

# Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group

## Portland Harbor News –

**Welcome** to all those who attend our meetings and have concerns about the Portland Harbor. We thank all the supporters and members of the board who participate to make our harbor better for all.

Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group  
8316 N Lombard, PMB 344  
Portland Oregon 97203

October 12, 2011 –  
PORTLAND HARBOR  
FEASIBILITY STUDY-NOW  
EXTENDED TO MARCH 30 -  
At the Portland Harbor Community  
Advisory monthly meeting Chip  
Humphrey, Remedial Project  
Manager for the EPA in the Portland  
Harbor, announced the official delay  
of the Feasibility Study for the  
Portland Harbor. Due to EPA  
suggested adaptations during June,  
July, and August, the Lower  
Willamette Group felt additional time  
was needed for alterations to the  
Feasibility Study by contractors to  
enable better decision-making results.



### PHCAG WELCOMES BACK BOB

At the monthly meeting of the PHCAG, the group welcomed back Bob Wyatt back, Chair of the Lower Willamette Group after his absence. Bob represents NW Natural Gas in the LWG. He gave a presentation on aspects of the upcoming Feasibility Study. While not forthcoming about details because of the delay in completion of the Feasibility Study, he did discuss a method utilized in Grasse River, New York where a technique using active carbon to adsorb PCB's had brought some

GASC

Bob discussed the Early Action of NW Natural and the problems that occurred dredging the tar body found there in 2005. GASCO is a forty acre site at 7200 NW Front Avenue that originally was an oil gasification plant that disposed of wastes, effluent water and tar stills into a stream leading to the Willamette River. After 1941, wastewater effluent and tar stills were disposed of in settling ponds. DEQ had estimated an 30,000 cubic yards of tar waste had accumulated in the ponds. Tars had been identified to depths of 70 feet in the vicinity of the former tar settling ponds. (NAPLs) were identified at three

Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group

[www.portlandharborcag.info](http://www.portlandharborcag.info)

'Working toward a Community Directed Superfund'

## Get involved in river cleanup

The Portland Harbor, a nearly ten-mile stretch from the Steel Bridge beyond Sauvie Island is still a Superfund site because of the diversity of chemicals, the size of the river and the number of potential responsible parties involved.

The variety of pollutants is so diverse and each area of pollution can contain a myriad of COC's (chemicals of concern) that tackling each separately can be a nightmare yet alone any combination that can have a synergistic effect. It is not a pretty picture and time and money is not on our side or the side of the Lower Willamette Group, the EPA, or the DEQ who have devoted their lives to it for the last ten years.

## The "CAG"

As private citizens who volunteer as many hours as possible, the Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group have survived the last ten years because of the challenge, the support of each other and the support of the people from the agencies, EPA, DEQ, BES, Trustees and the Lower Willamette Group. While it is a tight-knit group, they welcome everyone to come, give an opinion, discuss and learn alongside them on how to clean up an extremely challenging mess and simply make the river a better place for the humans and nature. None of them began as experts on superfund issues, nor are they now, they are simply citizens who want to make the river that is outside the door of 70% of Oregon's population healthier.

**Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group**

**[www.portlandharborcag.info](http://www.portlandharborcag.info)**

**'Working toward a Community Directed Superfund'**

## Join and Speak

To join them in working toward a cleaner river, you do not need to be knowledgeable about chemicals, Superfunds or rivers; it just takes a willingness to want to help the river which may turn into a needed source of water for the future and the future of our families. It takes courage to ask pertinent questions of professionals but it is certainly achievable by anyone who cares. The professionals enjoy hearing naïve questions because it gives them an opportunity to share what interests them and what they care about. It offers them a chance to give to the community some very needed information.

But your opinion is also needed. The government agencies certainly work diligently for the citizens they represent but they too need direction from the community to understand what citizens want for the final product. The Willamette River-Portland Harbor is held in trust for the people of Oregon as all our rivers are. The rivers do not belong to the government or the officials but in trust to the citizens of Oregon.

## Act

Environmental justice is also a right of the citizens of Oregon, therefore speaking up for the river, its wildlife, and its opportunities whether recreational or commercial is necessary to ensure that right. Public comment can be a powerful tool and especially when it is needed to restore a river that does not just exist but gives the surrounding community, whether human or river creatures, the great benefits it has to offer.

## Speak for the River

—Go to [www.portlandharborcag.info](http://www.portlandharborcag.info) and render an opinion. Come to a meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month, BES, Water Pollution Lab, 6543 N Burlington under the St. Johns Bridge.

## Save the

**River**—go to [www.solv.org](http://www.solv.org) or Forest Park Conservancy and sign up to plant natives, weeding, removing invasive plants, mulching, planting groundcovers and

Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group

[www.portlandharborcag.info](http://www.portlandharborcag.info)

‘Working toward a Community Directed Superfund’