



EPA Workshop for the Lower Neponset River Superfund Site

Workshop 3: Hyde Park



November 2022



Welcome and Workshop Overview

Agenda

Open House	5:30 pm – 6:15 pm
Welcome & Workshop Overview	6:15 pm – 6:35 pm
About the Site and the Superfund Program	6:35 pm – 6:55 pm
Brief Q&A	6:55 pm – 7:10 pm
Community Involvement – Resources and Opportunities	7:10 pm - 7:20 pm
Community Perspectives	7:20 pm – 7:25 pm
Listening Session	7:25 pm – 7:45 pm
Wrap Up	7:45 pm – 8:00 pm

Workshop Reminders

- We will have a Q&A in the middle of the presentation and again at the end. To keep the workshop on time, please hold questions for the Q&A.
- Please use the note cards provided to write down unanswered questions and comments throughout the presentations.
- Any unanswered questions or comments written down will be addressed during the Listening Session at the end of the workshop.
- Enjoy the workshop!

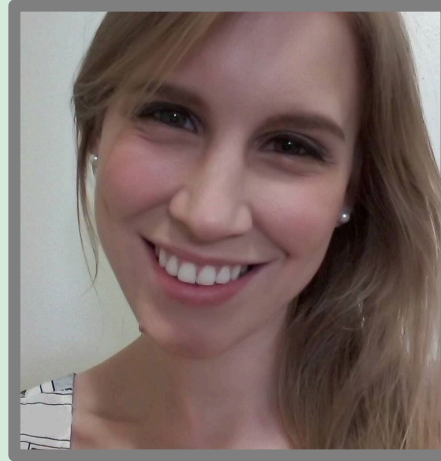
Language Interpretation

- Simultaneous interpretation services are available on site at today's workshop for the following language(s):
 - Spanish
 - Haitian Creole

Workshop Objectives

- Meet your EPA site team and EPA partners
- Communicate concerns and expectations to EPA about the Superfund site
- Understand your risk of exposure and what you can do to reduce that risk
- Better understand the Superfund cleanup process, the cleanup timeline, and the important role communities play in the decision-making process
- Hear from other communities about their experiences working with EPA on other Superfund sites
- Know how to get involved and stay informed!

Meet the EPA Headquarters Workshop Representative



Callie Koller
Superfund Workshop Lead

Welcome!

Superfund Community Workshop Pilot

- What is the EPA workshop pilot?
- Why is the workshop important?



Superfund Community Workshop Pilot

- How can you help?
 - Give us feedback
 - Fill out a simple post-workshop survey
 - Talk to us after the workshop

Meet the EPA Site Team and Partners



ZaNetta Purnell
Site Community
Involvement
Coordinator



Kelsey Dumville
Senior Community
Involvement
Coordinator



Natalie Burgo
Remedial Project
Manager

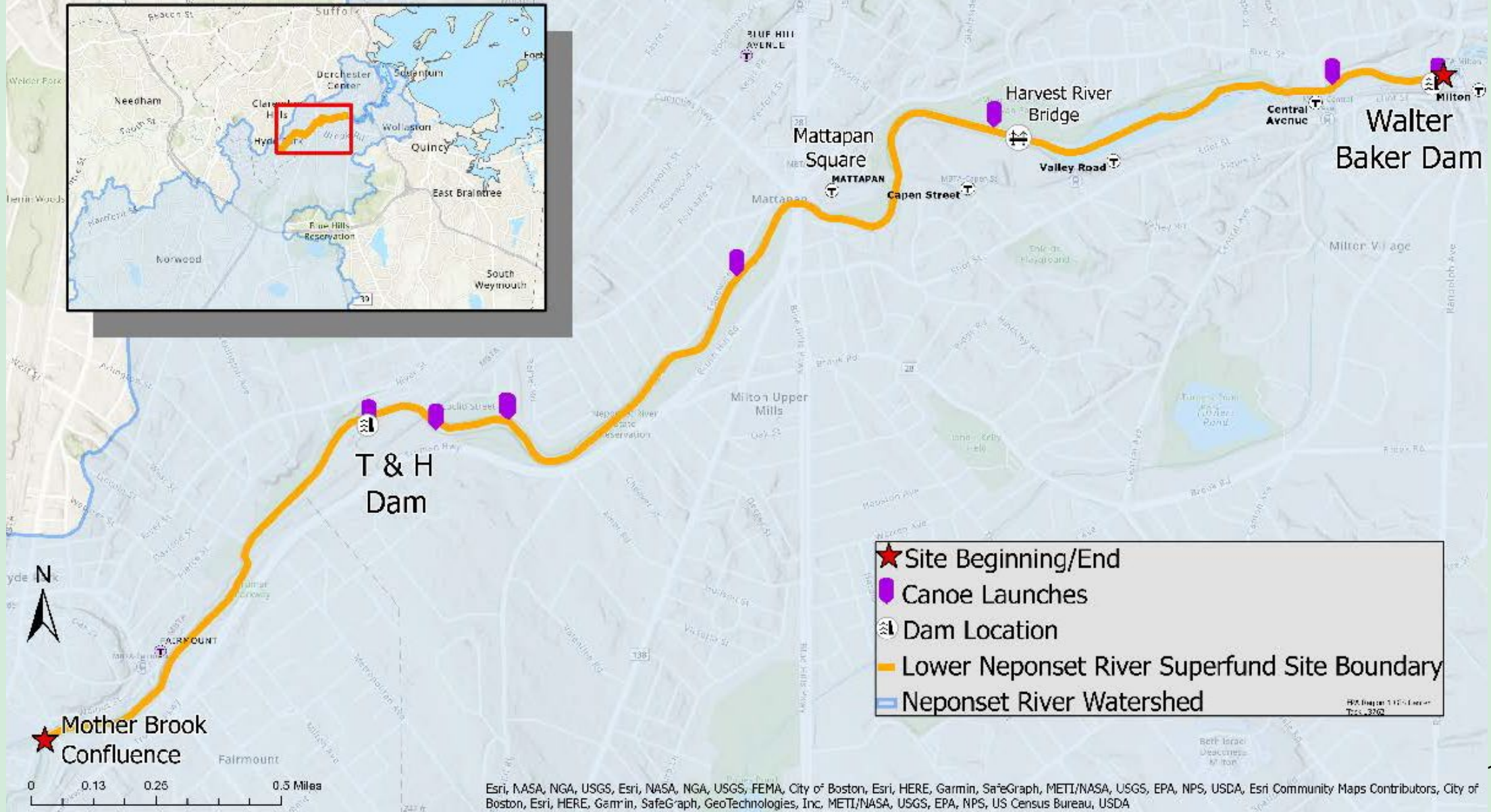


Jennifer McWeeney
Massachusetts Dept. of
Environmental Protection
(MassDEP)
Remedial Project Manager



