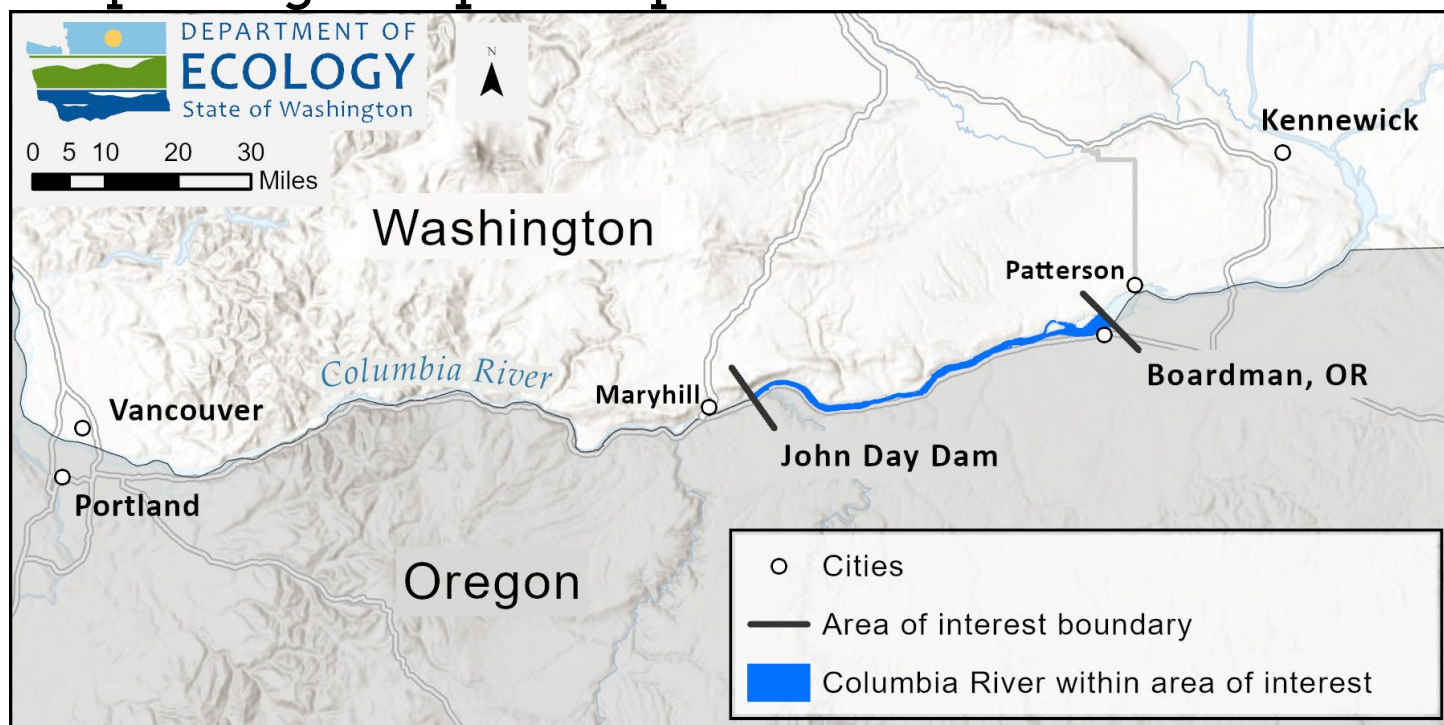


Improving Oil Spill Response on the Columbia River



Proposed rule changes would enhance spill response by strategically staging equipment for rapid deployment along the highlighted portion of the river.

Current Situation

The Department of Ecology wants your input on a rulemaking to improve oil spill response capacity along the Columbia River between Patterson, WA, and the John Day Dam.

Last year, 286 million gallons of gasoline and diesel were shipped by tank barge along the Columbia River. If oil is spilled near Portland or the Tri-Cities, resources are readily available to respond. The farther away from those cities, the longer it would take for equipment to arrive. Because successful spill mitigation is dependent on a rapid response, Ecology is proposing changes to Chapter 173-182 of the Washington Administrative Code intended to reduce response times in this remote area of Washington.

Proposed Changes

Updating this rule would require vessel companies moving oil along the Columbia River to strategically store equipment for rapid deployment, and identify local personnel to conduct early response actions.

Your Voice is Important

Ecology welcomes your input in this rulemaking process. As part of the community who would be impacted by a spill, we want to hear your thoughts.

You can review the current language and submit comments from May 18 through October 30, 2026. Scan the QR code on the next page to visit our rulemaking website where you can view documents, leave comments, and join a mailing list for updates on the process.



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To request an ADA accommodation, email ecyadacoordinator@ecy.wa.gov, call (360) 407-6831, or dial 711 to call through the Washington Telecommunications Relay for services like text telephone (TTY). Visit ecology.wa.gov/ADA for more accessibility information.