



Timeline for Achieving Comprehensive Cleanup

Tittabawassee River, Saginaw River & Bay Contamination Site
Midland/Saginaw/Bay City Region, Michigan June 2009

For more information

You can view documents related to the Tittabawassee River, Saginaw River & Bay Contamination Site in information repositories set up by EPA and MDEQ. The repositories are located in the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, 1710 W. St. Andrews St., Midland; the Hoyt Main Library, 505 Janes Ave., Saginaw; and the Alice and Jack Wirt Public Library, 500 Center Ave., Bay City.

Information office

On June 23, EPA will open a community information office in the Saginaw County Courthouse, 111 S. Michigan Ave., Saginaw. Initial hours will be Tuesday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed from noon to 1 p.m.). Check the Web site for more information.

Go on the Web

EPA dioxin investigation:
<http://www.epa.gov/region5/sites/dowchemical>

MDEQ dioxin information:
<http://www.michigan.gov/deqdioxin>

Sign up for the listserv

If you'd like to be emailed site updates, send a blank message to: dow_dioxin-subscribe@lists.epa.gov

Contacts

These EPA community involvement coordinators can answer questions:

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Don de Blasio
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deblasio.don@epa.gov

Region 5 toll free:
800-621-8431, 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., weekdays

At MDEQ contact:

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The overarching goal for this project is to achieve protective, comprehensive cleanup of the Tittabawassee and Saginaw Rivers and Saginaw Bay. In order to achieve this goal, EPA intends to build on the existing information, as well as prior and ongoing work conducted by EPA and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Critical activities for the site fall into three categories:

- Continue addressing high-use properties along the rivers through early actions.
- Continue addressing movement of highly contaminated sediments through early actions.
- Develop comprehensive cleanup options in an upstream-to-downstream fashion for the Tittabawassee River, Saginaw River and Saginaw Bay, over the longer term.

The key milestones and the projected completion dates for these critical activities at the site are outlined below. Many tasks will be conducted concurrently, so that significant work can be accomplished on an accelerated schedule.

Addressing High Use Properties along the Rivers

Potential exposure of people to highly contaminated, heavily used properties along the floodplains is a concern. This concern has resulted in some areas that have already been addressed through time-critical removal actions (Riverside Blvd., West Michigan Park). Under any new order, exposures on high-use properties will continue to be evaluated and addressed on an accelerated schedule. Key milestones include:

- Assessing high-use properties for potential exposure risks: in phases from winter 2009/2010 through spring 2011.
- Additional time-critical removal actions: conducted as appropriate.
- Seek public input on cleanup options for identified high-use properties: in phases from fall 2010 through fall 2011.
- EPA's selection of cleanup approaches: in phases from winter 2010/2011 through winter 2011/2012.
- Selected cleanups designed and ready to implement: in phases from fall 2011 through fall 2012.

Addressing Movement of Highly Contaminated Banks and Sediments

Potential movement of highly contaminated sediments and river banks to other areas of the site is also a concern. This concern resulted in some areas being addressed through time-critical removal actions (Reach D, Reach J/K, Reach O and Wickes Park). Under the new agreement, addressing the movement of highly contaminated banks and sediments will continue to be assessed and addressed on an accelerated schedule. Key milestones include:

- Assessing highly contaminated banks and sediments for potential movement: in phases from winter 2009/2010 through spring 2011.
- Additional time-critical removal actions: conducted as appropriate.
- Cleanup options to address bank and sediment movement identified for public input: in phases from fall 2010 through fall 2011.

- EPA's selection of cleanup approaches: in phases from winter 2010/2011 through winter 2011/2012.
- Selected cleanups designed and ready to implement: in phases from fall 2011 through fall 2012.

Comprehensive Cleanup Options in an Upstream-To-Downstream Fashion

Longer-term, comprehensive cleanup of the site will be achieved best by applying an approach that requires making cleanup decisions, implementing cleanups, and monitoring results. This type of approach requires the river system to be divided into manageable segments, and requires cleanup to occur in an upstream-to-downstream fashion while ensuring that all components of each segment (e.g., floodplains, banks, and in-channel sediments) are addressed. Monitoring results will be critical for evaluating the effectiveness of implemented remedies, ensuring protection of human health and the environment is achieved, and guiding the development of cleanup options as cleanup moves from upstream to downstream.

Key milestones include:

- Assessment of the first river segment: fall 2009 through fall 2010.
- Cleanup options for the first river segment identified for public input: spring 2011.
- EPA's selection of cleanup approach for the first river segment: summer 2011.

- Selected cleanup for the first river segment designed and ready to implement fall 2012.
- Assessment of the second river segment: summer of 2011 but no later than summer of 2012.
- Cleanup options for the second river segment identified for public input: winter 2011/2012 but no later than winter 2012/2013.
- EPA's selection of cleanup approach for the second river segment: spring 2012 but no later than spring 2013.
- Selected cleanup for the second river segment designed and ready to implement: fall 2013 but no later than fall 2014.

EPA anticipates that there will be a total of 5 to 7 segments in the Tittabawassee and Upper Saginaw River (an approximate 30 mile stretch overall). Each segment will likely be 4-5 miles long and will be divided based on land usage and other considerations. EPA also expects work to be staged to allow continuous construction upstream to downstream. The Lower Saginaw River and Saginaw Bay are expected to require additional studies. However, because this part of the site is expected to be affected by cleanup upstream, work in the Lower Saginaw River and Bay would be initiated after substantial upstream cleanup has occurred. Site-wide monitoring will begin in 2010, continue during all phases of work, and will be used to assess conditions throughout the site as work progresses.

