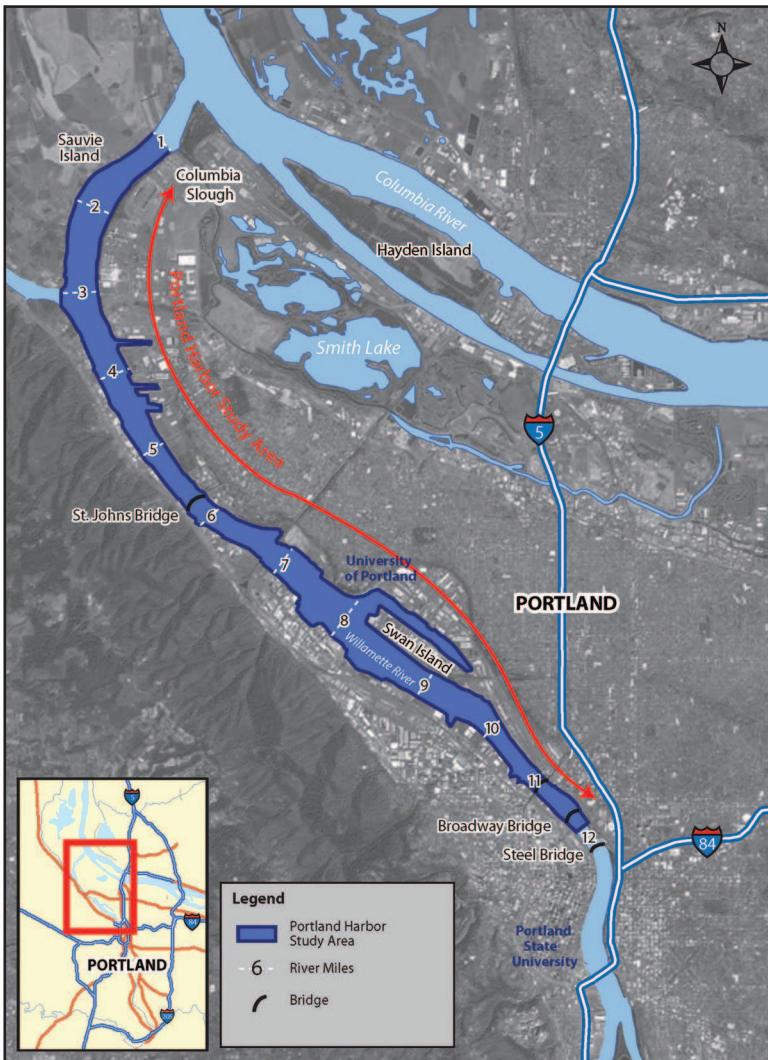


ST. JOHNS REVIEW

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Superfund forums kick off in St. Johns



Community Forum 2:
Willamette River Superfund
February 23, Tuesday, 7-9pm
Linnton Community Center,
10614 NW St Helens Rd, Port-
land, OR 97231
(Parking available at Linnton Feed & Seed, 10920 NW St Helens Rd.)

In anticipation of decisions in the spring, around 100 neighbors packed the St. Johns Community Center auditorium on Jan 26 to learn more about the superfund cleanup coming in to north and northwest Portland. The event sponsored by the Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group (PHCAG) featured panelists including EPA, PHCAG members Jim Robison, and Bill Egan of north Portland, as well as Travis Williams of Willamette Riverkeeper representing environmental issues, and Ibrahim Mubarak representing the river's houseless community. Shamus Linsky of St. Johns Neighborhood Association was tapped to facilitate the event.

Bill Egan, a lifelong fisherman on the lower Willamette, started the panel discussion with a true story about a boating family that

decided to stop at the Arkema site for a picnic. He described how the kids got out of the boat and ran along the beach only to find they had chemical burns on their feet. Arkema lies across the river from St. Johns and once made Agent Orange, a dioxin product. The site is one of the most contaminated on the river.

The EPA is proposing 5 clean-up options for the 11 miles using various combinations of capping, dredging and monitored natural recovery (MNR). Newer biological treatments may also be used to a small degree. Community Advisory members would like to see the fish, sediments and water in the lower Willamette eventually as healthy as in the rest of the metro area and feel it is a matter of equity for north and northwest Portlanders. EPA is promising only somewhat less toxic fish and insists that the fish warning signs will have to stay in place forever. PHCAG members, Willamette Riverkeeper, Audubon Portland and the Yakama Nation feel a more robust option, an alternative they call G+, is needed that removes more persistent toxins by increasing



**Between
Our
Rivers**

By
Barbara
Quinn

dredging to 1000 acres and relying less on monitored natural recovery that does not effectively deal with them.

