Lower Neponset River Superfund Site Public Meeting

February 27, 2024
6:30PM – 8:00PM

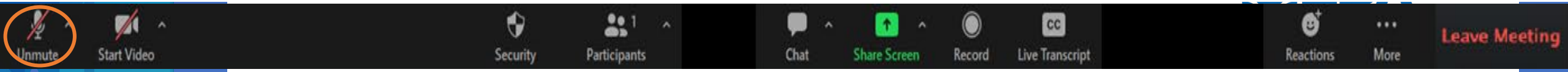
SEMS Doc ID 100028612

Zoom Participation

This is a hybrid public meeting, which means that:

- Some participants will join via Zoom.
- Zoom participants will be following along with the presentations and can ask questions.
- This meeting will be recorded.

Zoom Meeting Controls



Click to **mute / unmute** your microphone.

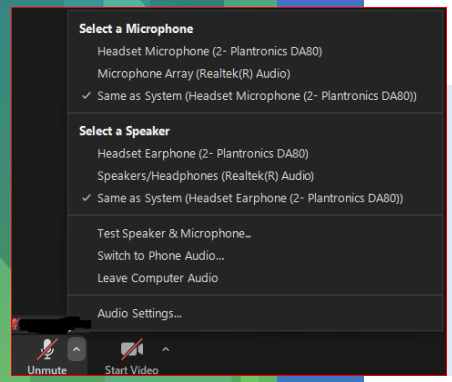
Click to **start / stop** your camera.

Click to show a list of other **participants** in the meeting.

Rename: Hover over your name, click **More**

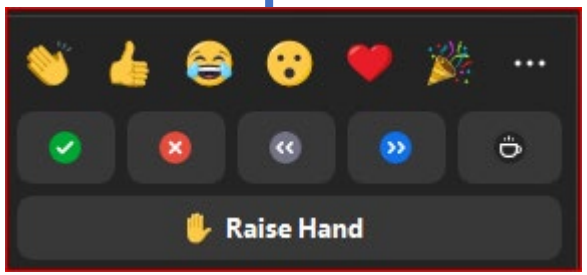
Click to open the **Chat** panel where you can start or respond to a chat.

Click to **leave meeting**. You will not interrupt the meeting



AUDIO/SOUND TROUBLESHOOT:
Click the "up arrow" (next to the mic icon) to open **audio settings**. "

Be sure to have "***Same as System***" selected, under Microphone and Speaker.



Calling via phone, dial *6 to Mute/Unmute | Dial *9 to Raise virtual hand

Zoom Meetings Expectations

1. If you cannot hear, please make sure your computer audio is turned on.
2. Use the chat and/or ‘raise hand’ features to type or speak questions to participate.
3. Hold questions until the end of the presentation.
4. Be respectful of those who are speaking.
5. Aim to speak slowly and clearly into the microphone.
6. If you have technical difficulties type in the chat-box. If this doesn’t work, please send an email to bqboggs@skeo.com
7. Be flexible and understanding! We’re all adapting to these times together.
8. Feel free to get up as needed.

Agenda

- Introductions
- Superfund Removal and Remedial Response Overview
- Remedial Site Overview and Public Health Information
- Remedial Site Updates
- Removal Site Updates
- Environmental Justice Resources
- Community Advisory Group Information
- Questions and Answers

Introductions

- ZaNetta Purnell, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator
- Natalie Burgo, EPA Remedial Project Manager
- Tristan Pluta, EPA Remedial Project Manager
- Ted Bazenas, EPA Removal Program Section Manager
- Maro Attioui, EPA Environmental Justice Specialist
- Matt Robbie, SKEO
- Bianca Boggs, SKEO
- Jennifer McWeeney, Project Manager Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

