

Simple messages about the urgent need to protect Port Westward, keeping fuel tanks from the Columbia and Willamette Rivers.

- 1 Share your connection to the Columbia River and the fuel issue. Why is it important to you that DEQ protect rivers from massive earthquake-induced fuel spills, major fires, and other risks that come with storing flammable and toxic fuel on unstable soil in or near your community?
- 2 A major fuel spill imperils downstream communities' drinking water, fisheries, wildlife, and resources vital to Tribes.
- 3 DEQ should ensure that downstream impacts and communities are addressed in the rule, and it should require removal of fuel from unsound tanks as soon as possible.
- 4 DEQ should require removal of fuel from unsound tanks as soon as possible. Ten years is too long to implement mitigation plans that include removal of fuel from failure-prone tanks on unstable soil. The rule's timelines should reflect the urgency, severity, and broad geographic scope of the threat.

DEQ should ensure that downstream impacts and communities are addressed in the rule. The rule inadequately defines "surrounding communities," potentially leaving detailed consideration of downstream risks out of the picture. The mitigation measures should include all off-site risks, including those for communities in and near the CEI Hub, Portland Harbor, and the Columbia River Estuary. The rule is unclear about whether facility operators will narrowly tailor mitigation plans to areas in the immediate vicinity of facilities.
- 5 The spills, fire, and toxic smoke plumes could impact communities over a large area. If DEQ truly intends for the risk mitigation plans required by the rule to address "potential consequences and resources needed to equitably mitigate the residual risk to employees and surrounding communities," then DEQ needs to define the impacted communities broadly enough to capture the concerns and interests of downstream communities.

Simple messages about the urgent need to protect Port Westward, keeping fuel tanks from the Columbia and Willamette Rivers.

7 The rule cannot be equitably implemented if DEQ and terminal operators fail to adequately evaluate impacts to Tribes, downstream towns, and Estuary resources.

8 The rule requires facility operators to develop “training and education to employees and surrounding communities that promote equity.” Without a full understanding of the risks that communities may face, including in the Lower Columbia River, training and education efforts will fail to meet equity standards. Can DEQ provide more information about training opportunities that would promote equity?

9 DEQ should also consider requiring companies to seek BIPOC-owned, women-owned, and small businesses where possible to develop and implement mitigation strategies.

10 Communities in and near the CEI Hub face disproportionately high risks from fire, toxic airborne releases, and other immediate post-earthquake risks that will overwhelm even professional emergency response capabilities. DEQ’s equity analysis recognizes this risk, but the actual rule language should require faster timelines for removing fuel from the highest-risk tanks.

11 The draft rule states that tanks will be evaluated with respect to the “design level earthquake,” which “shall be two-thirds of the most severe earthquake considered by the building code.” By using the two-thirds standard, DEQ may be building too much residual risk into the rule. DEQ should consider an estimated 9.0 Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake or local fault earthquake, whichever is larger, as the design level earthquake. Local bridges have been designed to withstand a 9.0 earthquake, for instance. DEQ should use the most protective standard allowed under the law, given the immensity of the risks.

12 Given the disproportionate impacts of a potential disaster on BIPOC communities, Tribal communities, people with lower income levels, people with sensitive health conditions, people experiencing homelessness, and rural communities that may lack resources, DEQ should require tank owners to remove fuel from unsafe tanks, and remove tanks altogether, as quickly as possible.

To protect and restore the water quality of the Columbia River and all life connected to it, from the headwaters to the Pacific Ocean.