# Dredging Contaminated Sediments Mixed with Large Building Demolition Debris, Artifacts, and Munitions

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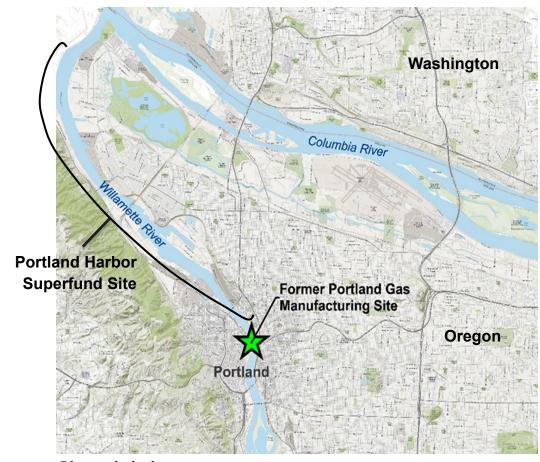




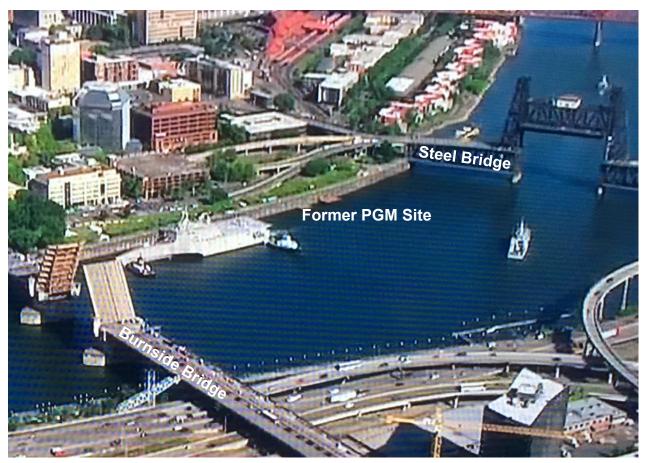




# Former Portland Gas Manufacturing (PGM) Site Location and History



Site vicinity map

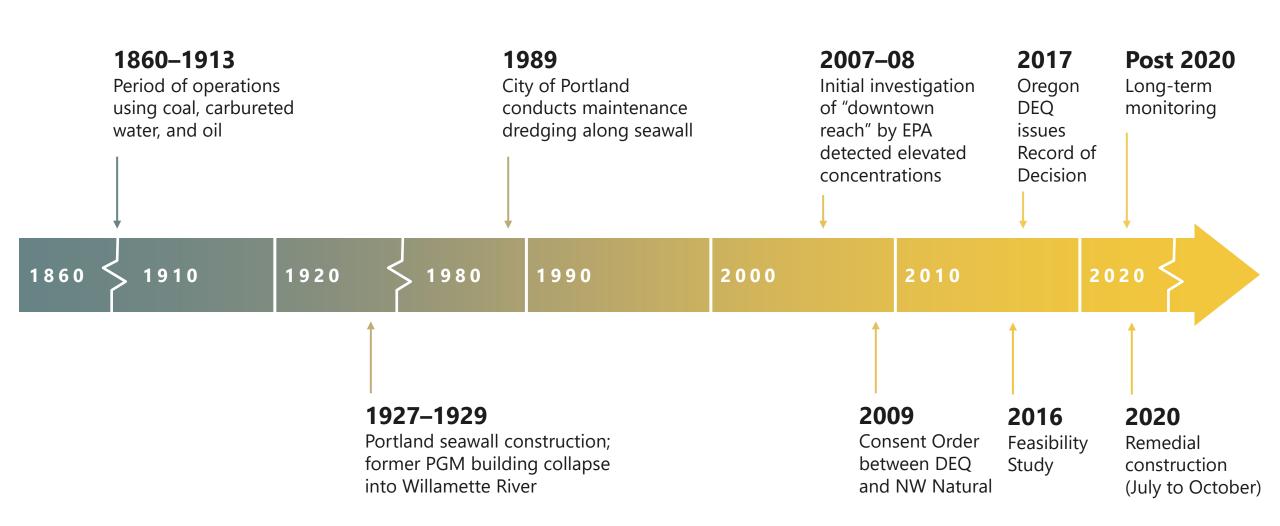


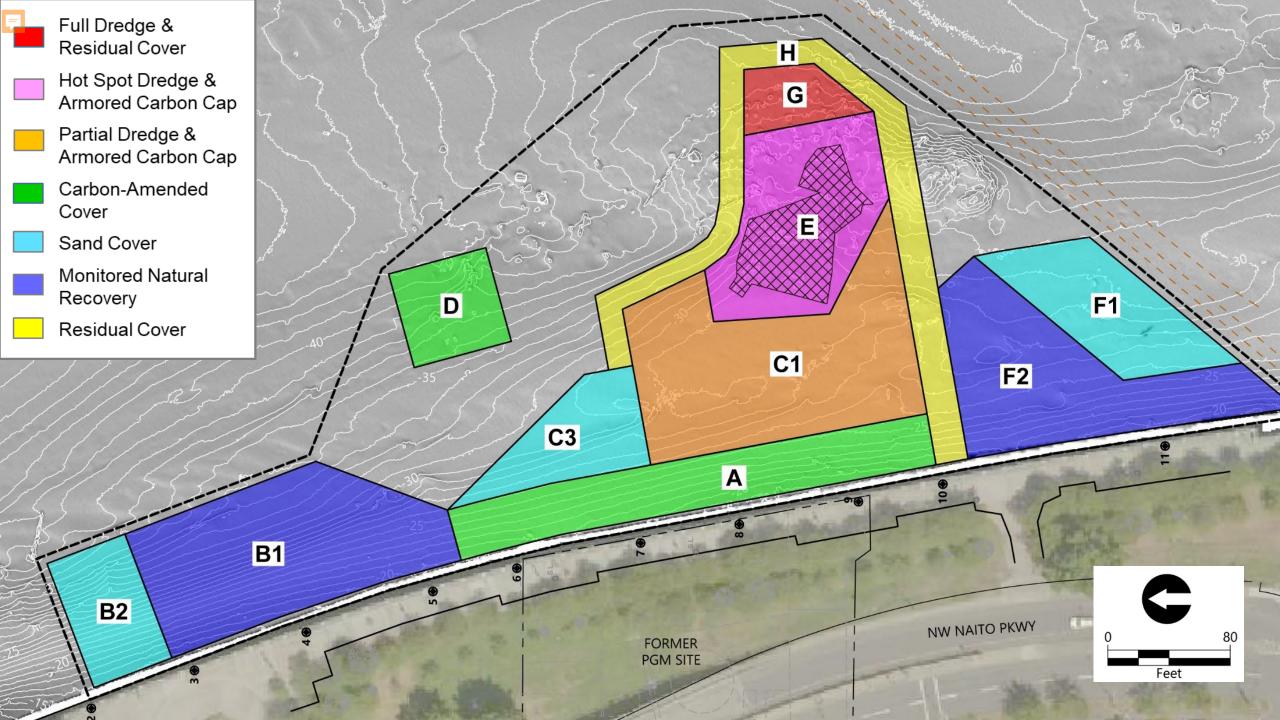
