

Join the Harbor Oil Community Advisory Group

Interested community members have formed the Harbor Oil Community Advisory Group to learn about contamination at the site, inform EPA about their issues and concerns related to the site, and help inform other people who visit or live near the site.

The HOCAG meets on the second Thursday of every month (except August) at 7 p.m. at the Kenton Firehouse. Anyone who is interested in the Harbor Oil cleanup is welcome to attend. For more information, contact HOCAG Chairman Mark Stephan at 360-546-9467 or 971-645-9113 stephanm@vancouver.wsu.edu



What You Can Do

Good cleanup decisions are responsive to community issues and concerns. You can stay informed about the progress of the investigation by adding your name to the project mailing list, looking at documents on the EPA website, or attending monthly meetings of the Harbor Oil Community Advisory Group.

For More Information

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Cleaning Up The Harbor Oil Superfund Site



Portland, Oregon



U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency
(EPA)

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About the Site

Harbor Oil is located at 11535 North Force Avenue in northeast Portland, Oregon. The site was added to the U.S. EPA's National Priorities List in 2003. Harbor Oil is a waste oil reprocessing facility, located on about 4.2 acres near Force Lake.

In 1974, there was a major spill or release of waste oil from on-site storage tanks. In 1979, a severe fire destroyed the facility and melted five 20,000-gallon above-ground used oil tanks. The spill caused large volumes of used oils and smaller volumes of waste paints to flow west and south across the site, into nearby wetlands and into Force Lake. Testing conducted in 2000 showed contamination in soil at the site and in the wetlands. The main contaminant found was polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's). Other contaminants include semi-volatile organic compounds, metals and pesticides. Contamination from the site may pose a risk to Force Lake and nearby wetlands.

In 2008, the current site operator, EMRI, voluntarily drained and cleaned a large tank containing used oil, water and sludge. This tank was a significant area of concern because the exact contents and integrity of the tank were unknown. The tank cleaning has eliminated a potential release of hazardous material to the environment.



Adjacent Force Lake provides recreation and wildlife habitat.

Harbor Oil, Force Lake and Your Health

The Oregon Office of Environmental Public Health, Environmental Health Assessment Program (EHAP), completed a public health assessment for the Harbor Oil site. EHAP concluded that the site does not pose a public health hazard because of limited access to the industrial site. As a precaution, the state recommends that recreational users avoid Force Lake and the nearby wetlands. Fish caught from Force Lake should not be eaten. This report is available on the Web at: <http://oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ehap/hosite.shtml>

For more information about the health assessment, contact David Farrer at 971-673-0971.

What is Happening in 2009

The group of Potentially Responsible Parties for the Harbor Oil site is conducting a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study. The study involves testing the soil, sediments, and groundwater at the site to better understand the contamination and the risks to people or wildlife at the site. The group will submit a draft Risk Assessment this year followed by a draft Remedial Investigation. The Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study will help EPA to determine what type of cleanup action will be best for the site.

For more information, visit our Harbor Oil web site: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/CLEANUP.NSF/sites/HOI>