



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Environmental Quality

Salem Office

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Salem, OR 97302

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Aug. 01, 2023

Re: Community Open House  
Proposed Cleanup of Ashland Rail Yard  
Environmental Cleanup Site Information database (ESCI) ID No. 1146

Dear Ashland Community Member,

You are invited to an open house on Sept. 27, 2023, to hear about a new proposed cleanup plan for Union Pacific's Ashland Rail Yard property.

### **DEQ Ashland Rail Yard Cleanup Open House**

5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023

Ashland Library<sup>1</sup>, Gresham Room downstairs

410 Siskiyou Blvd., Ashland, OR 97520

Cleanup officials with DEQ will present the proposed cleanup project and hear questions and concerns from the public. The cleanup plan covers portions of the 21-acre former rail yard property located along A Street in Ashland.

The rail yard was operated by the Southern Pacific Railroad Company for nearly 100 years as a locomotive fueling, maintenance, and railcar repair facility near downtown Ashland until 1986. Over the past 30 years, environmental investigations of the rail yard have shown that soil and groundwater in portions of the property are contaminated with several heavy metals and petroleum products and byproducts. The contamination is at levels that may pose a health risk to people working or living on the rail yard property. Union Pacific Railroad merged with Southern Pacific in 1996 and recently proposed a new cleanup plan for the rail yard that DEQ is prepared to approve.

The new cleanup plan will allow the rail yard to be safely developed for industrial, commercial or urban residential use. The site covered under this cleanup plan is a 11.7-acre area located on the central portion of the former rail yard property. The proposed cleanup plan includes excavation of contaminated soil from the western 8.7-acre area of the site, consolidation on the eastern three-acre area of the site and covering contaminated soil with a protective vegetated cap. For more information and a link to DEQ's Staff Report detailing the revised plan go to [ordeq.org/AshlandRailYardInfo](http://ordeq.org/AshlandRailYardInfo).

DEQ has extended the public comment period for the project into September 2023. Public comments are now due by 5 p.m. on Sep. 30, 2023. Comments should be sent by email to DEQ Project Manager Margaret Oscilia at [margaret.oscilia@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:margaret.oscilia@deq.oregon.gov), given by phone call to 503-726-6522, or sent by mail to Western Region DEQ, Attn: Margaret Oscilia, 4026 Fairview Industrial Drive SE, Salem, OR 97302.

DEQ is happy to answer questions anytime and will formally address all comments after the end of the comment period. DEQ will consider all comments and input before making a final decision.

Sincerely,

*Margaret L Oscilia*

Margaret L. Oscilia P.E, Project Manager  
Western Region Cleanup Program  
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

<sup>1</sup> This meeting or event is not sponsored nor endorsed by the library.