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Statement by Curtis Robinhold, Port of Portland deputy executive director, regarding EPA Record of Decision for the cleanup of the Portland Harbor Superfund site

Today the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released its Record of Decision, the final plan for cleaning up the Portland Harbor Superfund site. We have been engaged with this process for a long time, and remain committed to a cleanup that protects the health of Portlanders and our environment, and to finding the most cost-effective way to achieve it.

Early review of EPA's decision leaves us concerned. We are convinced a protective, reasonably priced cleanup plan exists for the Lower Willamette River. We worry today's ROD is not that plan.

As we said in September, we can make progress toward the cleaner river that Portlanders deserve, or we can continue to be mired in more delays and disagreements over EPA's analytics. We will review EPA's ROD and supporting analysis more closely, but our first impression is that EPA's ROD will make cleanup even more difficult to accomplish. We view this as a setback in the ultimate goal: the healthier, cleaner river that Portland deserves.

Specifically, what concerns us is:

- It is unclear what analysis EPA could have produced since September that evaluates the true costs and benefits of a more aggressive cleanup.
- We estimated the cost of the earlier Proposed Plan would be close to \$1.8 billion, nearly double EPA's estimates at the time. Now with a more aggressive remedy and adding significantly more dredging, EPA's plan could cost over \$2 billion. The cost of implementing EPA's ROD is staggering.
- Support for EPA's proposed plan was already weak among private Potentially Responsible Parties, and the ROD's direction can only promote more delay in getting to cleanup.

However, there are a few hopeful signs:

- EPA acknowledges that the 10 mile site should be divided into smaller geographic areas, something that makes sense for such a large site with more than a hundred parties involved.
- EPA did not include a Confined Disposal Facility at our marine Terminal 4.
- We understand the ROD allows some flexibility in implementation and that new data will inform the remedy.

Despite our disappointment, we will continue to engage with EPA and the State of Oregon, with the hopes of lifting the cloud on Portland Harbor to promote new investment and a healthy environment.

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