Photo credit: Ed Pepin

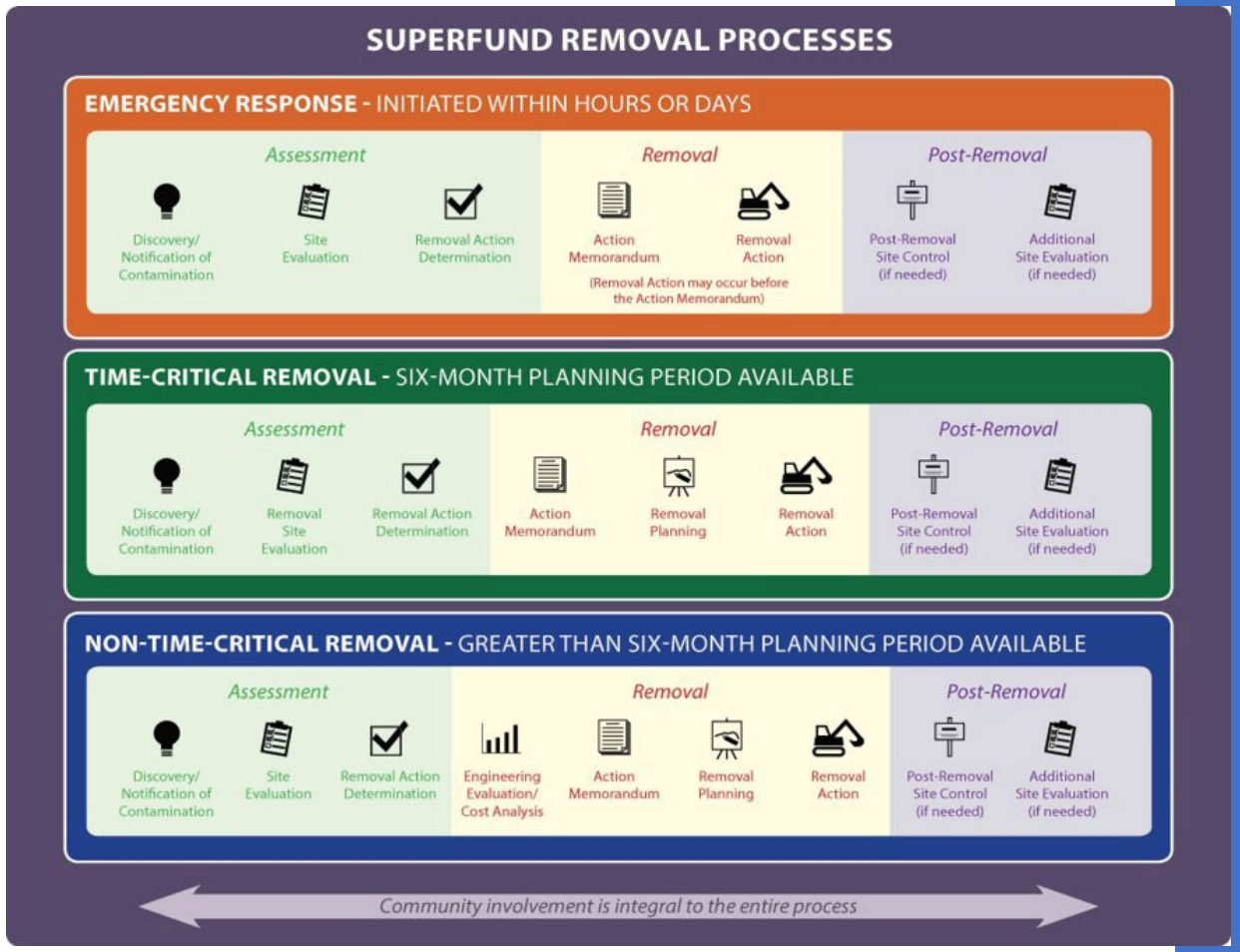
Superfund's Goals

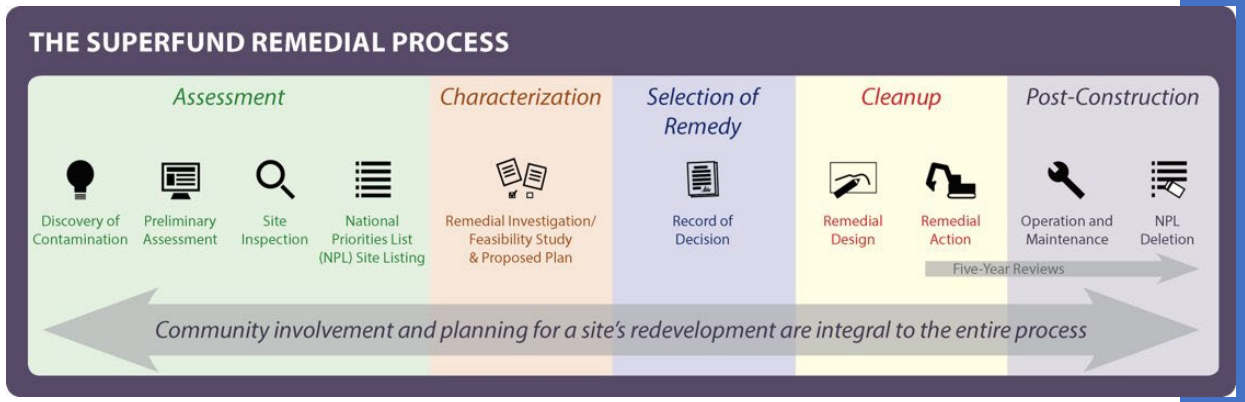
- Protect human health and the environment by cleaning up contaminated sites;
- Make responsible parties pay for cleanup work;
- Involve communities in the Superfund process; and
- Return Superfund sites to productive use.

EPA Cleanup Approaches

- **<u>Removal Process</u>**: *prompt stream-lined* response to the release or threat of release of hazardous substances.

- **<u>Remedial Process</u>**: *complex* source control and management for hazardous substances



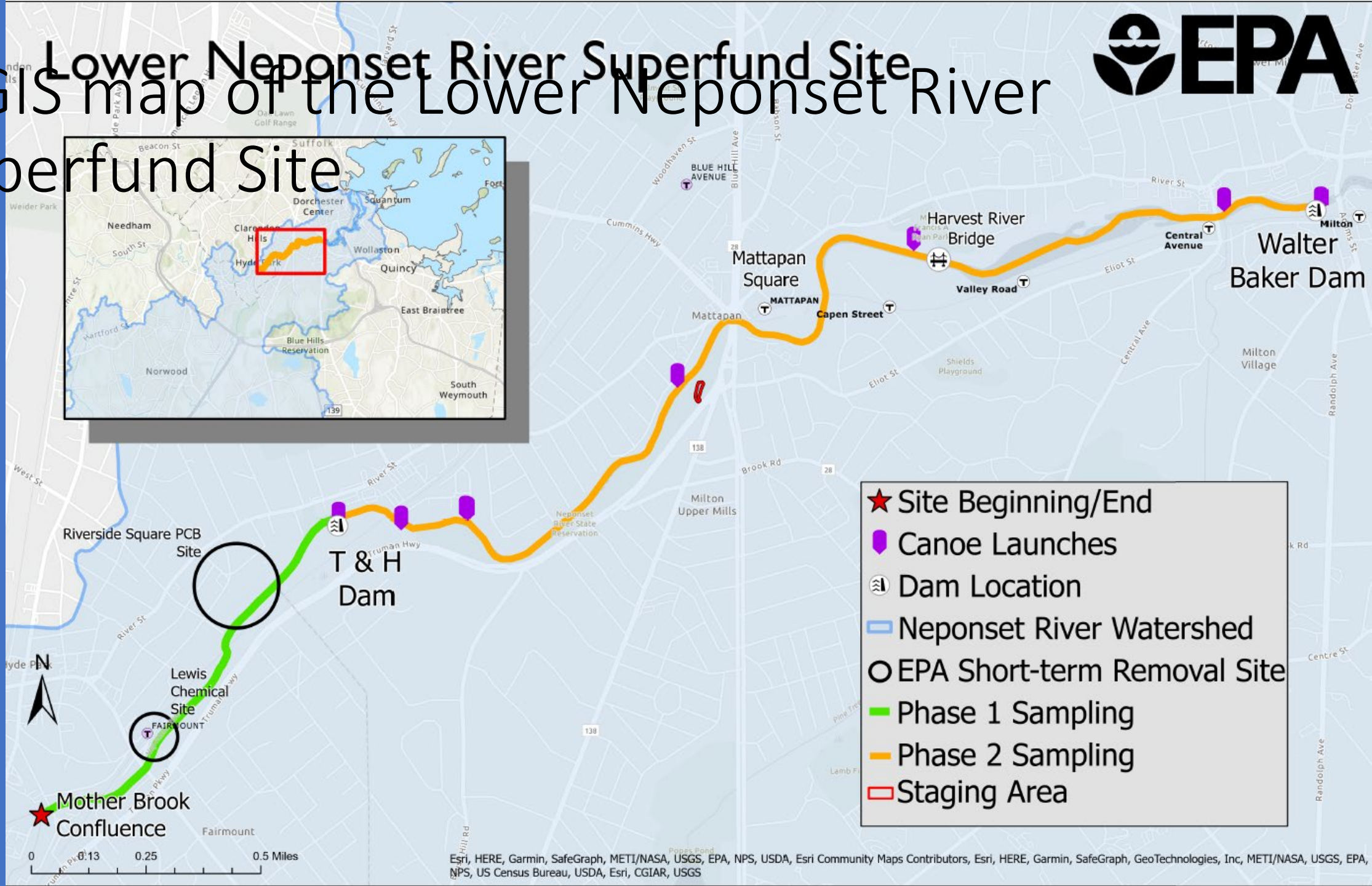


Three Distinct Sites Impacting One Area

1. Lower Neponset River Superfund Site (**Remedial Process**)
2. Lewis Chemical Site (**Removal Process**)
3. Riverside Square Site (**Removal Process**)

Lower Neponset River Superfund Site

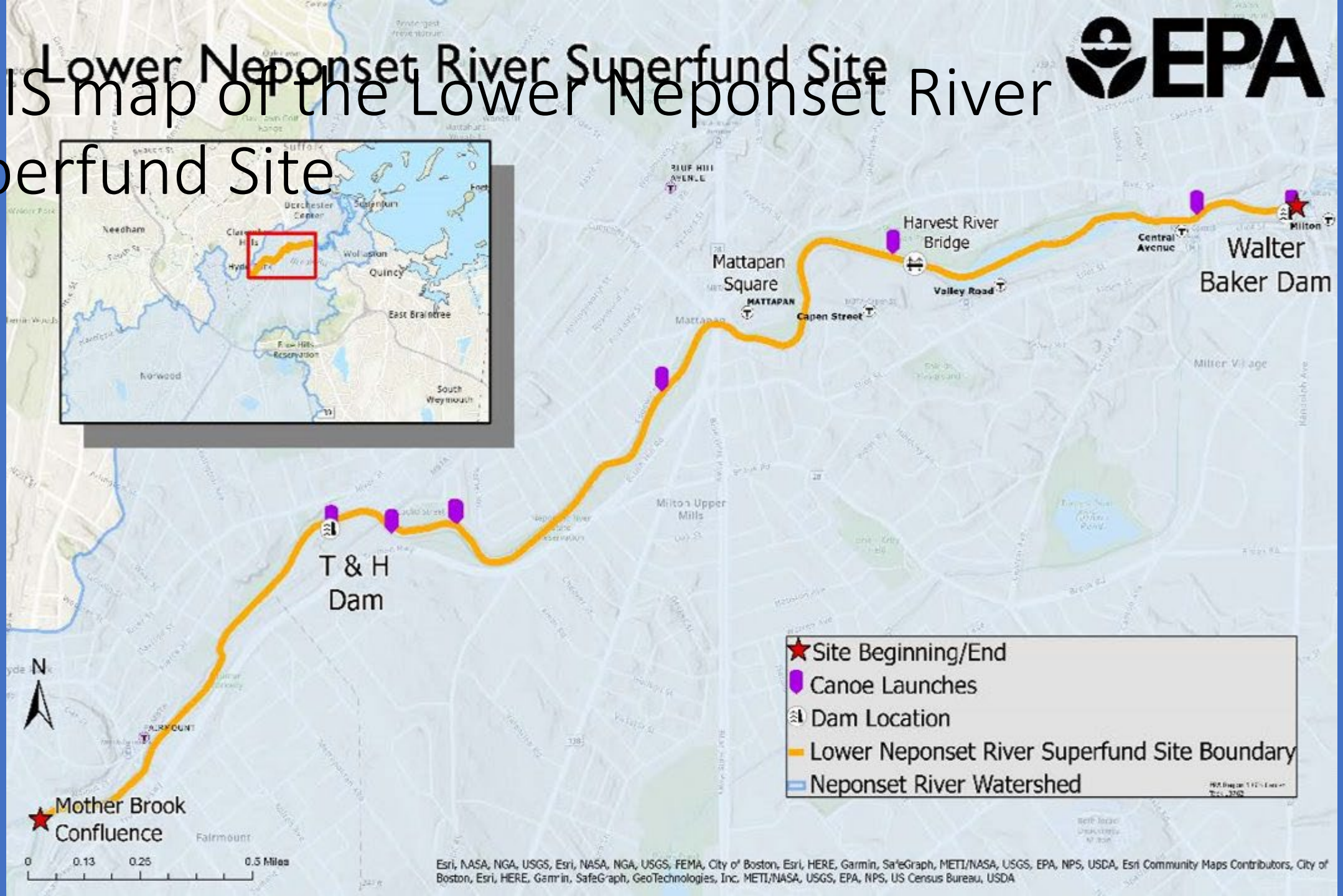
a GIS map of the Lower Neponset River Superfund Site



Remedial Site Overview and Public Health Information

- When was the Site listed?
- What are the remedial site's boundaries?
- Why was the remedial site listed?
- Recreational Use of the Lower Neponset River

a GIS map of the Lower Neponset River Superfund Site

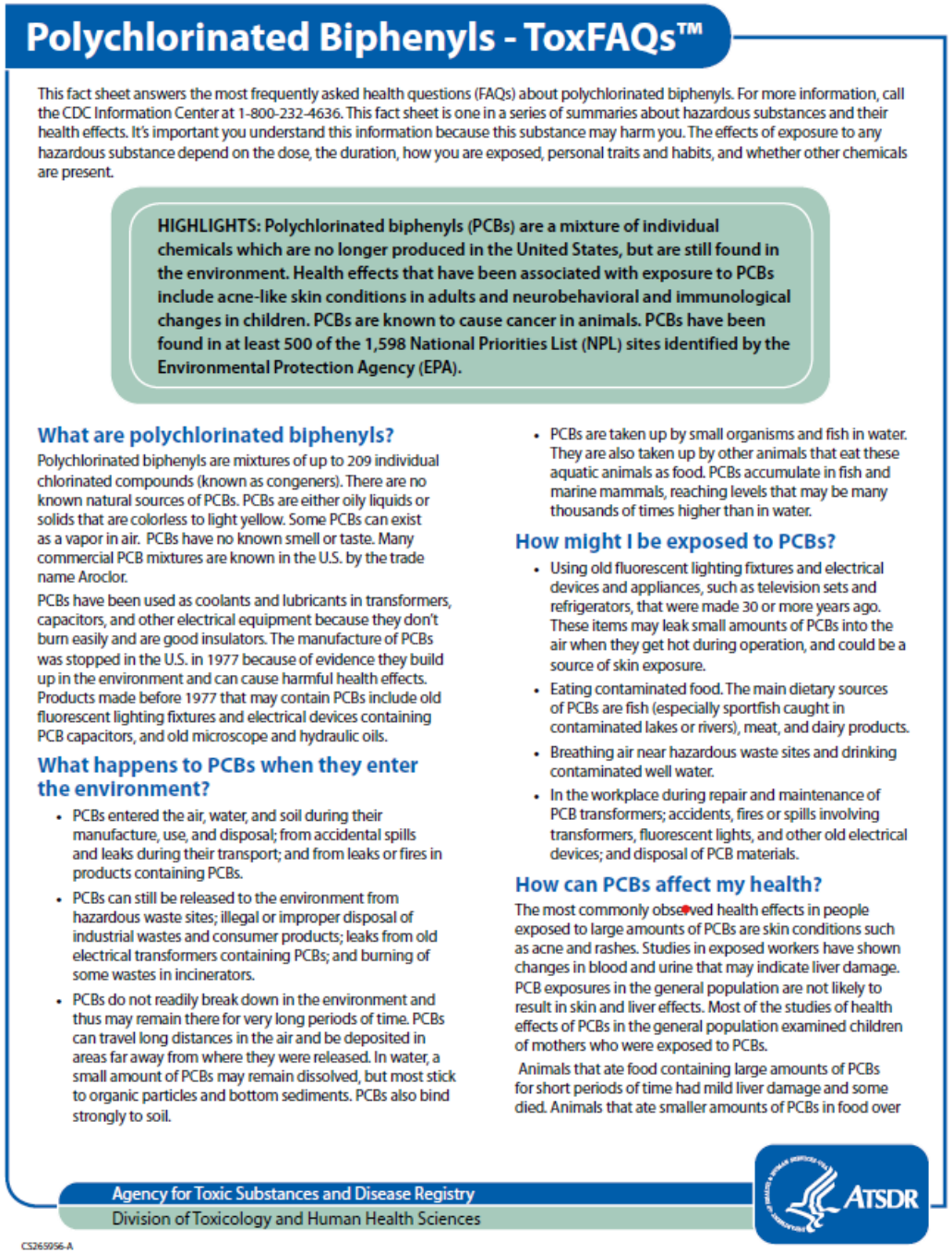


Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)

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

Why are PCBs an issue?

