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October 1, 1985



SDMS DocID 282574

CLEANUP PLAN FOR HOCOMONCO POND SUPERFUND SITE ANNOUNCED

BOSTON -- The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency today selected a remedy for the Hocomonco Pond Superfund site in Westborough, MA. The capital cost of the project is \$2.3 million, with a yearly operation and maintenance cost of \$56,000. The plan calls for cleanup activities at four areas of contamination at the site: the former lagoon, Kettle Pond, Hocomonco Pond and discharge stream, and Otis Street storm drain.

EPA Regional Administrator Michael R. Deland said, "These actions will best protect public health and the environment. We have consulted with the State and they are in agreement with the plan."

The cleanup plan consists of the following:

- Grading and capping of the former lagoon area; replacement of the storm drain pipe currently located adjacent to the east side of the former lagoon; and monitoring water quality using existing monitoring wells.
- Dewatering Kettle Pond; lowering the groundwater level in the immediate area; excavation, dewatering, and disposal of soil and waste in an on-site landfill to be constructed. Evaluating groundwater quality upon completion of soil and waste removal.
- Mechanical dredging and dewatering of sediments from

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Hocomonco Pond and its discharge stream. Disposing of sediments on site.

- ° Sealing the Otis Street storm drain.

Air quality will be carefully monitored during all dredging and excavation. Pilot studies will be conducted before full-scale excavation begins.

EPA will excavate first all sediments that visually appear contaminated. The need for additional excavation will be based on the results of sampling and with the approval of EPA's Regional Administrator.

The cleanup plan also includes removal and on-site disposal of contaminated materials in three isolated areas: area of monitoring well number one, the tank bases adjacent to the former lagoon, and drainage channel sediments southwest of Hocomonco Pond. On-site disposal will either be in the landfill constructed for the Kettle Pond soil or on top of the former lagoon. The method of disposal will be decided during design of the cleanup.

Measures will be taken to minimize harm to wetlands and floodplains affected by the remedial action and to restore their natural benefits.

EPA is negotiating with potentially responsible parties to have them undertake the cleanup. If negotiations are unsuccessful, EPA and the state will fund the cleanup and may later recover the costs from the potentially responsible parties. EPA will fund the design and ninety percent of capital costs of construction. The state will contribute ten percent of capital costs and will be responsible for long term operation and maintenance.

Because Congress has not yet reauthorized the Superfund law, which is set to expire September 30, EPA recently announced that all money slated for design and construction for Superfund site cleanups would be used instead for emergency cleanups and staff salaries. "There is every reason to believe that as soon as Congress acts, the funds that become available will be used for the Hocomonco Pond project if negotiations are unsuccessful. This site is a top priority for EPA," Regional Administrator Deland said.

From February 1984 to September 1985, EPA conducted a study of the nature and extent of contamination at the site (remedial investigation), possible cleanup options (feasibility study), and the potential risks to public health from contaminants at the site (risk assessment). A public meeting, public hearing and public comment periods were held this summer to discuss results of the studies and to receive input into the cleanup options.

The Hocomonco pond site encompasses approximately 23 acres. From 1928 to 1946 the site was used for saturating wood products with creosote to preserve them. Wastes were discharged to an unlined lagoon south of the Pond and some wastes were pumped to Kettle Pond, southeast of Hocomonco Pond along Otis Street.

EPA's Record of Decision (ROD), which explains EPA's cleanup plan and summarizes and responds to public comments on the cleanup options, is available for public review at the Westborough Town Hall and Public Library.

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