

## Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund Cleanup Roundtable: Frequently Asked Questions

Below are questions and answers regarding the Lower Duwamish Waterway Roundtable. If you have other questions, please contact Julie Congdon and [Congdon.Julie@epa.gov](mailto:Congdon.Julie@epa.gov) or 206-553-2752.

### ROUNDTABLE OPERATING PROCEDURES QUESTIONS

#### ***Will the Roundtable make recommendations using consensus?***

All members of the Roundtable will be involved with making recommendations to EPA. Recommendations are meant to provide input and feedback to the EPA on issues related to the LDW Superfund cleanup. The Roundtable may reach consensus on recommendations, and such recommendations will have added weight. However, Roundtable members can provide their own recommendations to EPA if consensus is not reached.

#### ***How many Roundtable meetings will there be in a year?***

EPA anticipates that the Roundtable would initially meet three times a year. When and how often the Roundtable meets can be adjusted depending on project activities and the phase of the cleanup. For example, when active cleanup is underway, the Roundtable might choose to meet more often to give feedback.

#### ***What is the time commitment to participate in the Roundtable?***

It is anticipated that a caucus leader would need to commit to about 64 hours a year for the Roundtable. This is assuming about three hours a month to review documents related to designing the cleanup, three Roundtable Meetings, and three Caucus Meetings. Roundtable members who are not caucus leaders can expect to spend about 16 hours a year at Roundtable meetings, plus 4-10 hours at caucus meetings.

### MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS

#### ***Can anyone participate in the Roundtable? Does EPA expect a certain type of expertise (e.g. technical experts, public involvement experts, department heads, staff, etc.)?***

There is no requirement for a particular type or level of expertise, as the Roundtable discussions will not focus only on technical details. Having a variety of expertise at the table will, we hope, help bring together scientists and engineers, people with direct knowledge of neighborhoods and communities in the Duwamish Valley, business people, tribal representatives, and people familiar with local government activities and processes.

#### ***What if I'm not sure what caucus I belong in?***

It is up to the individual Roundtable member to consider which caucus best reflects the member's role, values and interests. Caucuses have overlapping interests. As caucuses take form and select leaders, it may be appropriate to adjust membership based on what works for the caucus as a whole. There is also an ad-hoc seat for those who feel that they don't fit into a particular caucus.

#### ***Please define the "Ad-Hoc" seat(s).***

An Ad-Hoc seat has been proposed so that all interested parties could potentially participate in the Roundtable, even if they don't fit into an existing caucus or are not part of a defined seat. Ad-Hoc members could include an interested member of the public or other non-governmental interest group as appropriate.

#### ***Please explain "resource members".***

Resource Members were described in the [Draft Operating Procedures](#) as entities who provide information to the Roundtable but who do not participate in the development of recommendations. Examples might include the Washington State Department of Ecology, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the US Army Corps of Engineers, Washington State Department of Health and

others who may have relevant knowledge. Resource members could also include experts from academia or the private sector. Resource members do not need to be fixed members but attend meetings as needed.

***Could a Roundtable member have a conflict of interest in participating in the Roundtable?***

Provided it is demonstrated that the person or entity represents the interest of the larger group or caucus, and not their individual interests, their participation in the Roundtable should be acceptable. What constitutes an adequate demonstration has not been determined, but at a minimum, we would seek a written statement documenting the individual's capacity as a representative of the group.

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT QUESTIONS**

***Will community members be able to ask questions or make recommendations at Roundtable meetings?***

General members of the public who attend the Roundtable meetings as audience members will have defined opportunities to ask questions or make comments to the Roundtable. In addition, they can direct ideas or topics to the leader or a member of the caucus that may best reflect their interests. It is the Roundtable members who will make recommendations to EPA regarding the design and implementation of the cleanup.

***Will Caucus meetings be open to the public and to non-caucus interests?***

The Roundtable meetings will be open to the public. Interested parties can sign up to receive email updates related to the Roundtable (agendas, meeting summaries, etc.).

***Is there a limit to how many community members can attend or will it be open anyone in the community?***

Roundtable meetings will be open for observation and at defined points, for questions and comments. How many community members can attend will only be limited by room size.

## **ROUNDTABLE MEETING CONTENT QUESTIONS**

***Will Roundtable meetings also speak about health risks in the LDW, i.e. PCBs?***

Very little. The cleanup is intended to reduce health risks from seafood consumption. During the design phase, the primary purpose of sampling is to determine what cleanup action is required in what area. We don't expect to change the human health risk assessment that EPA used in developing the cleanup plan.

The Roundtable may discuss how to prevent physical safety hazards during cleanup action, including fishers. Communicating with fishing communities about Duwamish seafood is the Institutional Control (IC) work that the Community Health Advocates are doing.

***How will Duwamish Valley-related topics that fall outside the scope of the Superfund cleanup be addressed at Roundtable meetings?***

The Roundtable will address topics within the scope of the Superfund cleanup of the LDW, as EPA designs and implements the cleanup plan finalized in 2014. The facilitator will redirect the Roundtable if topics outside the scope of the Superfund cleanup arise. EPA hopes that the Roundtable will foster good working relationships between Roundtable members, making it easier for the members to work on issues and projects unrelated to the Superfund cleanup but nonetheless important to the communities in and around the Duwamish Valley.