



Fact Sheet

Small-Scale Cleanups – Distressed Properties

The Department of Environmental Quality is the lead recipient of a \$6 million grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Columbia River Basin Restoration Funding Assistance Program to support small-scale cleanups of distressed properties across the state. There are over 40 properties identified with contamination that, while not an immediate risk, need cleanup to protect water resources and enable community benefits like affordable housing and greenspace. These properties vary from rural to urban areas and include former dry cleaners and fire training centers.

About this project

DEQ will carry out targeted cleanups at select sites in the Columbia River Basin, prioritizing those that benefit underserved communities and improve water quality. Through its Environmental Cleanup Program, DEQ will develop a prioritization process based on environmental justice, community support, and redevelopment readiness to choose up to 10 sites for cleanup efforts. These sites will undergo evaluation for cleanup options, followed by a proposed plan subject to public review and approval. Upon plan approval, DEQ contractors will perform the cleanups, concluding with site closure reports and, if applicable, No Further Action determinations.



Environmental justice

DEQ's Environmental Cleanup Program will work with communities to conduct an environmental justice screen on its backlog of small-scale cleanup sites and prioritize assessment and remediation to facilitate redevelopment within historically disadvantaged, overburdened and underserved communities. Sites will be screened using resources such as EPA's environmental justice screening and mapping tool, [EJScreen](#), and the Council of Environmental Quality's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, [CEJST](#). As new environmental and climate justice screening tools are developed, they may also be used for site screening and prioritization.

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Project outcomes

Eliminating and managing contamination sources at selected sites will protect the Columbia River Basin's groundwater and surface waters from legacy pollution. This effort will reduce human health risks and protect ecosystems, including fish, wildlife, and plants. Additionally, the project will ready properties for redevelopment, offering community advantages like healthy food access, recreational activities, and economic growth.



For more information

Contact DEQ's Environmental Cleanup Program to learn more about this project:

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