United States Environmental Protection Agency

Portland Harbor Superfund Site

Hunter Young, US EPA

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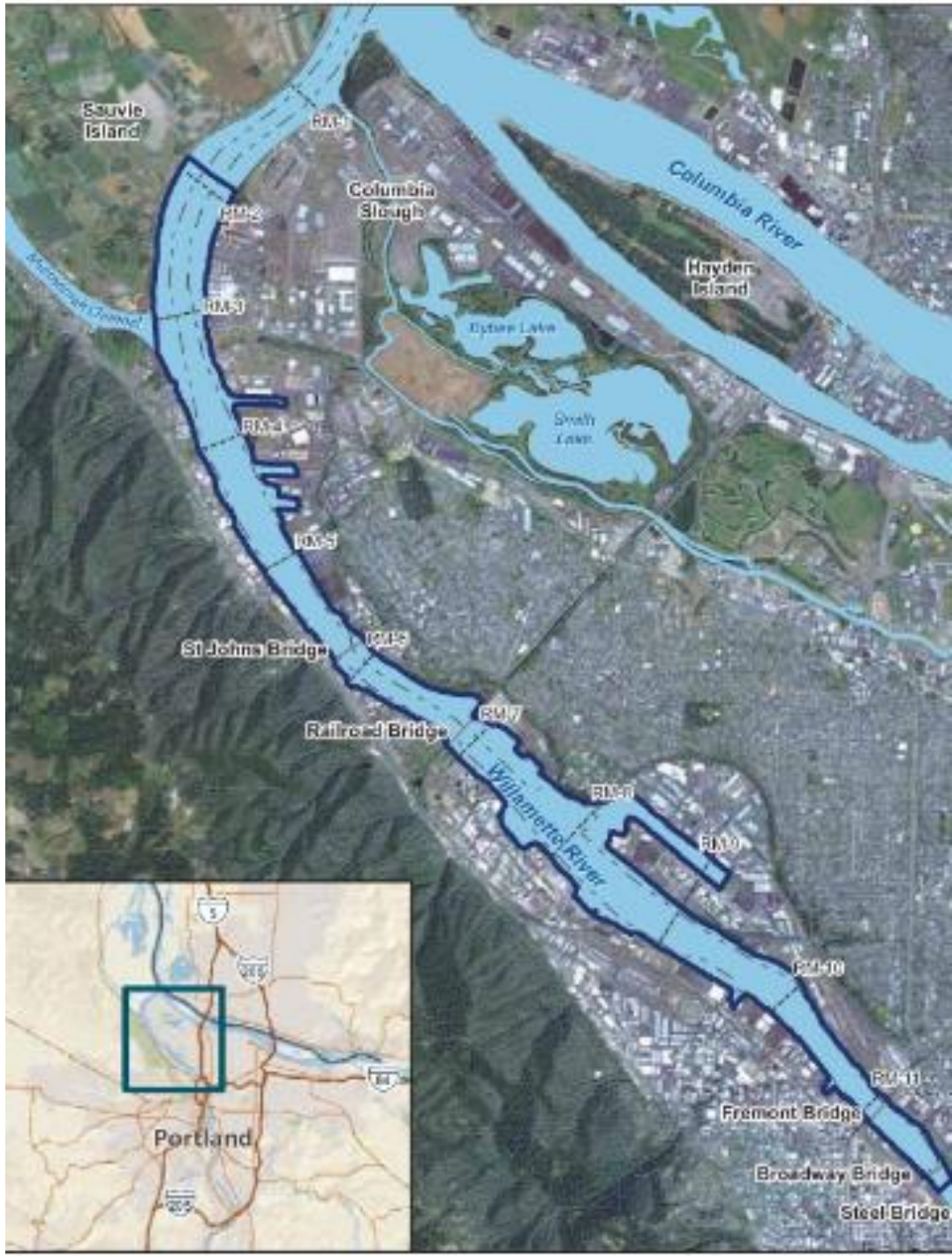
Portland Harbor Superfund Site: Background

- Lower Willamette River located north of downtown Portland
- Listed on National Priorities List in 2000
- Record of Decision signed in 2017
- Currently in the Remedial Design Phase



Portland Harbor Superfund Site: Background

- 10 River Miles
- 64 Contaminants of Concern
- Focused COCs (PCBs, PAHs, DDX, D/Fs)
- ~160 potentially responsible parties
- ~$1.3 billion remedy
- ~3 Million cubic yards removed from the site
- ~13 years of Remedial Action

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Contaminant Exposure to People

Recommended maximum meals*, per month, for resident fish:

Recommended maximum meals*, per month, for shellfish:

Note: Harvesting freshwater clams and mussels in the Willamette River is ILLEGAL.

*All recommended meals will be 0 (zero) when Superfund clean-up activities (for example, dredging) begin and soils are disturbed.

