
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Community Involvement Plan

Cedar Creek

City and Town of Cedarburg, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

W.A. No. 104-CRCR-05ZZ / Contract No. 68-W6-0025

September 2002

Introduction

This Community Involvement Plan (CIP) for the Cedar Creek site was prepared by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It provides background information on the site and recommends activities EPA will do to continue to inform the public and local officials about progress at the site, and to encourage community involvement during the site cleanup.

This CIP also discusses the concerns of nearby residents regarding the site and ways for EPA to address them. The information in this plan is based primarily on discussions with residents and local officials in June 2002.

Site Description

Location and Site Features

The Cedar Creek site is located in the City and Township of Cedarburg in southeastern Wisconsin (see page B1). The site consists of Cedar Creek, a tributary of the Milwaukee River.

The site includes the lower 5.1 miles of Cedar Creek to its confluence with the Milwaukee River. However, because polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) have moved downstream, the remedial investigation to be done in 2003 includes the Milwaukee River downstream of its confluence with Cedar Creek. The site includes two existing impoundments and one former impoundment. The site is located in a suburban residential area.

The two existing impoundments at the site are Columbia Pond, formed by the Columbia Mills Dam, and the Wire and Nail Pond, formed by the Wire and Nail Factory Dam. The Columbia Mills Dam is a 15-foot brick structure owned by the City of Cedarburg. The Wire and Nail Factory Dam is 28-foot concrete dam owned by the K & M Company. The Hamilton Dam failed in 1996. The Hamilton Pond impoundment upstream of the former dam has reverted to its natural stream course.

Site Background

History and Cleanup Progress

Cedar Creek has been used over the years as a power source for mills that were built along the creek and a disposal site for the paper mills and the communities adjacent to the creek.

Mercury Marine operated a plant in Cedarburg until 1984. The plant, known as Plant 2, was located just west of the central business district and several blocks west of Cedar Creek. An outfall from the plant emptied into Ruck Pond. PCBs from the plant entered Cedar Creek from the outfall. At the time the plant closed, the outfall was sealed.

Between 1986 and 1992, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Mercury Marine did investigations of Cedar Creek. Sediment investigations were done at Ruck Pond, Columbia Pond, Wire and Nail Pond, Former Hamilton Pond and stretches in between to identify the extent of the contaminated sediment.

In 1994 and 1995, Mercury Marine removed contaminated sediment and soil from Ruck Pond under the direction of the DNR. Nearly 7,500 cubic yards of soil and sediment were removed after flow of Cedar Creek was diverted. After the removal, the area was restored through bank reconstruction/landscaping and a walkway was constructed on the east side of the pond. Prior to the Ruck Pond cleanup, the Plant 2 outfall was cleaned.

In 2000 and 2001, Mercury Marine removed about 14,000 tons of PCB-contaminated soil adjacent to the former Hamilton Pond. The stream banks were restored by backfilling, revegetation and wetland reconstruction. Contaminated sediment was not removed from the creek during the 2000-2001 cleanup.

In 2001, Mercury Marine formally asked that EPA take the lead on the site. Although EPA will take the lead on the site, DNR will continue to have significant input to the decision on appropriate cleanup.

Contaminants

The primary site contaminant is PCBs, a hazardous substance and probable human carcinogen. PCBs were introduced to Cedar Creek through past discharges and disposal of PCB-contaminated material. PCBs attach to sediment.

Liability

The DNR has identified two companies liable for the contamination of this site:

- Mercury Marine
- Amcast

Community Background

Most of the site lies within the City of Cedarburg. The rest of the site lies within the Town of Cedarburg. Cedarburg's 2000 population is 11,160, an 11 percent increase from 1990.

Status of Community Involvement Activities

Because EPA has recently become involved in the Cedar Creek site, it has not done any community involvement activities outside of the June 25-27, 2002 community interviews described in this CIP.

Prior to EPA's involvement, DNR and Mercury Marine held public meetings and mailed information to interested residents. DNR will continue to be involved in the site and will be invited to public meetings held by EPA.

Community Issues and Concerns

When EPA took the lead on the site, it also took the lead on community involvement activities. To learn more about the communities' concerns and issues regarding the site, EPA held several community interviews on June 25-27, 2002. EPA talked with residents and local officials and asked them about their concerns about Cedar Creek contamination and a potential cleanup, the site's community involvement process, what they thought was working and not working, and how the community involvement process could be improved.

