



Agreement Reached on Willow Boulevard/A-Site Cleanup

Allied Paper/Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund Site
Kalamazoo, Michigan June 2009

Public comment period

The U.S. Department of Justice will accept comments on the agreement between Georgia Pacific and the federal government on the DOJ Web site: www.usdoj.gov/enrd/Consent_Decrees.html. The Web site will include information on the dates when comments will be accepted.

Contact EPA

For more information, or if you have questions about the Willow Boulevard/A-Site Landfill cleanup, contact:

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

Read the documents

You may view site-related documents and files at the locations listed on Page 2.

An administrative record, which contains detailed information that will help select the cleanup plan, is also located at EPA's Chicago office Record Center.

For more information

You can read more information about the Willow Boulevard/A-Site Landfill Operable Unit (OU2) cleanup (including EPA's September 2006 Record of Decision for the cleanup of OU2) online at: www.epa.gov/region5/sites/kalproject.

Georgia-Pacific, a responsible party at the site, has agreed to implement the cleanup plan selected by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the 2006 Record of Decision for the Willow Boulevard/A-Site Landfill. The cleanup is estimated to cost nearly \$13 million. Under the proposed settlement, Georgia-Pacific, which owns the Willow Boulevard/A-Site Landfill portion of the site, will consolidate PCB-contaminated material, design and install a permanent landfill cap over a 32-acre area, design and install a ground water monitoring system and build long-term erosion control measures.

The landfill cap will meet the requirements of the Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act. It will consist of a flexible membrane liner, a gas venting layer, and a soil drainage layer, covered by several inches of topsoil to support and encourage native plant growth. The landfill cap will isolate and contain contaminated material within the landfill and reduce the potential for PCBs to migrate to the Kalamazoo River. It also will prevent people from being exposed to the pollution.

Additionally, Georgia-Pacific will take steps that will hopefully result in some level of restoration of wetlands and shoreline habitat areas along the site borders and next to the Willow Boulevard/A-Site Landfill.

The Allied Paper, Inc/Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund site includes a number of former paper mill properties and disposal areas, an approximately 80-mile stretch of the Kalamazoo River from Morrow Dam to Lake Michigan, and a three-mile stretch of Portage Creek. The Willow Boulevard/ A-Site Landfill portion of the site consists of two former disposal areas and adjacent sections that include wetlands and woodlands (referred to as Operable Unit 2 of the site).

Following the 30-day public comment period, DOJ will respond to comments, if necessary, and request the court's approval of the settlement

Landfill design work will begin immediately following the comment period and court approval of the proposed cleanup deal. On-site construction work is expected to begin in 2011. Currently, to prevent erosion of PCB-contaminated material into the Kalamazoo River, a geotextile membrane and sand cover part of the Willow Boulevard/A-Site Landfill, and a sheet-pile wall borders the A-Site portion of the landfill.

Information libraries

The public can read documents related to the Kalamazoo River Superfund site at the following places:

Kalamazoo Public Library

315 S. Rose St.
Kalamazoo

Charles Ransom Library

80 S. Sherwood Ave.
Plainwell

Allegan Public Library

331 Hubbard St.
Allegan

Otsego District Library

219 S. Farmer St.
Otsego

Saugatuck-Douglas Library

10 Mixer St.
Douglas

Waldo Library

Western Michigan University
903 W. Michigan Ave.
Kalamazoo

What are PCBs?

PCBs are a group of toxic chemicals that were produced in the United States between 1929 and 1978 for use primarily as industrial coolants, insulators and lubricants. PCBs were used in hundreds of industrial and commercial applications including carbonless copy paper – which contributed to the Kalamazoo River contamination – and many other applications because they were stable and resisted wear and chemical breakdown.

The same chemical properties that made PCBs useful to industry are now responsible for persistent levels of PCBs remaining in the environment, including the Kalamazoo River. PCBs last in the environment because they adhere readily to organic material in sediment and soil and tend to build up in the fatty tissue of fish and other animals. PCBs have been demonstrated to cause a variety of adverse health effects in animals. PCBs cause cancer and noncancer health effects on the immune, reproductive, nervous and endocrine systems. Studies suggest PCBs have similar effects on people.

The different health effects of PCBs may be interrelated, as alterations in one system may have significant implications for other systems of the body. The potential adverse environmental and health effects of PCBs were not well understood until 1977, when the government banned most uses of PCBs.

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ALLIED PAPER/PORTAGE CREEK/KALAMAZOO RIVER SUPERFUND SITE: Agreement Reached on Willow Boulevard/A-Site Cleanup

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