United States Environmental Protection Agency

Update: PCB Cleanup in Stony Creek Area

Bridgestone Firestone's PCB Investigation and Cleanup

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For more information

The following EPA team members can be contacted for questions, comments or more information about the on-going PCB work by Firestone:

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The residential PCB cleanup which has been taking place in your neighborhood is now complete. A total of 45 properties were included in the investigations with 29 participating in the cleanup. The remaining 16 had no PCB contamination of concern. EPA would like to thank the residents and City of Noblesville for participating in the cleanup. Your involvement, from the inception of the work plan in 2008 to the individual risk assessments of each home, provided EPA with the input and feedback necessary to ensure this cleanup was a success for Noblesville. With your help, EPA was able to ensure 1,717 cubic yards of PCB-impacted soil was removed from your neighborhood and properly disposed of. Furthermore, the collaborative effort on this project protected the riparian ecosystem of Stony Creek while enhancing the understory species with the planting of 159 trees and shrubs. Your on-going participation and patience throughout this process has been greatly appreciated by EPA.

Stony Creek

With the conclusion of the high priority residential component of this cleanup EPA turned to the investigations of the sediment and fish in Stony Creek and undeveloped floodplain.

The Creek

Although 150 sediment samples were collected from the creek between 2003 and 2007, all samples were from the top six inches. EPA's next priority was to investigate the deeper creek sediment. Therefore, during late summer 2009, Firestone collected another 48 composite samples (144 individual samples – each composite sample was composed of 3 individual samples) from the creek including 24 surface samples (0 to 6 inches) and 22 subsurface samples (6 to 12 inches). The resulting data demonstrate that: 1) Stony Creek's average PCB concentration in both surface and subsurface sediment is now less than 1 part per million, 2) The creek sediment is relatively shallow (before hitting rock) which provides us with confidence that we have fully investigated the creek, and 3) The PCB contamination in residential backyards originated from Wilson Ditch rather than Stony Creek. In addition to the sediment samples collected in 2009, 28 fish (rock bass, green sunfish, and northern hog sucker) were sampled and analyzed for PCBs. The average whole body concentration of PCBs from all three species was 3.2 ppm, whereas the average edible tissue (fillet) concentration in the 20 green sunfish and rock bass collected was 0.5 ppm. Based on all of the findings, there is no need for further action. However, in accordance with the 2001 Order, Firestone will continue to monitor fish until samples demonstrate the average concentration is at or below 2 ppm.

The Undeveloped Floodplain

EPA has also concluded the investigation of the undeveloped floodplain, which includes the land bordered by Allisonville Road, Stony Creek and the James Place neighborhood. The floodplain property is owned by Residue, LLC but leased to Central Indiana Land Trust Incorporated under a

conservation easement and leased to the City of Noblesville for wetlands recovery. Under these arrangements, the land is to be protected from development due to its watershed and ecological value. During 2009, Firestone collected 45 soil samples and numerous biota samples to assess ecological and human risks. Based on the data and analysis, EPA has found no human risks from PCBs and a very low potential ecological risk. Firestone will be proposing several remedial alternatives for the low ecological risk. Those alternatives will be made available for public comment during a formal public participation period.

Wilson Ditch Floodplain Sampling

In the spring of 2009, Firestone also voluntarily sampled low lying areas adjacent to Wilson Ditch. This was in response to residents' concerns that there may be PCB contamination that could pose a health risk and that the previous cleanup of the Wilson Ditch may not have corrected all problems. Firestone collected shallow and deep samples from all the low and flat lying areas that would most likely have contamination were any there.

Grids were established in the low/flat lying areas on ten properties. Surface and subsurface soils (four cores per grid, composited by depth) were collected and chemically analyzed for PCBs. The resulting risk calculations showed that there are no remaining conditions along Wilson Ditch which represent a concern for residential use of the properties.

Next Steps and Public Participation

As mentioned above, there will be an opportunity to comment on: the proposed remedies for the undeveloped floodplain; the completed cleanup of the residential properties; and the refined investigation of Stony Creek and Wilson Ditch per the 2001 Order. Firestone is currently preparing a Corrective Measures Proposal (CMP). This document will include all the elements mentioned above and outline potential remedial options. Those remedial options will be compared against established EPA criteria specific to the corrective action process. EPA will review the CMP and summarize our findings in the Statement of Basis. The Statement of Basis will go out for public comment during a formal public participation period, much like when EPA solicited for comments on the residential work plan. EPA believes your input is an essential element to our success and, therefore, will continue to keep your community informed and involved.

Above: Where grids were excavated, care was taken to protect high quality trees. Consideration was provided to the proximity of excavation as well as compaction of soil with over-sized equipment. For that reason, much of the equipment used was relatively small. Although the smaller equipment required additional time, countless trees were saved.

Above: A total of 159 trees and shrubs were planted by Firestone as part of the remediation. Although not obligated to do so, Firestone addressed certain community concerns regarding the overall integrity of the habitat by planting native specimens to re-populate the understory.