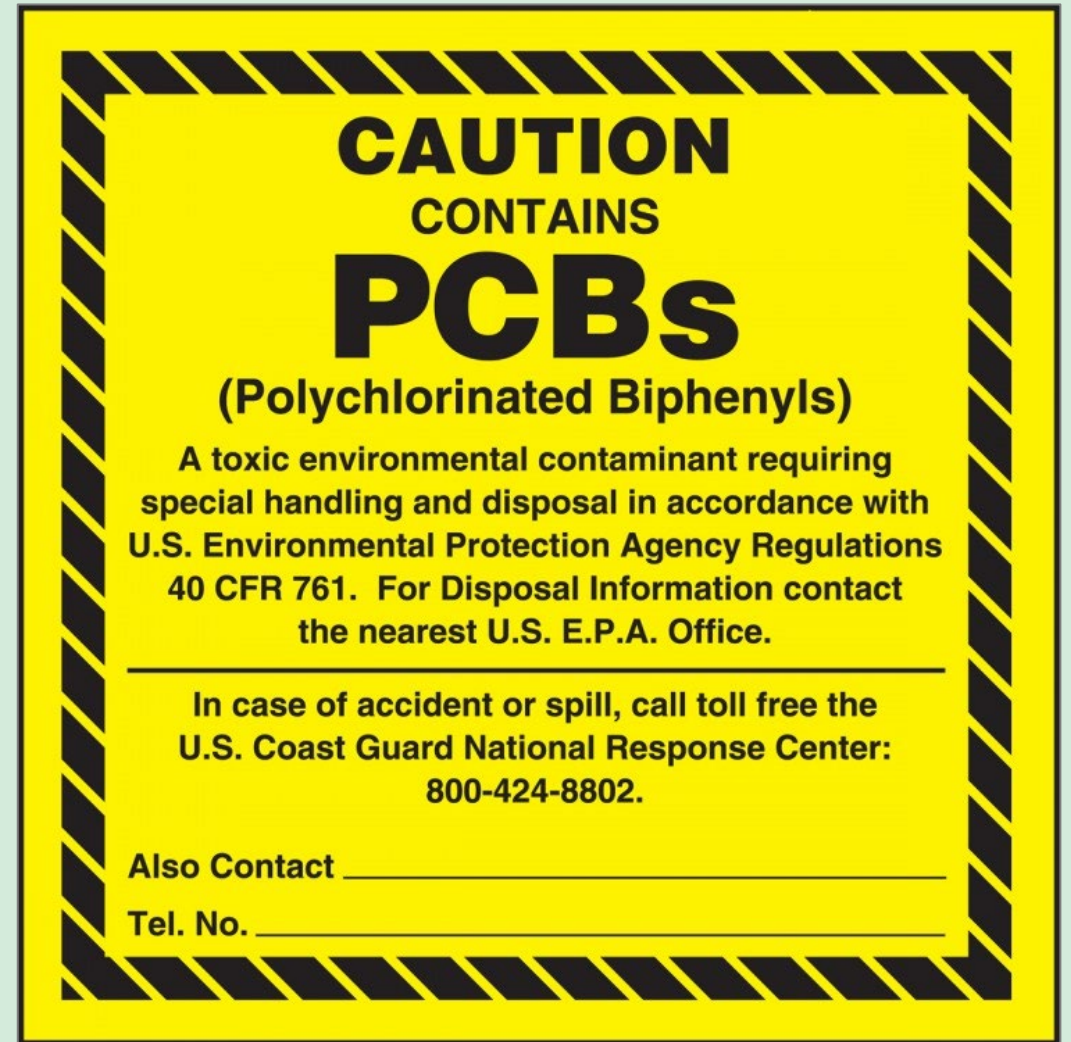
About the Site and the Superfund Program

Lower Neponset River Superfund Site

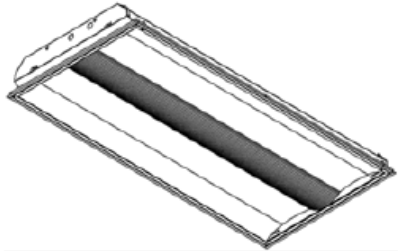


Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)

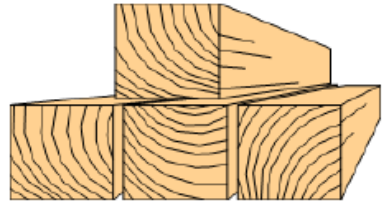
- Man-made chemicals
- Manufactured from 1929 – 1979
- Used in hundreds of industrial and commercial applications



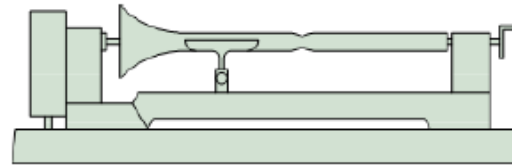
Examples of Historical Uses of PCBs



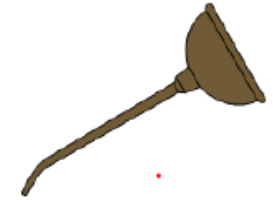
Fluorescent light ballasts



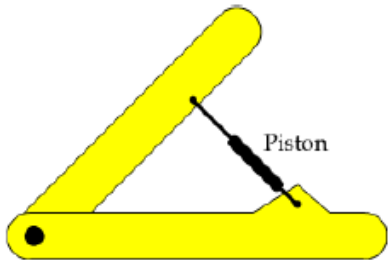
Construction materials
(ex. caulk, sealants, tiles,
etc.)