Summary of Community Interviews

About two dozen residents, local officials and county health officials were interviewed. Most of the residents interviewed live along Cedar Creek. Cedarburg residents with whom EPA spoke demonstrated a strong awareness and interest in the site.

Cedarburg residents had a relatively accurate picture of how and why the cleanup had occurred as well as recent site developments, namely that EPA was asked to get involved in the site.

Anecdotally, it appears that the Cedar Creek contamination is not a big issue for Cedarburg residents who do not live on Cedar Creek.

The residents interviewed were concerned about their property, understood the issues and seemed mostly to want accurate and timely information. While residents understood the distinction between the different agencies involved in the cleanup, there were questions and some concern as to why EPA was getting involved.

Below is a summary of the answers received during the community interviews:

What are your concerns about the contamination in Cedar Creek?

Most residents who live along the creek shared a concern for the potential impact to their property from a cleanup. They expressed their preference for a timely and fast cleanup of the remaining contaminated areas. Several residents stated the contamination does not pose a risk to them because they do not use the creek. A smaller number of adjacent property owners believe that the contamination poses a risk to them and they either do not use or modify

their use of the creek as a result. However, short-term concerns related to damage to their property from construction activities related to the cleanup were a larger concern.

While most residents are concerned about construction impacts, several stated that PCB contamination affects their use of the creek. Some residents either 1) do not use the creek at all because of the contamination; 2) boat on the creek but avoid contact with the water; or 3) fish in the creek but do not eat the fish. Several residents expressed hope that someday they and their children would be able to swim and fish in the creek without risk of exposure to PCBs.

Several residents asked how the cleanup goals will be set.

Four creek property owners mentioned concern that the dams may have to be removed to clean up the contamination. Removing the dams would decrease the size of the upstream ponds, dramatically altering the setting upstream of the dams.

Some residents were concerned that EPA's involvement would delay the cleanup and that Mercury Marine asked EPA to get involved as a stall tactic (see #6 on page 6).

Concerns expressed by one or two residents are listed below:

- One Hamilton Pond resident was concerned about loss of property value as a result of the contamination.
- Other residents who were asked this question said they did not believe their property was devalued by the presence of contamination.
- One Hamilton Pond resident is not convinced his property is clean after the Hamilton Pond cleanup in 2000.
- If dams are removed as part of the cleanup, and the ponds shrink back to their original bank, who would own the dewatered land?
- Is it safe for dogs to play in the creek and use creek water to water gardens?
- Is there a cap on Mercury Marine's liability, and could Amcast slow down the cleanup by not participating?
- Who holds Mercury Marine and its contractor responsible?

How long have you been following activities at the site?

The majority of people interviewed were aware of the contamination since the DNR's investigations in the 1980s. Most Columbia Pond property owners have followed the site and its activities closely since Mercury Marine and DNR initiated the Ruck Pond cleanup in 1995.

What are your perceptions of the site's public involvement process?

Most people stated they regularly attended the community meetings sponsored by DNR and Mercury Marine. Most who attended the meetings believed that Mercury Marine did a good job of keeping people informed at the meetings. Cedar Creek property owners mentioned that Mercury Marine also did a good job of keeping property owners informed and at getting their input during removal actions.

DNR did not get good reviews for providing answers to people's questions or soliciting public input, mostly from property from owners along the creek.

Do you use the creek? If so, how do you use it?

Many adjacent property owners use the creek for canoeing and some for fishing (although they do not eat the fish). Cedarburg residents who do not have property on the creek are less likely to use it, although some partake in winter activities on the creek. None of the people interviewed could say with certainty whether people from outside Cedarburg use Cedar Creek with any frequency.

What contacts have you had with government officials about the site?

Some residents have contacted DNR and their city alderperson about Cedar Creek concerns. Most were aware that EPA had recently become involved in the site. As noted earlier, DNR in general did not receive high marks for keeping stakeholders in the loop and providing timely answers to their questions. However, several people believed DNR was doing a good job in the overall cleanup.

Ozaukee County Health Department officials said they have received about six phone calls from residents concerned about the potential health implications of the contamination, the extent of the contamination, the cleanup schedule, and possible effects on ground water.

What concerns do you have about EPA becoming involved in the site?

Several people asked why EPA was becoming involved in the site, and whether DNR would still be involved. Concerns over EPA involvement included:

The stigma to the community from a potential Superfund site designation.

The cleanup would be slowed down (two people mentioned the slow pace of the Sheboygan River cleanup).

Concerns over adding another layer of government.

Concern that Mercury Marine asked EPA to get involved as a stall tactic.

DNR knows more about the creek than EPA.

EPA's community involvement coordinator and remedial project manager were able to address many concerns during the course of the community interviews.

How do you feel about the way the information about the site is being distributed?

Overall, people were satisfied with the way information was being distributed. Several Cedar Creek property owners had received letters and e-mail correspondence from Mercury Marine informing them of site developments and meetings.

Are you interested in receiving more information about the site? If yes, what kinds of information would you like from EPA? What is the best way to get that information to you?

Residents and officials agreed that information regarding the project's timeline is the most important information they would like EPA to provide them. The second most-often requested information was what the cleanup goals will be.

Other questions asked:

- How will the site be cleaned up?
- Can property owners deny EPA access for sampling?
- Will property be restored after cleanup?
- Has EPA cleaned up this type of site before?
- Is contaminated sediment moving?
- What will happen to Hamilton Pond?
- Will purple loosestrife be removed as part of the cleanup?
- Is there any evidence of PCBs in ground water?

Residents and officials were roughly split on whether they wanted to receive mailings electronically or in hard copy. Everyone, however, wanted to be kept informed about the site.

What type of media do you rely on to get information about the site?

The majority of media coverage about the Cedar Creek site is disseminated through two area newspapers, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* and the *Ozaukee News Graphic*.

Proposed Community Involvement Activities

The next step for EPA is to address the issues, concerns and questions that were expressed about the site. To do this, EPA is proposing to:

Send Fact Sheets

EPA will mail out fact sheets to those on the site's mailing list as a way to give updates on the site and its activities. The fact sheets will be mailed out periodically to inform the public about upcoming meetings and important technical information.

In addition to sending fact sheets via first class mail, EPA will develop an e-mail distribution list for interested parties who prefer e-mail. The fact sheet will be sent to e-mail recipients as a .pdf file at the same time the fact sheet is mailed.

Hold Community Meetings

Community meetings sponsored by Mercury Marine and/or DNR have been occurring in the area. The meetings were well attended based on input from residents, and were helpful in disseminating information. EPA will continue holding community meetings at key milestones. The meetings will be announced via newspaper notices, e-mail messages and fact sheets.

The Cedarburg City Hall offers a variety of room sizes that can be used based on the anticipated number of attendees.

A contact list of government officials is in Appendix A.

Stay in Contact with Key Stakeholders

A Cedar Creek property owner developed an informal e-mail group that includes interested citizens who want to stay informed about the site. An effective information distribution network has been developed mainly through e-mail. The group's e-mail distribution list includes mostly residents on Columbia Pond. The organizer of this network includes stakeholders regardless of their views on the cleanup.

In addition to fact sheets and public meetings, this informal network will be used by EPA to disseminate information to the community on a regular basis, even if there is no key milestone to report. Based on the importance residents placed on receiving timely information, this will help ensure an effective community involvement.

The e-mail distribution list developed for this site could be used to provide regular, concise updates ranging from a few sentences to a few paragraphs.

Maintain Information Repositories

Two information repositories will be established and contain information and documents about the site. These repositories will be located in the Cedarburg City Hall and the Cedarburg Public Library.

Work with Local Media

The most widely read newspapers are the *Ozaukee News Graphic* and the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. EPA will publish notices in the *News Graphic* and the Ozaukee County edition of the *Journal Sentinel*. Residents indicated that Milwaukee television stations have not covered the site to date. EPA will contact the *News Graphic* and the *Journal Sentinel* environmental reporter at key milestones to provide information.

A contact list of all media services is in Appendix A.

Use the Internet

EPA will maintain and regularly update a Web site, which will contain information about the site, its activities and upcoming meetings. EPA will consider placing technical documents, including this one, on the Web site.

Most residents said they have access to the Internet.

