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Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
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Illinois, Indiana,
Michigan, Minnesota,
Ohio, Wisconsin

River Cleanup to Begin

Moss-American Superfund Site
Milwaukee, Wis. August 2002

Cleanup of the Little Menomonee River south of Brown Deer Road will begin this fall.

The first segment of the Little Menomonee River will be rerouted to a new river channel this fall as part of the river's overall cleanup plan at the Moss-American Superfund site on Milwaukee's northwest side. After the river is rerouted, contaminated sediment will be removed from its current channel. The entire site includes approximately six miles of river and its associated floodplain downstream of the former wood-treating facility on Granville Road.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Kerr-McGee Corp. have received input from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Milwaukee County, the city of Milwaukee and the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District on the reroute. The river portion of the site has been divided into five segments for the cleanup (see chart on next page). Kerr-McGee will implement a segment-by-segment restoration plan that will include re-establishing vegetation, replacing habitat loss due to construction activities and stabilizing the new river channel.

Public Meeting

EPA will hold a public meeting to discuss the site's river cleanup and to provide an update on the soil cleanup progress.

Date: August 28, 2002

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Hilton Garden Hotel
11600 W. Park Place
Milwaukee, Wis.

For More Information. . .

on the cleanup, contact:

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For special needs or accommodations, please contact Susan Pastor.

Site-related documents may be reviewed at:

Mill Road Library
6431 N. 76th St.
Milwaukee, Wis.
www.epa.gov/region5/sites/mossamerican

Little Menomonee River Segments

Segment	Location Between Major Roads	Length (miles)
1	Brown Deer and Bradley roads	1.24
2	Bradley and Good Hope roads	1.01
3	Good Hope and Mill roads	1.23
4	Mill and Silver Spring roads	1.27
5	Silver Spring and Hampton roads	1.12

Kerr-McGee is required to take the lead in developing the cleanup design and rerouting the river. EPA will oversee Kerr-McGee's work.

River Cleanup Components

Work, which will be done in phases over the next several years, is scheduled to begin in September on the new river channel from Brown Deer Road downstream to Hampton Road. The river reroute will start in the first of five segments where there are high levels of carcinogenic (cancer-causing) polycylic aromatic hydrocarbons. Segment 1, which stretches from Brown Deer to Bradley roads, will be rerouted downstream about 1 mile to the Wisconsin and Southern Railroad bridge. From there, CPAH-contaminated sediment will be dredged since it is too narrow to dig another channel. Components of the Segment 1 project include:

- site preparation - clearing trees, creating gravel roads for hauling equipment and using above-ground silt fencing for erosion control.
- access/security arrangements - installing gates at entrances of haul roads and channel excavation areas.
- topsoil removal/storage - stockpiling clean topsoil for revegetation.
- excavation of new river channel - incorporating quiet pools, faster-flowing areas and curves to enhance the new stream.
- dewatering existing stream - constructing crossings between old and new channel and dredged portion between the railroad bridge and Bradley Road using methods such as inflatable dams to block stream flow and temporary pumps and pipes to bypass this section as it drains to allow construction of new channel at the crossings and sediment dredging.
- sediment removal - dredging of all CPAH-contaminated sediment greater than 15 parts per million in the stream from the Wisconsin and Southern Railroad Bridge to Bradley Road.
- new channel bank stabilization - using erosion prevention techniques.
- new channel completion - allowing water to divert into new channel and revegetating it with native plants.
- old channel work - removing and further dewatering all visible contamination greater than 388 ppm after flow is rerouted to new channel; once removed, the material will be taken to the Moss-American property to be treated and placed in a covered area.

The LTTD equipment at the site was decontaminated, disassembled and removed earlier this year.

Soil Cleanup Activities Completed

While the river cleanup is set to begin, soil cleanup at the former Moss-American facility is now complete and has proven to be a success. Cleanup of the contaminated soil began in May 2001 and was completed last February. The process took longer than the expected four to five months because there was more contaminated soil to clean up than originally expected. As samples were taken from excavated areas, it became apparent that more soil contaminated with CPAHs needed to be removed.

Contaminated soil was treated by a process called low-temperature thermal desorption, which indirectly applies heat to vaporize soil contaminants and consequently clean up contaminated soil. Samples of the LTTD-treated soil were analyzed to determine if this process was effective in meeting EPA's goals as specified in its cleanup plan which was amended in 1998.

Early analysis of the treated soil indicated elevated CPAH concentrations, which exceeded EPA's cleanup goals. Corrective measures were taken and subsequent analysis indicated the concentrations met the cleanup goals and the LTTD process was effectively treating the contaminated soil. Soil that exceeded EPA's cleanup goals was retreated by the LTTD process.

About 137,200 tons of contaminated soil were treated during this time. The treated soil was taken to areas of the site that will be redeveloped for industrial use.

Between February and March, the LTTD process equipment was decontaminated, disassembled and removed from the site. The area of the site disturbed by treatment activities will be restored to its original condition.