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## Portage Creek Area

Kalamazoo, MI - EPA Region V

POLREP #17

Progress

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U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
 POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
 Portage Creek Area - Removal Polrep



### UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY Region V

**Subject:** POLREP #17  
 Progress  
 Portage Creek Area  
 059B05  
 Kalamazoo, MI  
 Latitude: 42.2839750 Longitude: -85.5791570

**To:** Mark Mills, Michigan DNR  
 Daria Devantier, MDEQ  
 Bruce Merchant, Kalamazoo City  
 Debbie Jung, Kalamazoo City  
 Lisa Williams, U.S. FWS  
 Todd Goeks, NOAA  
 Valencia Darby, Department of Interior

**From:** Craig Thomas, On-Scene Coordinator

**Date:** 8/31/2012

**Reporting Period:** 8/18/2012 - 8/31/2012

#### 1. Introduction

##### 1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	059B05	<b>Contract Number:</b>	EP-S5-09-05
<b>D.O. Number:</b>	0087	<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	7/5/2011
<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b>	Time-Critical
<b>Response Lead:</b>	EPA	<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>NPL Status:</b>	NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	05
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	9/26/2011	<b>Start Date:</b>	8/30/2011
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>Completion Date:</b>	
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>	MID006007306	<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	NA
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	Yes
<b>FPN#:</b>		<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

**1.1.1 Incident Category**  
 Fund-lead removal action

**1.1.2 Site Description**  
 See POLREP #1

**1.1.2.1 Location**  
 See POLREP #1

**1.1.2.2 Description of Threat**  
 See POLREP #1

**1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results**  
 See POLREP #1

#### 2. Current Activities

##### 2.1 Operations Section

###### 2.1.1 Narrative

Dredging operations began in SA5D (Upjohn Park) on August 20. Contaminated sediment removal and backfilling was completed in grids SA5D-1 to SA5D-8 by August 31. Visible gross contamination and elevated PCB test results at target excavation depths (see Sections 2.1.2, 2.2 and 2.2.2) required additional excavation to meet the clean-up performance standard. Preparations are underway to begin dredging operations in SA5C immediately following completion of dredging/backfilling operations in SA5D.

**2.1.2 Response Actions to Date**

From August 18 to August 31, EPA, START and ERRS contractors conducted the following activities:

Site Activities - SA5D & SA5C

- Constructed sand-bag coffer dam to facilitate groundwater de-watering between the Upjohn Park footbridge and Crosstown Parkway;
- Removed the Upjohn Park footbridge to facilitate access for contaminated sediment excavation operations;
- Extended temporary fencing from the Upjohn Park footbridge to Crosstown Parkway;
- Fenced off sensitive drip line areas for trees in SA5C;
- Installed groundwater dewatering system from the Upjohn Park footbridge to Crosstown Parkway; and
- Excavated contaminated sediments from grids SA5D-1 to SA5D-8.

GRID	TOTAL ESTIMATED EXCAVATION DEPTH (in)	FINAL CONFIRMATION PCB RESULT (mg/kg)
SA5D-1	54	ND
SA5D-2	60	0.098
SA5D-3	56	0.17
SA5D-4	59	0.21
SA5D-5	59	ND
SA5D-6	56	ND
SA5D-7	50	ND
SA5D-8	60	0.86

ND: non-detect

Site Activities - Axtell Creek

- Removed isolation (groundwater) de-watering system, and
- Abandoned and sealed de-watering well boreholes with bentonite clay.

Site Activities - Staging Pad

- Solidified and loaded out approximately 647.41 tons of TSCA (> 50ppm PCBs) contaminated sediments for disposal at Wayne Disposal landfill in Belleville, Michigan;
- Solidified and loaded out approximately 2269.45 tons of non-TSCA (< 50ppm PCBs) contaminated sediments for disposal at C&C Landfill in Marshall, Michigan; and
- Treated 25,582 gallons of potentially contaminated contact water in EPA's mobile wastewater treatment plant, with a total of 471,083 gallons treated to date.

Project Management Activities

- Continued weekly progress meetings with City of Kalamazoo;
- Conducted data validation for post-removal confirmation sediment samples collected from SA5D;
- Met with Bronson Methodist Hospital officials regarding planning for access in SA5A; and
- Received post-excavation structural assessment for SA6.

**2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)**

The major PRP for this portion of the Allied Paper Inc./Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund site was dissolved through bankruptcy proceedings in April 2010. Other PRPs are being evaluated.

**2.1.4 Progress Metrics**

Waste Stream	Medium	Quantity	Manifest #	Treatment	Disposal
TSCA contaminated sediments	solidified sediment	647.41 tons (est)	009077454JJK to 009077466JJK	disposal	Wayne Disposal, Belleville, MI
Non-TSCA contaminated sediments	solidified sediment	2269.45 tons (est)	NTSCA-101 to NTSCA-144	disposal	C&C Landfill, Marshall MI
Scrap Tires	solid	57 tires	JC8-28-1	recycling	Entech, Inc, White Pigeon, MI
Corrugated cardboard boxes	solid	100 lbs	NA	recycling	municipal drop-off center
Dry cell batteries	solid	25 lbs	NA	recycling	federal drop-off center

**2.2 Planning Section**

A summary of removal activities that will take place from September 1 through September 14 include:

Site Activities - Staging Pad

- Continue de-watering and solidification of excavated sediments for transport;
- Continue transport of solidified sediments for disposal; and
- Continue treatment of contaminated water in EPA's mobile waste water treatment plant.

