



EPA Conducting Cleanup of PCBs near Harper and Lakeland

Ten-Mile Drain Site

St. Clair Shores, Michigan

April 2014

For more information

If you have questions or comments about EPA's cleanup of contaminated soil or about the Ten-Mile Drain Site, contact one of these EPA team members:

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U.S. EPA Region 5
Superfund Division (SI-7J)
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

You may see documents related to the Ten-Mile Drain site at the information repository:

St. Clair Shores Public Library
22500 Eleven Mile Road

Or visit: www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/tenmiledrain

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency plans to begin a cleanup this spring to remove PCB-contaminated soil from select areas near Harper Avenue and Lakeland Street. The work is expected to take about four weeks.

Soil samples taken in the area last year showed elevated levels of PCBs at or near the surface at 10 places: eight public rights-of-way, one residential yard and part of a commercial property. All are on the east side of Harper Avenue.

EPA has contacted property owners and the city with results of the 2013 sampling. The Agency will contact property owners to get signed access agreements before beginning work. Cleanup includes removing trees and vegetation, digging up contaminated soil and taking the soil to an approved disposal facility. Workers will restore the property to as close to original conditions as possible. This restoration would include, seeding or placing sod and replacing trees or bushes. During the cleanup, one side of Lakeland Street may be temporarily closed.

About the Ten-Mile Drain Site

EPA has developed a three-part strategy to deal with persistent PCB contamination in a portion of the Ten-Mile Drain storm sewer system. This includes the short-term cleanup plan approved in September 2011, which included ongoing monthly monitoring of oil and sediment behind the 17 weirs and the sediment trap at the outfall, placement of absorbent snares to soak up oil and slow or stop the movement of contamination, and periodic removal and proper disposal of saturated snares and PCB-contaminated sediment.

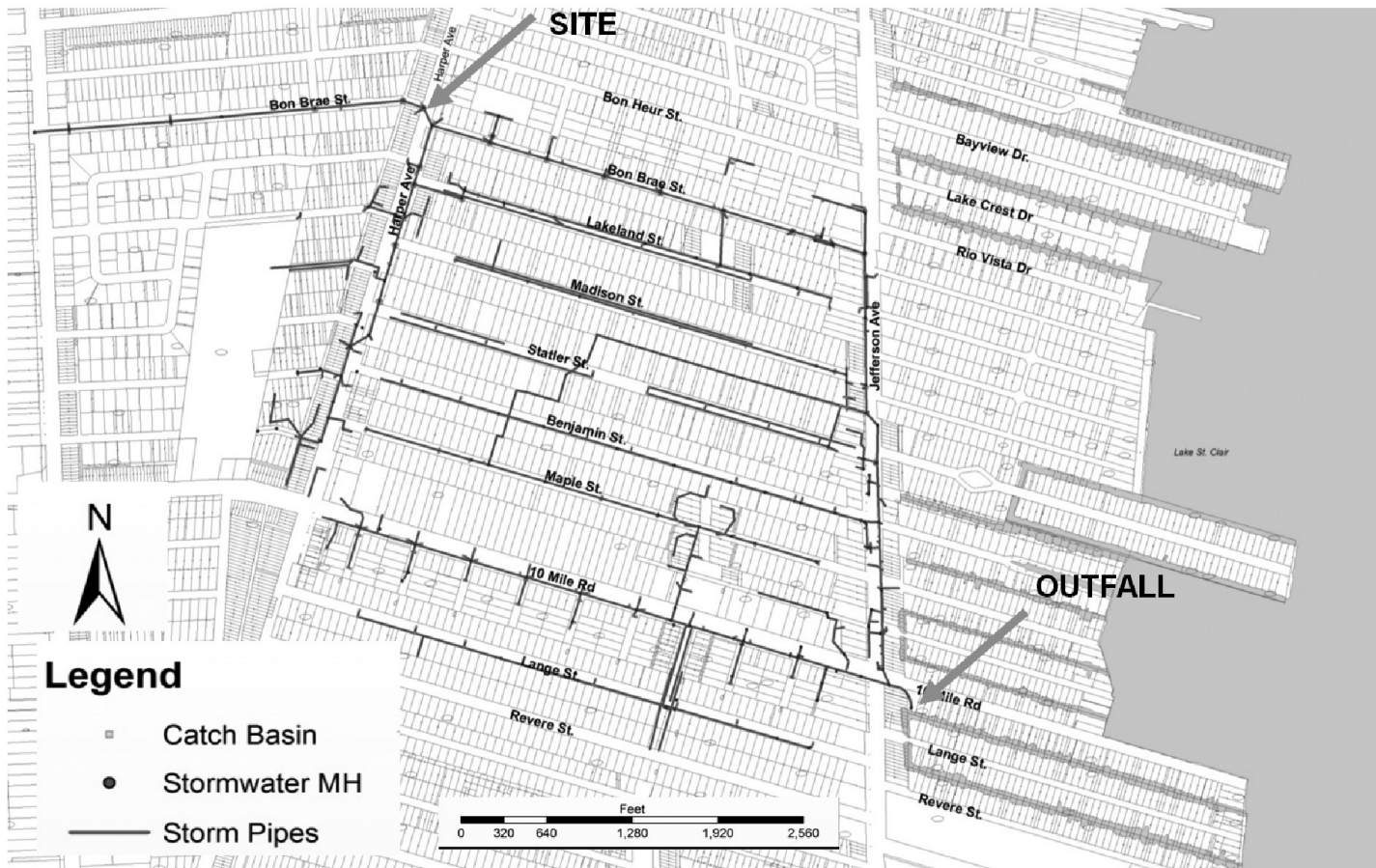
An interim plan to remove PCB contamination from the trench of the Ten-Mile Drain system was presented to the public in December. This plan would take care of contamination in the underlying stone bedding and backfill material at two locations where the highest PCB levels have been found. EPA, in consultation with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and after considering public comments, is selecting a final cleanup plan.

The final part of this strategy is a comprehensive long-term investigation. Previous studies have focused on the system at the intersection of Bon Brae and Harper. In 2013, EPA conducted a comprehensive site-wide study that involved additional sampling of area soil, sediment, groundwater and surface water. EPA is reviewing that data to determine how widespread the PCB contamination is and whether it has traveled beyond the drain and canal. The next step is developing options for cleaning up remaining contaminants.

About PCBs

PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, are a group of fabricated chemicals originally used in industrial processes and products such as coolants and lubricants. Production was banned in the U.S. in 1977, but PCB mixtures remain in old electrical equipment and other items. PCBs can pose potential health risks through eating contaminated food, soil or water; through direct contact; or through breathing PCB-contaminated air or particles. EPA considers PCBs to be possible cancer-causing chemicals.

Ten-Mile Drain Storm Sewer System



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