



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

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Greetings Morgan Park Residents and Interested Parties:

As 2015 begins, I want to update you on activities at the US Steel Superfund site and what to expect this year. We've scheduled our next public information meeting:

MARCH 16, 2015 6:00-8:00 PM Morgan Park Community Club PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING AGENDA

- Site update and schedule
 - Current land based cleanup activities
 - Current sediment based cleanup activities
- Superfund process for selecting a cleanup option
- Introduce the MPCA's new US Steel site project manager
- Site information resources

2014 Review and 2015 Planned Site Activities

LAND

The Duluth Seaway Port Authority (DSPA) and United States Steel Corporation (USS) are working on a Response Action Plan (a cleanup plan) for 132 acres of the land portion of the site (southern end). The DSPA and USS have entered into a purchase agreement, and DSPA wishes to redevelop the property for light industrial use including the construction of new buildings and roads.

The DSPA and USS have cooperatively conducted a soil and groundwater investigation in 2011 and 2012 on this parcel through the MPCA's Voluntary Investigation and Cleanup Program. These investigations found that the soils are contaminated with poly-aromatic hydrocarbons and heavy metals. These contaminants pose a potential risk to human health when people come into direct contact with the soils during current and future use of the property. The DSPA and USS are planning an excavation of the contaminated soil during 2015.

The MPCA Petroleum Remediation Program has also joined the site team in overseeing several petroleum-related investigations. Two petroleum related sites were investigated; one of those sites was closed and does not pose a risk given the site's current use. The remaining site, a historical release from the million-gallon storage tank area, is still under investigation. If this property were to be redeveloped, risk to human health would be considered.

UPLAND SEDIMENTS (Creek and Pond sediments) and ST. LOUIS RIVER ESTUARY SEDIMENTS

USS has combined all the sediment units on the site into one for the purposes of cleanup planning. This also means there will be one feasibility study that evaluates the cleanup options or alternatives. The feasibility study includes several operable units (OUs), or individual cleanup units in Unnamed Creek and Delta (OU-I, OU-L, OU-M, OU-S), Wire Pond (OU-P), Wire Mill dredge spoils (OU-Q) and the Unnamed Pond. Two additional operable units (OU-N and OU-R) represent approximately 300 acres of contaminated sediment in the St. Louis River Estuary (see the webpage below for the location of these units). The sediments are heavily impacted by poly-aromatic hydrocarbons and heavy metals; this

means there is an unacceptable risk to ecological receptors including the benthic (bugs) community. USS has partnered with US Environmental Protection Agency, through the Great Lakes Legacy Act, to expedite this cleanup project.

USS is developing several cleanup remedy alternatives for each of these units. The MPCA has provided USS with comments on a draft feasibility study and a revision by USS is pending. Eleven alternatives were narrowed to four; these were evaluated against nine Superfund program criteria including protection of human health and the environment, implementability, and cost. The MPCA will review and approve the final feasibility study and develop a proposed plan that outlines details of the cleanup plan. The MPCA will seek public input for the proposed plan during the summer 2015.

The MPCA gave a site update to the Morgan Park Community Club meeting on December 2, 2014. The presentation is available on the MPCA USS webpage (<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/mvri83b>). Highlights of the presentation include:

- Status of land based investigations and cleanup actions
- Review of site conditions that affect any sediment clean up action
- Details of sediment technical and disposal options
- Common elements of the four detailed sediment alternatives

The presentation on March 16th will be similar to the December 2nd presentation except for the sediment cleanup option selection schedule. Due to federal procedural delays, the cleanup option will be proposed for public comment in the summer/fall of 2015. Construction in the river will most likely start in spring of 2016.

If you have questions or concerns regarding site activities, please feel free to contact me at 218-302-6601 or susan.johnson@state.mn.us. I've attached a Superfund Program primer to assist your understanding of remedial work at the site along with a map of the different areas of activity.

Sincerely,

Susan Johnson
Superfund Project Manager
Remediation and Redevelopment Program
Remediation Division

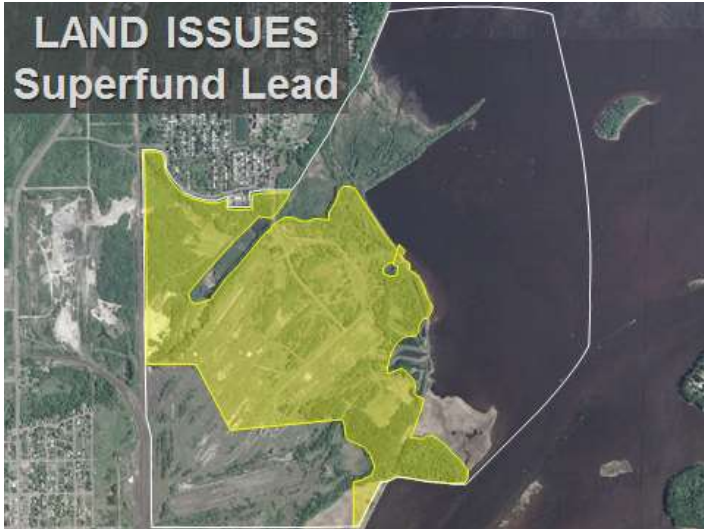
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Superfund Program Process

PA/SI	<u>Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection</u> Investigations of site conditions. If the release of hazardous substances requires immediate or short-term response actions, these are addressed under the <u>Emergency Response</u> program of Superfund.
NPL/PLP Listing	<u>National Priorities List (NPL-federal) and Permanent List of Priorities (PLP-state) Site Listing Process</u> A list of the most serious sites identified for possible long-term cleanup.
RI/FS	<u>Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study</u> Determines the nature and extent of contamination through investigations of soil, groundwater, surface water and sediments. Risks to human health and the environment are evaluated. Assesses the cleanup alternatives and evaluates the potential performance and cost of each alternative.
Proposed Plan	<u>Proposed Plan</u> MPCA prepares a proposed plan that discusses what studies have been done at the site, what cleanup options there are, and which cleanup option MPCA prefers.
ROD	<u>Records of Decision</u> Explains which cleanup alternatives will be used at the site.
RD/RA	<u>Remedial Design/Remedial Action</u> Preparation and implementation of plans and specifications for applying site remedies. The bulk of the cleanup usually occurs during this phase.
Construction Completion	<u>Construction Completion</u> Identifies completion of physical cleanup construction, although this does not necessarily indicate whether final cleanup levels have been achieved.
Post Construction Completion	<u>Post Construction Completion</u> Ensures that Superfund response actions provide for the long-term protection of human health and the environment. Included here are Long-Term Response Actions (LTRA), Operation and Maintenance, Institutional Controls, Five-Year Reviews.
NPL/PLP Deletion	<u>NPL/PLP List Deletion</u> Removes a site from the National Priority List once all response actions are complete and all cleanup goals have been achieved.
Reuse	<u>Site Reuse/Redevelopment</u> Information on how the Superfund program is working with communities and other partners to return hazardous waste sites to safe and productive use without adversely affecting the remedy.

US Steel Superfund Site Work Areas

The entire site is considered a Superfund site. These areas have been apportioned based on redevelopment and funding opportunities that have presented an alternative approach to traditional Superfund cleanup. Superfund staff is engaged in all aspects of site activities ensuring consistent and compatible clean up goals and to achieve protection of human health and the environment.



MPCA Superfund and Petroleum Program working on soil issues. The consultant is URS.



USS and Duluth Seaway Port Authority working on soil issues in the Voluntary Investigation and Cleanup program. The consultant is URS.



USEPA Great Lakes National Program Office and USS working on a feasibility study for the sediments. The consultant is BARR Engineering.



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