

3.3 Establishing a Study Area

The PATS project and study area includes portions of Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington Counties (see Figure 4). In the analysis, DEQ also included portions of Clark County, Washington, near Vancouver, and portions of Yamhill, Marion, and Columbia Counties, since these areas share the same air shed as the Portland metro area.

DEQ delineated the Portland air toxics geographic area by including the Census tracts representing areas of higher air toxics risk, as shown in the 1999 EPA National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) report. These areas are generally more densely populated or undergoing population growth and development. As a result, the PATS study area is based on locations where people are most exposed to air toxics. In addition, DEQ coordinated with the ozone pollution control area and took geography and topography into account. Figure 4 illustrates the PATS study area.

Figure 4 PATS Study Area

