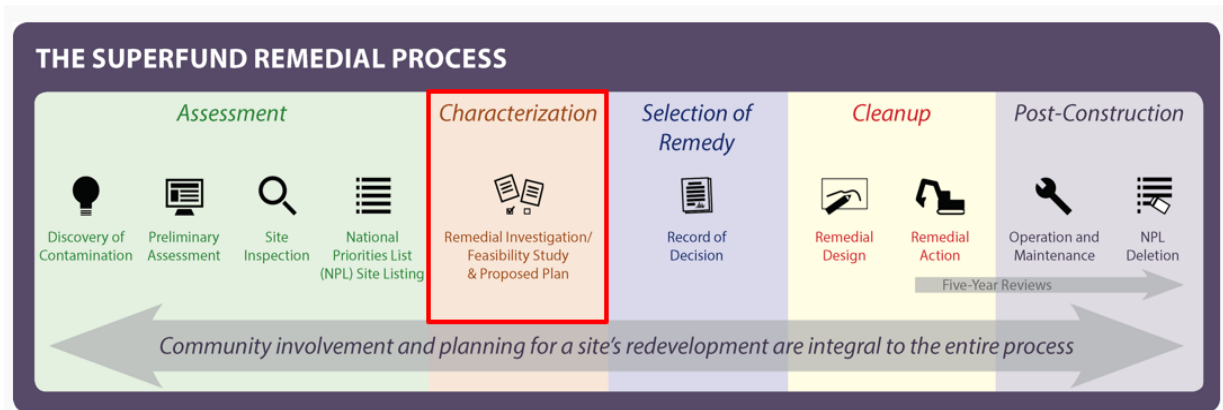


Lower Neponset River Superfund Site June Public Meeting Questions and Responses

1. Where will the sediment be transferred to and how long will it take for that process to take place?

EPA is currently in the “Characterization” stage of the Superfund process, as illustrated in the graphic below. During the “Characterization” stage, EPA is actively collecting samples in sediment, soil, and water. Once EPA enters the “Selection of Remedy” stage, EPA will have more information on how sediment will be managed for the cleanup.



2. Where are samples taken from?

During Phase I of the remedial investigation, which is occurring during the Summer and early Fall of 2023, samples are being collected from sediment, surface water, pore water, and soil along the first mile of the Site (from the confluence of the Mother Brook and the Neponset River downstream to the Tileston and Hollingsworth Dam) as well as several upstream locations throughout the Neponset River and the Mother Brook.

3. Are the Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) and Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) publicly available?

Remedial work sampling plans and specific QAPP worksheets are available upon request. Please contact Natalie Burgo, Remedial Project Manager, at Burgo.Natalie@epa.gov

4. Has EPA identified all of the potentially responsible parties (PRPs)?

The Region is in the process of identifying and notifying potentially responsible parties (PRPs) at the Site. These efforts are ongoing and include issuing parties information request letters pursuant to Section 104(e) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act or CERCLA. The Agency is authorized under CERCLA to issue information request letters to any person (including business entities and government agencies) who may have information about a site, not just to

persons who may be PRPs. The letters are used for information gathering purposes and do not designate an entity as a PRP.

5. Can EPA provide an update on PRP questionnaire, an answer review, and evaluation process?

EPA is in the process reviewing information request responses and evaluating whether additional parties will be sent information requests and/or issued notice(s) of potential liability.

6. What is a CBO? Are grants awarded per Superfund Site or per project? How would an organization/ person know when and how to use any of the resources offered?

A “CBO” is a community-based nonprofit organization. The Environmental Justice Grants Program (EJ Grants Program) defines a “community-based nonprofit /organization” as a public or private nonprofit organization that supports and/or represents a community and/or certain populations within a community through engagement, education, and other related services provided to individual community residents and community stakeholders. A “community” can be characterized by a particular geographic area and/or by the relationships among members with similar interests and can be characterized as part of a broader national or regional community where organizations can be focused on the needs of urban, rural, and/or tribal areas, farmworkers, displaced workers, children with high levels of lead, people with asthma, subsistence fishers, and other similar groups. For the EJ Grants Program, EPA publishes requests for applications that explain how grant resources can be used. To receive notification when EPA announces opportunities for funding, please send an email to Gevon Solomon at Solomon.Gevon@epa.gov. She will add your email address to the regional newsletter and the Environmental Justice contact lists that EPA uses to share information about regional and national funding opportunities and general EJ related information.

