



# FACT SHEET

## SHEBOYGAN RIVER AND HARBOR PROJECT UPDATE REPORT SEPTEMBER 1990

### **INTRODUCTION**

This fact sheet updates the September 1989 fact sheet prepared by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) on the Sheboygan River and Harbor Superfund site in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. It provides the latest information on the ongoing pilot study phase called the Alternative Specific Remedial Investigation (ASRI) of the project and the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS). The ASRI was summarized in the June 1989 fact sheet. Its progress was updated in the September 1989 fact sheet. The design plans for the pilot studies, called the "ASRI Work Plan/Quality Assurance Project Plan" documents are available for review in the site information repositories. (The information repositories are listed on page 4 of this fact sheet.)

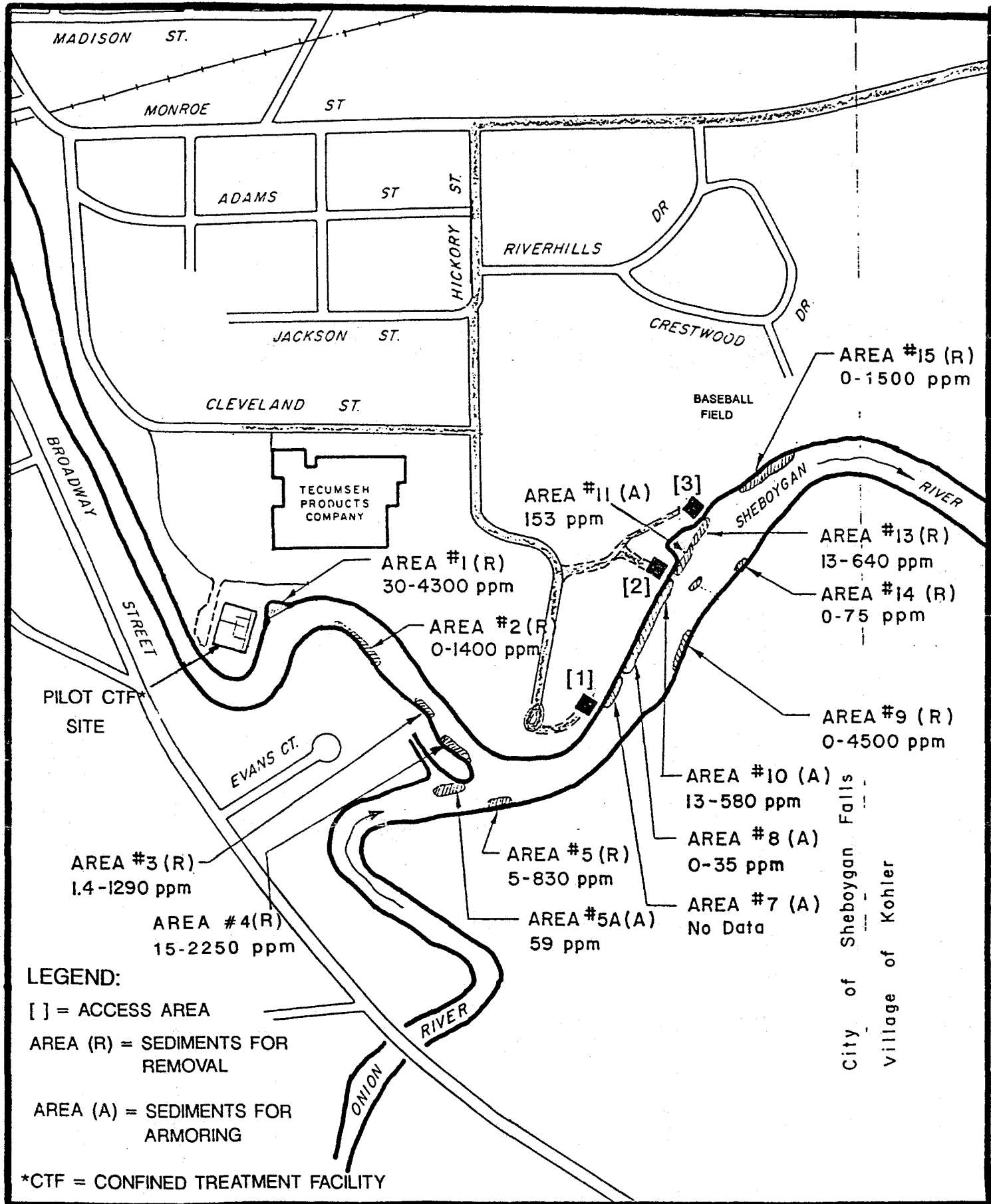
### **REMOVAL OF RIVER SEDIMENTS**

The removal of river sediments for the pilot studies has been completed. The dredging and removal, using either a crane with a modified clamshell bucket or a backhoe, took place from November 21 to December 29, 1989, and from April 11 to August 10, 1990. Approximately 2,000 cubic yards of sediments have been removed and placed in the confined treatment facility (CTF). The map on page 2 shows sediment areas which were removed. During the removal, each sediment area was surrounded by a silt curtain which minimized the movement of sediments into other parts of the river. The silt curtain was left in place until any re-suspended sediments had settled on the river bottom. These resettled sediments were also removed before the silt curtain was withdrawn. Water monitoring was maintained throughout the dredging to ensure that sediments were not escaping from the removal area into the rest of the river. Now that the polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contaminated sediments have been placed in the CTF, the biodegradation studies will begin. These studies will use bacteria to decompose the PCBs in the sediments.