Have a Presence

EPA's community involvement coordinator and remedial project manager will respond to inquiries from those interested in the site throughout the cleanup. They will also be available to speak to local citizen groups, upon request. EPA's toll-free telephone number and the project staff's direct numbers and e-mail addresses will be included on all community involvement material.

Appendix A

Cedar Creek Superfund Site Contact List

Federal Elected Officials

Senator Russ Feingold
Milwaukee Office
517 E. Wisconsin Ave., Room 408
Milwaukee, WI 53202-4504

Senator Herbert Kohl
Milwaukee Office
310 W. Wisconsin Ave., Suite 950
Milwaukee, WI 53203

Congressman James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
District Office
120 Bishops Way, Room 154
Brookfield, WI 53005

State Elected Officials

Governor Scott McCallum
Office of the Governor
115 E. State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Representative Timothy Hoven
Room 17 North
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison 53708-8952

Representative Michael Lehman
Room 103 West
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison 53708-8952

Senator Mary Panzer
Room 202 South
State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison 53707-7882

State Agencies

Margaret Brunette
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Southeast Region Headquarters
2300 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Drive
Milwaukee, WI 53212
Phone: (414) 263-8557
margaret.brunette@dnr.state.wi.us

Chuck Warzecha
Department of Health & Family Services
Division of Public Health
1 W. Wilson St.
Madison, WI 53701
Phone: (608) 267-3732
warzecj@dhfs.state.wi.us

Local Elected Officials

Ozaukee County

Gustav W. Wirth Jr.
County Board Chairperson
N54 W5989 Portland Road
Cedarburg, WI 53012
Phone: (262) 375-1000
gus@wirth.com

Clarence A. Boesch
County Board Supervisor
5828 Lilac Lane, P.O. Box 248
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Phone: (262) 377-3397

Glenn F. Stumpf
County Board Supervisor
340 Horns Corners Road
Cedarburg, WI 53012
Phone: (262) 375-1554
gstumpf@pitnet.net

Gerald E. Walker
County Board Supervisor
W70 N1018 Hampton Court
Cedarburg, WI 53012
Phone: (262) 377-7468
gewalker@execpc.com

Kimberly J. McCulloch
County Board Supervisor
N79 W5286 Bywater Lane
Cedarburg, WI 53012
Phone: (262) 375-3136
mccullochkim@yahoo.com

James H. Uselding
County Board Supervisor
N49 W6557 Western Road
Cedarburg, WI 53012
Phone: (262) 376-7787

Glenda S. Madlom
Public Health Director
121 W. Main St.
Port Washington, WI 53074
Phone: (262) 284-8170
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publichealth@co.ozaukee.wi.us

Andy Holschbach, Director
Land & Water Conservation Department
P.O. Box 994
Port Washington, WI 53074-0994
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City of Cedarburg

City of Cedarburg
W63 N645 Washington Ave.
P.O. Box 49
Cedarburg, WI 53012
Phone: (262) 375-7600
Fax: (262) 375-7906
cityhall@ci.cedarburg.wi.us

Gregory Myers, Mayor
Phone: (262) 375-7606
gmyers@ci.cedarburg.wi.us

Tom Wiza
Director of Engineering and Public Works
twizal@ci.cedarburg.wi.us

John R. Hammen, 1st District Council Member
Phone: (262) 375-0132
dist1cm@ci.cedarburg.wi.us

Steven Glamm, 2nd District Council Member
Phone: (262) 375-2844
dist2cm@ci.cedarburg.wi.us

Michael Kern, 3rd District Council Member
Phone: (262) 377-1556
dist3cm@ci.cedarburg.wi.us

Randy M. Miller, 4th District Council Member
Phone: (262) 376-1337
dist4cm@ci.cedarburg.wi.us

Sandra Beck, 5th District Council Member
Phone: (262) 377-8177
dist5cm@ci.cedarburg.wi.us

Kip Kinzel, 6th District Council Member
Phone: (262) 377-9827
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Council President Robert Loomis, 7th District
Council Member
Phone: (262) 377-9371
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Clinton P. Gridley, City Administrator
Phone: (262) 375-7606