7. Is there a plan to investigate where PCBs or other contaminants of concern from the Site have settled downstream of the Walter Baker Dam? If not, how do we get this on EPA’s radar?

EPA is coordinating with the Town of Milton and has received the May 2023 Lower Neponset River Dredge Feasibility Study. The boundaries can, and often do, change as further information on the extent and degree of contamination is obtained. No decisions have been made at this point.

8. There was interest in the sampling that occurred near the boat storage area in Milton, Massachusetts.

For information related to the May 2023 Lower Neponset River Dredge Feasibility Study, please contact the Milton Director of Planning and Community Development, Tim Czerwienski, at tczerwienski@townofmilton.org.

9. Community concerns regarding work at the Lewis Chemical Site.

EPA issued a July 2023 informational fact sheet via the current email list and hand delivered it to businesses and residences near Fairmount Avenue and Fairmount Court. To learn more about the cleanup, please visit: response.epa.gov/lewischemical. All public information is located under the 'Documents' section.

10. Describe differences in removal and remedial work and identify the project managers and community involvement coordinator (CIC) for each action.

Remedial actions handle complex sites needing long-term responses. Remedial actions manage releases that do not pose an urgent threat to people's health or the environment and do not require immediate action. Remedial actions involve complex and highly contaminated sites that often require several years to study the problem, develop a permanent solution, and clean up the contaminated waste. These are the sites that most people think of when they hear about the Superfund program. Below are contacts for the Lower Neponset River Superfund Site (Remedial Action):

- Natalie Burgo, Remedial Project Manager (RPM): Burgo.Natalie@epa.gov
- Tristan Pluta, Remedial Project Manager (RPM): Pluta.Alexander@epa.gov
- ZaNetta Purnell, Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC): Purnell.ZaNetta@epa.gov

Removal actions are quick responses to immediate threats of or from releases of hazardous substances. A removal site is a short-term cleanup intended to stabilize or clean up a site that poses an imminent and substantial threat to human health or the environment. Removals can occur at any stage of the Superfund cleanup process but are often the first response upon discovery of a hazardous substance. Below are contacts for the Lewis Chemical and Riverside Square PCB sites (removal action and investigation, respectively):

Lewis Chemical Removal Site:

- Tom Hatzopoulos, On Scene Coordinator (OSC): Hatzopoulos.Athanasios@epa.gov
- ZaNetta Purnell, Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC): Purnell.Zanetta@epa.gov

Riverside Square PCB Site:

- Tom Hatzopoulos, On Scene Coordinator (OSC): Hatzopoulos.Athanasios@epa.gov
- Ashlin Brooks, Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC): Brooks.Ashlin@epa.gov

For more information on removal cleanup work, please visit the **Community Corner—Other Projects: Short-Term Cleanup Actions** of the Lower Neponset website at: <https://www.epa.gov/neponsetriver/stay-updated-get-involved-lower-neponset-river-bostonmilton-ma#OPSTCA>

11. How will work progress in regard to dam removal and potential future erosion of contaminants? Will the river be open to recreational use during remediation or will the entire river be off limits?

EPA is currently conducting sampling in the first mile of the Site (from the confluence of the Mother Brook and Neponset River downstream to the Tileston and Hollingsworth Dam (T&H dam)) to support an engineering evaluation and cost analysis (EE/CA), which is planned to be completed in Summer of 2024. This data will also support the comprehensive remedial investigation and feasibility study for the 3.7-mile Site. The primary purpose of the EE/CA is to evaluate alternatives for response measures to address the threat of release and migration of PCB-contaminated sediment from the T&H Dam impoundment and hotspots upstream of the T&H dam. Alternatives will consider potential future erosion of contaminants.

The Site is open to recreation during this time in which the EPA is conducting sampling. When remediation takes place, site-specific health and safety measures will be communicated to the public. In 2022, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health published the *Recreational Use of the Neponset River Community Fact Sheet 2022*, which EPA recommends the public refer to when recreating near the Lower Neponset River. To view the factsheet, please visit the front page of the Lower Neponset River Superfund Site page at www.epa.gov/neponsetriver or click on the following link to directly access the factsheet: <https://semspub.epa.gov/work/01/100021302.pdf>.

