

EPA Announces Revisions to Cleanup Plan

Velsicol Chemical Superfund Site
St. Louis, Michigan

July 2024

You are invited

On Wednesday, July 31, EPA will host the following events at the Community Room, City Hall, 300 N. Mill St., St. Louis, related to the proposed ESD for the site:

- Availability session 5:00-6:30 p.m.
- Public meeting/formal presentation 7-8 p.m.
- Public comments 8-8:30 p.m.

Read the ESD

You may review the ESD on the web: www.epa.gov/superfund/velsicol-chemical-michigan.

Public comment period

U.S. EPA encourages you to comment on the ESD. The comment period ends Tuesday, Aug. 13.

There are several ways to submit comments:

- Fill out and mail the enclosed comment sheet or turn it in at the public meeting.
- Attend the public meeting and submit an oral comment.
- Go to www.epa.gov/superfund/velsicol-chemical-michigan and click on the “Public Comment Form” and fill out.

U.S. EPA will accept oral comments at the July 31 public meeting. A court reporter will record all oral comments.

For more information

For more information about the site or ESD, see a list of EPA contacts on Page 3.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is proposing to change two of the 14 remedy components of the cleanup plan as described in the 2012 Record of Decision, or ROD, for Operable Unit 1, or OU1, for the Velsicol Chemical Superfund Site. In a document called an Explanation of Significant Differences, EPA describes significant changes to the cleanup plan that include 1) repair of the existing upgradient slurry wall as part of a vertical barrier around the former plant site and 2) removal of the dense nonaqueous phase liquid (DNAPL)/groundwater collection system extension segment in the Monitoring Well-19 area.

What is an ESD?

An explanation of significant differences, or ESD, provides notification of a modification to the selected remedy for a site that is part of the environmental cleanup plan.



Public participation opportunities

The proposed ESD will be issued on July 15, 2024, and public comments will be due Aug. 13, 2024. See details in box, left, for information on the public meeting and on how to provide comments.

Changed conditions

Once a cleanup plan is selected in a ROD, EPA moves ahead with investigations to further inform the design of the cleanup. New information gathered during these types of investigations reflected significant changed conditions that affected two components of the original cleanup plan. These changes are described and explained in detail in the ESD but are summarized here.

Upgradient slurry wall

The OU1 cleanup plan includes installation of a vertical barrier outside the current slurry wall around the entire former plant site property to prevent contaminated shallow groundwater from going into the Pine River. New data collected in 2020 and 2023 provided multiple lines of evidence that the 3,100 feet of slurry wall located along the land-side of the site, also known as the upgradient side, is still able to function as a vertical barrier (see red line labeled “Upgradient Slurry Wall Alignment” on map, page 3). Therefore, the upgradient slurry wall remains an effective barrier to stop movement of contaminated groundwater in the locations evaluated, except one. This one location, a total of 350 feet, will need repair to remain effective. This repair approach changes the original remedy of installation of a new vertical barrier. Note, there will still be a new steel sheet pile wall installed along the shoreline of the site in accordance with the original cleanup plan in the OU1 ROD that will stop shallow groundwater from the site from flowing into the Pine River.

MW-19 well area

The OU1 cleanup plan also includes the installation of a DNAPL/groundwater collection system extension to remove contamination found near the MW-19 monitoring well area of the former plant site (see cluster of dots labeled “Monitoring Well” on map, page 3). New information from a 2022 investigation in the MW-19 area found an absence of widespread DNAPL with only localized residuals. The 2018 in-place thermal treatment that was conducted adjacent to the MW-19 area, removed 51,000 pounds of DNAPL (see purple area labeled “In Situ Thermal Treatment Area 1” on map, page 3). This DNAPL source removal reflects a significant change to site conditions in that area. Based on this new

information, the DNAPL/groundwater collection system extension to the MW-19 area is no longer necessary and will be removed from the OU1 remedy. In addition, the future groundwater perimeter drain and treatment system, identified in the OU1 cleanup plan, will address residual DNAPL and groundwater contamination from the MW-19 area.

While these changes represent a significant modification to the cleanup plan, they are still expected to and must successfully meet required containment of the former plant site, achieve cleanup objectives, and address risk to human health and the environment as specified in the OU1 ROD.

Next Steps

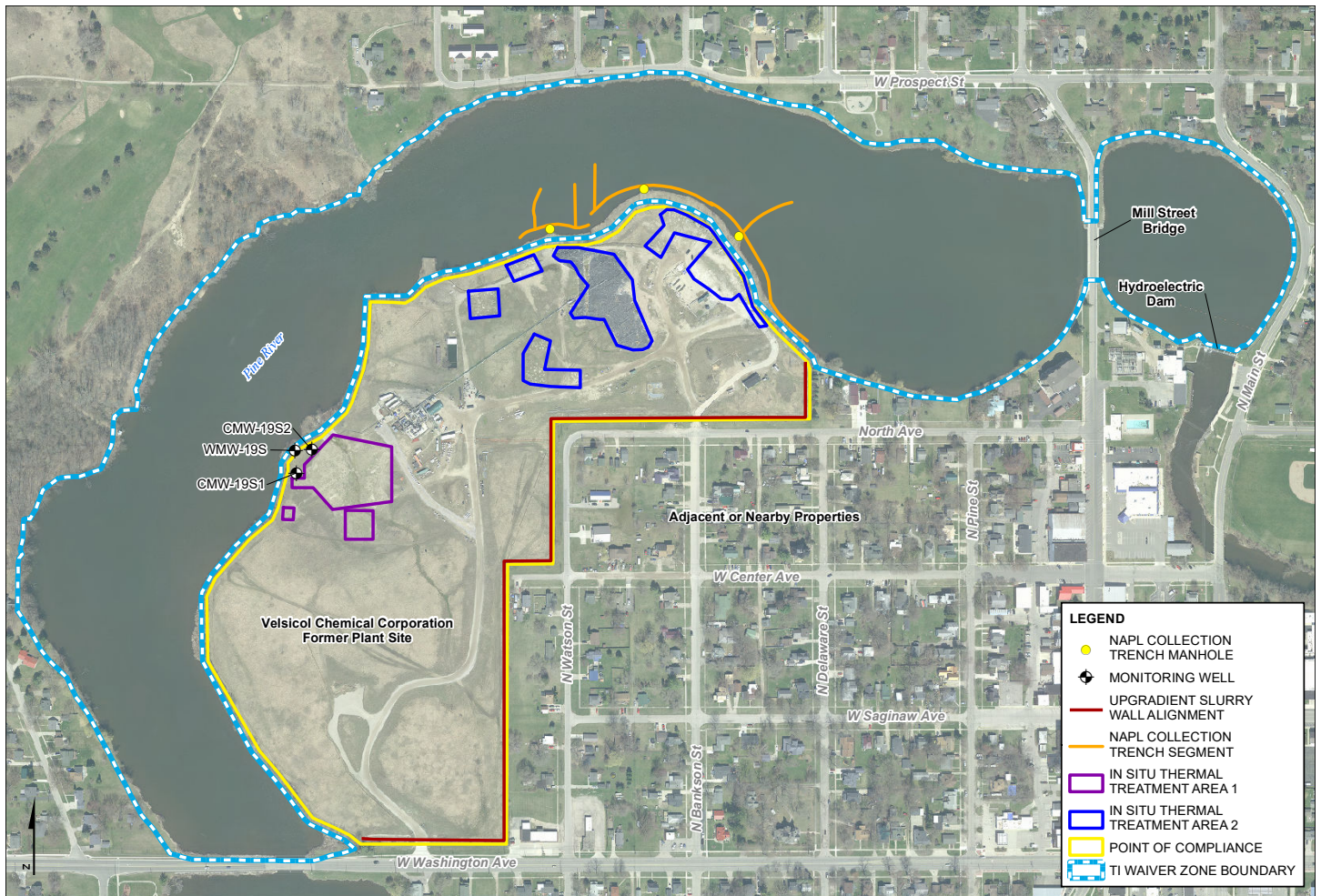
EPA is providing the public an opportunity to comment on the changes described in the ESD. A 30-day public comment period is established with the issuance of the proposed ESD. EPA’s responses to comments received during this period will be documented in a Responsiveness Summary, which will be included as an attachment to the final ESD. be documented in a Responsiveness Summary, which will be included as an attachment to the final ESD.



Workers drilling a soil boring from the MW-19 area.



Collection of slurry wall material sample.



Map of Velsicol Chemical Site

For more information about the site, contact these U.S. EPA staff:

For technical questions:

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For general questions:

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Karen Chen

Community Involvement Coordinator

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Or visit the EPA Velsicol webpage at: www.epa.gov/superfund/velsicol-chemical-michigan



EPA Proposes Revisions to Cleanup Plan Seeks Public Comments

Wednesday, July 31, 2024

Community Room, City Hall, 301 N. Mill St., St. Louis

Availability Session: 5-6:30 p.m.

Public Meeting: 7-8 p.m.

Public Comments: 8-8:30 p.m.

Public comment period July 15 – Aug. 13, 2024

CHEMICAL SUPERFUND SITE: EPA Announces Revisions to Cleanup Plan

*Official Business
Penalty for Private Use, \$300*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

United States
Environmental Protection
Agency
Community Information Office
1300 Bluff St., Suite 105
Flint, MI 48504

