Fact Sheet

Senate Bill 41: Funding for Oil Spill Preparedness and Response Planning

State of Oregon
Department of Environmental Quality

Land Quality Division
Cleanup and Emergency Response Program
700 NE Multnomah St
Suite 600
Portland, OR 97232
Phone: 503-229-5696
Fax: 503-229-6762
Contact: Michael Zollitsch
Phone: 503-229-6931
www.oregon.gov/DEQ

DEQ is a leader in restoring, maintaining and enhancing the quality of Oregon's air, land and water.

Summary

Senate Bill 41 will provide resources for the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to carry out oil spill planning and preparedness work that protects human and environmental health.

DEQ's Oil Spill Prevention and Contingency Planning Program is funded by fees from vessels and barges that transport large quantities of petroleum in bulk and large facilities that transfer petroleum over water. Fees were last increased in 2015 and were expected to fund the program for four to six years. The current fees are shown in Table 1 below.

The program faces additional challenges, such as how to prepare for new types of oil products and trends in oil transport. SB 41 will support staffing levels necessary to tackle new challenges and to implement the state's oil spill prevention and contingency planning law, Oregon Revised Statute 468B.

Table 1. Current fees for oil transport and transfer. Proposed fee increases are yet to be determined.

Fee Category	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Tank Barges (by cargo capacity):		
<25,000 Barrels	$85	$160
>25,000 and <100,000 Barrels	$110	$220
>100,000 Barrels	$250	$1,850
Cargo Vessels (per trip)	$105	$220
Dredges (per day)	$50	$100
Tank Vessels (per trip)	$2,100	$5,500
Bulk Transfer Facilities (annual)	$9,250	$20,000
Pipelines (by pipe diameter)		
Six inches or less	$9,250	$15,000
More than six inches	$9,250	$25,000

Threats to human health and environment

Exposure to oil products can cause acute and chronic illnesses, including cancer. Even small oil spills can threaten public drinking water systems.

When oil reaches waterways, it can devastate natural resources and harm the economy. Birds, wetlands, and sensitive shorelines are especially vulnerable.

New challenges

In 2017, shipments of tar sand crude oil began arriving in Oregon from Canada. The oil is transported to Oregon by rail, transferred to tanks in Portland, and later transferred to tank vessels for shipment overseas.

Oregon's oil spill response plans are designed for oil products that float on water. Tar sand oil sinks and is more difficult to recover. With more funding, DEQ can update plans to address the unique challenges of sinking oil products, as well as changes in how oil is transported.

Planning and preparedness plans

When an oil spill occurs, the first few hours of the response are critical. A prompt and effective initial response can prevent significant or long-term harm to the environment. There are three kinds of oil spill response plans in Oregon.

Industry plans

Oregon law requires 20 petroleum facilities and industry groups representing vessels to have spill response plans. DEQ reviews and approves these plans every five years.

Geographic response plans

DEQ maintains Geographic Response Plans (GRPs) for the Columbia River, the Willamette River below Willamette Falls, and the coast and estuaries. A GRP is blueprint responders use to identify the best strategies to protect sensitive areas from oil spills. The fee increase will allow DEQ staff to update existing GRPs and develop new ones.

The Northwest Area Contingency Plan

DEQ maintains a statewide, interagency response plan for oil and hazardous material spills known as the Northwest Area Contingency Plan. DEQ coordinates with the Northwest Area Committee and the Region 10 Response Team to manage the plan.

Updated: Feb 1, 2019
By: S. Idczak

Drills and exercises

For oil spill response plans to be well-coordinated, responders must train regularly. DEQ leads and participates in many response drills and exercises, including worst-case scenario drills. DEQ staff work side by side with regulated companies and local, state, tribal and federal agencies.

Consequences of not raising fees

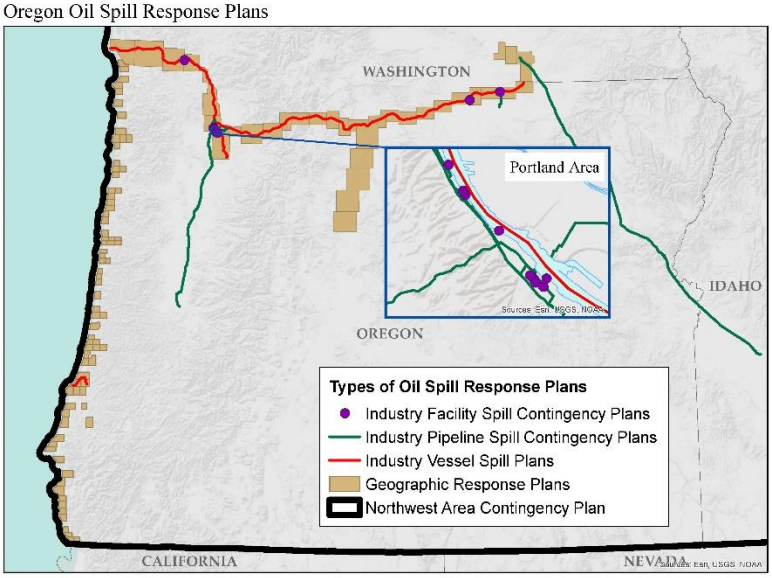
Without fee increases, DEQ will not have the staff or resources to:

- Review and approve industry oil spill contingency plans on time.
- Verify that companies are following the equipment and staffing requirements in their plans.
- Evaluate companies' preparedness to effectively implement their oil spill contingency plans.
- Lead and participate in oil spill drills and exercises to ensure DEQ is prepared to lead response and cleanup of worst-case oil spills to major waterways.
- Provide technical assistance on oil spill planning to Oregon communities, other government agencies, and tribes.

Relation to other proposed legislation

In the 2019 legislative session, DEQ is requesting five new full-time positions for the Emergency Response Program in three packages. Revenue from the SB 41 fee increase would maintain current positions in the Oil Spill Prevention and Contingency Planning Program and add one new position to improve tools for state, local and industry responders. These tools and continued coordination help protect Oregon's environment, cultural resources and economy, including the state's efforts on resiliency planning. The other new positions would work with industry, tribal governments, state and local agencies to coordinate efforts to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from oil and hazardous material spills.

Oregon Oil Spill Response Plans



Contact

Mike Zollitsch, Acting Manager
DEQ Emergency Response Program
Phone: 503-229-6931
Toll-free in Oregon: 1-800-452-4011, x 6266.
E-mail: zollitsch.michael@deq.state.or.us

Alternative formats

Documents can be provided upon request in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities or in a language other than English for people with limited English skills. To request a document in another format or language, call DEQ in Portland at 503-229-5696, or toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011, ext. 5696; or email deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.