

The following responses provide information for questions not addressed during the 11/7/17 South Branch PAC meeting. Most responses contain links with contact information.

Q1. What are the penalties/consequences for dumping oil in the river?

The following website provides criminal provisions for discharging oil or hazardous substances into a water body. There are both jail time and financial consequences.

<https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/criminal-provisions-clean-water-act>

Q2. What type of fish died as a result of the oil spill?

Ed Karecki with USFWS identified dead sunfish and shad.

As a reminder, the Illinois Department of Public Health currently has a fish advisory for the Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal concerning PCBs, which were not found in the oil.

<http://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/environmental-health-protection/toxicology/fish-advisories/map/chicago-river-cook>

Q3. Is there a way to find out what vessels passed by the area around the timeframe when the oil spill was first discovered?

The time of the release has not been determined therefore it would be difficult to determine what vessels were in the area at that time. However, the Coast Guard does have methods to determine the historical paths of vessels.

Q4. What are the legal claim options for people and property affected by the oil spill?

At this time we do not have a responsible party for the oil spill. An individual may file a claim using forms attached to this e-mail (claimants guide and form). This is a Coast Guard fund and therefore all questions about individuals seeking reimbursement need to be addressed through the Coast Guard. Questions on filling out paperwork may be directed to Bill Dodson William.D.Dodson@uscg.mil (202) 795-6098. Please call Bill to determine if your situation qualifies for a claim prior to filling out these forms.



ClaimantGuide
2017.pdf



Optional Claim
Form 4 2016 (2)...

Q5. - What has been EPA's involvement in Bubbly Creek?

EPA has been involved in improving human health and the environment in the vicinity of Bubbly Creek through different programs and initiatives. Below are five examples:

- 1) Work at Pitney Court Former MGP site (3052 S. Pitney Court in Chicago, Illinois)
- 2) Work at South Station Former MGP site – Parcels C & D (Chicago Park #571)
- 3) Consent Decree with Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
- 4) Bubbly Creek Sediment
- 5) Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS) Recreation

The following list provides additional information about each of these examples. We can provide additional contact information if anyone is interested.

1) People's Gas – Pitney Court Former MGP

This site is under EPA's Superfund Alternative Approach (SAA) program and is being cleaned up by the responsible party.

<https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/SiteProfiles/index.cfm?fuseaction=second.Stayup&id=0510196>

2) South Station Former MGP site – Parcels CD

This site is under EPA's Superfund Alternative Approach (SAA) program and Parcel C&D is currently used as Park #571.

<https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0510191>

3) Consent Decree with Metropolitan Water Reclamation District

The US is currently in a consent decree with the Water Reclamation District.

2014 Consent Decree

https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/USCOURTS-ilnd-1_11-cv-08859/pdf/USCOURTS-ilnd-1_11-cv-08859-1.pdf

4) Bubbly Creek Sediment

Bubbly Creek was assessed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in 2015 for an ecosystem restoration project. In order to complete the project it was determined that the impacts caused by the Former MGP Sites in the area needed to be further assessed. The two sites referenced above with hyperlinks (Pitney Court and South Station) are adjacent to Bubbly Creek. In August 2017 impacts caused by the Former MGP sites were assessed and the EPA is currently reviewing this assessment. If the assessment is approved, then the USACE will continue the Feasibility Study.

Link is for the 2015 Army Corp Feasibility Study.

http://www.lrc.usace.army.mil/Portals/36/docs/projects/bubblycreek/Bubbly_Creek_NEPA%20public%20comment%20report_14%20Apr%202015.pdf

Link is for an August 2017 report and Chicago Sanitary and Shipping Channel related to the MGP sites listed above.

<https://semspub.epa.gov/work/05/936354.pdf>

5) Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS) Recreation

EPA has been participating in meetings with MWRD, Chicago Park District and others to discuss ways of improving protection of recreational users on the Chicago Area Waterway System, including Bubbly Creek.

Link for Chicago Area Waterway System / Chicago River information.

<https://www.epa.gov/il/chicago-area-waterway-system-chicago-river>