



State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

March 28, 2022, Interested Parties Meeting Follow-up Email

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Hello All,

Thank you so much for joining us for the first Dry Cleaner Program Sunset Project Interested Parties meeting to discuss DEQ's draft legislative concept.

So far, this draft concept includes the following:

1. Sunset all aspects of DEQ Dry Cleaner Program by Jan. 1, 2024.
2. Prohibit the use of perc as a dry cleaning solvent by 2026.
3. Seek funding to support the transition of existing dry cleaners using perc to alternative and less-toxic equipment and processes.

Below are responses to general questions you asked during the meeting, as well as links to resources that were shared via the meeting chat.

Q: When would the DEQ Dry Cleaner Program officially end?

A: Subject to legislative action, during the 2023 legislative session, DEQ will propose to sunset (end) the program by the end of 2023.

Q: When would DEQ stop collecting fees associated with the Dry Cleaner Program?

A: Subject to legislative action, DEQ will propose to sunset the program by the end of 2023; no fees would be due in 2024.

Q: What happens to liability protection?

A: Subject to legislative action, a determination of liability would be subject to [ORS 465.255](#), strict liability for remedial action costs for injury or destruction of natural resource. This law defines persons strictly liable for remedial action costs and for injury to, or destruction of, natural resources attributable to or associated with a release of hazardous substances.

In other words, liability would be the same as for any other property. Essentially, the situation would revert back to how it was prior to the existence of the Dry Cleaner Program.

Q: Why prohibit perc?

A: Perc poses risks to worker health, public health, animal health and the environment. It can get into soil and groundwater, and from there into drinking water or the air in neighboring buildings. If spilled or released to the environment, perc is very difficult and expensive to clean up.

In their 2020 final risk evaluation of perc, EPA found unreasonable risk to workers, occupational non-users, consumers and bystanders. The full report is here:

<https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/risk-evaluation-perchloroethylene>

More resources:

A 2012 report by The University of Massachusetts' Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI) is helpful in understanding the impacts of perc and the viability of alternatives. The full report and a factsheet are here:

https://www.turi.org/TURI_Publications/TURI_Guides_to_Safer_Chemicals/Assessment_of_Alternatives_to_Perchloroethylene_for_the_Dry_Cleaning_Industry.2012

We briefly discussed Prospective Purchaser Agreements. More information on that program, as well as contact information is here: <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/Hazards-and-Cleanup/env-cleanup/Pages/Prospective-Purchaser-Agreements.aspx>

Hazardous Waste Technical Assistance is available to anyone who requests it. More information on that program, as well as contact information for your regional technical assistant specialist(s) is here: <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/Hazards-and-Cleanup/hw/Pages/Technical-Assistance.aspx#:~:text=Hazardous%20waste%20technical%20assistance%20available%20from%20DEQ%20is,municipalities%20that%20handle%20and%20report%20regulated%20hazardous%20waste>

Please contact me with your comments and questions. I may not be able to provide an immediate answer to your question, but I will work to find an answer or put you in contact with the appropriate person at DEQ.

Thank you!
Ellie Brown

Senior Hazardous Waste Policy Analyst and Dry Cleaner Program Sunset Project Lead

Alternative formats

DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or in a language other than English upon request. Call DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email deqinfo@deq.oregon.gov.