Oregon Health Authority, 03/2018

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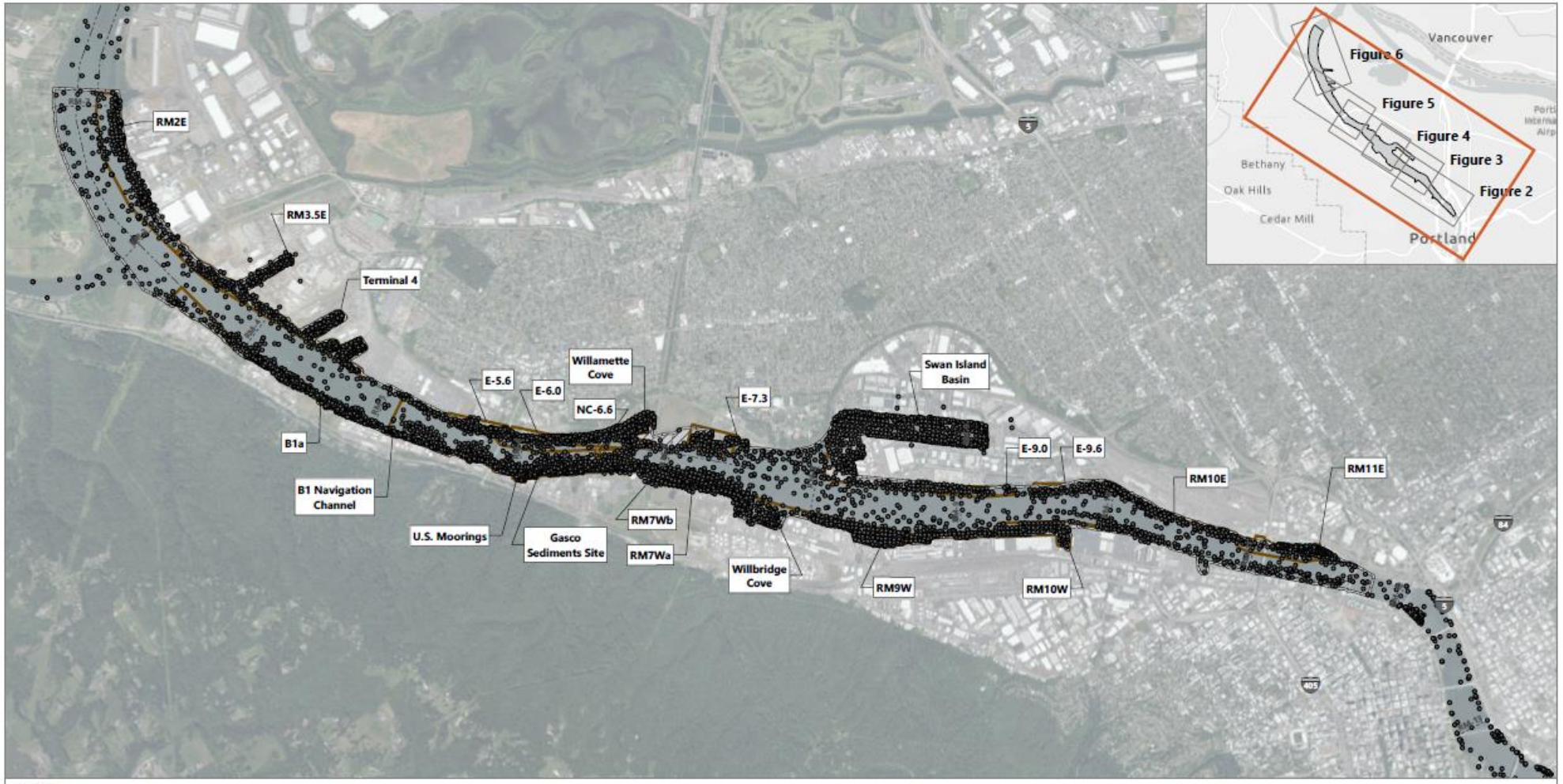

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Filepath: \\GSTFile01\gis\Jobs\NW_Natural_Gas_0029\NWN_Allocation\Maps\requests\2025\AQ_NWN_Allocation_Misc_Requests.aprx | AQ_SamplingDensity - sample distribution

ANCHOR QEA

Figure 1
Portland Harbor Study Area
Spatial Assessment of Available Portland Harbor Sediment Sample Data