- PCBs have been demonstrated to cause a variety of adverse health effects.
- PCBs do not easily break down in the environment, and can bioaccumulate in fish and mammals.
- Fish consumption appears to be a major pathway of exposure.
- More information on PCBs: www.epa.gov/pcbs



Polychlorinated Biphenyls - ToxFAQs™

This fact sheet answers the most frequently asked health questions (FAQs) about polychlorinated biphenyls. For more information, call the CDC Information Center at 1-800-232-4636. This fact sheet is one in a series of summaries about hazardous substances and their health effects. It's important you understand this information because this substance may harm you. The effects of exposure to any hazardous substance depend on the dose, the duration, how you are exposed, personal traits and habits, and whether other chemicals are present.

HIGHLIGHTS: Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are a mixture of individual chemicals which are no longer produced in the United States, but are still found in the environment. Health effects that have been associated with exposure to PCBs include acne-like skin conditions in adults and neurobehavioral and immunological changes in children. PCBs are known to cause cancer in animals. PCBs have been found in at least 500 of the 1,598 National Priorities List (NPL) sites identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

What are polychlorinated biphenyls?

Polychlorinated biphenyls are mixtures of up to 209 individual chlorinated compounds (known as congeners). There are no known natural sources of PCBs. PCBs are either oily liquids or solids that are colorless to light yellow. Some PCBs can exist as a vapor in air. PCBs have no known smell or taste. Many commercial PCB mixtures are known in the U.S. by the trade name Aroclor.

PCBs have been used as coolants and lubricants in transformers, capacitors, and other electrical equipment because they don't burn easily and are good insulators. The manufacture of PCBs was stopped in the U.S. in 1977 because of evidence they build up in the environment and can cause harmful health effects. Products made before 1977 that may contain PCBs include old fluorescent lighting fixtures and electrical devices containing PCB capacitors, and old microscope and hydraulic oils.

What happens to PCBs when they enter the environment?

- PCBs entered the air, water, and soil during their manufacture, use, and disposal; from accidental spills and leaks during their transport; and from leaks or fires in products containing PCBs.
- PCBs can still be released to the environment from hazardous waste sites; illegal or improper disposal of industrial wastes and consumer products; leaks from old electrical transformers containing PCBs; and burning of some wastes in incinerators.
- PCBs do not readily break down in the environment and thus may remain there for very long periods of time. PCBs can travel long distances in the air and be deposited in areas far away from where they were released. In water, a small amount of PCBs may remain dissolved, but most stick to organic particles and bottom sediments. PCBs also bind strongly to soil.
- PCBs are taken up by small organisms and fish in water. They are also taken up by other animals that eat these aquatic animals as food. PCBs accumulate in fish and marine mammals, reaching levels that may be many thousands of times higher than in water.

How might I be exposed to PCBs?

- Using old fluorescent lighting fixtures and electrical devices and appliances, such as television sets and refrigerators, that were made 30 or more years ago. These items may leak small amounts of PCBs into the air when they get hot during operation, and could be a source of skin exposure.
- Eating contaminated food. The main dietary sources of PCBs are fish (especially sportfish caught in contaminated lakes or rivers), meat, and dairy products.
- Breathing air near hazardous waste sites and drinking contaminated well water.
- In the workplace during repair and maintenance of PCB transformers; accidents, fires or spills involving transformers, fluorescent lights, and other old electrical devices; and disposal of PCB materials.

How can PCBs affect my health?

The most commonly observed health effects in people exposed to large amounts of PCBs are skin conditions such as acne and rashes. Studies in exposed workers have shown changes in blood and urine that may indicate liver damage. PCB exposures in the general population are not likely to result in skin and liver effects. Most of the studies of health effects of PCBs in the general population examined children of mothers who were exposed to PCBs.

Animals that ate food containing large amounts of PCBs for short periods of time had mild liver damage and some died. Animals that ate smaller amounts of PCBs in food over

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
Division of Toxicology and Human Health Sciences

ATSDR

CS265956-A

the front page of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Recreational Use of the Neponset River Community Fact Sheet 2022

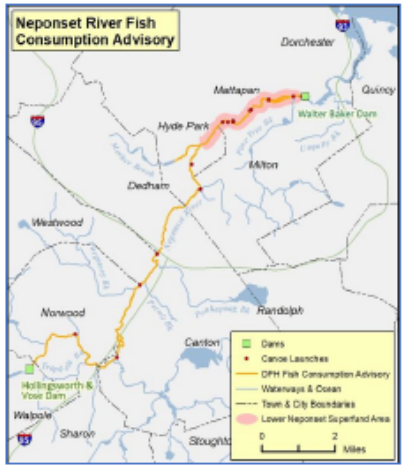
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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

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.

MADPH Recommended Activities at the Site

Not Recommended:

American Eel

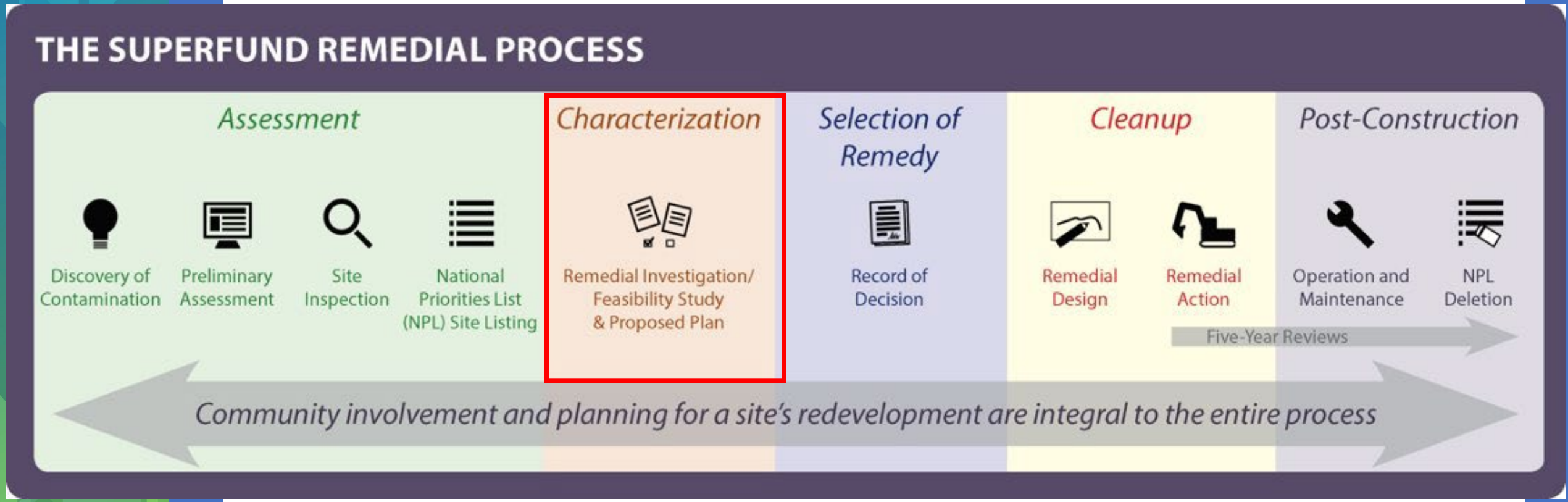
White Sucker

Children under 12, pregnant women, nursing mothers, and women of childbearing age who may become pregnant, do **not** eat any fish.

