



Fact Sheet

N. Bradford Street – PCBs Cleanup Project

The N. Bradford Street cleanup project is addressing elevated levels of soil contamination in the area in and around the railroad adjacent to Cathedral Park (see image right). **This contamination does not present an immediate risk to public health.** However, more sampling is necessary to make sure there is no risk of long-term health effects for someone who regularly comes into contact with soil in this area.

The contamination is from a class of chemicals called polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, which were historically used as coolants and lubricants. PCBs were banned in 1977 due to their toxic impacts on human health and persistence in the environment. DEQ is addressing this contamination through its cleanup process, and the first step is getting more data.

To minimize your exposure if you're in this area, DEQ and Oregon Health Authority recommend:

- Staying on the paved path when crossing the railroad
- Not walking on or along the railroad

What is DEQ doing about this?

By spring, you will see signs like the one on the right posted along the railroad advising people to stay on the paved path. DEQ and Oregon Health Authority are meeting with community members on a regular basis to provide updates on the project and collaborate on getting information to the community. These signs are an outcome of that partnership.

For the most up-to-date information about the N. Bradford Street Cleanup Project, go to deqblog.com/nbradford-street, or join our email list at bit.ly/nbradford-list.



Contaminated Soil Suelo Contaminado

Do not walk on or around tracks. Use the path.
No camine en las vías ni en los alrededores. Use el camino.

Đất Bị Ô Nhiễm
Không được đi trên hoặc đi xung quanh đường ray tàu hỏa. Hãy đi trên đường mòn.

Забруднення ґрунту
Не ходіть залізничними коліями або поруч із ними. Використовуйте доріжки.

Current status

DEQ provided several big announcements at the most recent community meeting on March 17:

1. Peninsula Iron Works and Union Pacific Railroad, both of which may have contributed to the PCB contamination in this area, have signed agreements coming into DEQ's voluntarily cleanup program. The Cleanup Program is a polluter pays program, meaning the potentially party(ies) responsible for the contamination will pay to clean it up.
2. DEQ and OHA are working with the City of Portland Parks & Recreation to install signs instructing park users to stay on paved pathways.
3. DEQ is using funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to do sample soil in Cathedral Park. Go to bit.ly/nbradfordst-survey to fill out a survey about how you use the park.

Get more information

The most up-to-date information on this project and answers to frequently asked questions are available online at deqblog.com/nbradford-street.

You can also direct any questions to nbradfordst@deq.oregon.gov or leave us a voicemail at 503-229-6488, and we'll get back to you in three business days.

Translation or other formats

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