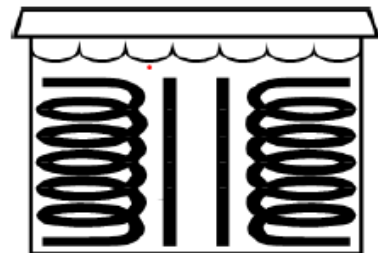
Cutting oils



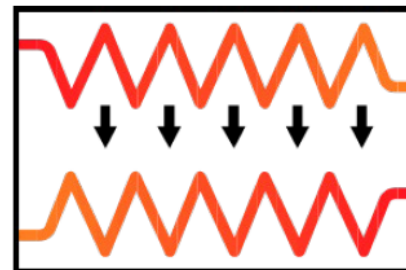
Lubricants



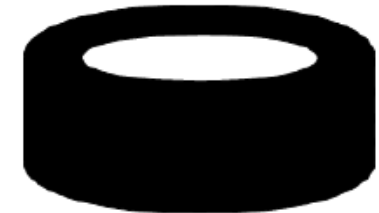
Hydraulic fluid



Dielectric fluid



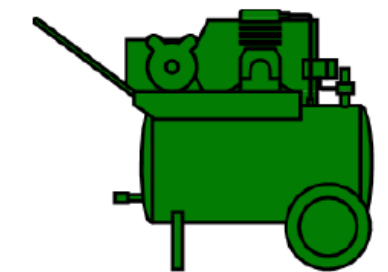
Heat transfer fluid



Gaskets & Damping felt



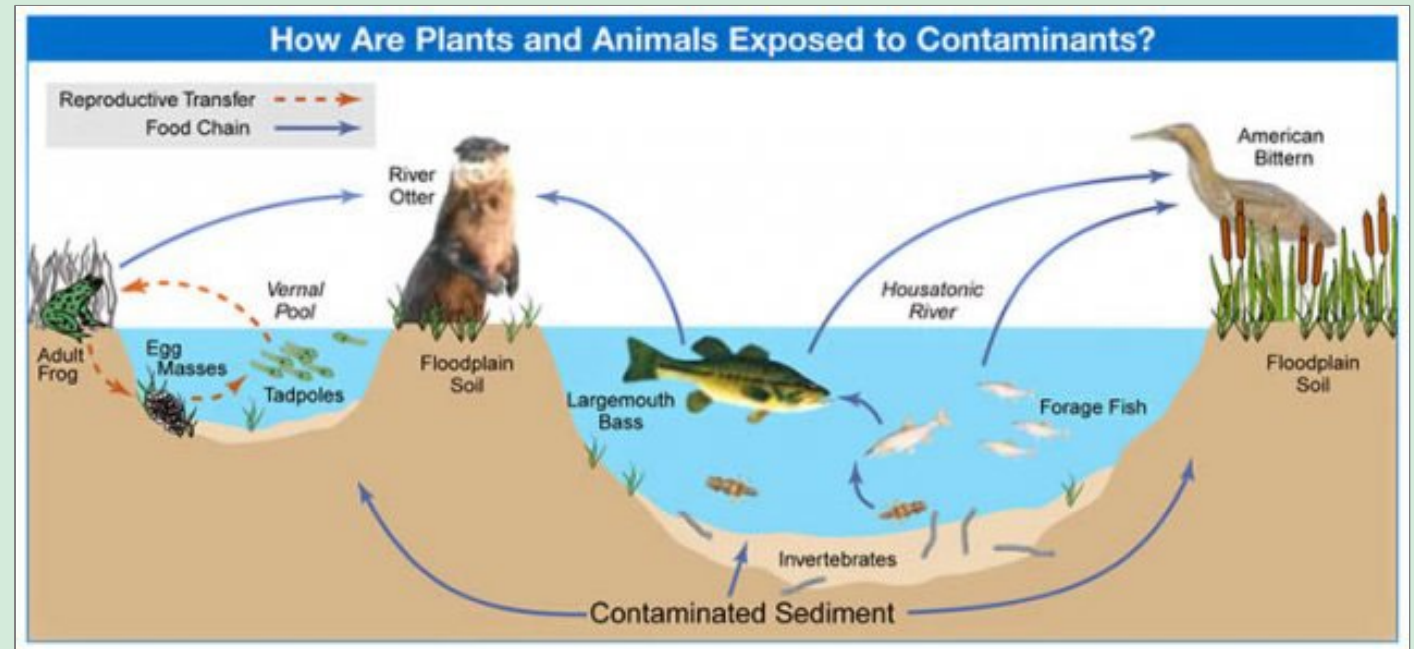
Pesticide extenders



Vacuum pump fluid

PCBs and the Environment

- Persistent
- Bioaccumulative
- Can be transported long distances





Prepared in cooperation with the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game,
Division of Ecological Restoration, Riverways Program

Concentrations, Loads, and Sources of Polychlorinated Biphenyls, Neponset River and Neponset River Estuary, Eastern Massachusetts



Scientific Investigations Report 2011-5004
Version 1.1, June 2014

Sampling and Remediation Prior to EPA Involvement

2002: United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) sampling

2002 - 2006: United States Geological Survey (USGS) sampling

2007 – 2009: Mother Brook Clean up under MassDEP oversight

2013: MassDEP sampling and study review

2015: MassDEP refers site to EPA National Priorities List (NPL)

EPA Site Involvement Timeline



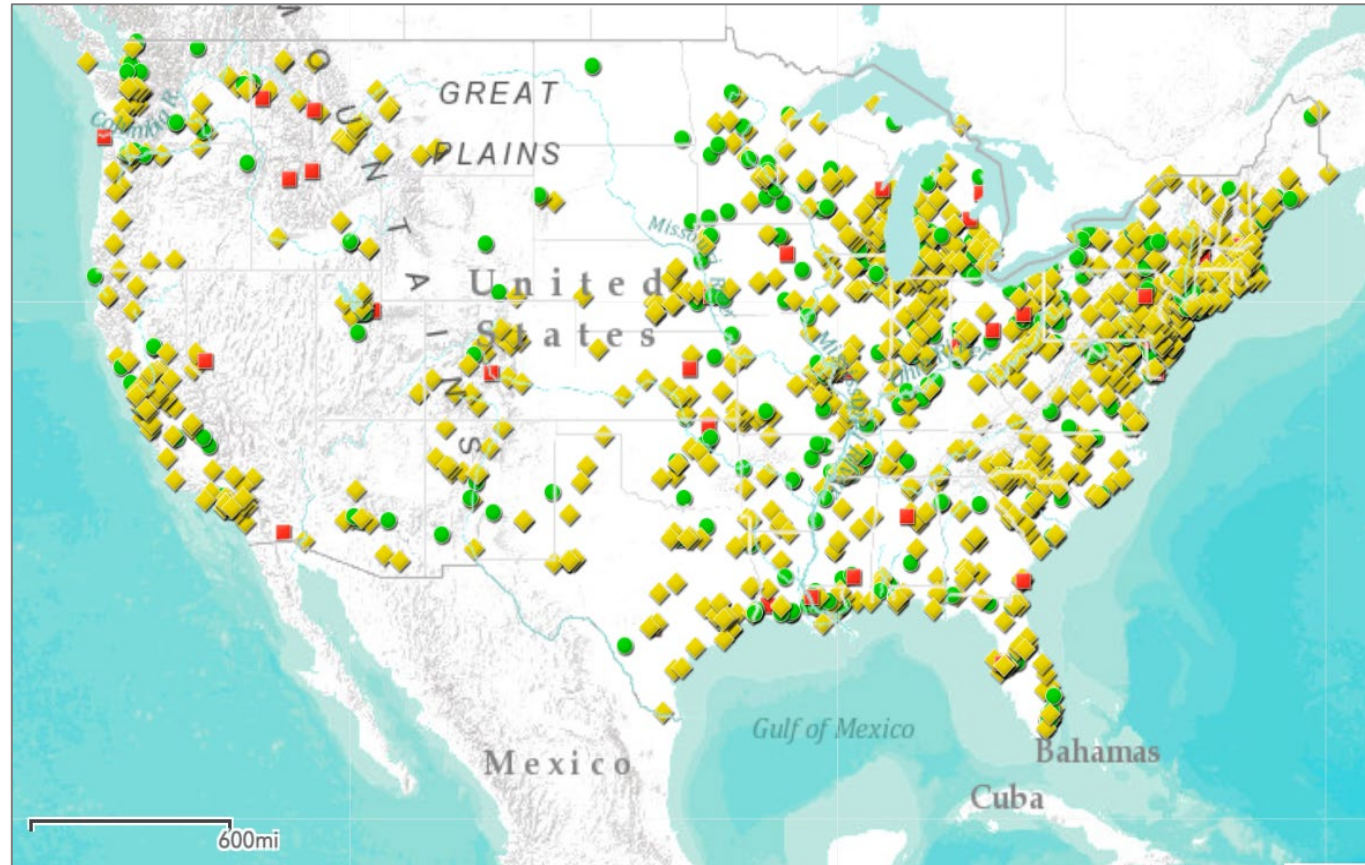
In an 'exquisite spot,' officials celebrate Neponset River Superfund designation