12. Where to find details about the five community involvement grants?

To learn more about Technical Assistance, Tools and Resources, and Community Advisory Groups information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/neponsetriver/stay-updated-get-involved-lower-neponset-river-bostonmilton-ma#Resources>

To receive notifications about Environmental Justice (EJ) grants, please email Gevon Solomon at Solomon.Gevon@epa.gov. She will add your email address to the regional newsletter and the Environmental Justice contact lists that EPA uses to share information about regional and national funding opportunities and general EJ related information.

13. Is the June 12th, 2023 public meeting information available online?

Yes, to view the June 12th, 2023 public meeting PowerPoint, please check out the ‘Community Corner’ section of the epa.gov/neponsetriver website or visit: <https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/01/100025282>

The meeting recording is also available on the website or by visiting:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FvbGA3oEnSg>

14. What should the community be prepared for in regard to daily traffic due to Riverside/Lewis/and remedial work and who should the community call if there is a problem?

At Lewis Chemical, a traffic plan to truck off contaminated soil and to bring in clean soil was created. The plan and traffic routes were discussed with the Boston Police and Fire Departments. Once trucking of the contaminated soil begins, a police officer will direct traffic at the intersection of Fairmount Court and Fairmount Avenue. An EPA contractor will also be present by the train station to direct traffic whenever a truck is moving past the station. Similar traffic plans will be used for removal work at Riverside Square and remedial work along the Lower Neponset River.

15. Will any of the indigenous local nations be joining in these efforts? How did the consultations go?

There are at least 30 different laws containing provisions requiring protection of cultural resources. Section 106 of The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 established a required review process to protect resources, which is now commonly known as “106 review”. The 106 review requirements apply to all federally recognized tribes. On March 1, 2023, EPA sent letters to the Tribal Historic Preservation Officers of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, and the Narragansett Indian Tribe; the purpose of the letters was to gauge their offices’ interest in being consulting parties on this Superfund project. EPA also sent out a similar letter to the Massachusetts Tribe at Ponkapoag, which is not a federally recognized tribe. To date, EPA has not received any correspondence from any federally and non-federally recognized tribe expressing interest in being a consultation party for this Superfund project.

16. What’s being done to investigate the sediment between Lewis Chemical and Riverside Square?

Both the remedial and the removal program sampling plans were developed in close coordination and respect of each project’s objectives. Sediment and riverbank soil along both the Lewis Chemical Removal Program Site and the Riverside Square Removal Program preliminary assessment and site investigation is being sampled by the EPA remedial program for the Lower Neponset River Site.

17. Will EPA be working with the Pacific Rim Charter Public school in Readville along Mother Brook, the Boston Renaissance school across from Blake Estates, or the Roosevelt Elementary School?

EPA has had some similar school visit requests for EPA to explain what we do and how it impacts communities. EPA continuously strives to protect human health and the

environment, and the Agency is always happy to engage in these efforts to teach students, community members, and stakeholders. If you have any contacts to share that would be interested in potential future engagement opportunities, please email them to:

Purnell.Zanetta@epa.gov.

18. Should there be a pause in any projects along the Greenway?

Projects along the Greenway abutting the Riverside Square PCB or Lewis Chemical removal sites have the potential to be disturbed in the imminent future, while cleanup activities are taking place. If the project is anticipated to abut the removal work, you should pause any planned work and coordinate with EPA On-Scene Coordinator Tom Hatzopoulos.

EPA held several interviews with residents from the surrounding communities, officials from the City of Boston and Town of Milton, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to identify any projects anticipated to intersect or abut the Site; this information will be reflected in a reuse assessment that EPA anticipates publishing before the end of 2023.

19. Please provide additional information about the Community Advisory Group (CAG). When is the tentative meeting scheduled to learn more?

A Community Advisory Group (CAG) is made up of representatives of diverse community interests. A CAG is designed to serve as the focal point for the exchange of information among the local community and EPA, the State regulatory agency, and other pertinent federal agencies involved in cleanup of the Superfund site. Its purpose is to provide a public forum for community members to present and discuss their needs and concerns related to the Superfund decision-making process. A CAG can assist EPA in making better decisions on how to clean up a site. It offers EPA a unique opportunity to hear—and seriously consider—community preferences for site cleanup and remediation. However, the existence of a CAG does not eliminate the need for the Agency to keep the community informed about plans and decisions throughout the Superfund process.

EPA is gearing to plan a CAG specific informational meeting. EPA will share additional info at a later date. In the meantime please visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-community-advisory-groups> to learn more information on Community Advisory Groups.