The forum Q&A was lively with many questions and concerns arising from neighbors including:

Q: Cost—who bears burden, taxpayer or industry?

A: Polluting industries bear the cost. Superfund is a polluter-pays process, though some businesses are insisting that ratepayers must pay for any of their pollution coming out of city pipes. Hopefully the city will fight this assertion on behalf of ratepayers. The city is required to pay for any orphan sites abandoned by industry though there are only a few.

Q: Which alternatives include a CDF/toxic waste dump at T4?

A: Three of the five alternatives. The first two have too little dredging to fill it.

Q: Should we comment on where the dredge material goes?

A: Yes, we would like to hear from you.

Q: Will there be air quality monitoring during the process? North Portland chairs have asked for more.

A: There will be some monitoring. Still to be decided is how much.

Q: What is in place to make sure the cleanup happens in future? Is it enforceable?

A: Yes, the EPA Record of Decision is enforceable by law.

Q: Which of the alternatives guarantee that re-release will not happen during an earthquake?

A: Dredging and removal is the only method that reliably protects the river from recontamination.

Q: Will we ever get to no risk?

A: No, one reason is because there are pollutants coming in from up-river. EPA is simply lowering risk.

All are welcome to the next superfund forum on Feb. 23, 7-9 at the Linnton Community Center at 10614 NW St Helens Rd., where there will be a different set of panelists.

Parking will be available at Linnton Feed & Seed, 10920 NW St Helens Rd. For more information and updates see PortlandHarbor-CAG.info.

It's time to: Celebrate North Portland

Each year the community is blessed with the Celebrate North Portland event where many deserving people from the community are honored. This year the event will take place on Friday, March 4, 2016. Doors open at 5:00pm, dinner is served at 6:15pm and the program begins at 7:00.

The occasion offers unforgettable fun, entertainment, a fantastic meal and many surprises. This year promises to be just as wonderful with many being honored to show appreciation and give recognition

to those who have dedicated their time and energies in making the North Portland community such a great corner of the world.

Organizer Michael Verbout has announced the following honorees for 2016:

Michael Fahey
Years of community and civic service throughout North Portland.

Emilie Saks-Webb
Service to the community through the St. John's Neighborhood Association.

Babs Adamski
Relentless advocacy throughout the North Portland Community in an array of platforms.

Jim Kuffner
Service to the community through connection of University of Portland and North Portland.

Charlotte Cook
Service to education, Roosevelt students, and giving spirit.

Mike Nealy
Service to the community through the seasonal attraction, Winter Wonderland.

Sharon Nasset
Service to the community through advocacy in regards to transportation alternatives.

Donna Cohen
Service to North Portland through tireless efforts with transportation and education at Roosevelt High School.

Richard Ellmyer

Volunteer work and service with political and social issues impacting North Portland.

Georgian Wilkerson

Volunteer work with the senior community.

Sarah Anderson

Service through her efforts of connecting St. Johns Business district and the educational community.

Vinnie Barkett

Sharing and giving to multiple events and organizations throughout the North Portland community.

Jamie and Marie Noehren

Operating and connecting with the community through successful business ownership.

Verbout said, "We expect this year's event will be another sold out affair, and encourage everyone to submit their registration for tickets soon before they're gone."

Registration is easy. Go to: www.evenbrite.com. Type in, "Celebrate North Portland" and "Portland, Oregon" in the search box, then follow the instructions to register and pay using a credit card. Or, go to page 8 of this issue of the REVIEW and complete the registration form, and mail or drop it off at Moonstruck Chocolate Company, 6600 N. Baltimore Ave, Portland, OR 97203)

For questions about payment or the event email celebrate.north-portland@yahoo.com.

portland@yahoo.com.

Verbout shared, "Our theme this year is "Celebrate North Portland-The Oscars".



Michael Verbout, founder & one of the organizers for the Celebrate North Portland event.

Congratulations:
This issue's Masthead was taken by Jason Hamilton and he is officially entered into the contest to win \$100 at the end of the year.
SEND YOUR BRIDGE PHOTO in today. See page 2 for details.