Site location





#### Timeline of Former PGM Site





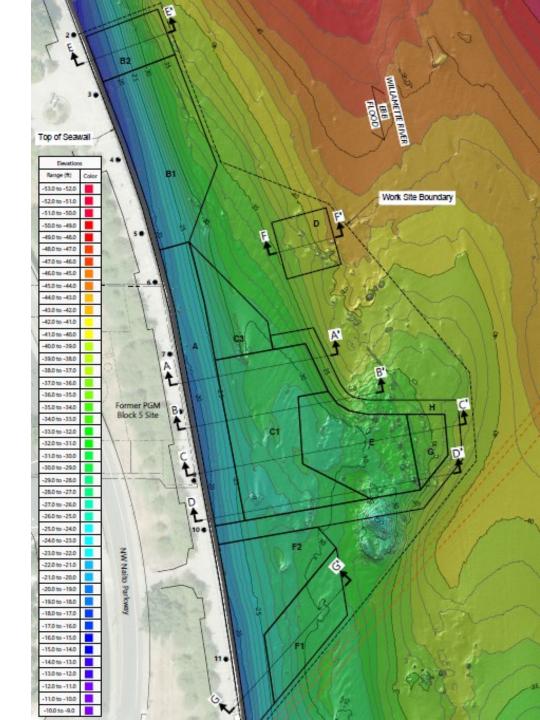


#### ♣ CHALLENGE

#### Historical Debris

- Large pile of debris was present offshore
- Preconstruction diver observations confirmed that the pile contained large sections of brick wall, concrete, lumber, and corrugated sheet metal
- Evaluation of historical debris led to recording as an archeological site