Remedial Site Updates

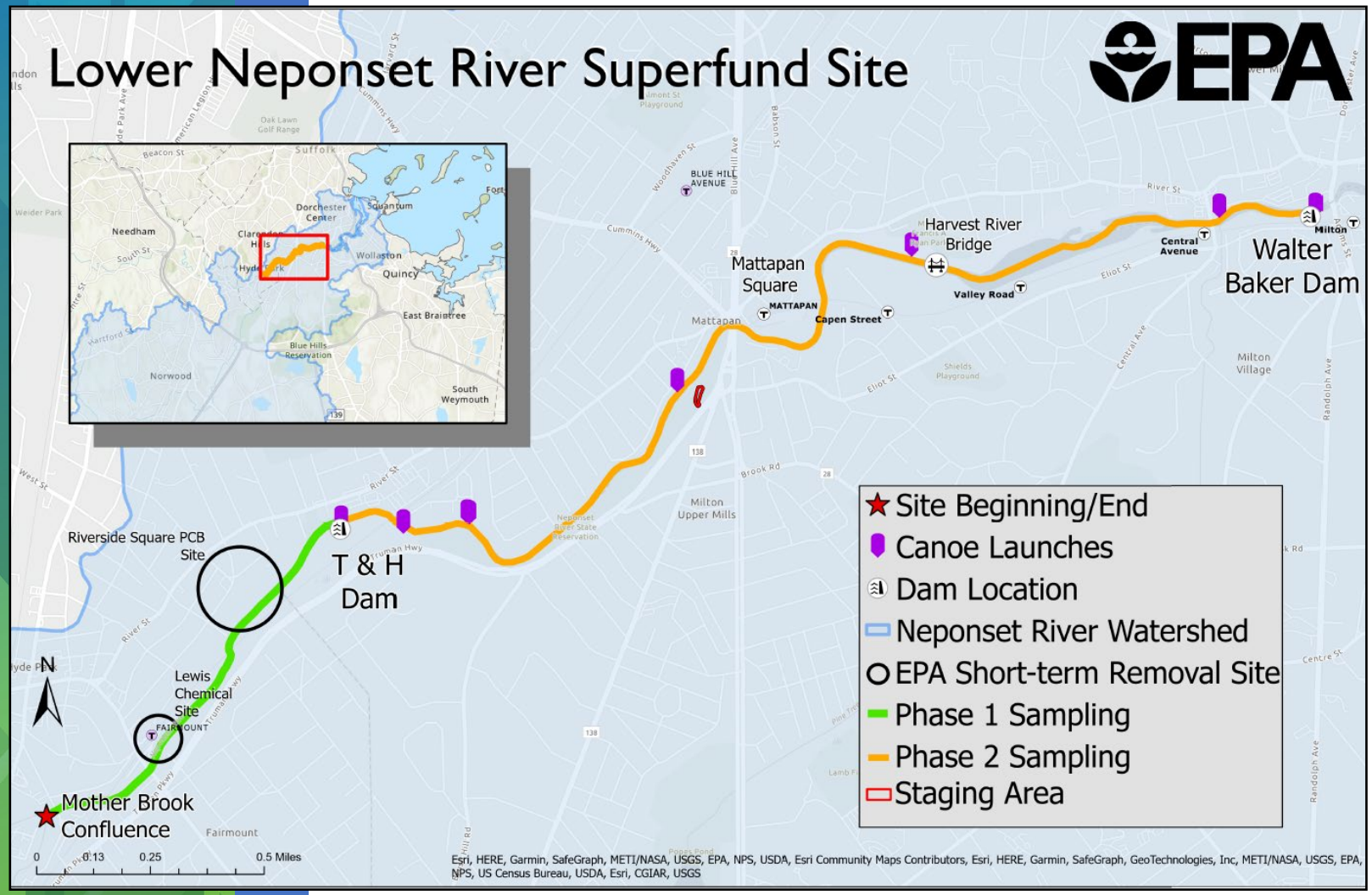
- Where is the remedial site in the Superfund process?
- Is the remedial program also taking early action?
- What remedial site activities were conducted in 2023?
- What remedial site activities are planned for 2024?

Where is the Remedial Site in the Overall Superfund Process?



Early actions can occur using time-critical removal actions and non-time critical removal actions

What Remedial Site Activities Were Conducted in 2023?



Phase I area

- Mapping of river channel and banks
- Ecological survey
- Sampling

Remedial Site Reconnaissance

On 12/06/2023, EPA published a Site Reconnaissance Summary Report, which includes the following information:

- A geospatial data survey completed within the Phase 1 reach
- A historic and cultural resource survey completed within the entire 3.7-mile stretch of the Site
- A sediment profile imaging (SPI) survey completed within the Phase 1 reach
- An ecological evaluations including a wetland survey completed within the Phase 1 reach
- This report is publicly available at:
  - https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/01/678308

historical resources survey

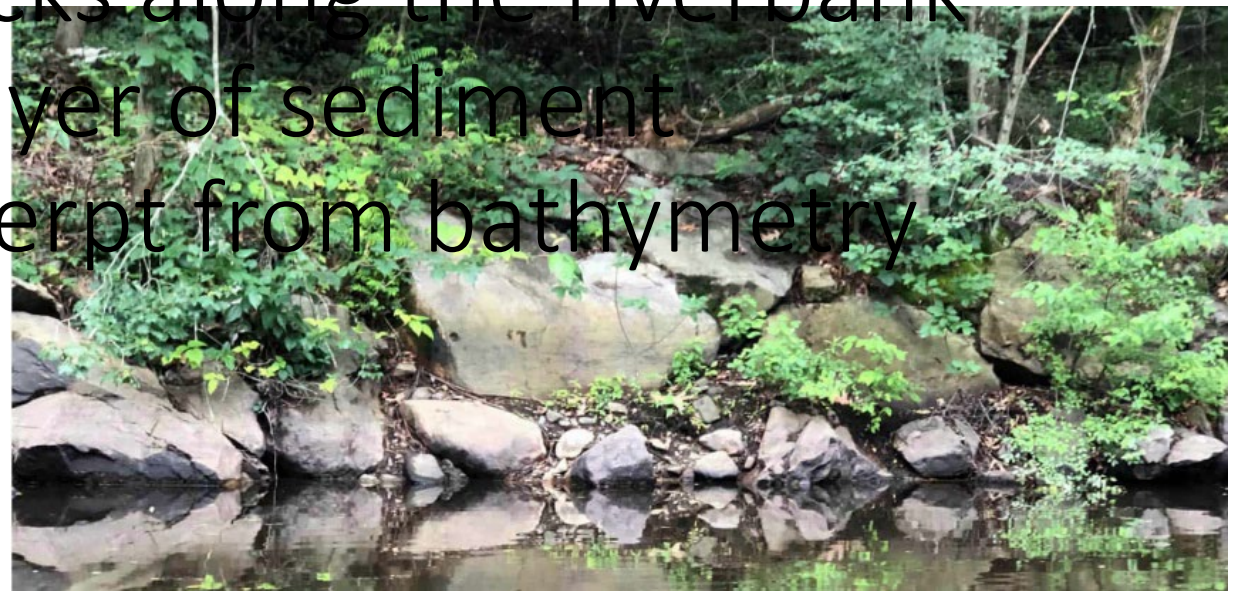
Top right alt text: large rocks along the riverbank

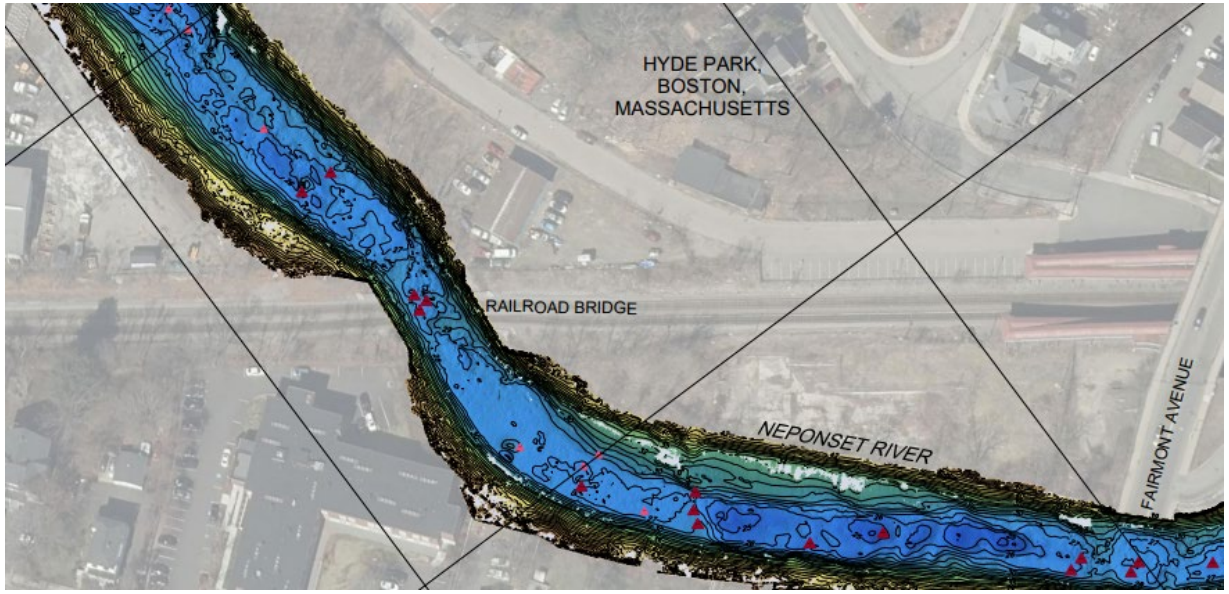
Bottom left alt text: top layer of sediment

Bottom right alt text: Excerpt from bathymetry survey

Table 4: NRHP Listed Sites/Historic Districts within 0.5 miles of Project APE

MHC No.	NR Number	Type	Year	Name
MLT.2	75000289	Site	1975	Dr. Amos Holbrook House
MLT.912	75000290	Site	1975	Gov. Thomas Hutchinson's Ha-Ha
BOS.IL	80000675	District	1980	Dorchester/Milton Lower Mills Industrial District
MLT.A	95000698	District	1995	Milton Hill Historic District
BOS.11111	99001308	Site	1999	First Congregational Church of Hyde Park
BOS.TD	01000304	District	2001	Dorchester/Milton Lower Mills Industrial District Boundary Increase
BOS.EJ	01001557	Site	2002	Boston Consumptives Hospital - Boston Sanitorium
MLT.U	03000574	District	2003	Blue Hills Parkway, Metropolitan Park System of Greate Boston
MLT.AK	04001430	District	2005	Truman Parkway, Metropolitan Park System of Greater Bo
BOS.YZ	08000089	Site	2008	Dorchester Park





Remedial Phase I Sampling

Environmental Media Sampled:

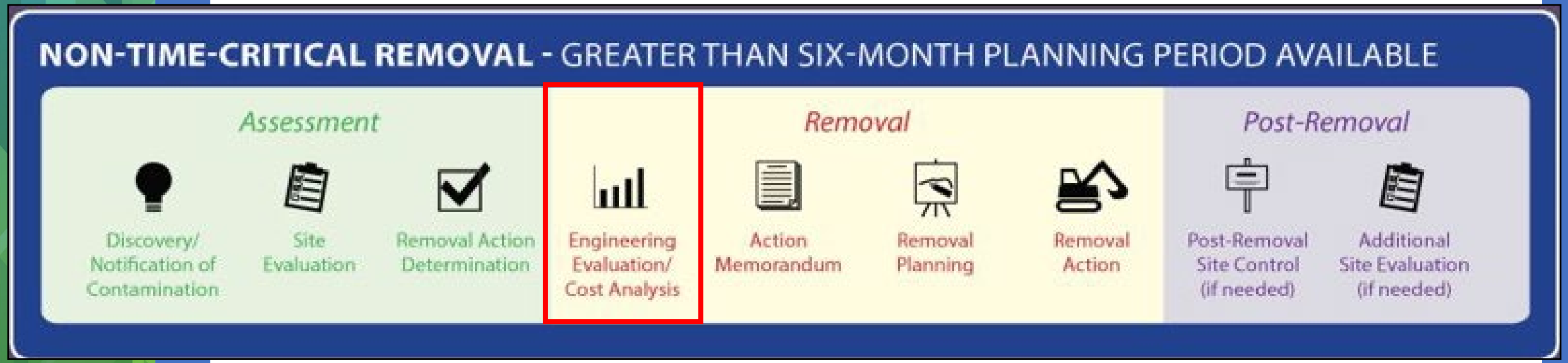
- Sediment:
  - Total 196 samples.
  - Includes background samples.
- Soil:
  - Total 147 samples.
- Surface Water:
  - Total 114 samples.
  - Includes background samples.
- Pore Water:
  - Total 6 samples.
  - Includes background samples.

What did EPA sample for During Phase I?