Lower Neponset River slated for cleanup of dangerous pollution



National Priorities List

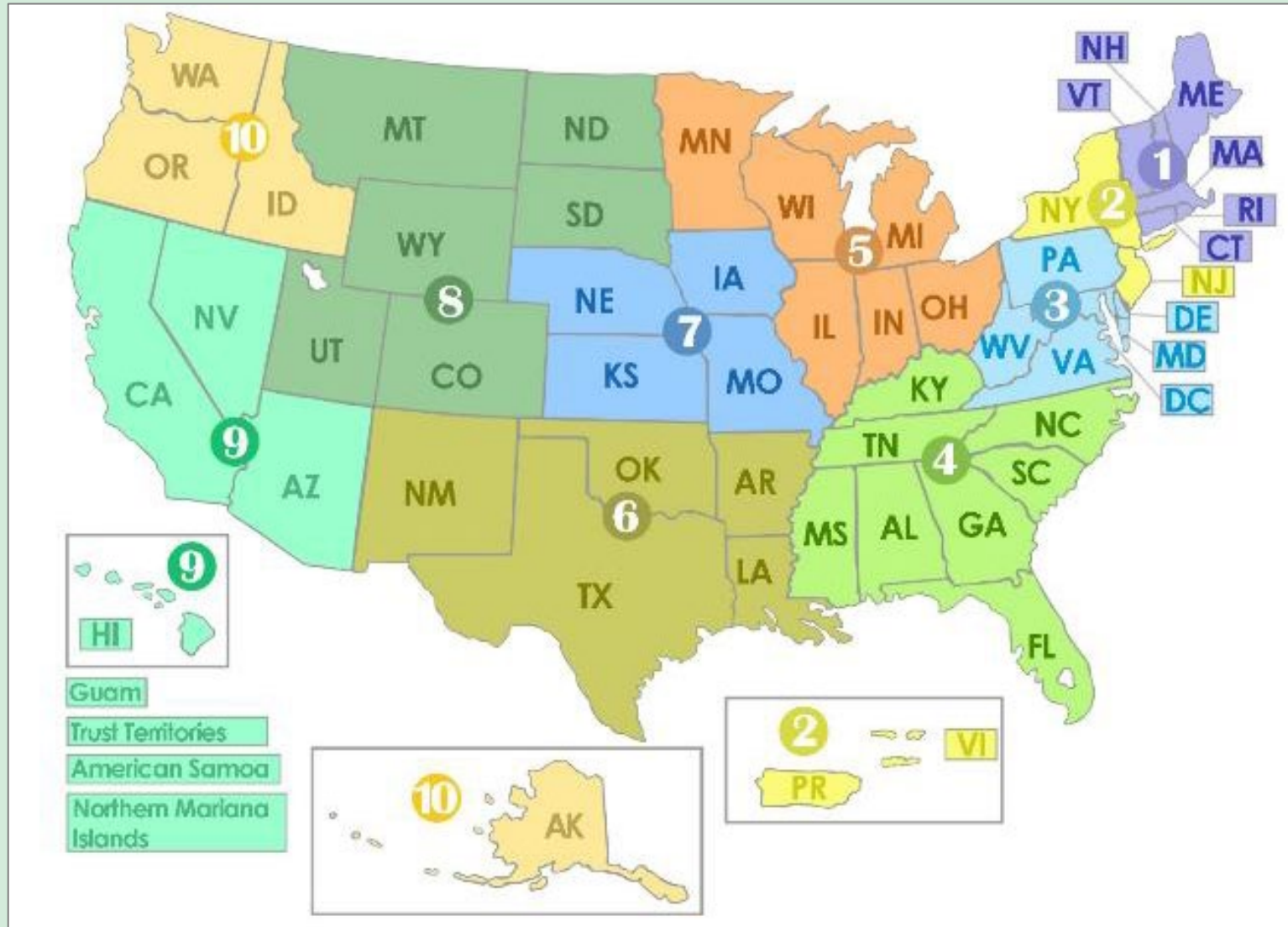
- ◆ NPL Site
- Deleted NPL Site
- Proposed NPL Site



What is Superfund?

- Congress established the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) in 1980
- CERCLA is informally called Superfund
- EPA's Superfund program is responsible for cleaning up some of the nation's most contaminated land and responding to environmental emergencies, oil spills and natural disasters

Who manages Superfund?



Goals of Superfund

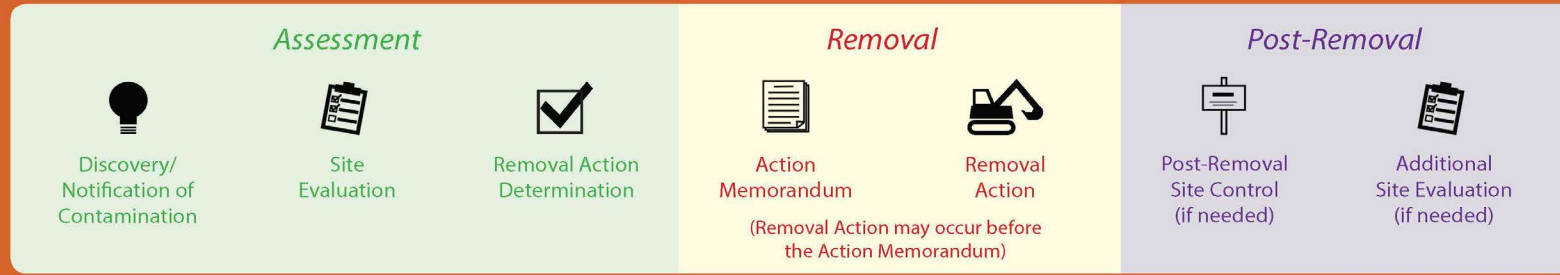
- Protect human health and the environment by cleaning up contaminated sites
- Make responsible parties pay for cleanup work
- Involve communities in the Superfund process
- Return Superfund sites to productive use

Superfund Removal and Remedial Actions

- EPA uses two types of response to address polluted sites:
 - Removal actions: short-term responses
 - Remedial actions: for complex sites needing long-term responses
- While working through the remedial process, EPA can bring in removal program to take immediate action