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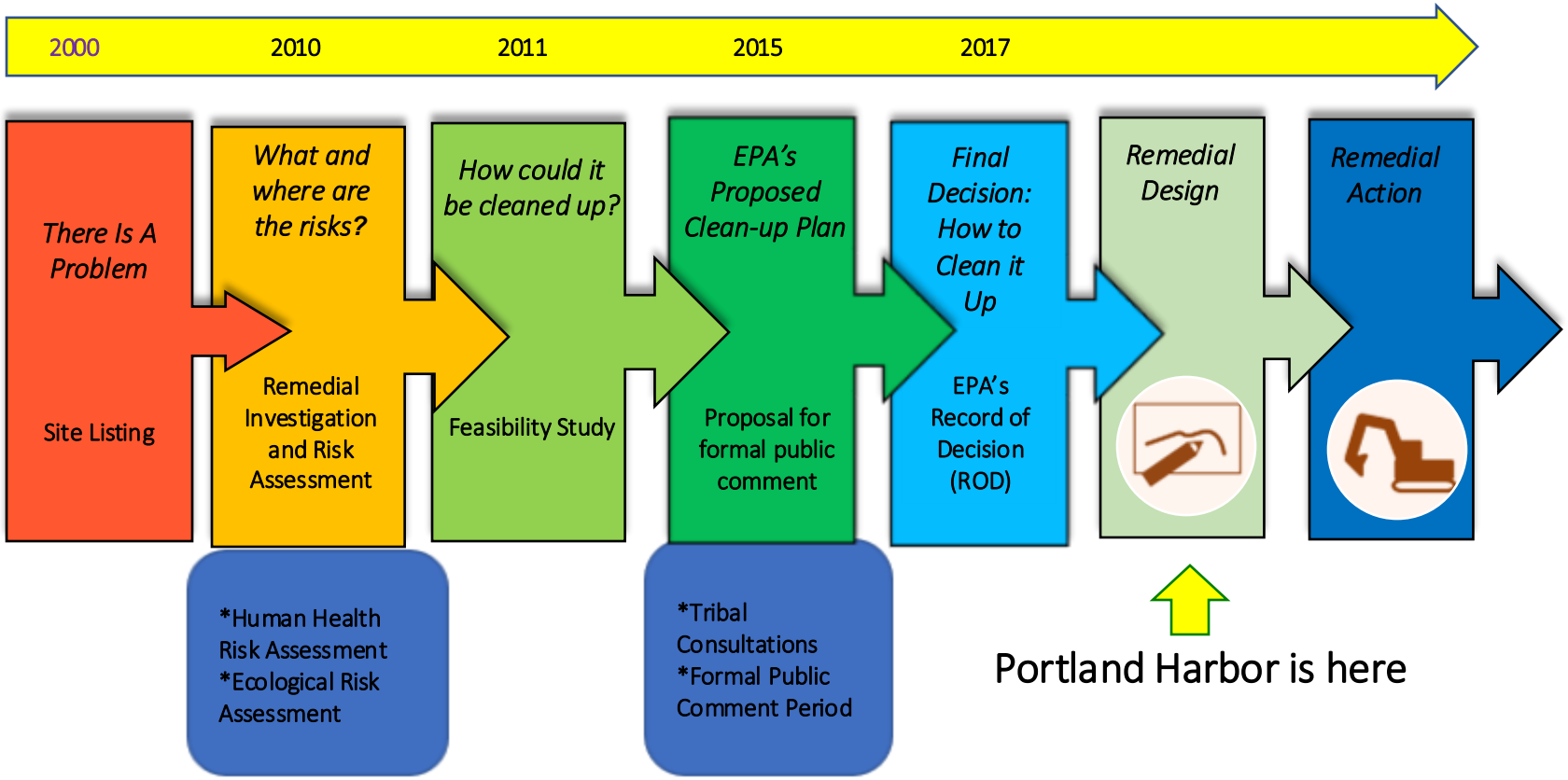
Superfund Process & Portland Harbor



