

## LAUNCHING THE TOSS THE TANKS CAMPAIGN

For over seventy years, South Portland High School and Elementary School students have lived in the daily shadow of industrial oil storage tanks that threaten our community. These aging vats, now mostly idle, risk contaminating our air, soil and groundwater. Exposure to their emissions and potential leaks can create cause respiratory issues, skin problems, and long-term health effects, endangering the well-being of our citizens and their environment.



### TOSS THE TANKS CAMPAIGN PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY – CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

#### WHY THE TOSS THE TANKS CAMPAIGN

- **Campaign Goals:** We urge the South Portland City Council to negotiate with Suncor, a Canadian energy company based in Montreal, to divest itself and their interests, in the 100-acre Hill Street Tank Farm. Before divesting, and it would remove the 19 oil tanks and associated infrastructure, remediating the land to meet current environmental standards. Throughout this divestment and remediation process, Suncor would retain ownership and profits from the property's sale. The city would not bear financial responsibility but would oversee future land use through its zoning authority.
- **Negotiation Process:** A professional mediator would facilitate negotiations to achieve a mutually beneficial outcome for both the city and Suncor.
- **Timeframe:** Goals to be achieved no later than 2030.

#### SUNCOR'S HILL STREET TANK FARM:

- **Role and Purpose:** Construction was started in the early 1940s as part of the Portland-to-Montreal Pipeline project during WW II. The tank farm stored crude oil transported to Montreal refineries, bypassing threats from German U-boats.

- **Current Status:** Since 2016, pipeline operations have been largely inactive due to reduced demand and alternative supply routes. Most tanks are reportedly empty, and the site functions only as a backup facility.
- **Aging Infrastructure:** Six of the tanks are over 80 years old, raising safety concerns. Additionally, air and groundwater quality issues persist due to the storage and handling of petroleum products.

**PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS**

- **Pipeline Capacity:** Suncor's five-year Air Quality License asked for approval for 11 billion gallons of oil to pass through the tanks annually, despite only 95 million gallons having flowed through the tanks in 2023, the latest reporting year. This raises questions about the aging infrastructure's ability to handle such volumes.
- **Urban Proximity:** The Mid-20th-century Hill Street Tank Farm is now surrounded by residential, educational, and commercial areas, heightening safety risks.
- **Pipeline Lifespan:** Documents suggest the pipeline may have exceeded its operational lifespan, requiring significant maintenance and safety assessments before resuming full operations.

**WHY NOW?**

- There appears to be growing interest from the South Portland City Council to address the Hill Street Tank Farm.
- There is growing support from the South Portland Comprehensive Plan 2040 Committee.
- Strong public backing from South Portland citizens: This is reflected in the following data collected through direct, personal engagement with 400 South Portland Citizens. "They were asked "Would you support a citizens' campaign to remove the oil tanks at the Hill Street Tank Farm?"

Total Respondents	Yes	No	Maybe
400	324	28	48
	81%	7%	12%

**WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES?**

- Imagine the possibilities for this 100-acre site.
- The community input suggests affordable housing is a top priority.

**WHAT HAPPENS IF WE DO NOT TAKE ACTION?**

- There would be a significant lost opportunity for South Portland and its future.

**PLEASE JOIN US IN THIS QUEST FOR A CLEANER, GREENER FUTURE THAT IS THE BIRTHRIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF OUR TOWN.**

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