Site Activities - SA5D & SA5C

- Excavate, solidify and transport for disposal contaminated sediments from Portage Creek in grids SA5D-9 to SA5D-17 (between the Upjohn Park footbridge and Crosstown Parkway);
- Backfill grids SA5D-9 to SA5D-17 according to Restoration Plan;
- Install groundwater de-watering system from Crosstown Parkway to Vine Street;
- Install fencing on east and west banks between Crosstown Parkway & Vine Street; and
- Install wooden platform working surface on west bank of Portage Creek between Crosstown Parkway and Vine Street to support heavy equipment.

#### Project Management Activities

- Continue weekly progress meetings with City of Kalamazoo; and
- Complete pre-excavation assessments of SA5A and SA3A.

#### **2.2.1 Anticipated Activities**

See POLREP #2

##### **2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities**

See above

##### **2.2.1.2 Next Steps**

See above

#### **2.2.2 Issues**

- Excavation of grids to initial target depths revealed visual paper pulp material. Therefore, many grids were over-excavated until that material was no longer visible. Grid SA5D-7 was sampled at the initial target depth (36 inches), to verify that the suspected paper pulp material exceeded project performance standards. All confirmatory sample results from over-excavation in grids SA5D-1 to SA5D-8 were under the performance standard of 10 mg/kg as well as the performance standard goal of 1 mg/kg as listed below (see table).

GRID	INITIAL TARGET DEPTH (in)	INITIAL PCB RESULT (mg/kg)	OVER DIG (in)	TOTAL ESTIMATED DEPTH (in)	FINAL DEPTH PCB RESULT (mg/kg)
SA5D-1	30	--	24	54	ND
SA5D-2	30	--	30	60	0.098
SA5D-3	30	--	26	56	0.17
SA5D-4	36	--	23	59	0.21
SA5D-5	36	--	23	59	ND
SA5D-6	36	--	20	56	ND
SA5D-7	36	154	14	50	ND
SA5D-8	36	--	24	60	0.86

- The additional over-excavation in grids SA5D-1 to SA5D-8 in Portage Creek resulted in increased costs and added expenses for personnel, equipment, transportation, disposal, sampling and backfill material.

#### **2.3 Logistics Section**

The current resources present on site during this reporting period include:

- Office trailers
- Portable restrooms and hand-washing stations
- Portable generators
- Submersible pumps
- Equipment storage container
- ERRS work crews and subcontractor work crews
- START sampling contractor
- Heavy equipment
- Water truck
- Street sweeper
- Mixing boxes
- Frac (water) tank
- Pressure wash trailer
- Bypass pumps and piping
- Sheet piling and steel bridge personnel support structures
- Mobile wastewater treatment plant
- Temporary steel bridge
- Monitoring Equipment

#### **2.4 Finance Section**

##### **2.4.1 Narrative**

See table

#### **2.5 Other Command Staff**

##### **2.5.1 Safety Officer**

Craig Thomas and Paul Ruesch serve as safety officer(s). The HASP is reviewed and signed by all site personnel. All new personnel, including sub-contractors, are provided a site orientation and safety briefing. Safety meetings are held each morning with all site workers.

A safety audit was conducted on August 30 by Federal Occupational Health. A few minor issues were identified which will be corrected in the next reporting period.

##### **2.6 Liaison Officer**

Craig Thomas and Paul Ruesch serve as liaison(s) with local officials and interested parties.

## **2.7 Information Officer**

See Section 2.6

### **2.7.1 Public Information Officer**

See Section 2.6

### **2.7.2 Community Involvement Coordinator**

Don DeBlasio - U.S. EPA

## **3. Participating Entities**

### **3.1 Unified Command**

N/A

### **3.2 Cooperating Agencies**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality  
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
City of Kalamazoo:  
Department of Public Services  
Parks and Recreation Department  
Economic Development Department  
Community Planning & Development  
Public Safety Department  
Fire Department  
Police Department  
ReDevelopment Department  
Bronson Methodist Hospital  
Kalamazoo Nature Center

## **4. Personnel On Site**

U.S. EPA - 2  
ERRS contractor (Environmental Quality Management, Inc) - 13  
START contractor (Dynamac/Weston) - 1  
CMC Contractors (excavation subcontractor) - 1  
Rain for Rent (groundwater extraction subcontractor) - 2  
Farm & Garden (fencing subcontractor) - 2

TOTAL PERSONNEL = 19

## **5. Definition of Terms**

C&D - Construction and Demolition (waste)  
ERRS - Emergency and Rapid Response Services  
FOSC - Federal On Scene Coordinator  
U.S. FWS - United States Fish and Wildlife Service  
HASP - Health and Safety Plan  
HDPE - High density polyethylene (plastic)  
mg/kg - milligrams per kilogram  
mg/m<sup>3</sup> - milligrams per cubic meter  
MDARD - Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development  
MDEQ - Michigan Department of Environmental Quality  
NA - Not Applicable  
NOAA - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NPL - National Priorities List  
NRDA - Natural Resource Damage Assessment  
ntu - nephelometric turbidity units  
PCB - polychlorinated biphenyl  
ppm - parts per million  
PRPs - Potentially Responsible Parties  
RTK GPS - Real Time Kinematic Global Positioning System  
SA - Slope Area  
START - Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team  
U.S. EPA - United States Environmental Protection Agency

## **6. Additional sources of information**

### **6.1 Internet location of additional information/report**

See the project website at <http://www.epaosc.org/portagecreekarea>.

### **6.2 Reporting Schedule**

The next POLREP will be generated in approximately 2 weeks.

## **7. Situational Reference Materials**

See the project website at <http://www.epaosc.org/portagecreekarea>.

Additional information on the overall Kalamazoo River Project can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/cleanup/kalproject/index.htm>.

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