



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

River Cleanup Continues

Moss-American Superfund Site

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

November 2003

For more information...

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Site-related documents may be reviewed at:

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

Segment 1 update

The cleanup plan for segments 2 and 3 were designed while the segment 1 cleanup was underway. Segment 1, from Brown Deer to Bradley roads, was completed earlier this year. It was rerouted downstream about a mile to the Wisconsin and Southern Railroad bridge. Many of the techniques used to reroute segment 1 will be used on segments 2 and 3. Segment 1 now has new quiet pools and faster-flowing areas and curves. Topsoil was removed and stored for future planting. Contaminated sediment was removed with much of it taken to the Moss-American property to be treated (cleaned) and placed in a covered area.

During all phases of the cleanup, EPA and Kerr-McGee will continue to work closely with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Milwaukee County, city of Milwaukee, and Milwaukee Metropolitan sewerage district.



Work on segments 2 and 3 of the Little Menomonee River may look like this (segment 1) while they are being rerouted.

Two segments of the Little Menomonee River will be rerouted to a new river channel beginning this month as part of the river's overall cleanup plan at the Moss-American Superfund site on Milwaukee's northwest side. After the rerouting, river mud (which is called sediment) contaminated with cancer-causing polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons will be removed from its current channel. The entire site includes about six miles of river divided into five segments and its associated floodplain downstream of the former Moss-American wood-treating plant on Granville Road.

Segments 2 and 3 cleanup details

Cleanup of these two segments, from Bradley to Good Hope roads and from Good Hope to Mill roads respectively, will be done over the next two years. While many of the cleanup components are the same as those of segment 1, there are several new ones. Some of the more practical new features involve improvements in the habitat (natural homes) for fish, recreational opportunities, and public safety. Maintenance requirements, erosion, and environmental disruption to the area will be minimal. In addition, while new channel sections may differ slightly from existing river locations, the overall floodplain will be maintained.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will continue to oversee the cleanup. Kerr-McGee Corp., a former owner of the Moss-American property, has the responsibility for developing the cleanup design and rerouting the river. EPA and Kerr-McGee will ensure that important environmental elements, such as trees and shrubs, are preserved as much as possible.

Other cleanup goals include saving high-quality wetlands, avoiding the habitat of the Butler's garter snake (which has been placed on Wisconsin's threatened species list),

preserving as many trees as possible, planting new tree “clusters” for added shade, planting native grasses and shrubs that will fit in with the area, and controlling the growth of invasive plants such as garlic mustard grass and buckthorn. Any trees that are cut down and selected for reuse within the new river channel to help create a desirable habitat for fish will be anchored down so they will not interfere with the river flow or be carried downstream forming dams along the way. In exchange for the loss of wetlands and trees in segment 1, which was a concern to the community, new wetlands will be created in segment 2 where 2 acres of lower-quality trees and shrubs will be removed.

So a “footprint” of the cleanup work will be less noticeable, smaller roads will be built using a new technique whenever possible as new channel sections are dug for sediment and soil to be hauled away. This will also reduce the number of trees taken down as compared to segment 1. As work progresses in segments 2 and 3, damage to nearby hiking/biking trails will be kept to a minimum. For safety reasons, the footbridge in segment 3 will be temporarily closed while heavy-duty construction equipment is in use. EPA and Kerr-McGee are working with Milwaukee Parks and Recreation to ensure that this is properly and safely done. In addition, arrangements may be made to have occasional police patrols in this area for safety reasons.

Projected cleanup schedule

Work on the river reroute is expected to resume by Thanksgiving. Initially, preparation of new channel sections in segments 2 and 3 will be the focus. This will last through March 2004. Next summer, herbicides will be sprayed on the most intense, invasive plant growth with reed canary grass and box elder as the primary targets. This should help create a better aquatic habitat along the new channel.

From late summer 2004 through March 2005, the heaviest and most noticeable work will be done. This will include draining current sections of the river that are to be replaced by the newly excavated sections, removing the most contaminated sediment (mud) from the old channel segments and drilling and grading the old segments. During this time, the new channel will be stabilized, or balanced, to prevent erosion while water flow from some of the existing sections will be diverted into the new sections.

As segments 2 and 3 are being rerouted, the cleanup plan for segments 4 and 5 will be developed. Cleanup of segment 4, from Mill to Silver Spring roads, and segment 5, from Silver Spring to Hampton roads, could start in late 2005.



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