



Protecting Oregon from Hazardous Waste

Cleanup and disposal of hazardous waste remains a significant environmental issue in Oregon, yet funding for critical programs has not kept pace with the need to keep Oregonians safe. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality is proposing to both increase and simplify the fees that support these statewide programs.

THE NEED

Hazardous waste and hazardous substances are byproducts of our industrial economy. DEQ's job is to keep the public safe by ensuring safe handling, disposal and cleanup of wastes that pose a health risk to anyone who might become exposed to them. DEQ manages waste designated as hazardous under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and oversees cleanup of brownfields, leaking underground fuel storage tanks and other contaminated sites.

FUNDING STRUCTURE

DEQ's Hazardous Waste and Environmental Cleanup programs are partially funded through tipping fees – the money charged to dispose waste at a hazardous waste landfill.

DEQ'S PROPOSAL

Under Senate Bill 57, the tipping fee would increase to \$5 per ton from \$2 per ton for treated hazardous waste; liquid and solid waste generated by a cleanup; and non-hazardous waste that is disposed in a RCRA-permitted landfill. This would be the first increase of this fee since it was imposed in 1997.

The tiered tipping fees for certain hazardous waste, including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), waste from contaminated cleanup sites, or closure of a landfill, would be replaced by a single flat fee of \$20 per ton.

Other incidental fees would be deleted, including \$15 per ton for hazardous waste in need of treatment and \$7.50 per ton for waste leftover in the primary production of steel in electric furnaces.

WHAT THE FEES PAY FOR

Funds collected from these fees pay for two critically important Oregon environmental programs:

DEQ's Hazardous Waste Program promotes the reduction and safe management of hazardous waste, issues permits to hazardous waste management facilities, inspects hazardous waste generators and used oil processors, and assists Oregon small businesses in complying with complex federal regulations.

The program receives approximately \$3.5 million a year from multiple sources, including fees, grants and cost recovery funds.

DEQ's Environmental Cleanup Program oversees the investigation and remediation of sites contaminated by hazardous substances. The program relies on a complex variety of revenue sources, including cost recovery, fees, federal grants and bond sales.

Cleanup and hazardous waste laws authorize DEQ to charge all reasonable costs associated with cleanup or hazardous waste activities at a particular site, including oversight and hiring contractors, if necessary. Many of DEQ's expenses are financed through cost recovery and from the parties performing cleanups.



CONTACTS