

# Forgotten Toxic Waste Dump

## Top 5 Reasons to Demand Superfund Cleanup for Bradford Island

For over 40 years, the U.S. government dumped electrical equipment and other debris containing toxic pollution in and along the Columbia River's shorelines at Bradford Island, located near Bonneville Dam. The pollution legacy: petroleum hydrocarbons, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, metals like lead and mercury, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), pesticides and herbicides, and volatile organic compounds.

In October 2019, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and the states of Oregon and Washington officially requested that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) add Bradford Island and surrounding waters to the so-called "Superfund List"—the most toxic sites in America.

The Trump administration refuses to act. Check out five reasons to support Superfund listing.

**1 Off-the-charts Toxic Pollution.** Resident fish containing some of the highest levels of cancer-causing PCBs in the Pacific Northwest were caught in the Mid-Columbia near Bonneville Dam. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), the federal agency responsible for the toxic pollution, has known for years about the problem and failed to get the cleanup job done. In 2019, the Trump administration slashed cleanup funding for Bradford Island. It's time for a new approach.

**2 People ♥ Eating Fish.** People want to feed their families locally-caught fish from one of the most popular recreational fishing areas in the Mid-Columbia—but the Oregon and Washington health departments warn the resident fish, like bass and sturgeon, are too toxic to eat. Superfund listing will lead to clean up of dangerous toxic pollution threatening people's health.

**3 Solidarity with Tribal Nations.** Yakama Nation advocates for cleanup at Bradford Island and other toxic sites along the Columbia. Enrolled members of the Yakama Nation exercise Treaty-reserved rights at their usual and accustomed fishing places on the Columbia River and its tributaries, including fishing sites near and at Bradford Island. Superfund listing is a critical step to force the U.S. government to fix the toxic problem it created.

**4 Stand Up for Environmental Justice.** Pollution in the Columbia River has a disproportionate impact on Native Americans and People of Color. Studies show that members of Native American tribal nations, Asian and Pacific Islanders, and subsistence fishers eat significantly more locally-caught fish and shellfish compared to other demographics.

**5 Superfund Listing = Cleanup.** The goal of Superfund cleanup is to protect public health and the environment. Superfund listing requires the parties responsible for the contamination—including federal government agencies—to either perform cleanups or reimburse the government for EPA-led cleanup work. The Corps has not attempted to clean up Bradford Island and surrounding waters in over a decade. If added to the Superfund List, EPA would set deadlines and hold the Corps accountable to federal and state cleanup standards.



Learn more and sign a petition demanding the Trump administration stop playing politics at one the most toxic sites in the Pacific Northwest at [bit.ly/clean-up-bradford-is](https://bit.ly/clean-up-bradford-is).

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