



METRO

February 6, 1996

Ms. Amy Chomowicz, Program Manager  
City of Portland Environmental Services  
1120 SW 5th Avenue, Room 400  
Portland, OR 97204

Re: EPA Grant Funding for Metro Projects Benefiting Columbia Slough

Dear Ms. Chomowicz:

I propose a St. Johns Landfill Leachate Containment project for funding from the EPA grant for Columbia Slough improvement which is administered by the City of Portland. Jim Morgan will submit a separate proposal for funding the Columbia Slough Interpretative Center.

**Project Description:**

Monitor visible seeps into the Slough from St. Johns Landfill and patch the surface of the bank where they persist. Plant native vegetation along the Slough bank around St. Johns Landfill to reduce seepage. Cost: Not to exceed \$100,000

**Background:**

The character of the visible seeps into the Columbia Slough from the dike around St. Johns Landfill indicates that local anomalies may be producing these visible seeps.

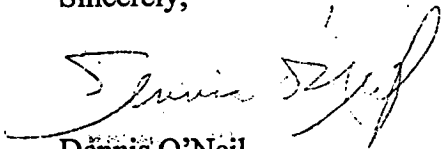
To substantially reduce or eliminate visible seeps, Metro first maps the location of each seep visible in the Fall of 1995 and 1996 and compares locations with a map made in 1991 to determine which seeps persist after the landfill cover is in place. Then, Metro would make shallow excavations in the soil containing these visible seeps persisting in 1996 and patch them with low permeability soil.

Planting trees including Black Cottonwood (native Poplar) and other native vegetation along the bank around St. Johns Landfill can reduce seepage to the Slough. Recent studies have shown that trees such as Poplars can tolerate contaminated groundwater and significantly reduce groundwater flow by their ability to take up water in the soil. Growing trees can reduce the nitrogen and phosphorus in groundwater (both contributors to water quality problems in the Slough), and stimulate the growth of contaminant degrading microorganisms in their root

networks. Also, trees, especially along the south bank of the North Slough arm of Columbia Slough, shade the Slough, reducing summer temperature and algae growth.

Because Metro has already begun the project and incurred costs I propose that Metro be compensated for costs it incurred after the City of Portland was awarded the EPA grant in late 1994. To-date Metro has paid about \$12,000 for seep mapping, site preparation, plants, and planting supplies. Also, I would appreciate information about what information must be reported and when. If you have questions, call me at 797-1697

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dennis O'Neil", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dennis O'Neil  
St. Johns Landfill Project Coordinator

DO:clk

cc: Jim Watkins, Engineering & Analysis Manager

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M E M O R A N D U M



METRO

AUGUST 5, 1996

TO: FILE

FROM: *PH* PETE HILLMANN

RE: SAND DELTAS IN COLUMBIA SLOUGH

1. Now that water levels have dropped, two sand deltas are clearly visible North of the landfill bridge, one below the outfall of Sed Basin S-6 and one about 300' farther east where the interceptor ditch above failed this winter.
2. Methods to remove the sand have been discussed and all appear to have some environmental costs.
3. Dave Hendricks, Multnomah Drainage District #1 came out on 7/30/96 at Metro's request to look at the sandbars and perhaps give some assistance with a small dredge he will be testing at the end of August. Dave's opinion was that the sandbars should remain as habitat and were not a hindrance to navigation. He recommended planting Columbia Willows. He has noticed a stand near 147th & Marine Drive.
4. Discussed the sandbars with George Krall City of Portland when he was on site 7/31/96. He also thinks the sandbars should remain as habitat and likes the idea of planting Columbia Willows and other species in the spring of 1997.
5. Discussed the matter with Jim Morgan, Metro on the telephone on 7/31/96. He also thinks that the sandbars are a positive habitat structure and should remain.
6. Recommend that no further action be taken to remove these existing sandbars. Work underway during this construction season should prevent reoccurrence of similar erosion in the future.
7. On 8/2/96 George Krall gave me a rough estimate of \$1000.00 to plant cuttings on the two sandbars. He would do so on the Intergovernmental agreement with Metro. The alternative would be to have L & H Grading do the work based upon specifications provided by George. It would be more costly and L & H would have difficulty finding the right people to do the work. George would plant cuttings in late February or early March prior to the spring runoff.

