



## WHY TOSS THE TANKS?

For over 60 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 environment.



*The Suncor Hill Street Tank Farm sits nestled in area where our students and citizens live, work, and play.*

## WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

**CAMPAIGN OBJECTIVE:** 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, Suncor would remove the 19 oil tanks and associated infrastructure. They would remediate the land to meet current environmental standards. Throughout this process, Suncor would retain ownership and retain the profits from the property's sale. The city would not bear any 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. We believe a win/win outcome can be achieved.

**TIME FRAME:** The goal is to have this process successfully completed by the end of 2030.

## WHAT RISKS DO THE TANKS POSE?

**AGING INFRASTRUCTURE:** Six of the tanks are over 80 years old, raising safety concerns. Documents suggest the pipeline may have exceeded its operational lifespan, requiring significant maintenance and safety assessments before resuming full operations. Additionally, air and groundwater quality issues persist due to the storage and handling of petroleum products.

**URBAN PROXIMITY:** Since the mid-20th-century, this tank farm has been surrounded by residential, educational, and commercial development, heightening safety risks.



## WHY WERE THE TANKS BUILT?

**ORIGINAL PURPOSE:** Construction on the Hill Street Tank Farm 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 the threats posed by German U-boats.

**PIPELINE CAPACITY:** Suncor's five-year Air Quality License asked for approval for 11 billion gallons of oil to pass through the tanks annually. However, only 95 million gallons flowed through the tanks in 2023, the latest reporting year. This raises questions about the aging infrastructure's ability to handle such volumes.

**PIPELINE LIFESPAN:** Documents suggest the pipeline may have exceeded its operational lifespan. Resuming full operations would likely require significant maintenance and safety assessments before full operation could be reinstated.

**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.

## WHY ACT NOW?

**CURRENT INTEREST:** There appears to be growing interest from the South Portland City Council to address the Hill Street Tank Farm. Strong public backing from South Portland citizens is also reflected in the following data, collected through direct, personal engagement with 400 South Portland citizens who were asked the following question:

Would you support a citizens' campaign to remove the oil tanks at the Hill Street Tank Farm?

• YES: 324 Respondents, 81% • NO: 28 Respondents, 7% • MAYBE: 48 Respondents, 12%

## WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES?

**IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES** for this 100-acre site. There are a wealth of prospects for what gets built on this site. Any and all ideas should reflect the wishes and needs of the South Portland community through a community-driven planning process. Add your voice to this call for the cleaner, greener future that is the birthright of the people of our town.

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