Written comments are great, too.** There is no limit to the length of your written comment. Fill out the comment card included here and give it to PHCC leaders, or go to www.cleantupportlandharbor.org to submit your comment. Comments on this website will go directly to the EPA and Oregon congress members. *Share the link with family and friends!*
4. **Repeating what someone else said is fine.** In fact, it helps to emphasize the importance of that point.



PHCC'S RECOMMENDED TALKING POINTS

The Portland Harbor Community Coalition supports the recommendations listed below. Choose one or more to highlight in your written, video, or oral public comment.

- ◆ End your comment by stating that you want a level of cleanup that will allow ALL people – including children – to regularly eat fish from the Portland Harbor.
- ◆ Submit comments to www.cleanupportlandharbor.org. Share the link with family and friends.



Land: Work with impacted communities* to set aside riverfront land for community use (housing, gardens, learning, etc.).



Air Monitoring: Require the most effective fuel/emissions filters available and ongoing monitoring to minimize exposure.



Healthy Fish: Remove ALL highly and moderately contaminated sediments from the river, regardless of cost, so that fish are safe for EVERYONE to eat.



Public Access: Increase access to public lands along the river. Include impacted communities – including youth – in the design, cleanup, restoration, and development of new sites.



Housing Justice: Give 6 months notice before beginning the cleanup in areas where houseless people are living. Provide funds for permanent, affordable housing for anyone displaced by cleanup.



Transport & Disposal: Ensure health and safety of people and the environment in transport and disposal of toxins. Do NOT store contaminated sediment next to the river.



Jobs: Train and hire local residents from impacted communities, women, and minority-owned firms for long-term, family-wage cleanup jobs.



Community Support: Establish a fund to assist communities impacted by historical and ongoing contamination and cleanup until health standards are met.



Pollution Controls: Include ongoing pollution controls in the final cleanup plan, including from upriver sources. Do not allow re-contamination.



Polluters Pay: Ensure that impacted communities* are not burdened by the cost of cleanup.

*Most impacted communities: Native Americans, Black/African Americans, immigrants and refugees, people experiencing houselessness, as well as pregnant and nursing mothers, infants, children, and low- and no-income residents.