

Public Notice

DEQ Selects Cleanup Actions for Post Office Distribution Center in Downtown Portland

PROJECT LOCATION: 715 NW Hoyt St., Portland, OR

PROPOSAL: The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has selected cleanup actions to address soil and groundwater contamination at the United States Postal Service Processing and Distribution Center in downtown Portland. Cleanup actions required by DEQ are presented in the July 2010 record of decision for the site available at DEQ or on DEQ's website.

HIGHLIGHTS: The approximately 13-acre post office property is located in an area of mixed commercial and residential development in downtown Portland. All outgoing mail for the State of Oregon is processed through the facility. The site contains three buildings (processing and distribution center, vehicle maintenance facility, and parking garage) with the remainder covered by paving. Postal operations began on the site in the early 1960s. From the late 1800s to 1950s, the site was used as a rail yard. A gas manufacturing plant operated in the northwest site corner from approximately 1893 to the 1930s. Multiple phases of site investigation have been completed on-site. Since 1999, DEQ Voluntary Cleanup Program has been overseeing the investigations. Investigation has identified wide-spread contamination of shallow soil with arsenic, and lesser contamination by other metals and organic contaminants. In the northwest site corner, there is deeper soil and groundwater contamination associated with former gas plant. Risk assessment work (finalized 2008) has identified two 'use' scenarios for the site, each of which poses different risks.

Under continued post office operation, risk is limited to utility workers provided that site buildings and paving remain intact. If the site is redeveloped, there is a greater risk posed to potential site occupants including commercial workers and urban residents. Possible cleanup options for the site were evaluated in the 2008 Focused Feasibility Study completed for DEQ.

Based on this document, and an independent analysis of site conditions and risk, DEQ has selected the following remedial actions to address contamination at the site: a) for existing site use and continuation of that site use by the U.S. Postal Service, maintenance of site buildings and paving to prevent post office worker exposure to contaminated soil, and use of a notification plan and protective equipment to prevent on-site utility workers from exposure to soil and groundwater contamination;

b) for the hypothetical redevelopment of the site, removal of high concentration (hot spot) soil, installation of barriers to prevent vapor migration (as needed), capping of the site to prevent contact with contaminated soil, and use of a notification plan and personal protective equipment to prevent utility and construction worker exposure to site contamination. The selected remedy is considered to be consistent with Oregon rule and statute and protective of human health.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: The project file may be reviewed by appointment at DEQ's Northwest Region office at 2020 SW Fourth Avenue, Suite #400, Portland, OR 97201. To schedule an appointment to review the file or to ask questions, please contact Dawn Weinberger at (503) 229-6729. Summary information and a copy of DEQ's



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

**Northwest Region
Cleanup Section**

2020 SW 4th Avenue,
Suite 400,
Portland, OR 97201

Phone: (503) 229-5213
(800) 452-4011

Fax: (503) 229-6899

Contact: Dan Hafley,
(503)-229-5417

E-mail:
hafley.dan@deq.state.or.us

www.oregon.gov/DEQ

Record of Decision are available at

<http://www.deq.state.or.us/Webdocs/Forms/Output/FPCController.ashx?SourceId=2183&SourceIdType=11>

ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION: DEQ is committed to accommodating people with disabilities. Please notify DEQ of any special physical or language accommodations or if you need information in large print, Braille or another format. To make these arrangements, contact DEQ Communications & Outreach (503) 229-5696 or toll free in Oregon at (800) 452-4011; fax to 503-229-6762; or e-mail to deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.

People with hearing impairments may call 711.