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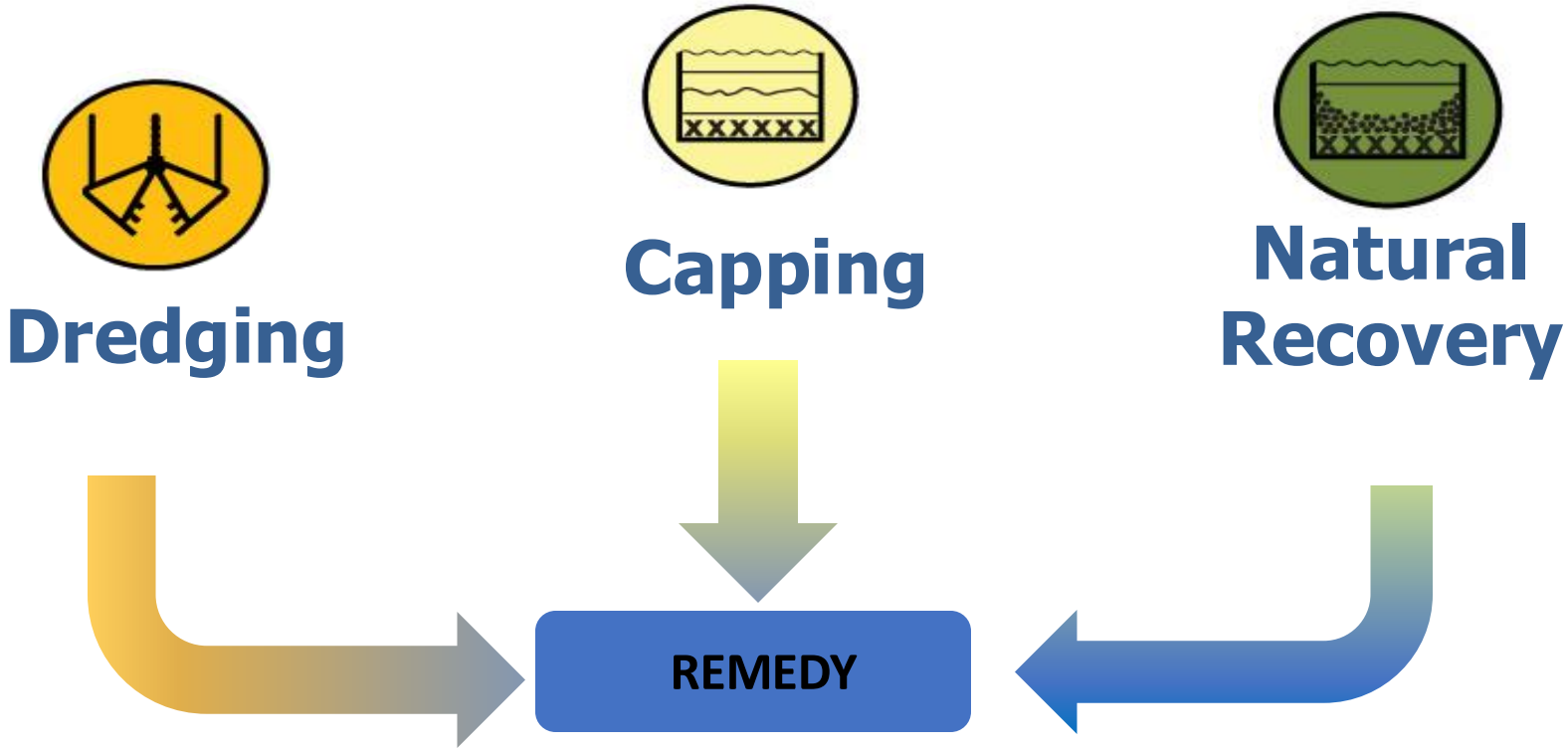
How To Clean it Up



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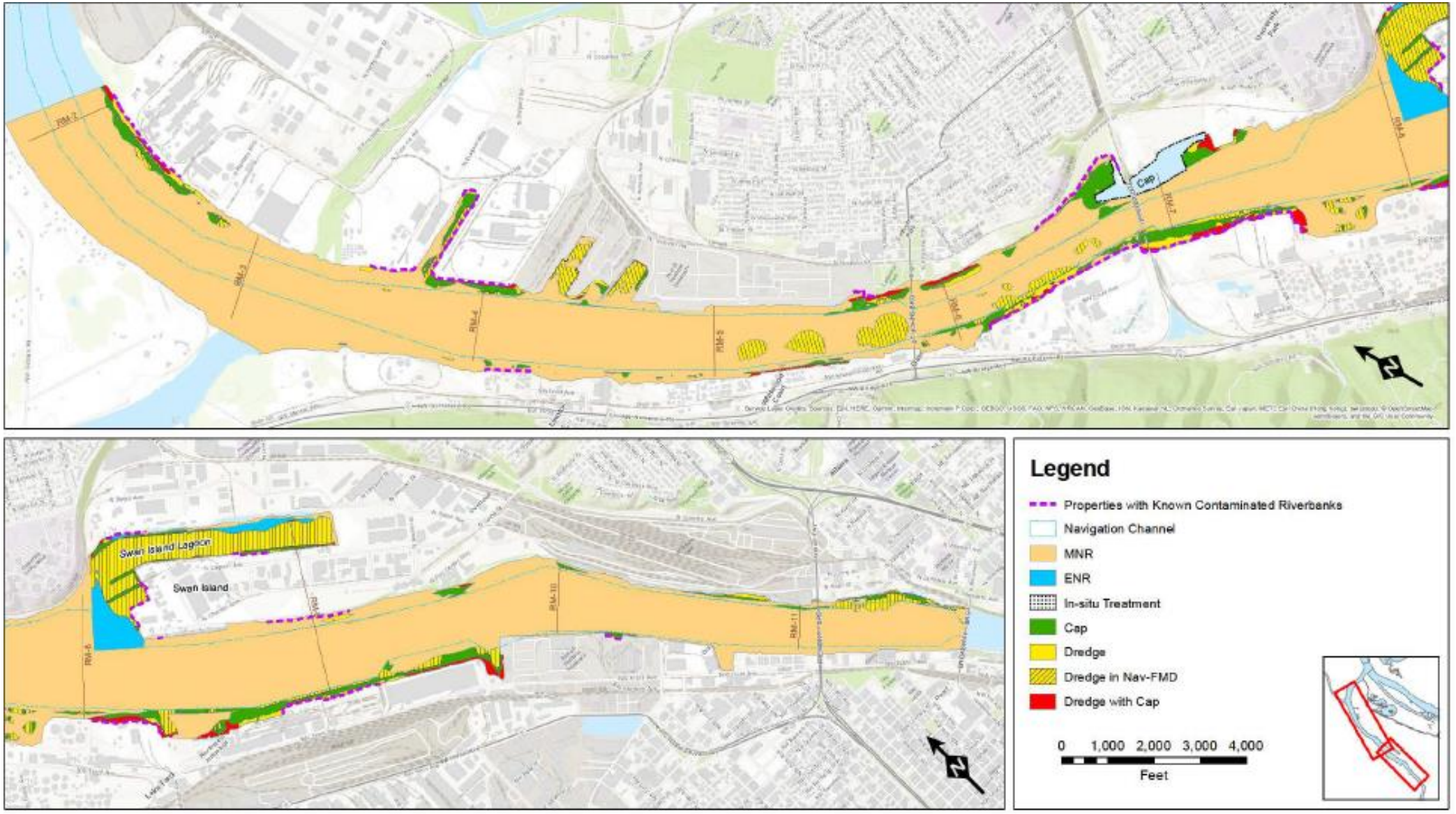

