



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY



Work to Begin on PCB Cleanup Near Trowbridge Dam

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

March 2024

For more information

Please contact any of the following team members with questions:

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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.kalamazooringcag.org/>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is working with NCR VOYIX, previously NCR, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy to remove polychlorinated biphenyl (or PCB) contaminated sediment and soil along the Kalamazoo River near the Trowbridge Dam in Trowbridge Township. 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, or build up, in the bodies of fish. 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 important work to remove contaminated sediment and stabilize riverbanks will help prevent future contamination and erosion, improve water quality, and reduce contamination in fish.



Upcoming Work in Your Area

This spring, EPA will continue access road construction on the north side of the river from the Lynx Golf Course to the dam. Over the summer, crews will be clearing land and preparing a staging area for equipment and materials near the 26th Street boat launch.

Later this year, sheet pile will be installed along the riverbanks, and it is expected that dredging of contaminated sediments will begin. Construction of a temporary water control structure to manage river levels during the cleanup is also expected to begin. EPA plans to remove the water control structure and the remaining structures of the dam at the end of the project. EPA expects the river will remain open to recreation for the majority of 2024, but a notice will be provided months in advance of any restrictions or closures.

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.




Dozer at end of access road on the north bank of the Kalamazoo River.



Access road facing uphill on the north bank of the Kalamazoo River.

**ALLIED PAPER/PORTAGE CREEK/KALAMAZOO RIVER SITE:
Work to Begin on PCB Cleanup Near Trowbridge Dam**

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