Preconstruction bathymetry map





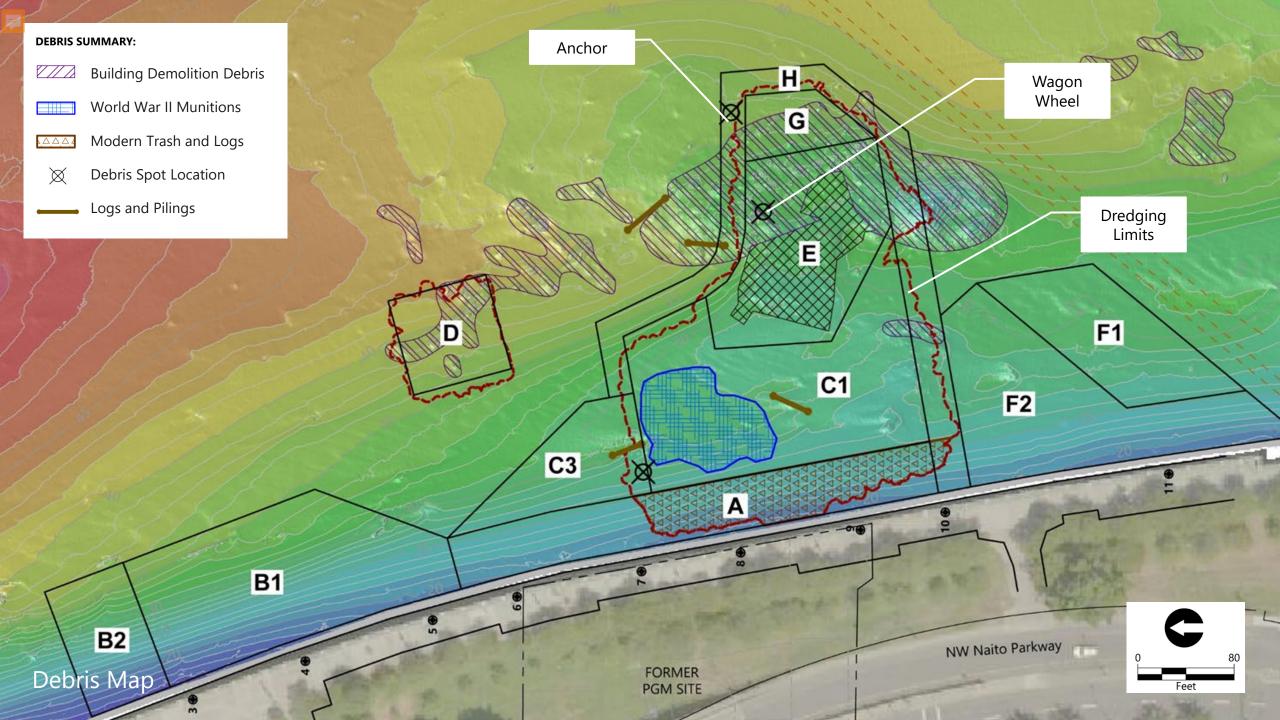
### Diver Photos of Offshore Building Debris



