ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet

St. Maries Creosote Site, St. Maries, Idaho

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10 July 2007

EPA Issues Cleanup Decision for St. Maries Creosote Site

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued its plan to clean up creosote contamination at the St. Maries Creosote Site in St. Maries, Idaho. This document, called the Record of Decision or "ROD" describes the cleanup plan that EPA has selected for the St. Maries site. The ROD was signed on July 20, 2007. EPA selected the plan after carefully evaluating it against twelve other possible alternatives. The cleanup plan protects people's health and the environment, and complies with Superfund cleanup requirements.

Before choosing a final cleanup plan, EPA considered all comments received during two separate public comment periods. The first ran from July 22, 2005 through October 12, 2005; the second from December 6, 2006 through January 5, 2007. Throughout the process, EPA has consulted with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe on the cleanup plan, and the Tribe has concurred with the plan.

During the two comment periods, EPA received numerous letters and e-mail messages. Oral testimony was also received at the two public hearings, held in August 2005 and December 2006. Comments included the cleanup alternatives, the cost of the cleanup, and how it will be paid for. The EPA's responses to the comments are addressed in the Record of Decision's Responsiveness Summary.

(see page 2 for where to review the ROD).

What will be cleaned up?

Studies done by EPA, the City of St. Maries, and Carney Products Company, Ltd. found that soils, sediments, and groundwater have been contaminated with creosote and related polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) from the pole-treating plant which had operated at the site. Contaminated soils and groundwater at the site pose a risk to people's health. In addition, contamination poses a risk to organisms living in the St. Joe River sediments, and potentially to some animals that eat them. For more information about creosote, go to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's (ATSDR) ToxFAQs website: ***http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts85.html***

What is the cleanup plan?

The following describes the selected cleanup plan for the site's upland soils, nearshore and shoreline sediments, bank soils, groundwater, and offshore sediments. Each of these areas will be regularly monitored after the cleanup is completed, to make sure the cleanup continues to protect human health and the environment.

Upland Soils

The top twenty feet of creosote-contaminated upland soils will be dug up and thermally treated. Then, the treated soils will be deposited back in place. Contaminated upland soils deeper than twenty feet will be solidified in place by mixing them with cement-like materials. This will greatly reduce the amount of contamination seeping into the groundwater, which in turn carries contaminants into the St. Joe River. Groundwater will be cleaned up to be safe as a future drinking water source. Use of the site will be restricted to make sure the solidified subsurface soils remain undisturbed after the cleanup is complete. This could mean restrictions on digging or drilling.

Sediments and Bank Soils

Contaminated bank soils, as well as contaminated shoreline, nearshore, and offshore sediments in the St. Joe River, will be dug up, dewatered, and thermally treated, and replaced with clean materials. The treated sediments and bank soils will be placed on site with the treated upland soils. All sediments will be studied further to better define the extent and depth of contamination. Workers will build a temporary watertight sheetpile wall as a barrier between the nearshore sediments and offshore sediments. The wall will prevent contaminants from the more highly contaminated nearshore sediments and upland soils area from getting into the river during cleanup.

Water

Water collected from dewatering the sediments will be treated so that it can be safely discharged to the St. Joe River. Contaminated groundwater captured during the upland soils excavation will be treated and discharged to the river as well. All water from the clean up will be in compliance with surface water quality standards.

What happens next?

The PRPs will create a detailed design for cleanup. EPA will oversee this design to ensure it complies with the Record of Decision and other Superfund requirements. Design is expected to take about one year. When the design is finished, construction can begin. Construction is expected to take about two years. EPA will send fact sheets and update its St. Maries web page to report on progress.

Site background and actions to date

The St. Maries Creosote site is on the edge of the City of St. Maries, Idaho, along the south bank of the St. Joe River. The site is located within the boundaries of the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation; however, the City of St. Maries and Carney Products Company, Ltd. own the site. A creosote pole-treating plant operated at the site for many years. The site was also used for peeling, sorting, and storing untreated wooden poles until it shut down in early 2003. In 1998 and 1999, under a legal order issued by EPA, the City and Carney Products Company, Ltd., two of the site's PRPs, removed some contaminated soils along the riverbank. About 195 tons of debris and contaminated soils were hauled to a hazardous waste landfill.

In December 2000, EPA proposed the site for its National Priorities List of long-term cleanups. EPA has not finalized listing of the site, although cleanup has moved forward consistent with Superfund.