ESD Figure 14a. Remedial Footprint and Technology Assignments, Revised Remedy

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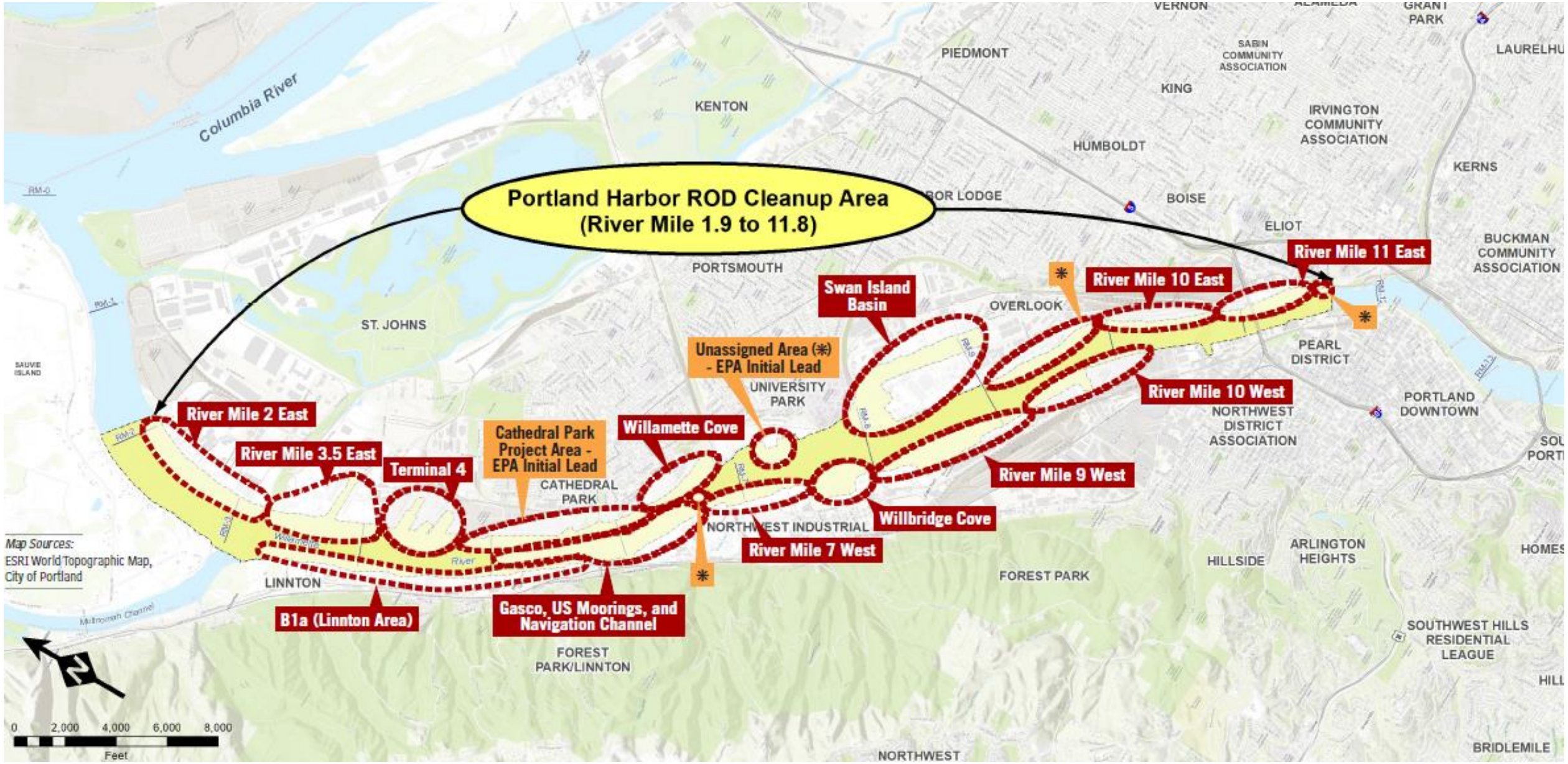