Media	Analytical Group
Sediment	**Surface samples:** Volatile organic compounds, Semi-volatile organic compounds, pesticides, PCB Congeners, polychlorinated dioxins and furans, metals, Cyanide, Total organic carbon, Grain Size, Acid Volatile Sulfide/Simultaneous Extracted Metals **Subsurface samples**: Volatile organic compounds, Semi-volatile organic compounds, pesticides, PCB Congeners, polychlorinated dioxins and furans, metals, cyanide, Total organic carbon, Grain Size
Surface Water	**Samples from all depth intervals:** Volatile organic compounds, Semi-volatile organic compounds, Pesticides, PCB Congeners, polychlorinated dioxins and furans, Hexavalent Chromium, total and dissolved metals, cyanide
Pore Water	**Samples from target depth intervals:** PCB Congeners, polychlorinated dioxins and furans, metals, Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, total and dissolved metals, Dissolved organic carbon
Soil	**Surface and subsurface samples:** PCB Congeners, polychlorinated dioxins and furans, Volatile organic compounds, Semi-volatile organic compounds, metals, asbestos
The Phase I Data Evaluation Memo is anticipated to be available to the public in Summer of 2024	

Remedial Early Action Evaluation

- Phased sampling
- Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EE/CA)
  - Possible non-time-critical removal action



What Remedial Site Activities are Planned for 2024?

Spring 2024

Complete Phase I data validation

Summer 2024

Complete Phase I data report

Winter 2024

Public comment period for EE/CA

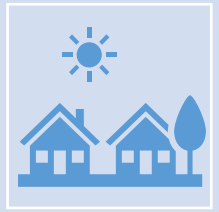
Sampling from the T&H Dam to the Walter Baker Dam

Spring – Fall 2024

Complete EE/CA report

Fall 2024

Removal Site Updates



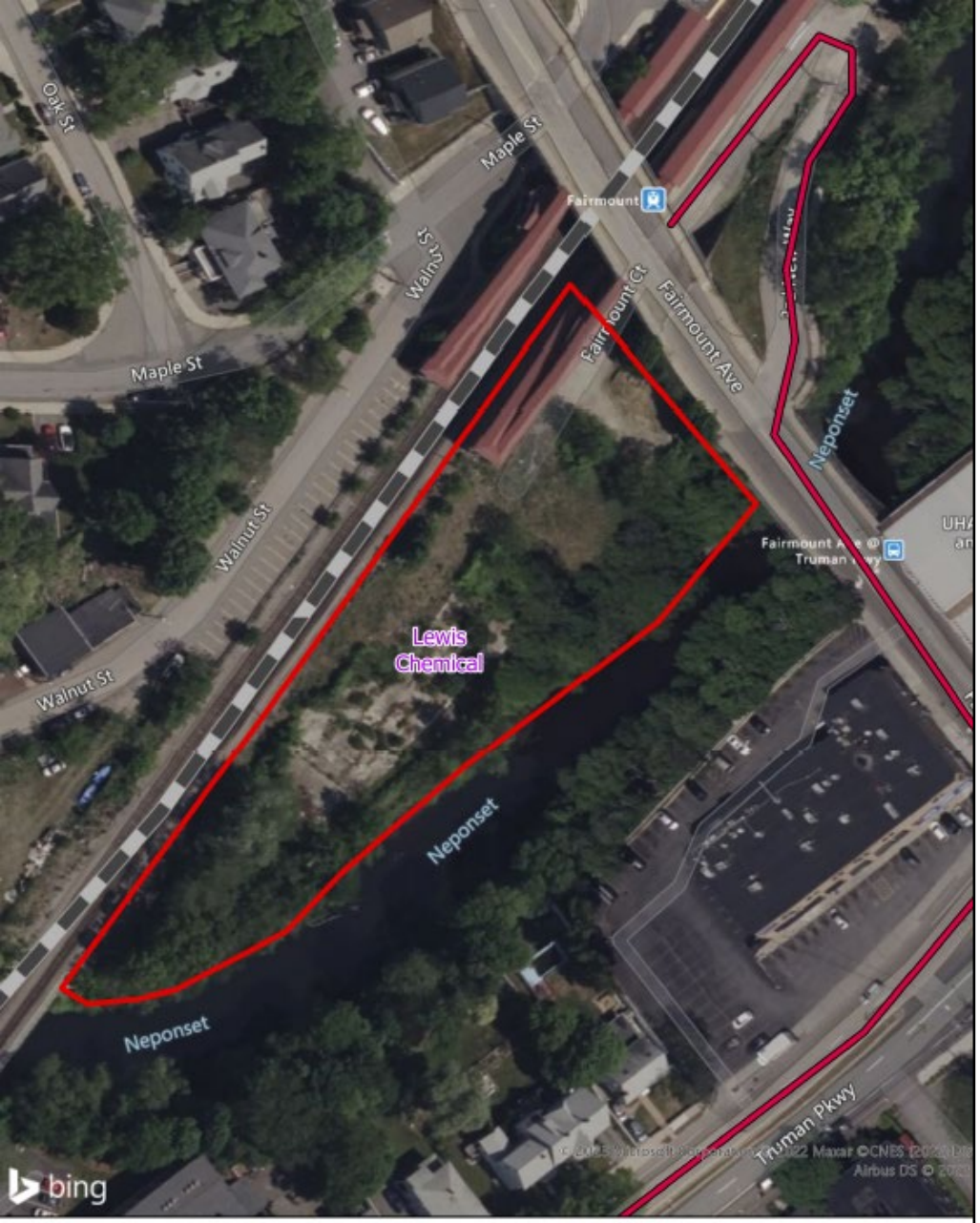
Riverside Square PCB Site

Lewis Chemical

Removal Site Investigation: Riverside Square PCB Update

- About 3.5 acres. Includes residential properties, as well as land running along river.
- In 1962 and 1964, river was dredged to deepen channel.
- Dredged spoils placed in several locations along riverbanks.
- Essentially created new land; Riverside Square PCB site is one of those locations.
- Sampling has found PCB and metal contamination in soil within this area.

Removal Site: Lewis Chemical



Lewis Chemical (Removal Action) — Travel Route

0 50 100 200 Feet

- $3.9 million cleanup began in April 2023. It is removing the source of contamination by digging up soil contaminated with PCBs and other hazardous substances.
- Around 3,300 tons of soil contaminated with PCBs and volatile organic compounds has been excavated and sent off-site to EPA approved landfills.
- A remaining 1,000 tons of contaminated soil needs to be dug up. Depending on weather, digging may take until May or June. Around 50 more trucks will be needed to load and transport this contaminated soil.
- Once removal of contaminated soil is done, the site will be backfilled with clean soil.


an excavator, covered stockpiles of soil, a dumpster, and orange snow fence along the top bank of the riverbank at Lewis Chemical.

Environmental Justice Resources

Community Change Program and Technical Assistance

Community Change Program

The Community Change Grant Program will fund up to $2 billion in projects **nationwide** to support community-driven projects that deploy clean energy, strengthen climate resilience, and **build capacity** for communities to tackle environmental and climate justice challenges.

- Funding:
  - Track 1: $10-20M per project
  - Track 2: $1-3M per project
- Timeline:
  - Applications must be submitted before November 21, 2024 at 11:59PM (rolling submission).

Community Change Program (cont.)

Eligibility:

- A partnership between two community-based non-profit organizations (CBO).
- A partnership between a CBO and one of the following:
  - A Federally-Recognized Tribe
  - A local government
  - An Institution of higher education

How can communities be involved?

- Other organizations and entities may be able to participate and be involved in the Community Change Grants projects as collaborating subrecipients and/or procurement contractors selected in compliance with competition requirements.

Community Change Technical Assistance

- **Applicants** who are eligible for the Community Change Grants can receive technical assistance both when applying for funds (pre-award) and after selection/award (post-award) through the Community Change Technical Assistance (CCTA) program.
- **Pre-award** TA through CCTA includes:
  - Grant Application Support
  - Project Planning and Development
  - Outreach and Engagement
  - General Capacity Building
- **Post-award** TA through CCTA will offer support with grants management and reporting.
- Community Change Grants Technical Assistance Request Form

Community Change Technical Assistance

Description:

- Community Change Equitable Resilience Technical Assistance is intended to support eligible entities located in disaster-prone and disadvantaged communities in their pursuit of an EPA Community Change Grant, especially for projects that relate to climate resilience and long-term recovery from natural disasters.

What projects are eligible?

- These climate resilient projects would focus on new or expanded green infrastructure and retrofits of existing community infrastructure and buildings, streets, and open spaces to address heat islands and extreme heat, wildfire and smoke, floods, storms, and other climate impacts that pose a greater risk to disadvantaged communities.

Lower Neponset River Superfund Site Community Advisory Group (CAG) Information Session

What is a Community Advisory Group (CAG)?

1

Informal organization that facilitates communication between EPA and community at Superfund sites

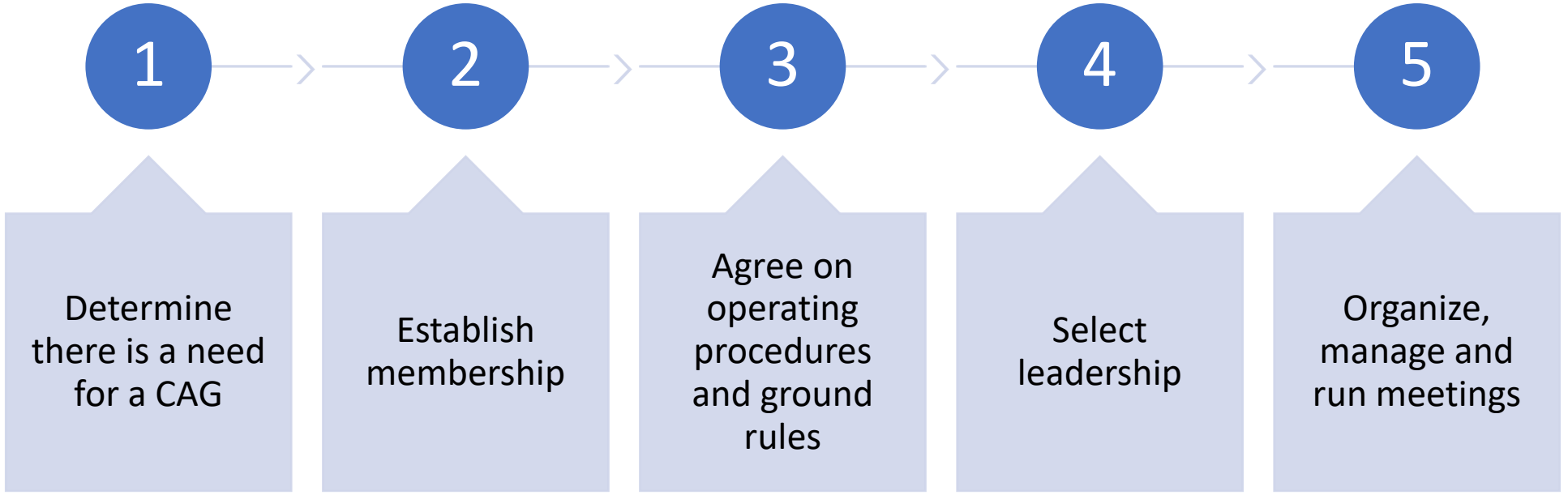
2

Brings together diverse stakeholders for meaningful discussions

CAG Basics

- Informal organization
- Not a decision-making body, but does give community members a voice
- Provide community recommendations on cleanup decisions
- Help disseminate accurate site information to broader communities

Steps for Forming a CAG



Determining Need for a CAG

Forming a CAG can be helpful at communities:

- That lack existing community groups.
- With multiple or diverse community groups.
- With environmental justice concerns.
- With differing and diverse community views.

CAG Participants

Participants may include:

- Residents or homeowners near site
- Local professionals
- Native American tribes and communities
- Minority and low-income groups
- Environmental or public interest groups
- Facility owners
- Local business community members
- State and/or local government representatives
- EPA representatives

CAG Member Roles

Attend	Attend meetings
Represent	Represent views of the community
Express	Express community preferences
Review	Review technical information
Disseminate	Disseminate information about site to community members
Work	Work with CAG members to reach agreement when needed

Resource Member Roles

EPA	Other Resource Members
• Attend meetings • Discuss issues related to Superfund actions • Listen and respond to CAG members' questions and concerns • Provide site updates, presentation and training for CAG members, as appropriate • Assist with logistical and administrative support	• Attend meetings • Provide information and technical expertise • Discuss issues related to other areas of expertise • Listen and respond to CAG members' questions and concerns • Provide information about other government or non-governmental programs or local issues

Facilitator Roles

- A neutral facilitator does **not** have a stake in the outcome, is impartial, and treats all parties fairly.

- A neutral facilitator can help a CAG:
  - Establish member roles and responsibilities.
  - Form a leadership council
  - Prepare meeting agendas and summaries.
  - Develop mission statement, bylaws and operating procedures.
  - Ensure meetings are productive and run smoothly
  - Come to agreement when needed

Establishing CAG Membership

- Screening Panels
- Existing Group
- Core Group
- Self-Selecting Group

Operating Procedures

- Name for the CAG
- Mission
- CAG size
- Organization
- Leadership & Decision-Making
- Meetings

Questions to Consider

- How will membership be determined?
- What should the CAG leadership structure look like?
- How many members will serve?
- How will the CAG ensure representation across the site's abutting communities of Hyde Park, Mattapan, Dorchester and Milton?

Potential CAG Structure

- Screening panel to initial CAG membership/leadership
- Approximate CAG size envisioned is 8-10 members
- Representation: 2 members from each of the four communities (Hyde Park, Mattapan, Dorchester, Milton)
- Other community involvement needs: Haitian Creole and Spanish language speakers

Action Items for CAG Formation

Are you interested in becoming a CAG member?

- Interested members add their name to a list (hard copy and virtual list)

- SKEO reaches out to interested members to provide information.

- Questionnaire for interested CAG members:
  - Where do you live? (city / neighborhood)
  - What is your reason for wanting to participate?
  - How would you describe you level of involvement with EPA's superfund process to date?
  - What is your availability to attend CAG meetings over the next several years?

- Facilitator compiles lists and questionnaire responses and works to establish a screening panel (may involve a follow up virtual phone calls or meeting).

CAG Contact Info:

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Questions and Answers

Stay Updated

Website:

Epa.gov/neponsetriver

Mailbox:

R1Neponset@epa.gov

Join our email list!

We will continue to send out information in coordination with community groups, newspapers, paper mailings, etc.