United States Environmental Protection Agency

EPA Updates Cleanup Progress

Ten-Mile Drain Site

St. Clair Shores, Michigan October 2016

You're invited

EPA will host an open house and a public meeting Thursday, Nov. 17, where you can discuss the Ten-Mile Drain site one-on-one with government representatives and hear more details about the cleanup progress.

The informal open house will be at City Hall, 27600 Jefferson Circle Dr., Geer Conference Room, from 3 to 5 p.m. The public meeting starts at 6 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

For more information

If you have questions or comments on the Ten-Mile Drain site, contact:

For technical questions:
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For general questions:
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You may call EPA's Chicago regional office toll-free at 800-621-8431, 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. weekdays.

Review documents related to the Ten-Mile Drain site at the information repository:

St. Clair Shores Public Library
22500 Eleven-Mile Road

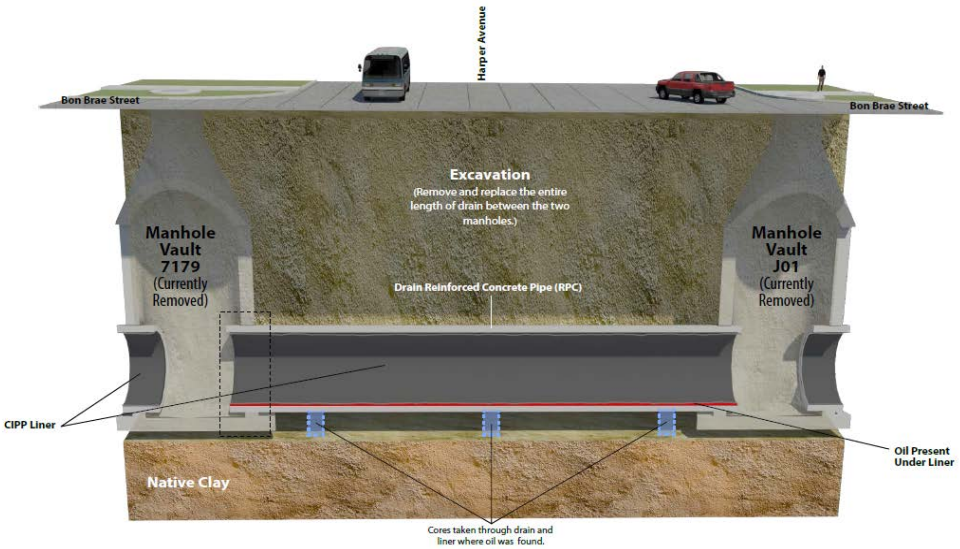
Or visit www.epa.gov/superfund/ten-mile-drain.

In 2015, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency removed two manhole vaults along with backfill material contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, near Bon Brae Street and Harper Avenue. During removal of the manhole vaults, EPA observed PCB-contaminated oil flowing from the end of the pipe beneath Harper Avenue. Based on this new development, EPA expanded the cleanup to include the removal and replacement of the concrete pipe that extends under Harper Avenue.

The six-month construction project (June 22 to Dec. 19, 2015) cost over $4 million. EPA excavated and disposed of a total of 2,260 tons of PCB-contaminated materials, installed two new vaulted manholes and 120 linear feet of 48-inch reinforced concrete pipe. Workers used a spray-on epoxy liner inside the newly installed manhole vaults and pipe to seal them from the remaining PCBs in the Ten-Mile Drain storm sewer system.

During construction, stormwater had to be rerouted around the excavation areas. Water seeping into the excavations from the storm sewer and rainfall had to be treated. Initially, excavation water was pumped to frac tanks where it was stored and tested and then transported to an off-site treatment facility. After only nine weeks in the field, 36,000 gallons of stormwater were transported and disposed of at an approved facility. The high cost of handling this water prompted EPA to bring in an on-site wastewater treatment plant. The on-site equipment treated more than 336,000 gallons of PCB-tainted water at a significant cost savings.

EPA officials determined there is significant reduction in PCB concentrations at the M7179 and J01 vaulted manholes. The absence of oil at the manholes indicates the interim measures are working. For example, in 2015 the highest sample collected from M7179 prior to cleanup was 210,000 parts per million PCBs. In 2016, samples collected monthly for nine months resulted in a highest concentration of 140 ppm with several months below 10 ppm and a lowest concentration of 1.4 ppm.



Cross section of pipe beneath Harper Avenue and vaulted manholes

Updates on 2011 and 2014 cleanup plans

The first interim cleanup plan selected in September 2011 will continue until a final remedy is selected for the site. This includes monthly monitoring of oil and sediment behind the 17 weirs (small dams) within the storm sewer pipe and the sediment trap at the outfall. Other interim steps include 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.

The second interim plan selected in September 2014 has completed construction activities. Actions taken included removal and replacement of two vaulted manholes – M7179 and J01 – and new pipe beneath Harper Avenue in 2015.

Installation of new vault at Bon Brae Street and Harper Avenue in November 2015

Next steps

EPA officials have completed a remedial investigation of the site and plan to start developing cleanup options for residential and commercial soil and the remaining contamination at the site.

The next EPA cleanup plan will focus on residential and commercial surface soil. At the same time, officials will start developing a site-wide cleanup plan for the remaining contaminants inside the drain and the Lange and Revere sediment. EPA expects to issue a document called a "proposed plan" outlining the cleanup steps for the residential and commercial surface soil in 2017.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality is proposing updates to the state's PCB standard for residential soil, also referred to as Part 201 Generic Residential Cleanup Criteria. This would revise the standard from 4 parts per million to a lower standard. This new standard may affect EPA's proposed cleanup plans for the site.

Ten-Mile Drain Superfund Site

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS

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Agency

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