### **PILOT CONFINED TREATMENT FACILITY (CTF)**

The pilot CTF, located in Sheboygan Falls between the Tecumseh Products Company plant and the Sheboygan River on property owned by Tecumseh Products Company (see map) was built as described in the last fact sheet. The sediments removed from the river have been placed in the CTF, and it is now at capacity.

# SHEBOYGAN RIVER AND HARBOR SITE MAP



**LEGEND:**

- [ ] = ACCESS AREA
- AREA (R) = SEDIMENTS FOR REMOVAL
- AREA (A) = SEDIMENTS FOR ARMORING

\*CTF = CONFINED TREATMENT FACILITY

City of Sheboygan Falls  
Village of Kohler

In the previous two fact sheets, it was explained that there would be two cells in the CTF in which two different treatment technologies would be tested: one creating an aerobic environment, and the other an anaerobic environment. U.S. EPA has changed the plans for these two cells, based on the results of laboratory studies on PCBs. Instead of the cells having two different environments, aerobic and anaerobic environments will be created alternately in both cells.

The purpose of the studies in these cells is to test the effectiveness of biodegradation of PCBs in the sediments. The studies will take up to a year to complete. Sediments in the cells will be monitored to test the effectiveness of the biodegradation process. Cores of sediments will be collected from each cell on a periodic basis and analyzed for PCBs.

During this process, water that is discharged from the cells will flow through two treatment systems. The first, called a permeable treatment wall, will test its effectiveness at removing PCBs. The water will then run through a trailer-mounted treatment system located near the CTF so that the water meets PCB discharge requirements for the State of Wisconsin.

Along with the studies being conducted in the CTF, a variety of bench-scale studies (studies performed in a laboratory environment using contaminated materials removed from the site) are being performed. The results of these studies should be available over the next year, and will be used to help determine the best method of destroying the PCB contaminated sediments.

### **ARMORING OF RIVER SEDIMENTS**

The armoring of river sediments in place in the river bed has been completed. The map on page 2 shows the armored areas. U.S. EPA previously explained that approximately 20,000 square feet of sediments had been targeted for armoring. Several of these areas were deleted from the list of areas to be armored. One of the areas was removed from the river after finding a higher level of PCBs during additional investigations. The other was not armored to avoid possible interference with the natural flow of the river. A total of approximately 13,500 square feet of river sediments were armored in place from April 18 to June 1, 1990.

There was a minor change in the original design of the armoring. The sediment areas were covered with the textile fabric, which was temporarily weighted down with sand bags. Instead of sand and cobblestones, a gravel mixture material was spread over the first layer of fabric, with another layer of fabric being placed over that material. Gabions (wire cages filled with cobblestones) were placed along the edges of the top fabric to permanently hold them in place, and cobblestone placed over the second layer of fabric. The final step was to place more gravel mixture material over the gabions in order to protect future river users from being scraped by the wire.

**REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION/FEASIBILITY STUDY (RI/FS) UPDATE**

The RI Enhanced Screening Report, prepared by Blasland and Bouck, the consultant conducting the RI/FS, has been in the information repositories since early August, and is available for review along with the other site documents prepared to date.

Several tasks remain in the overall RI/FS process, in addition to the pilot studies which will be ongoing for approximately one year. The tasks that remain to be completed are as follows:

- Determine what the cleanup criteria are;
- Prepare, develop and evaluate an expanded listing and explanation of the remedial alternatives available for the PCB and heavy metals contamination (this will be reported in the Feasibility Study Report);
- Based on these, U.S. EPA and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will recommend a course of action to be followed to complete the site contamination cleanup (called a Proposed Plan).

The public will have an opportunity to review and comment on the agencies' Proposed Plan before a final cleanup decision is made.

The projected schedule for the remaining site activities is shown below.

Evaluation and monitoring of CTF and armoring:	Through 1991
Submit ASRI Report:	Late 1991
Determination of Cleanup Standards:	Winter 1990/1991
FS Report and Proposed Plan:	Spring 1992
Record of Decision:	Late 1992

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**MAILING LIST ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS**

If you would like your name and address placed on the mailing list for the Sheboygan site, please fill out and mail this form to:

Susan Pastor, 5PA-14  
Community Relations Coordinator  
Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. EPA - Region 5  
230 S. Dearborn  
Chicago, IL 60604

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

## **PUBLIC MEETING**

The public is invited to a meeting U.S. EPA will hold in Sheboygan to discuss the project.

Date: September 20, 1990  
Time: 7 p.m.  
Location: Mead Public Library  
710 Plaza 8  
Sheboygan, WI

## **AVAILABLE INFORMATION**

Anyone interested in learning more about the Sheboygan River and Harbor Superfund site is encouraged to review the various documents that have been prepared for the site. Copies of the documents are available for review in the information repositories located at:

### **Mead Public Library**

710 Plaza  
Sheboygan, WI  
(414) 459-3400  
Hours: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. (M-F)  
1 p.m. to 5 p.m. (Sun.)

### **Sheboygan City Hall**

8828 Center Ave., 2nd Fl.  
Sheboygan, WI  
(414) 459-3364  
Hours: 8 a.m. to Noon,  
1 p.m. to 5 p.m., (M-F)

### **Sheboygan Water Quality Task Force**

631 New York Ave.  
Sheboygan, WI  
(414) 457-9491  
Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (M-F)

### **For further information:**

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Remedial Project Manager  
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(312) 886-4885

Susan Pastor  
Community Relations Coordinator  
Office of Public Affairs  
(312) 353-1325

U.S. EPA - Region 5  
230 S. Dearborn  
Chicago, IL 60604  
Toll Free Number: 1-800-621-8431  
(9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central Time)