Willamette Watershed Toxics Reduction Partnership

Kick-Off Meeting

May 24, 2017
Multnomah County Central Library
Agenda

**Purpose:** Introduce and welcome participants to the partnership, share goals of the effort and hear perspectives from stakeholders.

1:00 - Introductions to the Day
    Keith Johnson, DEQ and Mary Lou Soscia, EPA

1:20 - Welcome - Dan Opalski, EPA and Richard Whitman, DEQ

1:40 - Discussion on purpose of the Willamette Toxics Reduction Partnership
    DEQ Toxics Reduction Programs Overview & Maps
    All participants

2:25 - Break

2:40 - Open Roundtable from meeting participants

3:30 - Wrap up and next steps – Keith Johnson, Mary Lou Soscia and All
    Review group comments
    What’s next?

4pm - Adjourn
Tools to Achieve the Goals of the Portland Harbor Record of Decision

- In-water sediment cleanup in Portland Harbor
- Upland source control
- Ongoing Downtown Reach investigation and cleanups
- Upriver sources: Address through watershed strategy
Challenge: Ambient Toxics and Recontamination

- Remedial actions typically cleanup to “background” levels
- What if “background” risks are unacceptable?
- The Portland Harbor Record of Decision addresses toxics in sediment, but doesn’t address all the toxics that may be in the water column...
Willamette Watershed Toxics Reduction Partnership

• Identified in Portland Harbor Record of Decision
• A collaborative effort between EPA and DEQ and interested agencies and stakeholders
• Goals:
  – Compile existing data;
  – Assess existing efforts and data gaps;
  – Recommend new efforts and strategies to reduce toxics in the watershed coming into Portland Harbor
Initial Scope

- **Geographic Focus**: River Mile 12 to River Mile 26 + Tributaries Upstream of the Portland Harbor Study Area to Willamette Falls

- **Pollutant Focus**:
  - PCBs
  - DDT
  - PAHs
  - Dioxins/Furans

Consistent with the Portland Harbor Record of Decision
Compiling & Evaluating Existing Data

• Request for all DEQ and Federally held data
• Request for unidentified data from partners
• Creating database
• Devising queries
• Mapping data
• Looking for gaps & opportunities
Understanding Existing Programs & Efforts & Efficacy

• Water Quality Programs
  – Standards
  – Permits (Wastewater, Stormwater, MS4)
  – Total Maximum Daily Loads

• Oregon Toxics Reduction Programs Relevant to Lower Willamette Toxics Reduction
  – Sediment Cleanups
  – Upland Cleanups
  – Hazardous Waste Generators & Landfills
  – School Lab Cleanouts
  – Pesticide Waste Collections & Other DEQ Toxics Strategy Actions
Map of DEQ Programs
1200Z Industrial Stormwater Permit

- 2017 Renewal has Portland Harbor Georegion
- Majority of Industrial sites in PH already regulated under 1200Z Industrial Stormwater General Permit
- PH contaminants of concern = 303(d) impairment parameters – monitored since 2012
- Adding regulated industrial activities (not necessarily triggering SIC codes) – captures ~30 more sites
- Reduced TSS benchmark to 30 mg/L – to continue improving on source control by preventing discharge of solids and contaminants associated with particulates
- Columbia Slough precedent
- NPDES 1200A renewal in 2018
Water Quality: Toxics Impairments
Willamette River (RM 0 – 24.8)

- aldrin
- chlordane
- copper
- cyanide
- 4,4-DDE
- 4,4-DDT
- dieldrin
- dioxin (2,3,7,8-TCDD)
- hexachlorobenzene
- iron
- Lead
- mercury
- pentachlorophenol
- PCBs
- PAHs

**Underline** = Portland Harbor Contaminants of Concern

Photo credit: Multnomah Co.
Water Quality: Toxics Impairments
Willamette River Tributaries (RM 0-24.8)

**Johnson Creek**
- 4,4-DDE
- 4,4-DDT
- dieldrin
- endosulfan
- endrin aldehyde
- lead
- PCBs
- PAHs

**Clackamas River**
- lead
- mercury

Underline = Portland Harbor Contaminants of Concern
Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)

Pollutant reduction plans to meet water quality standards

Local Agencies Must:

- Develop pollutant reduction plans approved by DEQ with annual reports
- Implement management strategies and develop timelines to reduce pollutants
- Monitor effectiveness of strategies and modify as needed

* 2006 TMDL for DDT and dieldrin for Johnson Creek
Municipal Stormwater Permit Coverage

Clean Water Service Group

Portland Group

Gresham Group

Clackamas County Group

Multnomah County
Municipal Stormwater Control Measures

Local jurisdictions use their stormwater management plans to meet TMDL requirements for some pollutants.
DEQ Toxics Reduction Strategy

• Developed in 2012 and updating in 2017
• Goals of strategy:
  – *Complement & support core program work*
  – *Take a more integrated, strategic approach to reducing toxics*
• Established “Focus” List of 51 priority chemicals (or categories of chemicals)
• 2012-17 Strategy actions emphasized “upstream” source reduction:
  – *Expand Pesticide Stewardship Partnerships*
  – *Government procurement of safer products*
  – *Collaborate on assessing toxic chemical alternatives and promoting “green chemistry”*
Pacific Northwest 10,000 years of Tribal History

Celilo Falls – Columbia River

Lamprey Harvest – Willamette Falls

Photo Credit: The Oregonian - July 13, 2012
EPA – Long History of Commitment to Watershed Approaches

• EPA’s National Estuary Program – Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership
• Puget Sound National Estuary Program
• Columbia River Basin Toxics Reduction
• ....Willamette Watershed Toxics Reduction – intended to build off these work efforts
Build on Columbia River Toxics Reduction Work

- Collaboration partners similar
- Contaminants of Concern – PCBs, DDT, PAHs, Dioxins/Furan

- 2010 Action Plan
  - 61 Actions – same actions needed to reduce toxics in the Willamette River watershed
Collaboration is an Evolving Process

• Initial thinking:
  - Convene a collaboration - anybody interested in working together on better understanding and reducing toxics in the Willamette River upstream of PH site
  - State, Tribal government, Feds, Local Govt, NGOs, Industry, others........
  - Group may evolve
May 24th Kickoff Meeting

• Meet with initial group, describe vision for work, what we know about toxics, and existing toxics reduction actions under way
• Get input from group on initial thinking and how we proceed
• Meetings to share information and identify opportunities to work together
  – Learn about existing watershed contamination and identify data gaps
    • Develop assessment to better understand toxics problem
  – Understand existing toxic reduction efforts and potential new opportunities
  – Recommend actions and work together to collaboratively implement actions
• Final report – end of 2018
Positive Action to Reduce Toxics

- OR CWA commitment to protect high fish consumers through the CWA and permit renewals
- Clean up of contaminated sites
- Green Infrastructure/Habitat and floodplain restoration
- Recognition and certification programs for those who go the extra prevention mile - Salmon Safe certification for Tualatin NWF?
- Less toxic air emissions from diesel engines
- Take back programs
- Green Chemistry/EPA Safer Choice
- Integrate federal salmon recovery habitat and wildlife mitigation with Willamette River toxics reduction
- Attention to communities which have not receive much attention in past?
- Columbia River Restoration Act
Roundtable

• What are your ideas about toxics in the Willamette and reduction actions?

• Who else should be invited to participate?

• Do you have data to share?
Contacts

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