

SECTION 8.0 EXPEDITING CLEANUP OF PORTLAND HARBOR -- THE INTEGRATED SCHEDULE

Expedited investigation and cleanup of Portland Harbor is a complex task, and has been designed to proceed in an integrated and coordinated fashion. Site-specific investigations and cleanups that are already under way will continue without delay, and additional sites identified will be assessed, investigated and, if necessary, remediated as quickly as possible. Information from site-specific work will support development of harbor-wide assessment tools, and those tools in turn will be used for subsequent work at existing and new sites which enter the cleanup process at a later date to ensure consistent and scientifically sound investigations. Coordination with the many relevant federal, state, and local agencies, the tribes, the site parties, and the Portland Harbor communities, will be an ongoing activity throughout the Portland Harbor project (see Section 12). Figure 8-1 illustrates the schedule for the harbor-wide assessment, focusing on the steps in the RI. Anticipated site-specific activities are included in Appendix H.

The integral relationship between harbor-wide activities and tools and the activities at specific sites that already represent good progress toward cleanup means that maintaining this schedule is crucial to Portland Harbor success. The combination of state commitment, cooperation from relevant agencies and Harbor parties, and DEQ's statutory, regulatory, and funding tools, supports a successful initiative that will be completed by 2002.

Figure 8-2 shows an approximate time-phasing of the relationship between harbor and reference area, site-specific, and programmatic activities. Once implementation of the PHSMP begins, harbor-wide and reference area studies will commence, as will programmatic activities such as sediment quality guide-line (SQG) development. Although, because of existing local and regional data resident in SEDQUAL, some SQGs may be available fairly soon after the start of implementation, others will be delayed due to a lack of data. These specific data needs will be relayed to those sites that are best suited to fulfill them; work plans for these sites may be either written or modified to include tasks necessary to provide these data.

Alternatively, DEQ may conduct a supplemental survey to fill these data gaps.

In addition, data collected during the Harbor and reference area investigations will also be made available for SQG development. At some point, sufficient data will have been collected to establish "final" (but still subject to the possibility of periodic updates and/or the annual review process) SQGs for use at all sites in the future.

Following the harbor-wide fish tissue investigation, data will be available to assess whether specific chemicals pose bioaccumulation risks to humans or wildlife and/or threats to fish. A finding of such risks or impacts is expected to trigger Phase II investigations at specific sites known, or suspected, to contain the chemicals in question.

Details of harbor-site schedule inter-relationships will be addressed in more detail as work plans are developed for the Harbor and programmatic activities. Contracting for the execution of this work is expected to begin in mid- to late June, with contractor-developed work plans available during Fall 1999. A schedule for the work plan development is included in Figure 8-3.

Figure 8-4 shows the schedule for site-specific activities which will take place during completion of the harbor-wide RI/FS. A detailed schedule for each of the sites currently undergoing cleanup is included in Appendix H. Figure 8-5 describes the site assessment activities which will also be ongoing throughout preparation of the harbor-wide RI/FS.