



Little Mississinewa River Superfund Site

Union City, Indiana

August 2001

Opportunities for Public Involvement

Availability Session

U.S. EPA will hold an availability session to update you on site cleanup activities. During the session, U.S. EPA will make a brief presentation and residents will have an opportunity to speak one-on-one with U.S. EPA representatives and ask questions about the cleanup.

Date: August 14, 2001
Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Place: Little Mississinewa
River Site

Information Repository

Detailed information about the Little Mississinewa River site is available at the following location:

Union City Public Library
408 North Columbia Street
Union City, IN 47390

Toll-Free Number

A toll-free number has been established for residents to call and get updated information. The number is:

877-659-7236

The purpose of this fact sheet is to inform the local community of ongoing and planned cleanup activities at the Little Mississinewa River (LMR) site. Future fact sheets will provide updated information on progress and activities at the site.

Site Description

The LMR site is located in Union City, Randolph County, Indiana (see figure on next page). The LMR site consists of a segment of the Little Mississinewa River, its associated flood plain, a portion of Harter Park, and a portion of the Union City Cemetery. The Little Mississinewa River flows through the area in a northerly direction.

The northern portion of the LMR site occupies about 8.6 acres of the 51-acre Harter Park. A horse track is located in this portion of the park. Directly south of Harter Park, about 2.5 acres of the 26-acre Union City Cemetery is considered part of the LMR site. Industrial, residential, and agricultural areas surround the remaining portions of the LMR site.

The former Westinghouse facility, former United Technologies Automotive Systems, Inc. (UTAS) facility, and the current Frank Miller Lumber Company are located west of Union City and near the Little Mississinewa River.

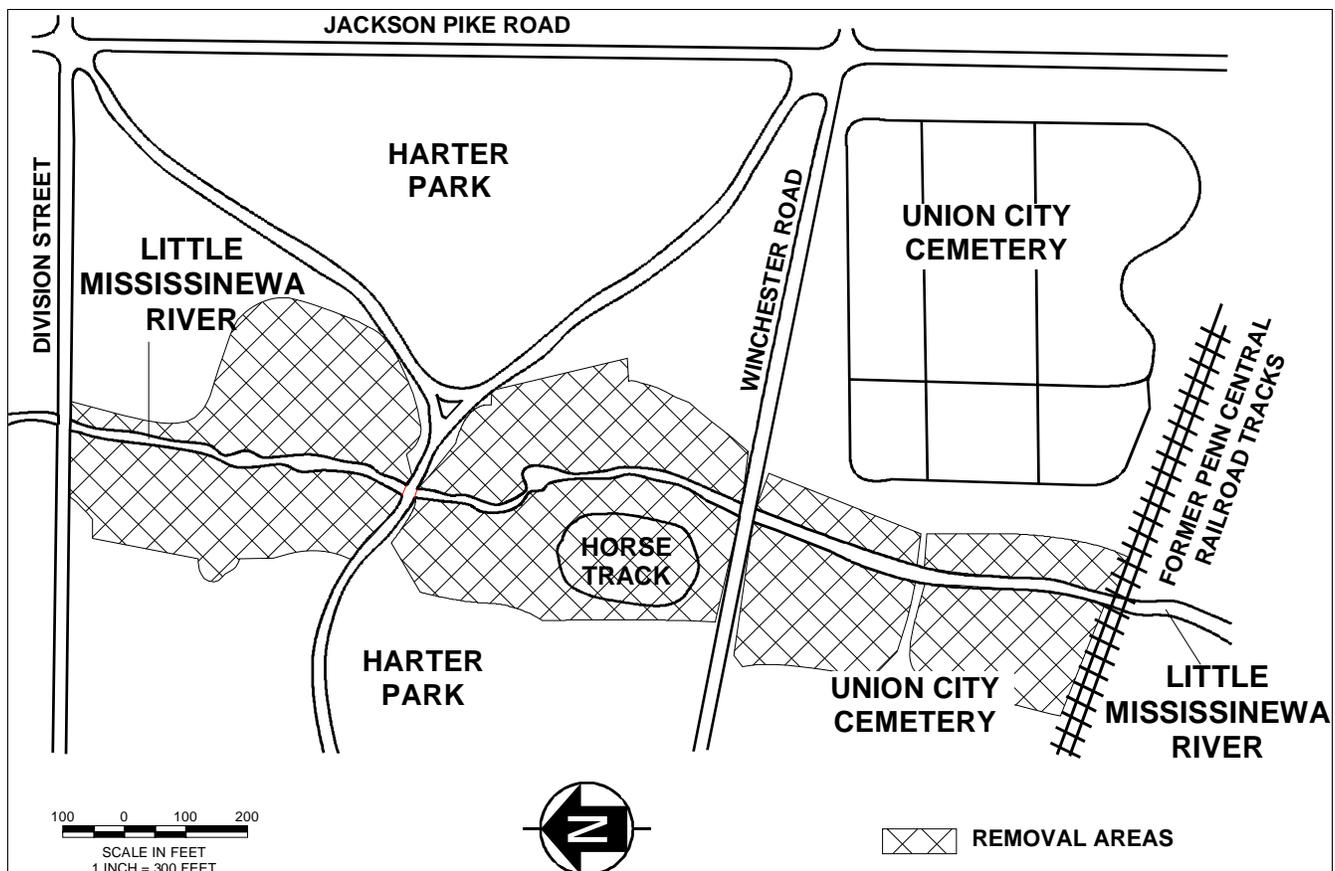
Site Background Information

From 1952 to 1986, Westinghouse operated a small motor manufacturing plant near the LMR site. The facility was purchased by A.O. Smith in 1986, and in January 1987, Westinghouse repurchased the facility. The building and property were later sold to Martha Mathias in 1991. The property is currently owned by Martha Mathias and occupied by the Frank Miller Lumber Company. The former UTAS facility, formerly known as Sheller-Globe Corporation and currently known as Lear Corporation Automotive Systems, is also located near the LMR site.