Former PGM plant structure



Brick wall, angle iron, and arch window

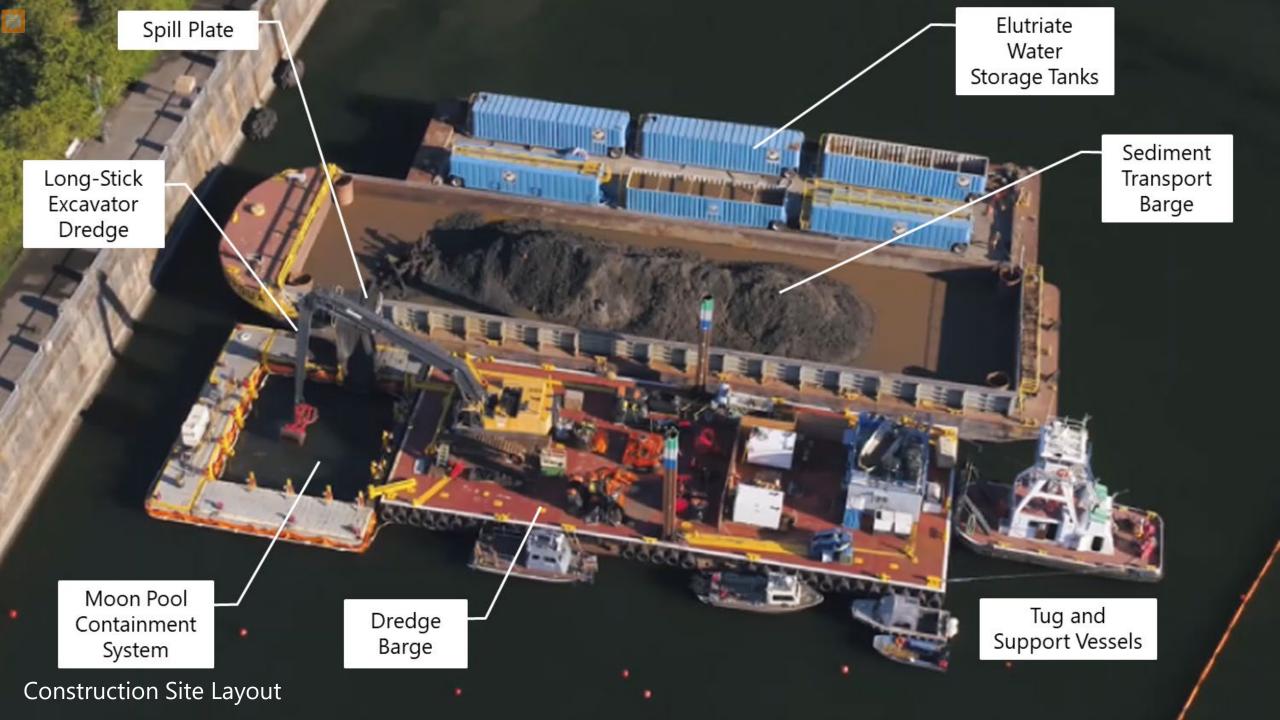




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#### Debris Removal Methods and Discoveries

- Initial surface debris removal activities began July 13
- Additional subsurface debris continued to be encountered and removed along with contaminated sediment through the end of dredging
- Debris removal was also required to prepare substrates for cap and cover placement
- In addition to historical demolition debris, other items encountered included modern trash, potential cultural objects, logs and pilings, and World War II munitions





## **Building Demolition Debris**



Brick wall segment



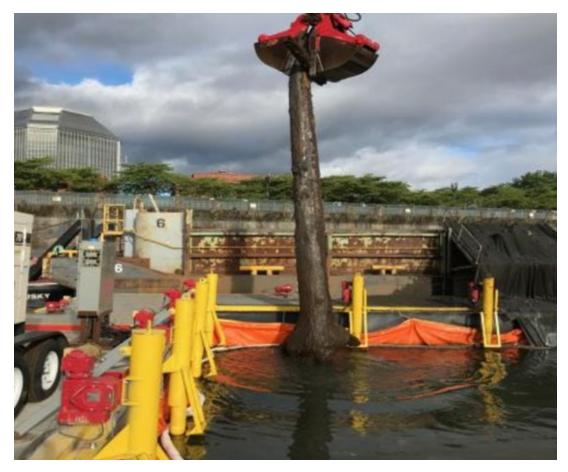
Concrete blocks



# Modern Trash and Logs



Bicycles and scooters



Logs



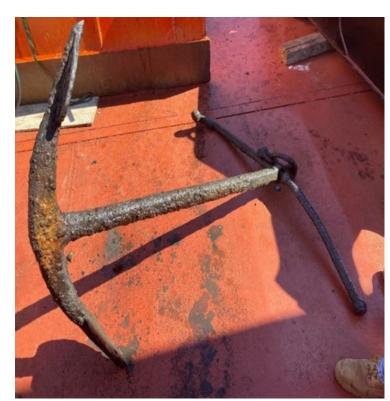
### Non-Significant Historical Debris



Wheel hub and spokes



1913 Portland Gas and Coke Company delivery wagons



6-foot anchor



### MEC Discovery

- World War II-era Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) discovered July 23, 2020
  - Two 20-mm rounds and 1 rifle bullet
- Discovered at the base of the spill plate
- Work suspended for 19 days while plans were prepared and safety protections put into place



