



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL
ADMINISTRATOR

October 12, 2017

Richard Whitman, Director
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
700 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 600
Portland, Oregon 97232

Dear Mr. Whitman,

Thank you for your letter regarding the Portland Harbor Site and the on-going negotiations with the Potential Responsible Parties known as the Pre-RD Group. Please know that the document you received was a discussion draft and not a proposed final document. The Environmental Protection Agency's overarching goal remains to implement the January 2017 Record of Decision.

We understand that there was a perception of a deadline for finalizing the Administrative Order on Consent and concern about EPA consulting with our Memorandum of Understanding partners. There is no such deadline. The EPA deeply values our state, tribal, and federal partners in the cleanup process, and takes our responsibilities under the 2001 Portland Harbor MOU very seriously. I believe we do have a mutual goal of moving the process forward expeditiously to allow work in the river to commence as soon as possible.

The EPA has clarified with the MOU parties that we have not accepted the August 25, 2017 Work Plan, the AOC, or the Scope of work. On Friday, October 6, 2017, the EPA transmitted these documents with our comments to the MOU parties, and this week convened a Technical Coordination Team meeting to discuss them along with draft terms of the agreement in principal as of September 19, 2017. The EPA has extended the review time for the TCT members on the Work Plan, AOC and Scope of Work until October 24, 2017. We are also hosting a second TCT meeting next week to further discuss the documents. We will consider all of the comments and concerns of the MOU parties to supplement our October 6, 2017 comments.

EPA remains committed to working with all parties as we move forward to implement the ROD and to ensure that the remedy is implemented in a manner that is protective of human health and the environment. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at 206-553-1234 or by email at pierzadeh.michelle@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michelle L. Pirezadeh".

Michelle L. Pirezadeh
Acting Regional Administrator

cc: Kevin Parrett, Manager, ODEQ Northwest Region Cleanup Program

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon

Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

Nez Perce Tribe

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife