



Planning Continues for PCB Cleanup Near Trowbridge Dam

Allied Paper/Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Site
Trowbridge Township, Michigan

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For more information

Please contact any of the following team members with questions:

EPA

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*You may also call EPA toll-free:
800-621-8431, weekdays, 9:00 a.m.
to 5:30 p.m.*

Webpage

For more details about the site, visit the webpage at:

response.epa.gov/trowbridgedam

Community Advisory Group (CAG)

A CAG has been established as a forum to provide the community updates about EPA's work in and along the Kalamazoo River. Visit the CAG website for more information or sign up for email notifications at:

<https://www.kalamazoorivercag.org/>

Special precautions continue to be taken to protect public health during Coronavirus-related restrictions.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is working with NCR Corporation, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy on a project to remove PCB-contaminated sediment and soil along the Kalamazoo River near the Trowbridge Dam in Trowbridge Township. Polychlorinated Biphenyls or PCBs are a group of man-made organic chemicals. PCBs were domestically manufactured from 1929 until manufacturing was banned in 1979. PCBs do not readily break down once in the environment and can bioaccumulate. The work will take place upstream of the Trowbridge Dam. The project is very complex and may take three or more years to complete. This work is important to remove contaminated sediment, stabilize riverbanks to prevent future contamination and erosion, improve water quality, and reduce contamination in fish.



Upcoming Work in Your Area

This year, EPA will continue surveying and sampling sediment and soil to define the extent of the PCB contamination to be removed. This summer, crews will be clearing land and preparing a staging area for equipment and materials at the 26th Street boat launch.

Planning and preparations are also underway for construction of a temporary water control structure to manage river levels during the cleanup. Last year, workers completed removal of a power pole on the dam and relocated high voltage power lines to allow access for safe construction activity. EPA plans to remove the water control structure and the remaining structures of the dam at the end of the project.

EPA expects that dredging of sediment and soils to begin in 2022 and that final dam removal will take place in 2024.


About the Allied Paper/Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Site

This portion of the Kalamazoo River is in what EPA calls Area 4 of Operable Unit 5 at the Allied Paper Inc./Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund site. The Trowbridge Dam Area begins near the Lynx Golf Course and follows the river west to the Trowbridge Dam. The Superfund site is almost entirely on land owned by MDNR, bordered by wetlands, undeveloped properties and residences. Between 1954 and the 1970s, wastewater from the carbonless copy paper recycling process contaminated the area, releasing PCBs into the environment. In 1977, a public health advisory recommended residents not to eat fish caught from the river due to PCBs found in the fish. In 1990, the EPA placed the site on the National Priorities List, a roster of the nation's hazardous waste sites. Since then, cleanups continue. More about EPA's progress can be found at www.epa.gov/superfund/allied-paper-kalamazoo.



Field crews conducting sampling of riverbank soils.

ALLIED PAPER/PORTAGE CREEK/KALAMAZOO RIVER SITE: Planning Continues for PCB Cleanup Near Trowbridge Dam

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