In summer 2001, the City of St. Maries and Carney Products Company, Ltd. signed a consent order with EPA, agreeing to study the site and evaluate cleanup options. The City and Carney Products took about 190 soil, sediment, groundwater, and river water samples. Creosote was found in upland soils, groundwater, and in St. Joe River sediments, especially along the riverbank and shoreline in front of the site. EPA, in consultation with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, has overseen this work

Find the Record of Decision (ROD)

You can review the ROD, which includes the Responsiveness Summary, at

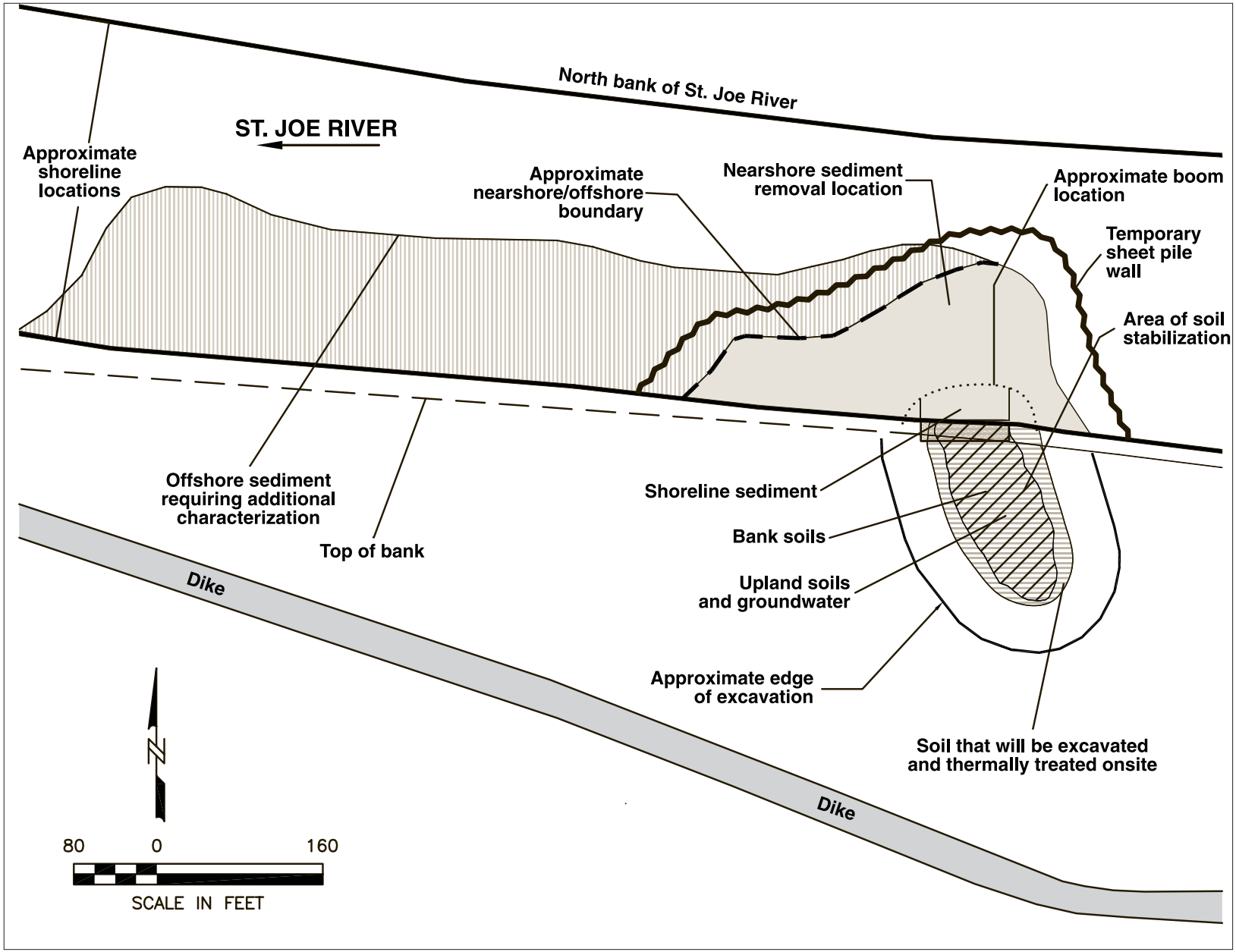
http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/stmaries

To get a copy of the ROD, please call Debra Sherbina at the number listed below.

For more information:
Debra Sherbina
Community Involvement Coordinator
800-424-4372, x0247
sherbina.debra@epa.gov

Joe Wallace
Remedial Project Manager
800-424-4372, x4470
wallace.joe@epa.gov

Call EPA toll-free: 800-424-4372
Alternative formats are available. For reasonable accommodation, please call Debra Sherbina. TTY users, call the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339.



The selected cleanup plan for the St. Maries site. The temporary sheetpile wall will prevent contaminants from getting into the St. Joe River during cleanup.

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Sixth Avenue, ETPA-081
Seattle, Washington 98101-1128

Pre-Sorted Standard
Postage and Fees Paid
U.S. EPA
Permit No. G-35
Seattle, WA

Final Cleanup Decision
St. Maries Creosote Site
St. Maries, Idaho
July 2007

<> Working with you for a better environment. <>

Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper