

## DEQ Requests Comments on Proposed Certificate of Completion, PGE Willamette River Mile 13.1 and 13.5, Hawthorne Building

**Comments due:** 5 p.m., Monday, Nov. 2, 2020

**Project location:** Willamette River Mile (RM) 13.1 and 13.5, Downtown Portland, and 1519 SE Water Avenue, known as the Hawthorne Building.

**Proposal:** The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality is preparing to certify that all actions required of PGE under a Consent Judgement with DEQ have been satisfactorily completed on two areas within the Willamette River, RM 13.1 and 13.5, and the Hawthorne Building.

**Highlights:** During the 2008 Downtown Portland Sediment Evaluation study, DEQ discovered elevated concentrations of hazardous substances in river sediments at RM 13.1 and 13.5 on the east bank of the Willamette River. In January 2010, DEQ ordered PGE to conduct a remedial investigation, which determined that contaminants in sediment posed an unacceptable risk at or near RM 13.1 and RM 13.5. Contaminants included PCBs, heavy metals, dioxins/furans, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and pesticides. These contaminants were likely associated with historic power generation and transformers. The remedial investigation identified certain upland areas, including PGE's Hawthorne Building, as historic and potential ongoing sources of contamination to the river via a City stormwater outfall.

DEQ and PGE agreed, under two Consent Orders, to a feasibility study, source control measures, remedial design and remedial action for RM 13.1 and 13.5 as well as the Hawthorne Building. In 2017 PGE and DEQ signed a Consent Judgement which incorporates all previous work with the remedial action for the 13.1 Study Area and potentially contaminated soils located on the east riverbank near the outfall. PGE has constructed two sediment isolation caps with sand and rounded gravel: one at RM 13.5, and one at RM 13.1. In areas of higher contamination in RM 13.1, PGE added sorptive material to prevent contamination from migrating through the cap.

A Remedial Action Easement with the Oregon Department of State Lands grants PGE access to the RM 13.1 and 13.5 Study Area for 30 years to perform the remedial action and long-term maintenance and monitoring activities. There are currently no use restrictions in these areas and a five-year review will be conducted to make sure the caps remain protective. PGE also removed contaminated soil from the Hawthorne Building, and DEQ issued an unconditional No Further Action, a way of deeming cleanup work complete, with no restrictions for this site in 2015. The City abandoned the outfall in 2016, removing on-going sources of contamination to the river. However, contamination was left in place underground near a broken section of the outfall. A deed restriction on this property notes that PGE will remain responsible for remediation in this area and these soils will be handled according to the Contaminated Media Management Plan.

The proposed certificate of completion for the consent judgement will provide PGE with a release from liability for claims by the State of Oregon under ORS 465.200 to 465.545 and 465.990, 466.640, and 468B.310 regarding existing hazardous substance releases at or from the property. The proposed certificate of completion will also provide PGE with third party liability protection.

**How to comment:** Send comments to DEQ Project Manager Franziska Landes at 700 NE Multnomah St., Suite 600, Portland, OR, 97232 or [franziska.landes@deq.state.or.us](mailto:franziska.landes@deq.state.or.us).



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# Public Notice

**Find more information:** Visit DEQ's Environmental Cleanup Site Information database at the following sites to learn more.

- [PGE Willamette River Investigations](#)
- [Hawthorne Building](#)

If you do not have web access and want to review the project file, contact the DEQ project manager at 503-229-5338.

Environmental Cleanup Site Information (ECSI) ID: 5249 (PGE Willamette River Investigations) and 5779 (Hawthorne Building)

**The next step:** DEQ will consider all public comments received by the close of the comment period before making a final decision regarding the proposed certification of completion.

**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.state.or.us](mailto:deqinfo@deq.state.or.us).



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