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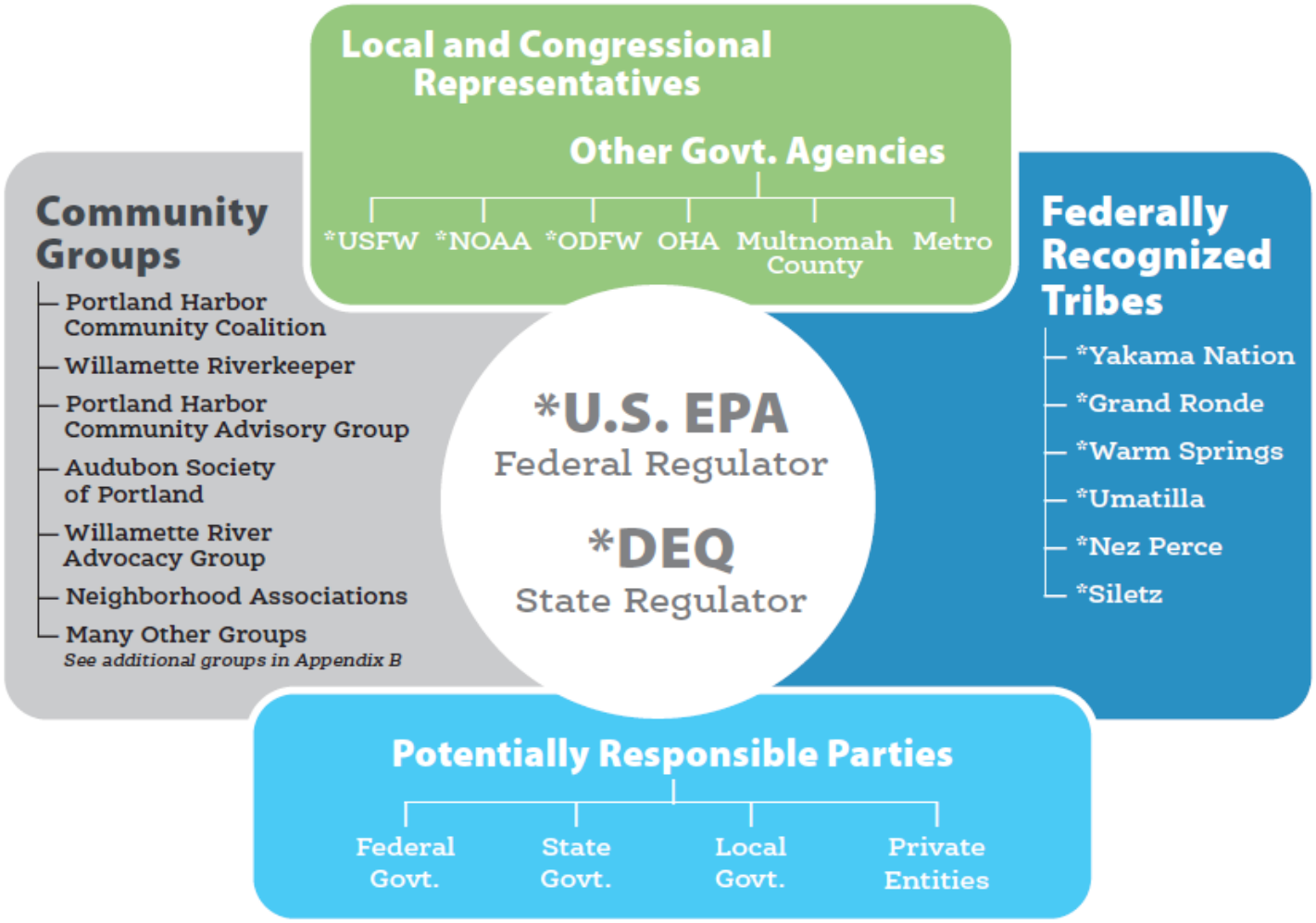