Both Westinghouse and UTAS used hydraulic systems in their manufacturing processes. The systems used various oils and lubricating fluids that apparently contained polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB). Westinghouse, under the supervision of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), addressed PCB contamination located in a retention basin and drainage ditch on the former Westinghouse property. Pursuant to a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 106 Order issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), Westinghouse performed a removal action in a former disposal area on the property. Residual PCB contamination in the retention basin and drainage ditch area are currently being addressed by IDEM and the former plant property owners. Both facilities used stormwater and industrial outfalls that discharged into the Little Mississinewa River. PCBs detected in the industrial process sewer piping from the facilities discharged into the Little Mississinewa River. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, both facilities conducted investigations and cleanup activities at their respective facilities. U.S. EPA believes the PCB contamination present at the LMR site is due to activities conducted at the former Westinghouse and UTAS facilities.

Since 1984, elevated levels of PCBs have been detected in fish from the Little Mississinewa River. Due to PCB contamination in fish, a fish advisory was placed on the Little Mississinewa River in 1990.

On August 25, 1997, IDEM issued a Special Notice of Potential Responsibility to Westinghouse, UTAS, and Frank Miller Lumber Company. The Notice was regarding PCB releases into the Little Mississinewa River. On October 21, 1999, United Technologies Corporation (UTC) submitted an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) to IDEM. UTC is the former ultimate parent corporation of UTAS. The EE/CA analyzed options for cleaning up the site. Because IDEM and UTC could not agree on a settlement, the LMR site was referred to U.S. EPA on June 12, 2000. On August 15, 2000, U.S. EPA conducted a site assessment at the LMR site. Samples collected and analyzed showed that PCB concentrations ranged from nondetected levels to 2,760 parts per million (ppm). U.S. EPA met with contractors for the potentially responsible parties (PRP) to discuss a cleanup proposal the PRPs had submitted to U.S. EPA. Currently, the LMR site is not on the National Priorities List.



Site Location Map

An Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) was signed on March 22, 2001. The AOC is a legal agreement between U.S. EPA and the PRPs, whereby the PRPs agree to perform or pay for the cost of site cleanup.

U.S. EPA held a public meeting on July 10, 2001. During this meeting, U.S. EPA, contractors, and local officials provided attendees with information about ongoing and planned site activities.

One of the concerns brought up by local residents was the possibility of unmarked graves being located at the site. In response to these concerns, U.S. EPA conducted a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) screening survey to identify any unmarked graves located in the removal area. Two unmarked graves were located. Additional information about the GPR survey is available in the information repository (see below). Work began in July 2001 to remove the PCB contamination.



Photograph shows U.S. EPA using the Ground Penetrating Radar equipment to locate any unmarked graves.

Next Steps

On August 14, 2001, U.S. EPA will hold an availability session to provide local residents with an update of site activities. The session will be held at the site. In the event of inclement weather, the session will be held at the Downtown Senior Center.

Information Repository

The EE/CA report and other documents related to the LMR Site are available for review in the local information repository, which has been established at the following location:

Union City Public Library
408 N. Columbia St.
Union City, Indiana
(419) 334-7101



For More Information

To obtain additional information about the LMR site, you may contact the following U.S. EPA representatives:

Robert Paulson
Community Involvement Coordinator
Office of Public Affairs (P-19J)
U.S. EPA Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604-3590
(312) 886-0272
paulson.robert@epa.gov



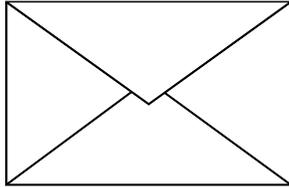
William Simes
On-Scene Coordinator
Superfund Division (SE-5J)
U.S. EPA Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604-3590
(312) 886-3337
simes.william@epa.gov

Or call toll-free at 800-621-8431

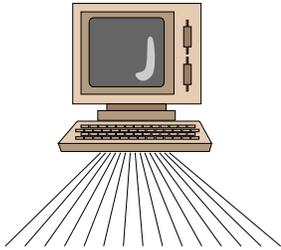
Mailing List

If you did not receive this fact sheet by mail, you are not on U.S. EPA's mailing list for the LMR Site. To add your name to the list of people receiving information concerning the site, please fill out this form, detach it, and mail it to Robert Paulson (address on page 3).

Please add me to the Little Mississenwa River Site mailing list.



Name _____
Affiliation _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____



*check us out
on the web!*

<http://www.epa.gov/region5/>



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5
Office of Public Affairs
77 West Jackson Boulevard (P-19J)
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS