

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Portage Creek Area - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region V

Subject: POLREP #14
Progress
Portage Creek Area
059B05
Kalamazoo, MI
Latitude: 42.2839750 Longitude: -85.5791570

To: Mark Mills, Michigan DNR
Daria Devantier, MDEQ
Debbie Jung, City of Kalamazoo
Lisa Williams, U.S. FWS
Todd Goeks, NOAA
Valincia Darby, Department of Interior

From: Craig Thomas, On-Scene Coordinator

Date: 7/20/2012

Reporting Period: 6/30/2012 - 7/20/2012

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	059B05	Contract Number:	EP-S5-08-02
D.O. Number:	0087	Action Memo Date:	7/5/2011
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	Time-Critical
Response Lead:	EPA	Incident Category:	Removal Action
NPL Status:	NPL	Operable Unit:	05
Mobilization Date:	9/26/2011	Start Date:	8/30/2011
Demob Date:		Completion Date:	
CERCLIS ID:	MID006007306	RCRIS ID:	NA
ERNS No.:	NA	State Notification:	Yes
FPN#:	NA	Reimbursable Account #:	NA

1.1.1 Incident Category

Fund-lead removal action

1.1.2 Site Description

See POLREP #1

1.1.2.1 Location

See POLREP #1

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

See POLREP #1

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

See POLREP #1

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

Dredging operations began in Axtell Creek on July 10 and are currently underway. Crews are removing contaminated sediments and solidifying them with either crushed corn cob or bottom ash. The solidified sediments are then transported to the staging pad for further de-watering and drying prior to shipment for disposal at designated landfills.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

From June 30 to July 20, EPA, START and ERRS contractors/sub-contractors conducted the following activities:

Site Activities - Axtell Creek

- Excavated and stabilized contaminated sediments from grids AXC-1 thru AXC-5;
- Completed initial post-excavation sampling in grids AXC-1 thru AXC-5 to confirm that cleanup goals were

met. Only the initial sample results from grids AXC-2 and AXC-5 met the performance standard of 10 mg/kg PCBs. None of the initial confirmatory sample results from any of the grids met the performance standard goal of 1 mg/kg PCBs. Therefore all five grids require over-excavation from the original target dredge depths (see details in Planning Section). As of the time of this POLREP only grids AXC-1 and AXC-2 were overexcavated and the remaining grids are estimated (est) to be over excavated as follows:

GRID	TOTAL EXCAVATION DEPTH (in)	CONFIRMATION PCB RESULT (mg/kg)
AXC-1	36	pending
AXC-2	42	pending
AXC-3	36 (est)	pending
AXC-4	42 (est)	pending
AXC-5	30 (est)	pending

- Began restoration and backfilling activities in grids AXC-1 and AXC-2.

Site Activities - Staging Pad

- Solidified and loaded out 448.57 tons of TSCA (> 50ppm PCBs) contaminated sediments for disposal at Wayne Disposal landfill in Belleville, MI.
 - Treated 190,742 gallons of contaminated contact water in EPA's mobile wastewater treatment plant.

Site Activities - SA6

- Removed approximately 900 feet of 30" diameter creek by-pass discharge pipeline from east bank;
 - Removed miscellaneous piping used for by-pass pumping system (i.e., intakes, laterals) from work area;
 - Removed 2000 gallon clean water tank which supported decontamination operations;
 - Placed stone, topsoil and grass seed for temporary re-vegetation in anticipation of full restoration planting along work platform on west bank;
 - Restored railroad bank ballast with supervision from railroad flagman; and
 - Removed stone from temporary haul road.

Site Activities - SA5D

- Clearing and grubbing along west bank between Lake Street and Axtell Creek;
 - Installing curb cuts for access along Lake Street and Crosstown Parkway; and
 - Began installing temporary fencing around work area on east bank of Portage Creek.

Site Activities - SA5C

- Clearing and grubbing between Crosstown Parkway and Vine Street.

Project Management Activities

- Continue weekly progress meetings with City of Kalamazoo;
 - Completed restoration plans for SA5, SA6, and SA7 and provided to Trustees for input;
 - Solicited bids for implementation of restoration plans; and
 - Conducted data validation for post-removal confirmation sediment samples collected from Axtell Creek.

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

The major PRP for this portion of the Allied Paper Inc./Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund site was dissolved through bankruptcy proceedings in April 2010. Other PRPs are being evaluated.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>
TSCA contaminated sediments	solidified sediment	448.57 tons	009133428JJJ, 009133430JJJ, 0099952864JJJ- 0099952871JJJ	disposal	Wayne Disposal, Belleville, MI

2.2 Planning Section

A summary of removal activities that will take place from July 23 through August 3 include:

Site Activities - Axtell Creek

- Complete overexcavation, backfilling and restoration of creek channel and banks.

Site Activities - Staging Pad

- Complete de-watering and solidification of excavated sediments for transport;
 - Complete transport of solidified sediments for disposal; and
 - Continue treatment of contaminated water in EPA's mobile waste water treatment plant.

Site Activities - SA5D

- Install creek bypass pumping system at Lake Street bridge;
 - Install groundwater de-watering system between Lake Street and Axtell Creek; and
 - Complete fencing off and installation of work platform /roadway on east bank;

Project Management Activities

- Continue weekly progress meetings with City of Kalamazoo;

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

See POLREP #2

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

See above

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

See above

2.2.2 Issues

Only two initial post-excavation confirmatory sample results in grids in Axtell Creek were under the performance standard of 10 mg/kg. All initial confirmatory sampling results at target dredging depths in the grids were above the performance standard goal of 1 mg/kg and required over-excavation as listed below (see table).

GRID	TARGET DEPTH (in)	INITIAL PCB RESULT (mg/kg)	OVERDIG (in)	TOTAL DEPTH (in)	CONFIRMATION PCB RESULT (mg/kg)
AXC-1	24	27.9	12	36	pending
AXC-2	30	8.9	12	42	pending
AXC-3	24	16.10	12 (est)	36	pending
AXC-4	30	18.7	12 (est)	42	pending
AXC-5	24	4.15	6 (est)	30	pending

Over-excavation has increased project costs in added expenses for personnel, equipment, transportation, disposal, sampling and backfill material.

Rain delays slowed site activities down on July 18th and severe flooding prevented excavation and backfilling activities altogether on July 19th. These delays again add increased project costs in added expenses for personnel and equipment. Further, a third 6-inch pump had to be rented to ensure that Axtell Creek did not flood outside its banks, again adding additional costs in fuel and equipment.

The flooding event from July 19th also damaged two site turbidity meters. The remaining functioning turbidity meter has been placed at the nearest downstream location and upstream turbidity is being measured by a hand-held device until new digital meters can be obtained.

2.3 Logistics Section

The current resources present on site during this reporting period include:

- Office trailers
- Portable restrooms and hand-washing stations
- Portable generators
- Submersible pumps
- Equipment storage container
- ERRS work crews and subcontractor work crews
- START sampling contractor
- Heavy equipment
- Water truck
- Street sweeper
- Mixing boxes
- Frac (water) tank
- Pressure wash trailer
- Bypass pumps and piping
- Sheet piling
- Mobile wastewater treatment plant

2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

Craig Thomas and Paul Ruesch serve as safety officer(s). The HASP is reviewed and signed by all site personnel. All new personnel are provided a site orientation and safety briefing. Safety meetings are held each morning with all workers.

2.6 Liaison Officer

Craig Thomas and Paul Ruesch serve as liaison(s) with local officials and interested parties.

2.7 Information Officer

See Section 2.6

2.7.1 Public Information Officer

See Section 2.6

2.7.2 Community Involvement Coordinator

Don DeBlasio - U.S. EPA

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

N/A

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
City of Kalamazoo:
 Department of Public Services
 Parks and Recreation Department
 Economic Development Department
 Community Planning & Development
 Public Safety Department
 Fire Department
 Police Department
 ReDevelopment Department
Bronson Methodist Hospital
Kalamazoo Nature Center

4. Personnel On Site

U.S. EPA - 2
ERRS contractor (Environmental Quality Management, Inc) - 14
CMC (excavation sub-contractor) - 1
START contractor (Dynamac/Weston) - 1

TOTAL PERSONNEL = 16

5. Definition of Terms

C&D - Construction and Demolition (waste)
ERRS - Emergency and Rapid Response Services
FOSC - Federal On Scene Coordinator
U.S. FWS - United States Fish and Wildlife Service
HASP - Health and Safety Plan
HDPE - High density polyethylene (plastic)
mg/kg - milligrams per kilogram
mg/m³ - milligrams per cubic meter
MDARD - Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
MDEQ - Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
NA - Not Applicable
NOAA - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPL - National Priorities List
NRDA - Natural Resource Damage Assessment
ntu - nephelometric turbidity units
PCB - polychlorinated biphenyl
ppm - parts per million
PRPs - Potentially Responsible Parties
RTK GPS - Real Time Kinematic Global Positioning System
SA - Slope Area
START - Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team
U.S. EPA - United States Environmental Protection Agency

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

See the project website at <http://www.epaosc.org/portagecreekarea>.

6.2 Reporting Schedule

The next POLREP will be generated in approximately 2 weeks.

7. Situational Reference Materials

See the project website at <http://www.epaosc.org/portagecreekarea>.

Additional information on the overall Kalamazoo River Project can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/cleanup/kalproject/index.htm>.