



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Suquamish Tribe calls for action after latest toxic spill

“This is a true emergency”

The Suquamish Tribe continues to be frustrated and dismayed by the US Navy's inability to properly manage and dispose of its untreated wastewater.

Over the past three years, the Navy repeatedly released tens of thousands of gallons of sewage into our ancestral marine waters. Untreated sewage contaminates fishery resources that would otherwise be harvested by our tribal members. Yesterday's release of 4,000 gallons of untreated sewage from neglected sewer infrastructure into our ancestral waters in Sinclair Inlet is unacceptable. This ineffective monitoring at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard is a health hazard and exemplifies a failure to act.

The Navy must put proper measures in place to prevent this kind of dangerous and damaging pollution.

We value and respect the service of our local Sailors and the relationship we enjoy with the wider Navy community, but we cannot abide the mistreatment of this most important natural resource. There is no excuse for the Navy's failure to uphold its environmental stewardship responsibilities in local marine waters and throughout Puget Sound.

Navy leadership needs to uphold its commitment to upgrade its infrastructure and take the actions necessary to prevent these spills that have become far too commonplace. The President and Congress need to make the investment in wastewater treatment systems at PSNS a priority and recognize that this is a true emergency.

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