

TY NEWS

“Superfund” Continued from Page 1

Methods will include various types of dredging, capping, and Monitored Natural Recovery (MNR). Storage options for contaminants could be a toxic waste dump or transport to a hazardous waste site. The Proposed Plan coming this spring will determine how much of each method will be used, storage options and what amount of contaminated sediments will be addressed.

Citizen advisers maintain that getting the clean up right is more important than getting it done fast or cheaply. Among the businesses potentially responsible for the clean up are a number of multi-million and billion dollar a year corporations both local and international who have benefited handsomely from dumping and leaking chemicals into the river and should be willing to make it right. There needs to be long-term effective-

ness since recontamination of cancer-causing, and endocrine-disrupting chemicals serves no one—not the polluters, and especially not the nearby community, river animals, wildlife or the environment. All users of the river have a right to safety and health.

Residents and wildlife are the stakeholders who will actually live with the clean up so there needs to be assurance of timely monitoring of air and water quality for any problems that may arise. Citizen advisers do not support any clean up methods that leave serious contaminants such as mercury, lead, asbestos, and persistent organic pollutants PCBs, DDTs, Dioxins and Furans, in or adjacent to the river as proposed with a toxic waste dump at Slip 1, T-4. Serious contaminants should be removed and/or treated. Otherwise the food chain will continue to carry toxins

from the small creatures in the sediment that serve as the basis of life, up to fish, then to birds, mammals and humans becoming magnified along the way.

Community members agree with EPA that the use of Monitored Natural Recovery (MNR), which requires the burial of contaminants, should be limited. The Willamette River scours regularly making burial unreliable. The river bottom is volatile and the river is subject to floods. There are fault lines on either side that could prove to be disastrous in a geological event such as the expected Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake. Relying on clean sediment from upriver to cover up contaminants is a temporary fix and likely to result in later recontamination. These conditions also make the river a less than good candidate for capping which should be limited as well.

Citizens who support an effective clean up are asked to be at the press conference on Monday, October 19, at 11:00 am on the shores of the Willamette River at Cathedral Park (end of Pittsburgh Ave).

To keep updated on the clean up from the community perspective, sign up for the free bi-monthly newsletter, The Willamette Insider at www.PortlandHarborCAG.info.

Preparedness Fair

Attendees will receive a template communications plan and important tips on how to make a plan and what information and numbers should be written down.

2. Home Hazard Hunt – there are some things we can all do right away to make our homes safer, we’ll offer tips on how to identify in-home risks such as glass and heavy objects and options for relocating and/or securing risky items.

3. Work Hazard Hunt – earthquake safety tips to reduce risk in businesses and nonprofit organizations.

4. Fire Safety – fire often causes as much (or more) harm than the quake itself, learn strategies to reduce risk including gas turnoff and how to use a fire extinguisher.

5. First Aid – instruction on effective ways to create a quake-ready home first aid kit.

6. Water – this is THE most important item to store, get advice on containers, water filters, and more. Reminder: seismic experts recommend 2 gallons/person for two weeks.

7. Food – info on how and where to store food, options for shelf stable foods, understanding expiration dates, and system for rotating food. Seismic experts recommend storing meals for two weeks.

8. Pets – pet owners should prepare to care for their pets for an extended period of time and have proof of ownership and vaccines, pet meds, food and water.

9. Sanitation – households and neighborhoods need safe sanitation plans and disposal options are critical to avoid making a bad situation worse with disease spread.

10. Earthquake insurance and seismic home retrofits – timely topics

and seismic experts can provide options to guide your next steps.

For more information go to Facebook: Cascadia Region Earthquake Workgroup

Or email director@crew.org or slaar@imagina.com



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