



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Human Services

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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The Oregon Public Health Division's Environmental Health Assessment Program (EHAP) has been working with community members and stakeholders at the Portland Harbor site since 2002. In the past few months, EHAP has been working on a public health assessment for recreational use within the harbor. The purpose of this letter is to inform stakeholders of the scope of work that EHAP is doing in this area and to let you know about the report that will be released this summer. Following the release of the report, EHAP will accept public comments for at least 30 days. Also, in order to give stakeholders opportunities to give input and ask questions, EHAP will be hosting community meetings to present the findings. Below you will find more details regarding the assessment.

EHAP, formerly called the SHINE program, becomes involved at sites where there may be an environmental health hazard. We work with the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Environmental Quality, local health departments, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and most importantly, the affected communities to assess and prevent exposures to hazardous chemicals. Concerned individuals, organizations or governmental agencies may all request EHAP to become involved at a site where a potential health hazard exists.

EHAP is currently conducting a public health assessment for recreational use of the Willamette River, within and around the Portland Harbor Superfund site. We're looking at water, beach soil, and river bottom sediment in order to determine if there is a threat to the public's health. A variety of exposure scenarios are being considered for boaters, paddlers, swimmers, divers, and beach users. We are examining chemical exposures only, within the industrialized superfund site, which is roughly from Swan Island to Sauvie Island.

The release of this new report is planned for July 2008. You may know that we published a public health assessment in 2005 which examined the consumption of fish that are found within this area. If you are interested in reading that report, and reviewing the fish advisory, you can link to them on our webpage, located at www.healthoregon.org/ehap.

This can be obtained in an alternate format by calling: (971) 673-0440

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EHAP would like to hear from the community regarding concerns related to recreation in this section of the river. If you have specific questions, concerns, or comments, please contact Karen Bishop (karen.bishop@state.or.us) or Julie Early-Alberts (julie.early-alberts@state.or.us). If you would like to receive information related to the assessment, please let us know how you would like to receive it and provide us with your specific contact information (phone/address/e-mail).

Best regards,



David Farrer
Toxicologist



Karen Bishop,
Community Outreach



Julie Early-Alberts
EHAP Coordinator