

Soil Testing Gathers Information for St. Maries Creosote Site Cleanup

St. Maries, Idaho

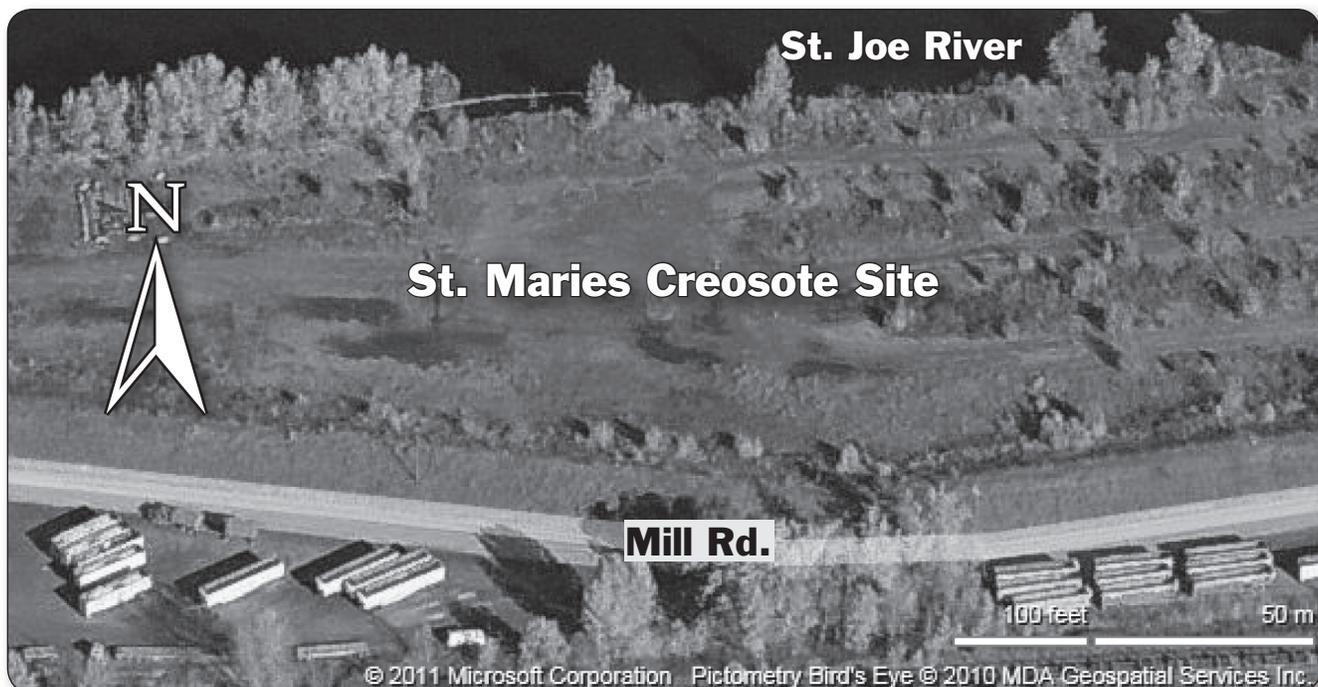
October 2011

In November, soil sampling will be conducted on the St. Maries Creosote Site in St. Maries, Idaho. Most of the work will be done between the St. Joe River and the flood control levee, known as the upland area of the site. The site, a former wood-treating facility, lies along the south bank of the St. Joe River. Creosote is the main contaminant of concern. Contaminated soils and groundwater at the site pose a potential health risk to people who might work or recreate on the site.

Although groundwater at the site is contaminated, contaminants have not been detected in people's drinking water. Site contamination also poses a risk to organisms living in St. Joe River sediments, and possibly to some fish and other animals that eat them. EPA expects the sampling will take about six weeks and be completed by Christmas. The sampling will better define the extent of the contamination in the upland area of the site.

ARCADIS, the contractor for the site's Potentially Responsible Parties, will investigate soils down to roughly 60 feet. If creosote is found, a follow-up boring will take place to collect soil samples every two feet, down to the lowest detected creosote, and then four feet more. Selected soil samples will be analyzed to determine the extent of contamination.

This effort will help determine which contaminated soils will need to be excavated and thermally treated, and which can be treated in place on site. In addition, groundwater and soil samples will be collected to be used for treatability testing, to help determine the most effective way to treat the contaminated water and soils. A geoprobe® will be used for the investigation. To see a demonstration, visit <http://tinyurl.com/3dmh89f>. One or two drilling rigs will be used to collect samples.



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*If you need materials in an alternative format,
please contact Debra Sherbina, 206-553-0247.*

*TTY users please call the Federal Relay Service:
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Read inside for details

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