Email - cgridley@ci.cedarburg.wi.us

Sandra M. Ingram, City Clerk
Phone: (262) 375-7606
singram@ci.cedarburg.wi.us

Richard Van Dinter, Fire Department Chief
Phone: (262) 375-7630

Thomas Frank, Police Department Chief
Phone: (262) 375-7620
cepd@execpc.com

Town of Cedarburg

Town Hall
1293 Washington Ave.
Cedarburg, WI 53012
Phone: (262) 377-4509
Fax: (262) 377-0308
townhall@town.cedarburg.wi.us

Jerold F. Voigt
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Wayne Denow
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Saukville, WI 53080
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Scott A. Gosse
Town Administrator
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Cedarburg, WI 53012
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EPA

EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590
Phone: (800) 621-8431
www.epa.gov/region5/sites

Susan Pastor, P-19J
Community Involvement Coordinator

Phone: (312) 353-1325
pastor.susan@epa.gov

Scott Hansen, SR-6J
Remedial Project Manager
Phone: (312) 886-1999
hansen.scott@epa.gov

Information Repositories

Cedarburg City Hall
W63 N645 Washington Ave.
Cedarburg, WI 53012
Phone: (262) 375-7606
Fax: (262) 375-7906
Clinton Gridley, City Administrator
cgridley@ci.cedarburg.wi.us

Cedarburg Public Library
W63 N583 Hanover Ave.
Cedarburg, WI 53012
Phone: (262) 375-7640
Fax: (262) 375-7618
Mary Marquardt, Director
mmarqrdt@esls.lib.wi.us

Media – Newspapers

Lakeshore Newspapers
(Ozaukee County Guide, The Advertiser,
News Graphic, and the Ozaukee Shopper)
N19 W6733 Commerce St.
Cedarburg, WI 53012
Phone: (262) 375-5100
Fax: (262) 375-5107
Mark Jaeger, Managing Editor
mjaeger@conley.net.com

Ozaukee Press
125 E. Main St.
Port Washington, WI 53074
Phone: (262) 284-3494
Fax: (262) 284-0067

**Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel
Ozaukee County News**
116 W. Grand Ave.
Port Washington, WI 53074
Phone: (262) 284-5732
jsozwa@onwis.com
Eric Aspenso, Editor Ozaukee/Washington
easpenso@onwis.com

Media – Radio

**WISN-AM
WLTV-FM**
759 N. 19th St.
P.O. Box 402
Milwaukee, WI 53201
Phone: (414) 342-1111
Fax: (414) 342-4734

**WTMJ - AM
WKTI - FM**
720 E. Capitol Drive
P.O. Box 693
Milwaukee, WI 53201
Phone: (414) 967-5310
Fax: (414) 967-5492

WFMR-FM
5407 W. McKinley Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53208
Phone: (414) 978-9000
Fax: (414) 978-9001
oyadgar@wfmr.com

WGLB - FM
900 E. Green Bay Road
Port Washington, WI 53074
Phone: (262) 377-4400
Fax: (262) 284-2667

WIIL - FM
8500 Green Bay Road
Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158
Phone: (262) 694-7800
Fax: (262) 694-7767

WLUM - FM
2979 N. Mayfair Road
Milwaukee, WI 53222
Phone: (414) 771-1021
Fax: (414) 771-3036

WLZR - FM
5407 W. McKinley Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53208
Phone: (414) 978-9000
Fax: (414) 978-9001

WUWM - FM
3203 N. Downer Ave.
P.O. Box 413
Milwaukee, WI 53201
Phone: (414) 229-4664
Fax: (414) 229-5749

Media – Television

WTMJ - TV
720 E. Capitol Drive
P.O. Box 693
Milwaukee, WI 53201
Phone: (414) 967-5318
Fax: (414) 967-5378

WDJT-TV

809 S. 60th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53214
Phone: (414) 777-5800
Fax: (414) 777-5802

WISN - TV

759 N. 19th St.
P.O. Box 402
Milwaukee, WI 53201
Phone: (414) 937-3331
Fax: (414) 342-7505

WITI - TV

9001 N. Green Bay Road
P.O. Box 17600
Milwaukee, WI 53217
Phone: (414) 355-6214
Fax: (414) 362-2141

Milwaukee Public Television

1036 N. 8th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53233
Phone: (414) 297-7514
Fax: (414) 297-6771