8. Discussed this proposal with Dennis O'Neil, Metro and with Jim Beck, L & H Grading on 8/2/96. Dennis is willing to have George Krall do the work and Jim Beck is willing to pay for it.

9. Action to be taken:

- a. Refine estimate if necessary and add that amount to the IGA with the city.
- b. Process a deductive change order on the contract with L & H for that amount.
- c. Plant the trees next spring.

cc:	Janell Davis	Metro
	Dennis O'Neil	Metro
	Jim Morgan	Metro
	Jim Beck L & H	
	George Krall	City of Portland



## METRO

**DATE:** October 10, 1996

**TO:** Charlie Ciecko, Director, Regional Parks & Greenspaces

**FROM:** Dennis O'Neil, Sr. Solid Waste Planner, REM *LOM*

*JW*  
**THROUGH:** Jim Watkins, Engineering & Analysis Manager, REM

**RE:** St. Johns Landfill Vegetation Management

Thank you for your September 18, 1996 memo which presented your recommendations concerning vegetation planning, establishment, and maintenance for St. Johns Landfill. I will seriously consider your recommendations when developing an updated vegetation plan for the landfill.

In developing this plan I intend to seek assistance from Mr. Mark G. Wilson, Restoration Ecologist. According to Emily Roth, Mr. Wilson is an experienced expert in grassland restoration. He participated in the development of a 1992 vegetation plan for the St. Johns Landfill. Since then, he has experimented with methods that have attempted to implement the plan and has advised our construction manager about topsoil and vegetation planting. His experience since 1992 has made him well aware how much is unknown about the best ways to foster native vegetation while controlling erosion in the unique environment on the St. Johns Landfill cover system.

I plan to work with Emily Roth to develop a work scope for Mr. Wilson. I hope he will be able to begin work by the beginning of November. My goal is to assemble all elements of a draft vegetation plan for interdepartmental review by the beginning of the year.

The REM Department takes seriously the responsibility to use our specialized expertise to maintain, for the foreseeable future, the cover system, gas collection system, stormwater collection system, and vegetation based erosion control system in a manner which minimizes risk to public health, safety, and the environment. We welcome close cooperation between the two departments concerning St. Johns Landfill, the Smith & Bybee Lakes area, and other Metro projects where each can assist the other with useful expertise.

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cc: Jim Watkins, Engineering & Analysis Manager

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## METRO

**DATE:** December 20, 1996

**TO:** Emily Roth, Regional Parks and Green Spaces Dept.

**FROM:** Dennis O'Neil, Regional Environmental Management Dept.

**RE:** Updated Time Schedule for St. Johns Landfill Vegetation Plan  
Request for Information

In my October 10th response to a memo from Charlie Cieko, I stated my goal of assembling all elements of a draft vegetation plan by the beginning of 1997. Since then, we have learned that this time schedule is not feasible, because a crucial element of the plan cannot be developed under an existing contract.

Accordingly, you and I negotiated a work scope with the current vegetation contractor, Mark Wilson, to develop a vegetation maintenance plan for 1997 so that we would have ample time to select a contractor to develop a longer-term plan element.

Given this situation, I plan to proceed according to the time schedule for 1997 listed below:

January	Mark Wilson submits a vegetation maintenance plan for 1997.  Dennis O'Neil completes a draft background element of the vegetation plan that covers the regulatory framework and history of efforts to establish native vegetation on St. Johns Landfill.
February	Internal Metro review of request for proposals to develop longer-term management plans to establish native-dominant vegetation and control certain weeds.  Begin implementation of 1997 vegetation maintenance plan by selectively grazing sheep on the St. Johns Landfill.
March	Select a contractor for longer-term management plans.
April	Begin to develop longer-term management plans.

I will send to you a copy of Mark Wilson's maintenance plan, my draft background element, and the draft RFP as soon as they are available. I invite your review and comment.

Please send to me copies of any documents you have prepared so far concerning the vegetation management plan for Smith & Bybee Lakes Natural Area (SBNA) that you told me you were developing. I would be especially interested in a copy of your detailed methods for controlling invasive, exotic weeds which are found on the SBNA, as well as appearing on the St. Johns Landfill. This information will help me make proposers aware of the nature of your efforts so they can better develop and cost proposals for longer-term maintenance plans that are most compatible with the overall SBNA vegetation management plan. I appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

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cc: Jim Watkins, Regional Environmental Management Dept.  
Dan Kromer, Regional Parks and Greenspaces Dept.

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