*Technical Coordinating Team (TCT) and Legal Coordinating Team (LCT) members

USFW (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
ODFW (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife)
NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)

U.S. EPA (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)
DEQ (Oregon Department of Environmental Quality)
OHA (Oregon Health Authority)

Remedial Design Major Components

For each project area at Portland Harbor:

- Pre-Design Investigation
- Sufficiency Assessment Report
- Basis of Design Report
- Supplemental Pre-Design Investigation
- Remedial Design Work Plan
- 30% Design
- 60% Design
- 95% Design
- 100% Design

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Portland Harbor Superfund Site Remedial Design Status

SEPTEMBER 2025

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Project Area	Sufficiency Assessment	Preliminary Design Investigation	Basis of Design Report	Remedial Design Work Plan	Preliminary Remedial Design (30%)	Intermediate Remedial Design (60%)	Pre-Final and Final Remedial Design (95%, 100%)
B1a	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Gasco	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
US Moorings	✓	✓					
Navigation Channel	✓	✓	✓				
River Mile 7 West (Bayer)		✓	✓				
River Mile 7 West (Arkema)		✓					
Wilbridge Cove	✓	✓	✓				
River Mile 9 West	✓	✓	✓	✓			
River Mile 10 West	✓	✓	✓	✓			
River Mile 11 East	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
River Mile 10 East	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Swan Island Basin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Willamette Cove	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Cathedral Park Project Area	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Terminal 4	✓	✓	✓	✓			
River Mile 3.5 East	✓	✓	✓	✓			
River Mile 2 East	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Unassigned Areas	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

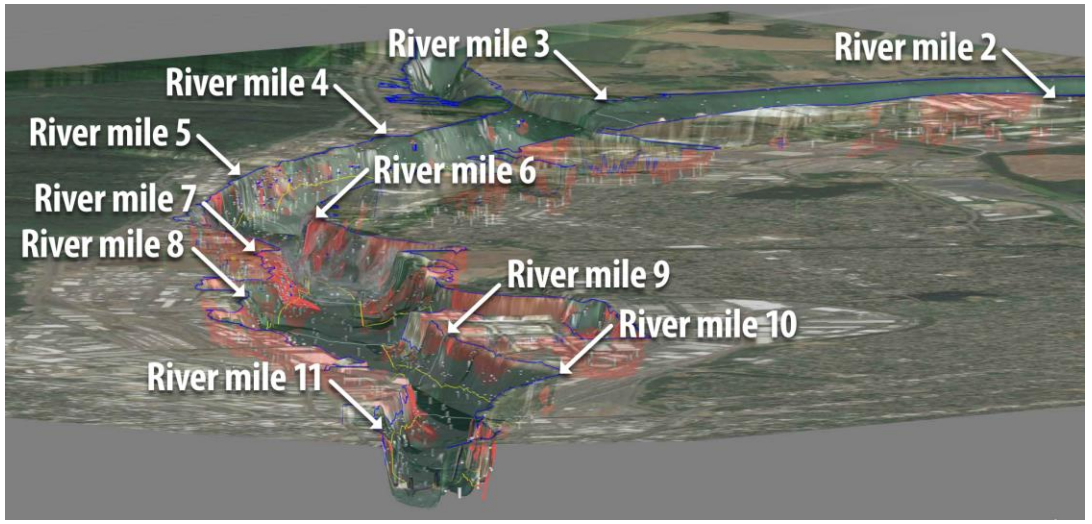
KEY

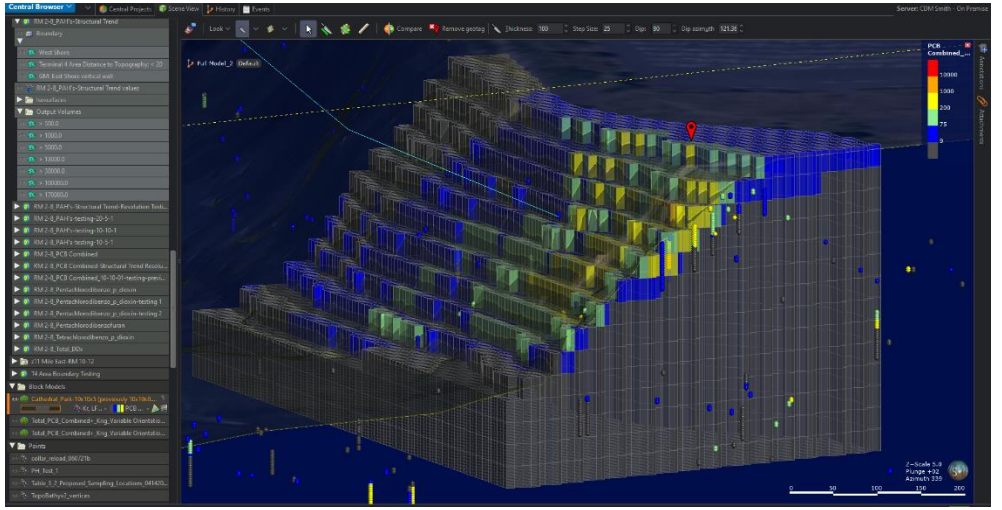
- In Progress
- ✓ Complete
- Not Started
- Updated

