



AmeriTies-West

Questions and answers on initial monitoring results

Q. Is air in The Dalles safe?

The data indicate there is no immediate or short-term health risk due to naphthalene or PAH levels in The Dalles. Even the highest levels of naphthalene recorded over the past month fall well short of any short-term screening level, according to the Oregon Health Authority. However, naphthalene and PAHs can increase lifetime cancer risk with prolonged exposure. The long-term increased cancer risk from PAHs indicated by these monitoring results are likely to be minimal, but could be higher for naphthalene. A longer period of monitoring and additional time for OHA to analyze the results are needed to more precisely assess the long-term risk.

Q. What happens next?

OHA is not advising that community members take any special health precautions based on these results. However, DEQ has already received a commitment from AmeriTies to accelerate emission reduction measures. The company will be using a preservative mixture with less naphthalene content and will be conducting a thorough review of the oil scrubber, which is the main emission control on site. DEQ will also continue collecting monitoring results.

Q. What does the data mean?

The data indicate that people with lifetime exposure (80 years) may be at increased risk of cancer.

Q. What is DEQ doing to lower naphthalene levels?

DEQ is working with AmeriTies to accelerate emission reduction actions as defined in the [Mutual Agreement and Order](#) signed by the company on April 8, 2016 and the Aug. 1, 2016 [amended timetable for a switch to low-naphthalene tie treatment](#).

Q. Wasn't Bullseye Glass about the same amount over the benchmark when DEQ moved forward with cease and desist action? If so, why hasn't DEQ shut down AmeriTies as they have with some Bullseye operations?

Air around Bullseye exceeded the short-term (or 24-hour) exposure limit. This is very different from AmeriTies, where the concern is more related to long-term exposure, not immediate or acute exposure. Monitoring also showed very unpredictable levels of metals in the area. The situation was very different from what we are seeing in The Dalles.