SUPERFUND REMOVAL PROCESSES

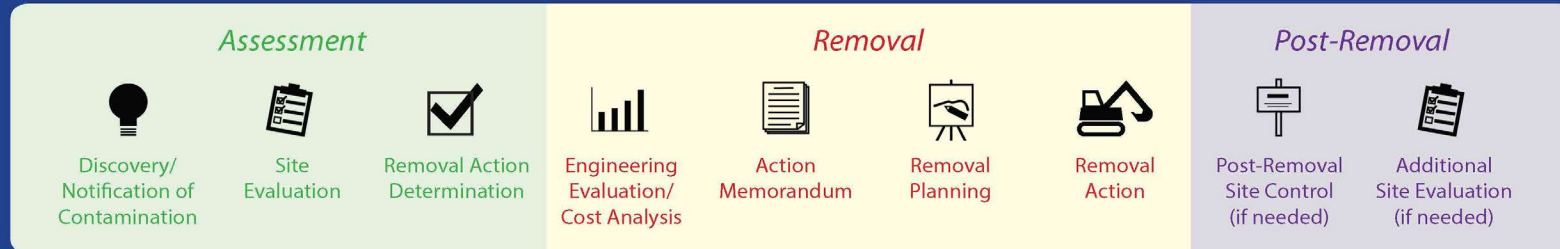
EMERGENCY RESPONSE - INITIATED WITHIN HOURS OR DAYS



TIME-CRITICAL REMOVAL - SIX-MONTH PLANNING PERIOD AVAILABLE

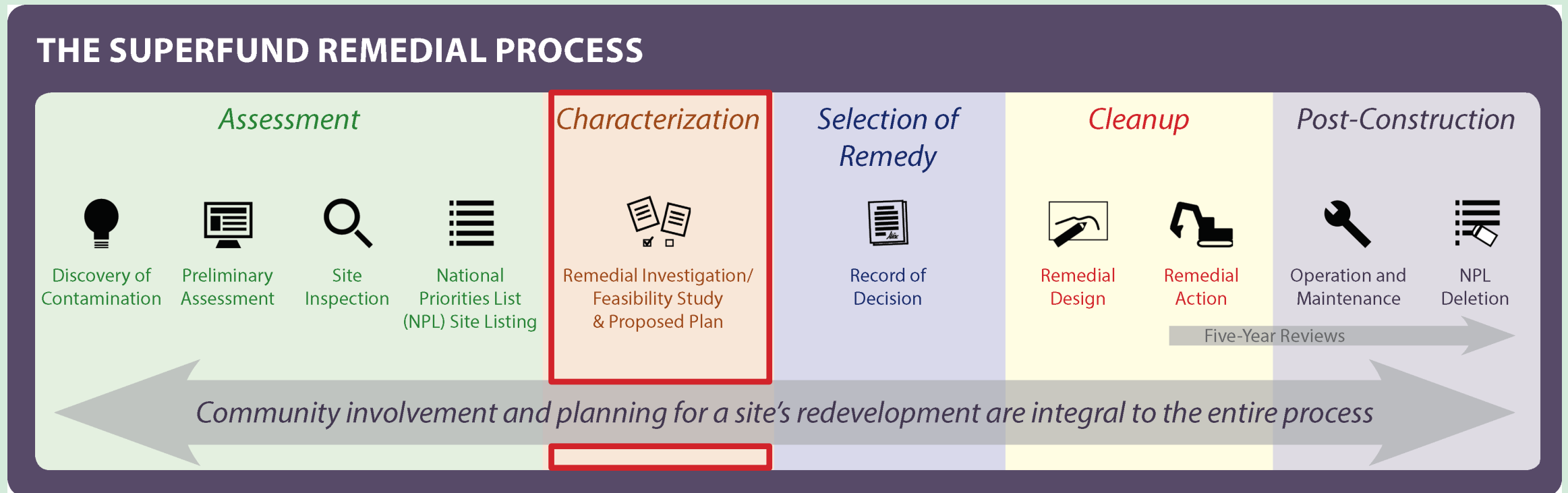


NON-TIME-CRITICAL REMOVAL - GREATER THAN SIX-MONTH PLANNING PERIOD AVAILABLE



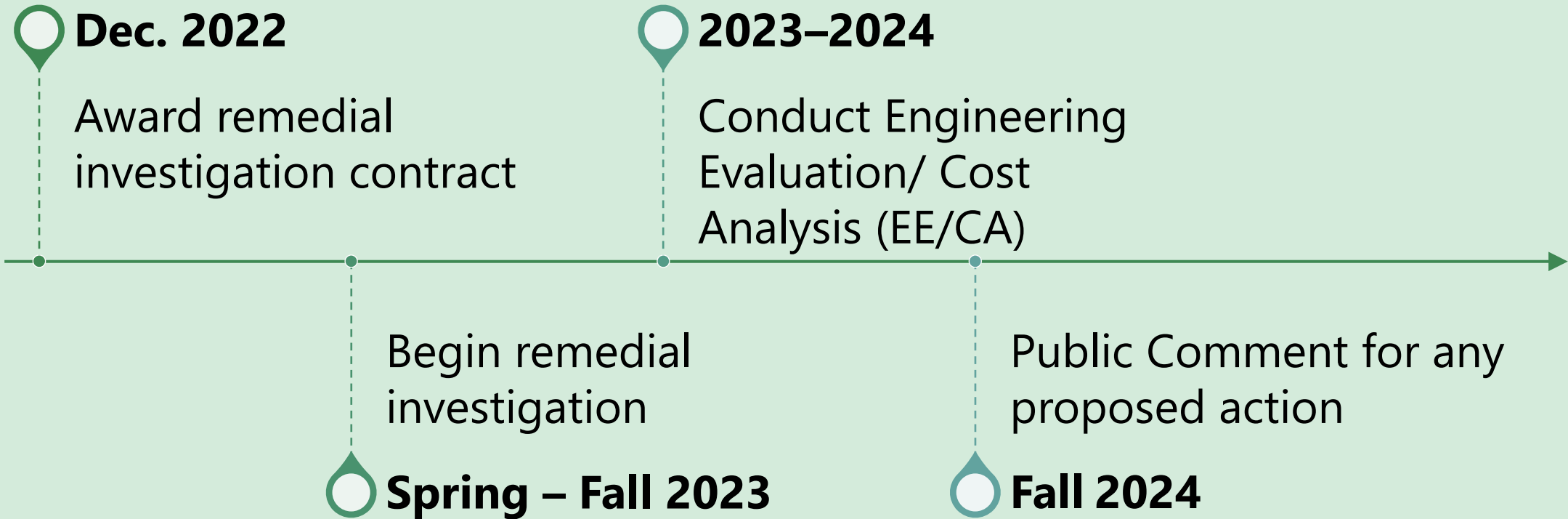
Community involvement is integral to the entire process

Superfund Remedial Process



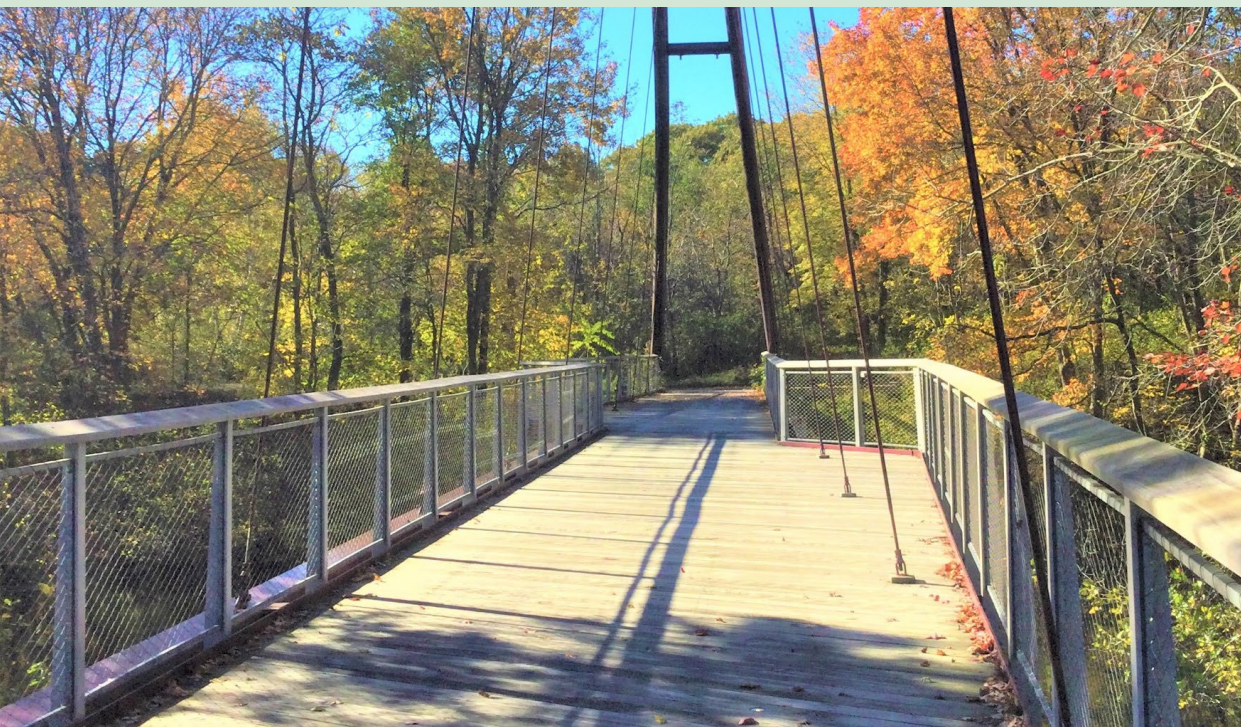
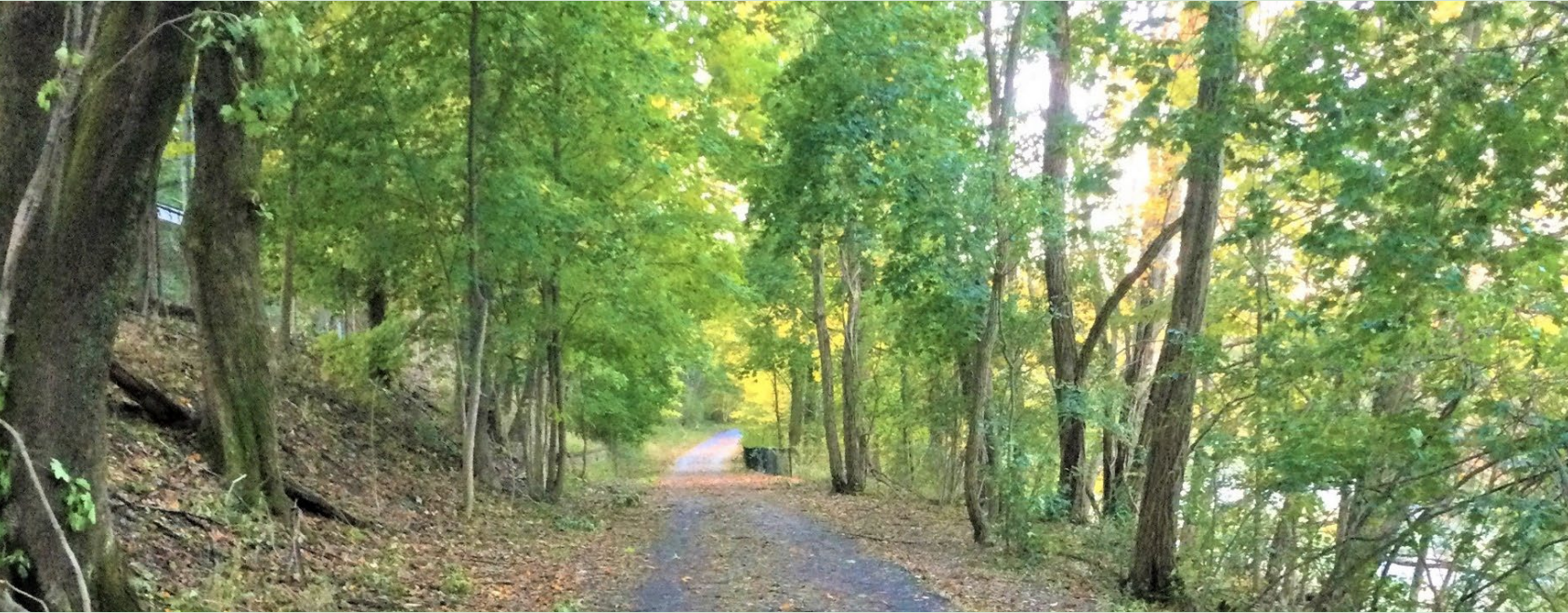
[NOTE: removal actions can occur at any time and SIMULTANEOUSLY]

Next Steps





What Can I Do To Lower My Potential Exposure Risk?



Recreational Use of the Neponset River Community Fact Sheet 2022

On March 16, 2022, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) listed the Lower Neponset River on the National Priorities List (NPL). This means that certain activities, like eating fish caught in the river, may not be safe for certain people. For more information visit: epa.gov/superfund/lowerneponset.

Can I fish in the Neponset River?

Anyone can catch fish, but not everyone should eat the fish. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has specific advice about who can safely eat the fish that is caught from the Neponset River.

Why can't I eat fish caught in the Neponset River?

Eating freshwater fish that you catch from the Neponset River may be harmful because of chemicals in the fish. It is important to follow the information below for:

- the stretch of Neponset River between the Hollingsworth & Vose Dam in Walpole and the Walter Baker Dam in the Dorchester/Milton Lower Mills Industrial Complex
- the Mother Brook between the Knight Street dam and the Neponset River.



Children under 12, pregnant women, nursing mothers, and women that may become pregnant **should NOT eat** any fish caught from these areas. Chemicals in these fish can harm a developing fetus, infants, and young children. These groups may be at higher risk than other people of being harmed.

All other people should:

- **NOT Eat** any American Eel or White Sucker fish from this area. These types of fish have high amounts of chemicals that are not safe for anyone to eat.
- **LIMIT Eating** all other freshwater fish from this area to no more than two meals per month. Other freshwater fish from the Neponset River have lower amounts of chemicals than the American Eel or White Sucker, but they still should not be consumed more than twice a month.

Fish Meal Size

8 oz.

4 oz.

An adult's uncooked meal size is about 8 ounces (the size of an adult's hand)

A child's uncooked meal size is about 4 ounces (the size of an adult's palm)

For more information on fish consumption advisories, please contact the MDPH Bureau of Environmental Health's Environmental Toxicology Program: 617-624-5757 DPHToxicology@state.ma.us or visit www.mass.gov/dph/fishadvisories.

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

NEPONSET RIVER (Between the Hollingsworth and Vose Dam in Walpole and the Walter Baker Dam in Boston)



Fish Contaminated with PCBs and DDT

CHILDREN UNDER 12, PREGNANT WOMEN, NURSING MOTHERS, AND WOMEN OF CHILDBEARING AGE WHO MAY BECOME PREGNANT:

- Do not eat any fish: catch & release

ALL OTHER PEOPLE:

- Do not eat American eel or white sucker: catch and release
- Limit consumption of all other fish to two meals per month

Issued by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health
This advisory does not apply to fish that are stocked. MDPH has issued other important health recommendations for fish consumption.

To find out more information, please call 617-624-5757 or visit our website at <http://www.mass.gov/dph/fishadvisories>

Recommended:



Not Recommended:



How can I safely use the Lower Neponset River?



It is safe to use the Lower Neponset River for activities such as walking, biking, boating, rowing, kayaking, and visiting parks/playgrounds.



These types of activities are considered safe because it is unlikely that you will come in close or prolonged contact with contaminated water, soil, or mud at the bottom of the river during these types of activities.

It is also safe to go fishing and release fish unharmed back into the river.]

Do Not Swim or Wade in the Lower Neponset River.



Sometimes when people are swimming, they accidentally swallow small amounts of water, and the water in the Lower Neponset River may be contaminated with chemicals that can be harmful to your health. It may also contain high levels of harmful bacteria, especially after storms with a lot of rainfall. These bacteria can make people sick if they are swallowed.



While swimming and wading, people may also contact the soil and the mud at the bottom of the river or along the riverbank. This could be harmful because the mud in some stretches of the Lower Neponset River has high levels of chemicals. Soil in some areas along the river may also be contaminated with chemicals.

Steps to minimize potential exposure to chemicals in soil in the Lower Neponset River:

- Wear shoes so that your feet don't touch areas with mud or bare soil
- Clean off mud/soil from shoes prior to leaving the river area to prevent bringing mud or soil into the car or home
- Wash feet if they contact mud or bare soil
- Wash hands after touching the mud or soil, especially before eating so you don't accidentally swallow the mud or soil
- Avoid sitting or playing in bare soil or mud along the riverbank
- Monitor young children to prevent swallowing mud or soil
- Keep dogs leashed and away from the river and muddy areas of the riverbank

What if I contact water from the Lower Neponset River while boating or fishing?

Touching the water while boating, rowing, kayaking, or fishing is not likely to harm your health. The amount of chemicals in river water is expected to be less than the amount in fish or mud at the bottom of the river. Also, the amount of chemicals that you may be exposed to from touching the water is much less than the amount you may be exposed to from accidentally swallowing water while swimming. Although there may be bacteria in the water, bacteria are most harmful if swallowed. Simply washing your hands after touching the water will reduce the chance that bacteria will be swallowed or remain in open wounds on your skin.

White Suckerfish



American Eel





Brief Q&A



Community Involvement

Resources and Opportunities

What is Community Involvement?

Principles of Superfund Community Involvement include that:

- People should have a say in decisions that affect their lives
- People have important information that can inform decision-making
- Community involvement results in better outcomes for everyone

Development of Community Involvement Plan (CIP)

- Site-specific
- Community driven
- Grass roots
- Reflects community needs, concerns, and expectations
- Identified through community interviews and other means



Baird and McGuire Superfund Site Community Involvement Plan

March 2022

INTRODUCTION

The goal of this Community Involvement Plan (CIP) is to encourage and facilitate community engagement throughout the remainder of the Baird and McGuire Superfund site (Site) cleanup. The CIP describes how EPA will involve the community and address local needs moving forward during the cleanup process. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the community will work together by using the tools described in this plan. Active public involvement is crucial to the success of any project. EPA's community involvement activities at the Site are designed to inform the public of all cleanup activities and include the community in the decision-making process.

EPA defines the "community" as those people and entities who have an interest in or are affected by the Site. EPA also recognizes that other stakeholders, including local, state, and federal agencies, may have an interest in the Site. This CIP is based on a series of community interviews, focus group meetings, and an online survey conducted beginning in October 2020 and continuing through September 2021 with the affected community and stakeholders in accordance with EPA's Superfund community involvement and cleanup guidance. The CIP is a "living document," meaning that it can be updated or revised over the course of site cleanup to reflect long-term changes in the community.

Community Involvement at the Baird and McGuire Superfund Site

Active and participatory community involvement is an important part of the cleanup process. It is also regulated under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known as "Superfund." This CIP follows community involvement requirements in the Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) §117 and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) §300.430. EPA's Community Involvement Program is designed to facilitate participation of community members throughout the cleanup process, including the investigation phase and the remedy selection phase. EPA works closely with state and local agencies to provide community involvement throughout the Superfund process.

THE COMMUNITY

This section provides a brief introduction to the Site and community and identifies issues and concerns raised during the community interviews.



SEMS Doc ID 100020312

Development of Baseline Reuse Assessment

- Site-specific
- Community driven
- Reuse assessment and planning
- Redevelopment support

WHAT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE?

Technical assistance can include one or more of the following services. These can be structured as stand-alone, just-in-time services or as part of a longer-term redevelopment support process. The Regional SR Coordinator can assist in identifying a set of services that meets the needs of the site team and local community.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Support in designing an engagement process, conducting community outreach, developing a reuse steering committee, developing a Community Engagement Plan, and facilitating public meetings, working groups, charrettes and open house forums.

INTER-AGENCY FACILITATION AND COORDINATION

Design and facilitation of inter-agency workgroups and stakeholder meetings to resolve conflicts and align site reuse and remedial processes.

REDEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Includes land use research, analysis and community engagement to identify potential future uses, develop a reuse concept plan or evaluate future use compatibility with the remedy. Specific services include:

- **Reuse Situation Assessment** to document preliminary reuse goals, land use context, local initiatives, key stakeholder interests, reuse considerations and recommendations for additional reuse support.
- **Reuse Assessment** to identify reasonably anticipated future land use (RAFLU) (industrial/ commercial, residential, open space) for specific areas of the site to inform the remedial process.
- **Reuse Plan** that integrates community goals, site analysis, land use context and the remedy into a Future Use Framework (showing geographic-specific uses of the site) or Concept Plan (showing layout of potential future use features) to guide local planning, development and the remedial process.

For communities with environmental justice or equity concerns, services can be tailored to build capacity for nearby residents to participate in redevelopment planning and benefit from site redevelopment. Tools are available to help build shared understanding in situations of conflict, support community leaders in sharing their visions for reuse, and place community aspirations for reuse within the context of regional planning and investments.



Recently Completed CIP Focus Group Sessions (6 – 8 individuals)

- Focus interviews completed in August
- Opportunity for additional interviews



Aug 22

EPA CIP Focus Groups - Lower Neponset River Superfund Site

Please join EPA for an online focus group session to discuss the Lower Neponset River Superfund site bordering Boston and Milton, MA.

Upcoming Opportunities

Sign In: Lower Neponset River Superfund Workshop November 2022

Name	Organization Name, If applicable	Preferred Contact Information Email Address/Phone Number/Address (optional)	Sign me up for:		
			Mailing List	Community Involvement Plan Interview	Redevelopment Discussions
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Technical Assistance Needs Assessments (TANAs)



Community Advisory Groups (CAGs)



Technical Assistance Grants (TAGs)



Conflict Prevention and Resolution Center (CPRC)



Other Superfund Community Involvement Resources

- Community Involvement Toolkit
<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-community-involvement-tools-and-resources#general>
- Community Involvement Handbook
<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-community-involvement-tools-and-resources#handbook>
- Superfund Community Guides Series
<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-community-involvement-tools-and-resources#guides>



Community Guide to Excavation of Contaminated Waste

What Is the Excavation of Contaminated Waste?

Excavation of contaminated waste, such as soil, sludge and debris from a site, involves digging it up for "ex situ" (aboveground) treatment or for disposal in a landfill. Excavation also may involve removing old drums of chemicals and other buried debris. Removing these potential sources of contamination keeps people from coming into contact with it and helps speed up the cleanup of contaminated groundwater that may be present.



Worker collects soil samples to confirm that soil left onsite is clean.

How Does It Work?

Contaminated waste is excavated using standard construction equipment, like backhoes and excavators. The equipment selected depends on how large and deep the contaminated area is, and whether access is limited by the presence of buildings or other structures. Long-arm excavators can reach as deep as 100 feet below ground, but excavations are generally limited to shallower depths due to safety concerns and difficulty keeping the excavated hole open. Sometimes waste is excavated from below the water table,

which requires walling off the contaminated area and pumping out the water to keep the waste dry while digging.

Excavated waste may be placed directly in a dump truck for immediate transport offsite, or stockpiled on plastic tarps or in containers for future treatment or disposal. Stockpiles are covered with tarps to prevent wind and rain from blowing or washing contaminants away and to keep workers from coming into contact with waste. Any contaminant vapors may be suppressed with foams or other materials. Excavation is complete when testing shows that the soil at the base and sides of the hole meets cleanup levels.

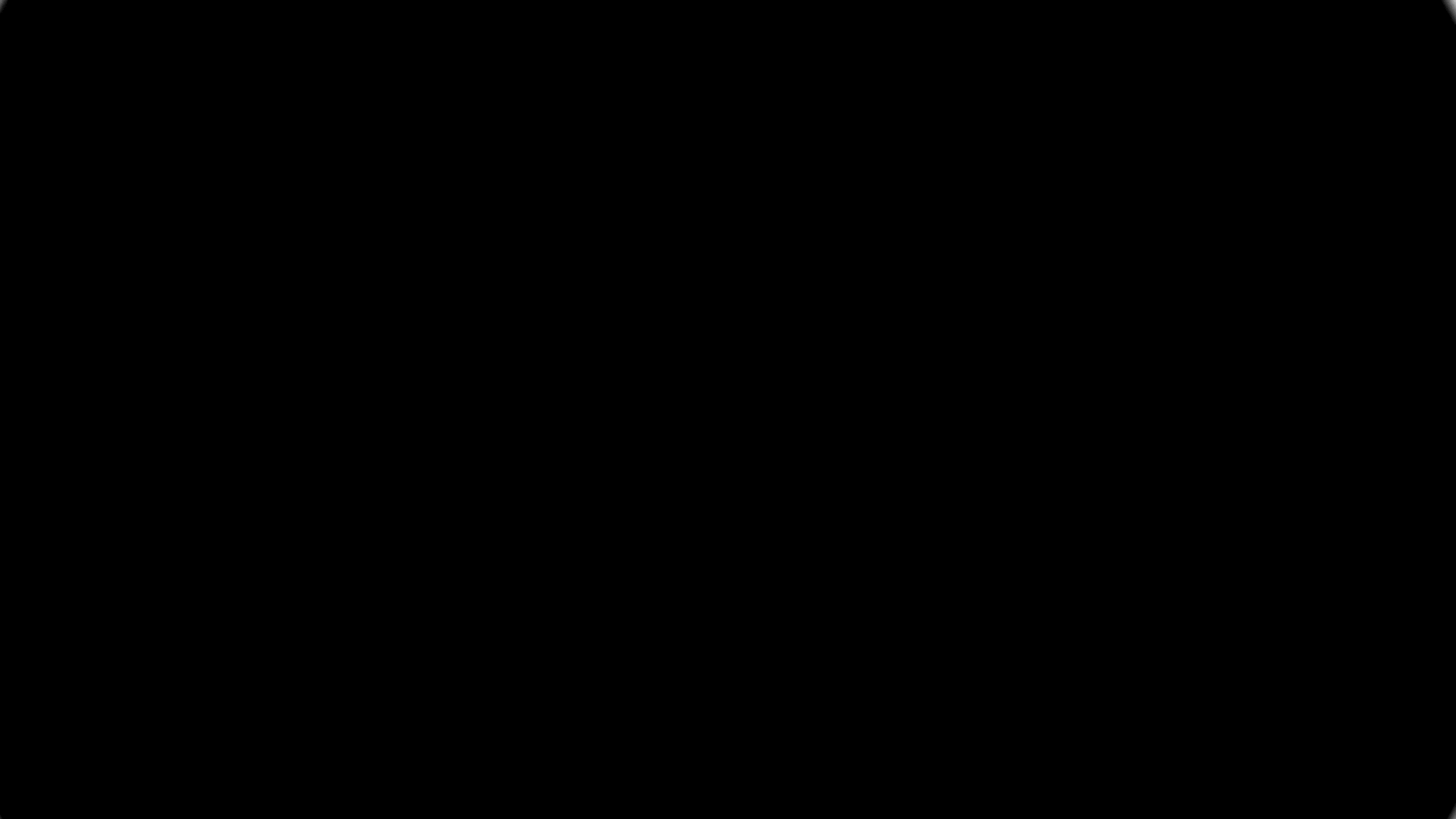


Soil piles are covered with plastic tarps during excavation.

The excavated waste may be treated using an onsite system or transported to an offsite treatment or disposal facility. When treated onsite, treated soil typically is used to fill the excavated area. Clean soil obtained from other locations also may be needed. After an excavation is filled in, the area may be landscaped to prevent soil erosion and make the site more attractive.



Community Involvement at Other Sites

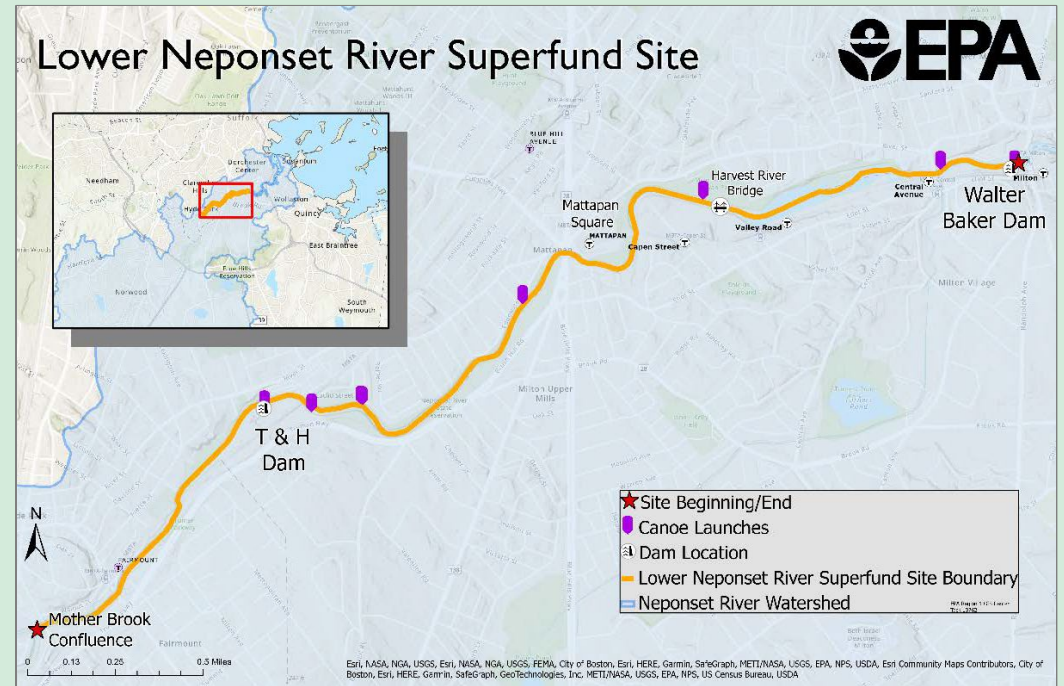




Listening Session

Listening Session

1. What are your expectations of EPA, the cleanup process, etc.?
2. What are your concerns? Do you have specific concerns about the site? About the safety of residents? About the Superfund process?
3. Are there language barriers/accessibility needs that EPA should be aware of so EPA can provide additional assistance?



Summary of Today's Workshop

- Superfund – common name for the nation's program for cleaning up contaminated sites
- EPA implements Superfund program with support from federal, state, tribal and local agencies
- Community involvement is the process of engaging in dialogue and collaboration with community members
- EPA Superfund program promotes community involvement as part of Superfund cleanups
- EPA makes several community tools and resources available to support Superfund community involvement

Summary of Today's Workshop (continued)

- Community groups and government agency involvement has occurred for many years
- In 2022, EPA added the site to the National Priorities List (NPL)
- EPA will begin the remedial investigation in 2023
- This is a long-term cleanup

Questions?

- **Natalie Burgo**, EPA Remedial Project Manager (RPM)

- (617) 918-1331
- Burgo.Natalie@epa.gov

- **Jennifer McWeeney**,
MassDEP RPM

- (617) 654-6560
- Jennifer.McWeeney@state.ma.us

- **Kelsey Dumville**, EPA
Community Involvement
Coordinator (CIC)

- (617) 918-1003
- Dumville.Kelsey@epa.gov

- **ZaNetta Purnell**, EPA CIC

- (617) 918-1306
- Purnell.ZaNetta@epa.gov

The background features a dark blue gradient with several light blue wavy shapes. Scattered across the top half are approximately 18 green circles of varying sizes, some overlapping the wavy shapes.

Thank you!