Remedial Design Major Considerations

For each project area at Portland Harbor

- Source Control
- Data Gaps
- Constructibility
- River Conditions
- Resiliency
- Habitat
- Community Impacts





Additional Investigations

Addresses data gaps by conducting additional field investigations and refining the remedial action areas.

Source: *Pre-Design Investigation Work Plan, River Mile 9W, Foth*

Source: *CDM-Smith*

Remedial Design Workshops

- EPA, TCT, and RD Performing Parties participate in routine technical workshops
- Facilitation is shared between EPA and RD Performing Parties
- Promotes consistency across the site
- Provides a space for robust discussion

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Lessons Learned

- Consistency is important but … every project is special
- Get comfortable with an iterative process
- Iterative processes can be a schedule buster
- Save time, pick up the phone

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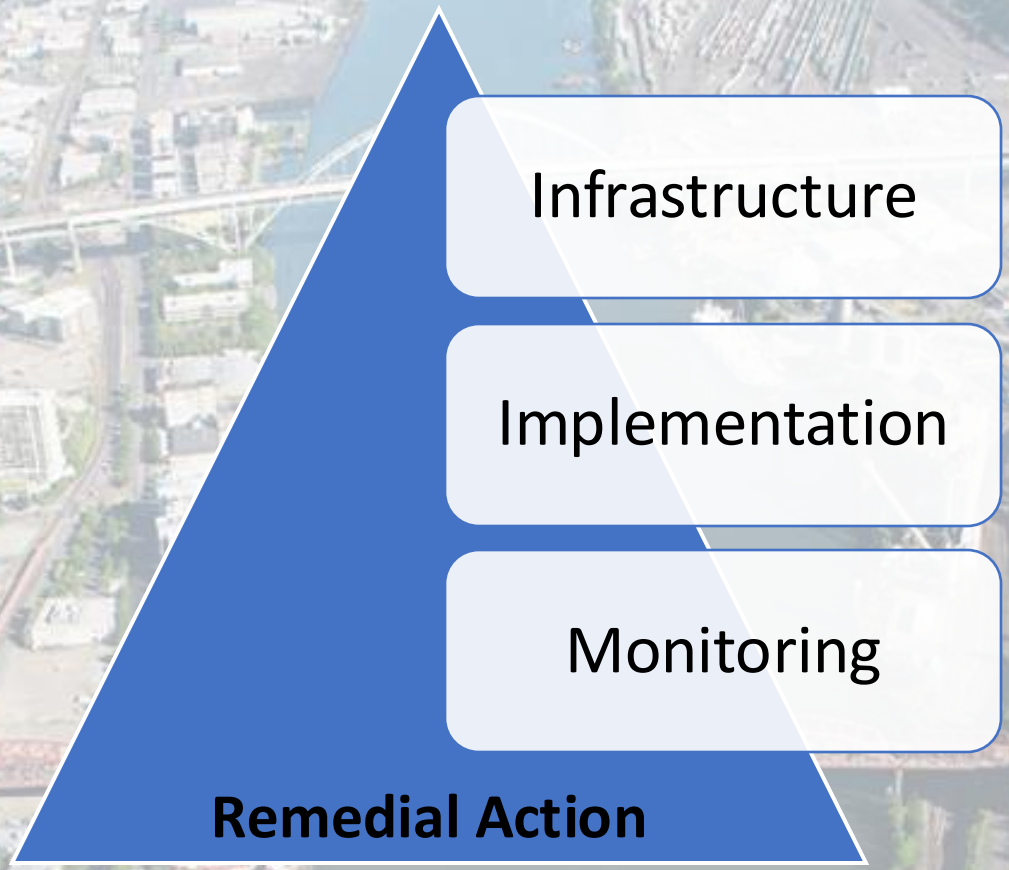
Challenges Ahead



Final Thoughts

- Each design must balance many complex considerations, many that are specific to each Project Area
- Design is underway throughout the Portland Harbor and making substantial progress
- EPA is readying for a seamless transition to remedial action

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Source: *EPA*

Questions?

Hunter Young, EPA Remedial Project Manager

- **E-mail: young.hunter@epa.gov**
- **Phone:** 503-326-5020