20-mm rounds and rifle bullet



#### SOLUTION / LESSONS

### Munitions Response Planning

- Engaged munitions expert USA Environmental
- Developed revised work plans for dredging and dredged materials screening for munitions recovery
- Permitted an exclusion zone in Waterfront Park and set up blast shields in work areas
- Munitions sorting operation in Vancouver, Washington

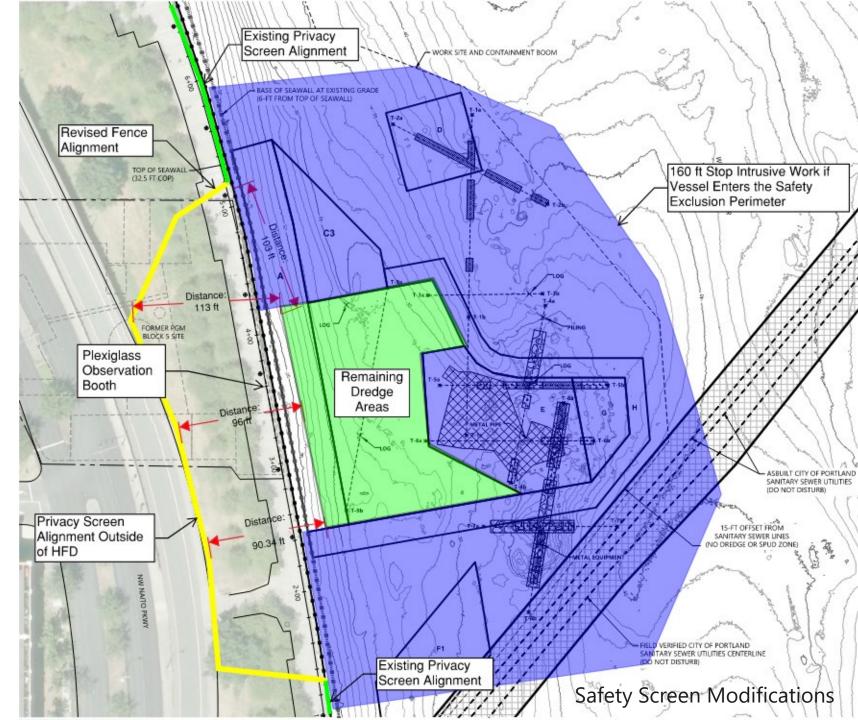




Bulletproof glass barrier

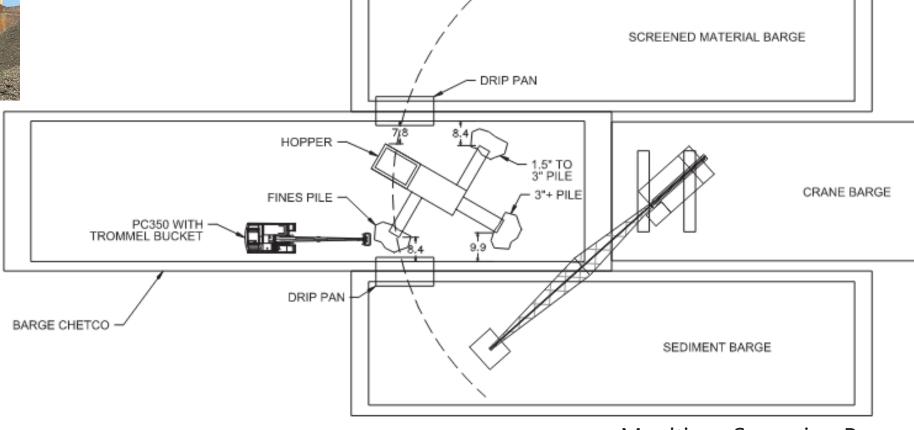


Bulletproof glass agency observation booth





#### Barge-mounted power screening





**Munitions Screening Process** 

Hand raking by munitions expert



#### Historical World War II Munitions



Ammunition box with 36incendiary and 175 high-explosive 20-mm rounds



Munitions expert with "practice" rounds



20-mm high-explosive and incendiary rounds



### Summary

- Well-coordinated team from NW Natural, SES, Anchor QEA, Oregon DEQ, and USA Environmental helped establish a path forward for the remedial action that was safe for workers and the community
- All munitions associated with the PGM remediation work were disposed of or destroyed
- All target sediment dredge areas were successfully removed, with debris removal 100% effective







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