



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

More Cleanup Scheduled in Little Menomonee River

Moss-American Superfund Site

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

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For more information...

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Project documents are available at
the site information repository:

Mill Road Library

6431 N. 76th St.

Milwaukee

or

[www.epa.gov/region5/sites/](http://www.epa.gov/region5/sites/mossamerican)

[mossamerican](http://www.epa.gov/region5/sites/mossamerican)

What is Tronox Inc.?

Kerr-McGee Chemical LLC is a former owner of the Moss-American property, and is the party responsible for the site cleanup and river reroute. In October, the company spun off its chemical operation as a new company called Tronox Inc. Tronox makes and sells a material called titanium dioxide, which is used in paint, plastics and many other products. Since Tronox is now a separate company, it is considered the responsible party at the Moss-American site.

Cleanup of 1,000 feet of the Little Menomonee River between West Leon Terrace and West Mill Road began at the end of November. Work on this part of the river, known as Segment 4, is expected to last until January barring weather-related delays.

The work, which is being done under U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources supervision, involves pumping water out of the river channel and removing contaminated sediment (mud). This will be done in 250-foot sections of the channel. The water is then treated and released into the city's sanitary sewer system. When contamination has been removed and cleanup goals have been reached, this portion of the work will be deemed successful. Then the channel will be stabilized to prevent erosion, and winter plants will be planted along the river banks to re-establish wildlife habitats.

When the work is finished, another section of the river will be tested for chemical compounds known as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, or PAHs.

What's next?

More sampling will be done in Segments 4 and 5 in the spring. Tronox, EPA and DNR will review the sampling results to see if the cleanup continues to be successful. No decision has been made yet concerning changes to the original cleanup plan. If a change is made, we will let you know.

Status review completed

EPA completed its second status review of the Moss-American property at Brown Deer and Granville roads in September. The Superfund law requires a site review at least every five years to ensure that the cleanup is working, and that it continues to protect people and the environment.

The review confirmed that the following cleanup methods continue to be effective:

- Using a technology called "low-temperature thermal desorption" to clean up contaminated soil and sediment.
- Modifying the exposure scenario for areas of the site owned by Union Pacific Railroad from residential to industrial.
- Allowing the exposure scenario for downstream areas of the site owned by Milwaukee County to be changed from residential to recreational.
- Rerouting about 6 miles of the Little Menomonee River and cleaning up contaminated sediment.

Results of the review will be available at www.epa.gov/R5Super/fiveyear/fyr_index.html. A hard copy of the report is available at the information



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repository (see box, Page 1). The next review is scheduled for 2010.

Site background

The Little Menomonee River reroute project is part of the Moss-American Superfund site. Since the Moss-American property is the source of the river contamination, that cleanup was done first. The contamination comes primarily from a wood preserving business that operated on the site from 1921 until 1976. About 137,200 tons of contaminated soil on the property was cleaned using low-temperature thermal desorption, a process that indirectly applies heat to vaporize contaminants.

Samples of the treated soil were tested to be sure the process was effective. The treated soil was taken to parts

of the site that will be redeveloped for industrial use. Cleanup at the former Moss-American facility began in May 2001 and was completed in February 2002.

Work on the river project began when cleanup of the Moss-American site was finished. Three segments of the Little Menomonee River have been cleaned up and rerouted. PAH-contaminated sediment was also removed from the original channel.

During the summer of 2004, the project was put on hold so invasive plants like reed canary grass and box elder could be sprayed with herbicides. That allows plants like New England aster, silky dogwood and rice cutgrass to grow, creating a better wildlife habitat along the new channel.