

*Environmental Fact Sheet*  
*August 2001*

## **Old Mill Marina Garibaldi, Oregon**

This month, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will take over responsibility for further environmental evaluation and any cleanup needed at the Old Mill Marina site.

In May 2001, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) took soil and water samples near the former power station at the site to test for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Although PCBs were found at the site, the problem is not serious enough to require a federal cleanup. This sampling was a follow-up to EPA sampling conducted in July 2000, which indicated there is no imminent public health risk at the site.

### **DEQ Taking Over Cleanup Investigation**

In the coming months, DEQ will study the site further to see if contaminant levels are at or below Oregon cleanup requirements, which are more stringent than federal requirements. If contaminants are above acceptable state levels, DEQ will decide on next steps and share cleanup plans with the public.

While EPA and DEQ do not consider this site to pose an imminent risk to human health, localized areas of contamination may need to be addressed to comply with state environmental regulations. At some specific areas, such as the collapsed mill building and former power station, contaminants exist at concentrations higher than DEQ's "risk-based screening concentrations," (*see below*). Future construction activities could unearth contaminated soil, and must be monitored and managed to ensure that workers and residents are not exposed to unsafe levels of contaminants.

DEQ will also evaluate other contaminants at the site besides PCBs. Past investigations detected lead, mercury, arsenic, semivolatile organic compounds, and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Nearby wetlands and sediments in Tillamook Bay and Miami Cove contain high levels of several inorganics and PAHs. Inorganics are defined as "being composed of matter other than plant or animal." While these contaminants are not expected to pose health risks to people, if left in place long-term they may threaten wildlife, fish, or plants.

### **About "Risk-Based Screening Concentrations"**

#### *Human Health:*

DEQ uses EPA Region 9 Preliminary Remediation Goals (PRGs) as human health risk screening numbers. The PRGs are for residential and industrial direct exposure to soil, and drinking water (without inhalation). The values represent one/million chance of excess cancer, or a "Hazard Index" of 1. The PRGs are used as a screening tool to determine whether chemicals in soil and groundwater at a site exist at levels which pose risks to human health.

#### *The Environment:*

DEQ uses numbers called "Screening Benchmark Values" found in the Oregon DEQ "Guidance for

Ecological Risk Assessment” to screen contaminants at levels that protect fish and wildlife populations, and also protect individual threatened and endangered species. DEQ supplements the Screening Benchmark Values with other eco-toxicologic information which may be more current or valid.

### **Background**

Old Mill Marina is a 41-acre recreational vehicle park and marina in the community of Garibaldi, Oregon. It sits on a peninsula, built from dredge sediments, which extends into Miami Cove west of where the Miami River flows into Tillamook Bay. Sensitive wildlife, including the coho salmon (listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act) live in the natural areas near the Old Mill Marina. The contaminants of interest in this investigation are known to cause adverse effects to humans, animals, and fish. Additionally, some contaminants, including PCBs and some metals, can persist in the environment and build up gradually over time in human and animal tissues.

In 1921, a saw mill was built at the site. A plywood mill operated from the mid-1940s until 1974. Two wood treatment facilities operated on site from 1978 until 1990. In 1990, the boiler house and power station were demolished. Today, the site features a recreational vehicle resort, restaurant, swimming pool, marina, gift shop, and office building. Sediment from recent dredging has been placed on the site.

EPA Region 10 webpage:

<http://www.epa.gov/r10earth>

To find information on the Old Mill Marina site, click on “Index,” then click on “O.”

### **To Learn More**

If you would like more information about the Old Mill Marina, please call or e-mail:

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