

# Public Notice: Hearing & Request for Comments

## Proposed Permit for St. Johns Landfill

**Notice issued:** April 10, 2003

**Hearing date:** May 15, 2003

**Hearing time:**

Information session: 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Formal hearing: 8 p.m. to 9p.m.

**Hearing location:**

The meeting will be held at the St. Johns Community Center at 8427 N. Central, in the St. Johns neighborhood. TriMet buses that go to the Community Center are # 75-Lombard, # 40-Mocks Crest, and # 4 - Fessenden

**Written comments due:** 5 PM, May 20, 2003.

**Where can I send comments and get more information?**

DEQ accepts comments by mail, fax and email.

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**How can I review documents?**

You can review the draft permit and related documents at the DEQ Northwest Region Office 2020 SW Fourth Avenue, Suite 400 Portland. For a review appointment call (503) 229-5353. These documents also will be available for review at the St. Johns library and online at DEQ's website.

**What are DEQ's responsibilities?**

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is the regulatory agency that helps protect and preserve Oregon's environment. DEQ is responsible for protecting and enhancing Oregon's water and

air quality, for cleaning up spills and releases of hazardous materials, and for managing the proper disposal of hazardous and solid wastes. One way DEQ does this is by requiring permits for certain activities and facilities.

The purpose of this notice is to invite you to submit written comments on this proposed permit or make oral comments at a hearing.

**Who is the applicant?**

The applicant is Metro, the landfill site owner.

**Where is the facility located?**

St. Johns landfill is located in North Portland near the Columbia Slough and Smith and Bybee Lakes at 9363 N. Columbia Blvd.

**What is proposed?**

DEQ proposes to renew and modify the solid waste closure permit and simultaneously issue a Consent Order for St. Johns Landfill, which stopped accepting waste in 1991.

The new closure permit will specify requirements for the landfill's continued long-term maintenance and monitoring. The Consent Order will require Metro to conduct a remedial investigation and feasibility study, including a risk assessment to address existing and potential environmental contamination at the site.

Metro already has completed extensive environmental investigations at the site and constructed environmental protection features including a cover cap and gas collection system. The remedial investigation will focus on specific data gaps and areas of concern identified in the consent order and will evaluate the nature and extent of hazardous substances that have been released to the environment.

The risk assessment will evaluate the potential adverse effects of contaminants on ecosystems and human health considering contaminant toxicity and exposure. Risk is a function of sources, pathways, and receptors. Sources are any media (i.e., soil, air, surface water, etc.) contaminated by hazardous substances released from the site under investigation. Pathways are any reasonably likely ways that people, plants, and animals might be exposed to contaminant sources, and receptors are the people, plants and animals who may contact a contaminant source



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because of current and reasonably likely future land and water use.

The feasibility study evaluates alternative remedies or corrective measures for reducing site risks.

**Permit type:** Closure Permit

**Permit expiration:** July 31, 2013

**What are the special conditions of this permit?**

The proposed permit will require Metro to conduct a Remedial Investigation and feasibility study to investigate past and continuing releases of hazardous substances and other landfill-related contaminants that pose a risk to human health or the environment.

**Compliance history:**

Groundwater quality next to the landfill has been monitored since the 1970s and a network of 30 monitoring wells is now sampled semi-annually. Additional wells, within the landfill, monitor the leachate and landfill gas. Water samples from these monitoring wells are analyzed for general chemical properties and for hazardous contaminants such as lead, mercury, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), PCBs, and pesticides.

In 1995 DEQ placed the site on two formal lists of contaminated sites known as the Confirmed Release List and Inventory List. The lists identify sites that have had a release of a hazardous substance and need further investigation or cleanup. As of 2001, 31 hazardous substances are known to have been released from the landfill site to groundwater. The list includes 19 volatile organic compounds, 1 semi-volatile compound, 10 trace metals, and 1 pesticide.

Various groups of substances in this list exceed DEQ numerical groundwater quality reference levels, EPA drinking water standards, and EPA Region 9 Preliminary Remediation Goals (PRGs) for tap water.

**Who is affected?**

Property owners and residents in the vicinity of St. Johns Landfill and persons who

participate in the management or recreational use of the Smith and Bybee Lakes and lower Columbia Slough areas.

**What legal requirements apply?** Applicable Oregon Revised Statutes include the following solid waste and environmental cleanup program laws and regulations:

**Solid Waste** -- ORS 459.205, 459.235, 459.270, and OAR Ch 340 Division -93.

**Environmental Cleanup Program** -- ORS 465.200 through 465.455 and 465.900, OAR 340-122-0080, 340-122-0084, 340-122-0085, and 340-122-0090.

**What happens next?**

DEQ will review and consider all comments received during the hearing and comment period. Following this review, DEQ may issue the permit as proposed or modified, or may deny the permit.

**Accessibility information**

*DEQ is committed to accommodating people with disabilities at our hearings. Please notify DEQ of any special physical or language accommodations or if you need information in large print, Braille or another format. To make these arrangements, contact DEQ Public Affairs at (503) 229-5696 or toll free in Oregon at (800) 452-4011.*

*People with hearing impairments may call DEQ's TTY number, (503)229-5471.*

**What other facilities does this owner operate?**

Metro, the site owner, operates two regional solid waste transfer stations in the metro area in addition to their management of the landfill.

**What are the known health effects or environmental impacts of the permitted substances stored, disposed of, discharged or emitted by the facility?**

The hazardous substances released by the landfill are regulated in drinking water because of health concerns. However, DEQ is not aware of any drinking water supply wells near the landfill. Landfill releases also pose a potential risk to the surrounding ecosystems of Columbia Slough and Smith and Bybee Lakes.