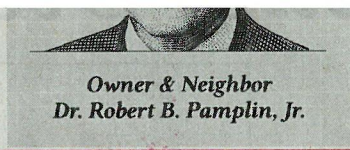




Rural life  
See LIFE, B8



Come  
See SPORTS, 1



Owner & Neighbor  
Dr. Robert B. Pamplin, Jr.

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## PORT, EPA AGREE ON SUPERFUND CLEANUP

■ *Terminal 4's long-delayed toxic remediation gets rolling*

By STEVE LAW  
The Tribune

The Port of Portland has reached a preliminary agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to resume Superfund cleanup work at Terminal 4, its busiest marine terminal, contaminated decades ago.

It's one of three major cleanups at Superfund sites that appear to be finally moving forward after several years of studies and delays. The Terminal 4 agreement, announced Jan. 11, comes a year after the EPA released its final \$1 billion cleanup plan for a polluted 10-mile stretch of the Willamette River known as the Portland Harbor Superfund Site.

The Trump administration has tilted the EPA in an industry-friendly direction, and is promising to be more flexible in how it works with companies on the hook to pay for cleanup costs. The federal agency also appears anxious to get cleanup moving in the Portland Harbor, which was named a Superfund site in 2000. News of the three cleanup projects advancing came shortly after Albert "Kell" Kelly, EPA Director Scott Pruitt's point man for the Superfund, came to Portland to meet with local business, government, environmental and tribal leaders.

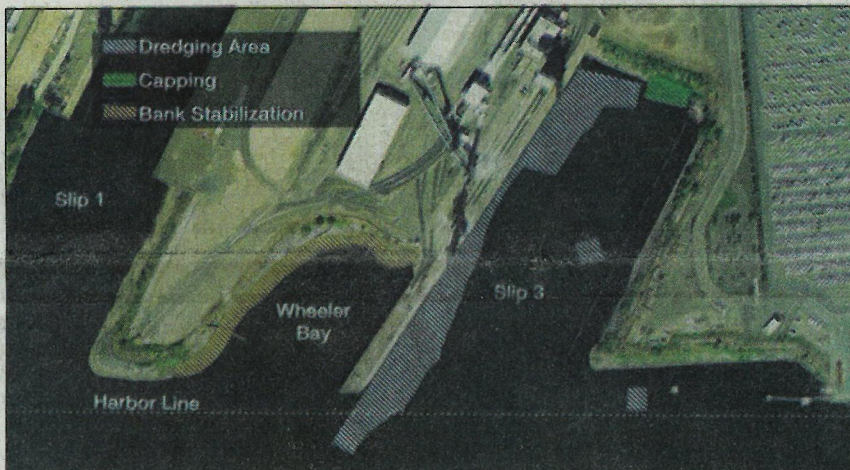
The EPA's efforts to get the cleanup going suits the Port of Portland which, like many other Superfund property owners, is anxious to finish the work and get on with regular business.

"Cleanups don't usually get any cheaper over time," said Jessica Hamilton, the port harbor environmental director.

Terminal 4 seemed a good place to move forward, Hamilton said, because it's clearly a Port of Portland responsibility, and the polluted parts of the terminal are off the main river current, so there are fewer concerns about polluted sediments gravitating into the area after it's done with cleanup.

The port already has spent \$22 million cleaning up Terminal 4, but stopped work in 2012 so EPA could finalize its cleanup plan, known as its Record of Decision.

The port, a key player elsewhere in the Portland Harbor, also wanted to show some leadership for the 140 or so "potentially responsible parties" on the hook to pay for the Superfund cleanup,



COURTESY PHOTO: PORT OF PORTLAND

Diagram shows past work at the two slips at Terminal 4 and at Wheeler Bay. Dredging the river bottom is much more expensive than capping contaminants in place.



COURTESY PHOTO: PORT OF PORTLAND

An aerial view shows part of Terminal 4, the Port of Portland's most active marine terminal. The Port is negotiating with the EPA on a cleanup plan to remove contamination introduced decades ago into the water.

"We can show that you can actually move forward with a cleanup and get some finality around that," she said. "This feels like the right first step for the port."

### Other cleanups moving ahead

EPA talks also have moved forward with NW Natural on the Gasco site, which is perhaps the most contaminated site in the Portland Harbor, as well as a group working to clean up River Mile 11 East that includes the city of Portland, Cargill Inc., CBS Corp., DIL

fiCorp.

"I think all of these are welcome news," said Travis Williams, executive director of Willamette Riverkeeper, a nonprofit environmental advocacy group.

However, Williams and other environmentalists, as well as Native American tribes, were critical of the sampling plan approved last month by the EPA, which will serve as a guidepost from which to measure the effectiveness of cleanups. Among other limitations, the

The d'Amico was docked at Slip 3 in the Port of Portland's Terminal 4 last Thursday. The slip is used about 300 days a year, largely to export soda ash hauled here from Saskatchewan, Canada.

TRIBUNE PHOTO: JONATHAN HOUSE

## PPS staff may have violated elections law

*Public workers taken to task urging yes vote on Measure*

By SHASTA KEARNS MOORE  
The Tribune

A Portland Public Schools decision to cize the result of a Jan. 9 vote of the board education may have run afoul of election

A newsletter sent Jan. 17 to about 58,000 parents, students and community members notified the school board's unanimous decision to urge to pass Ballot Measure 101. It links to a page on the PPS website with quotes from board members about why they feel the measure is important to pass.

A Jan. 9 tweet by Harry Esteve, director of strategic communications and outreach at PPS, also noted the decision.

The Secretary of State's handbook on restrictions on political campaigning by public employees states that if there is a decision by a political body on a ballot item, no public employee time may be used to prepare or promote that decision.

A public employee may not, according to 16 of the handbook, "include the vote or position on the governing body in a jurisdiction newsletter or other publication."

One exception would be if the public employee is acting as part of their regular job duties, regularly cited neutral lists of the outcomes of all of the jurisdiction's votes.

Neither the PPS Pulse newsletter nor Esquivel's Twitter account noted any other decisions that night, which included a corrective action for botched financial statements, a complaint appeal and various items on the business agenda, according to the board materials.

Debra Royal, chief of staff for Secretary of Education Dennis Richardson, declined comment other than to say that the Elections Division would investigate if it receives a complaint.

Chief Petitioner for Ballot Measure 101, Parrish, said she believes the school district violated elections law, but that it's not the most serious she's heard of in her campaign to get the health insurance tax.

Parrish said school staffers at Beaverton School District forwarded her a Dec. 18 all-staff

See PPS

## Oregon joins lawsuit over net neutrality repeal

*21 states sue FCC over change that disrupts internet traffic*

By PARIS ACHEN  
Capital Bureau

Oregon has joined 20 other states and the District of Columbia in launching a legal challenge to the Federal Communications Commission's decision Dec. 14 to repeal a rule barring internet providers from blocking or charging more for access to one website over another.

The complaint, filed Tuesday, Jan. 16, in the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C., asks the court to overturn the decision to repeal "net neutrality" and to find it unlawful. The suit argues that the decision by the FCC was an abuse of power and that it violated the U.S. Constitution and the Communications Act of 1934.

Furthermore, attorneys general of the 21 states argue that the action conflicted with notice and comment rule-making requirements.

Other plaintiffs in the case are the att