EPA
MID-ATLANTIC REGION

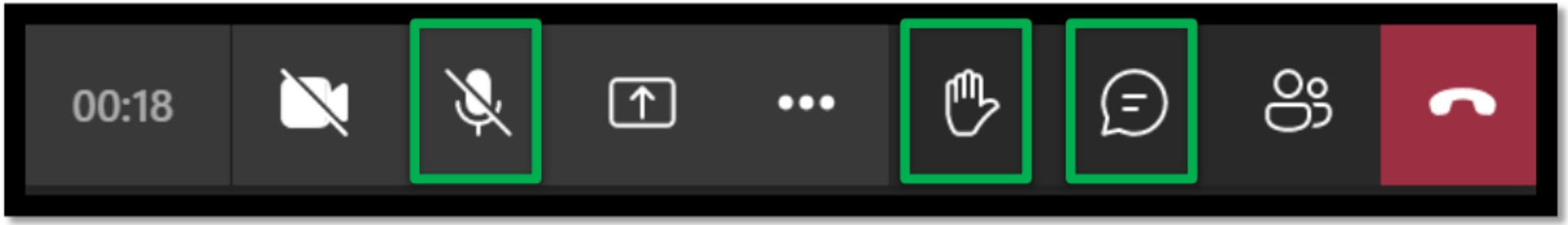
Bear Creek Sediments Superfund Site

EE/CA public meeting

February 6, 2024

Prepared by Mitch Cron (with help from many, including EPA, MDE, etc.)

Teams Controls



Unmute mic

Raise hand

Chat box

For callers on the phone line:
Press *5 to raise your hand
Press *6 to unmute

US EPA – Mid-Atlantic (Region 3)

Agenda

- Community Involvement in the Superfund Process
- Site Background
- Review of Sediment Cleanup Options
- Technical Assistance Resources for Communities (SKEO)
- Next Steps
- Questions and Comments

Submit Comments by March 10, 2024

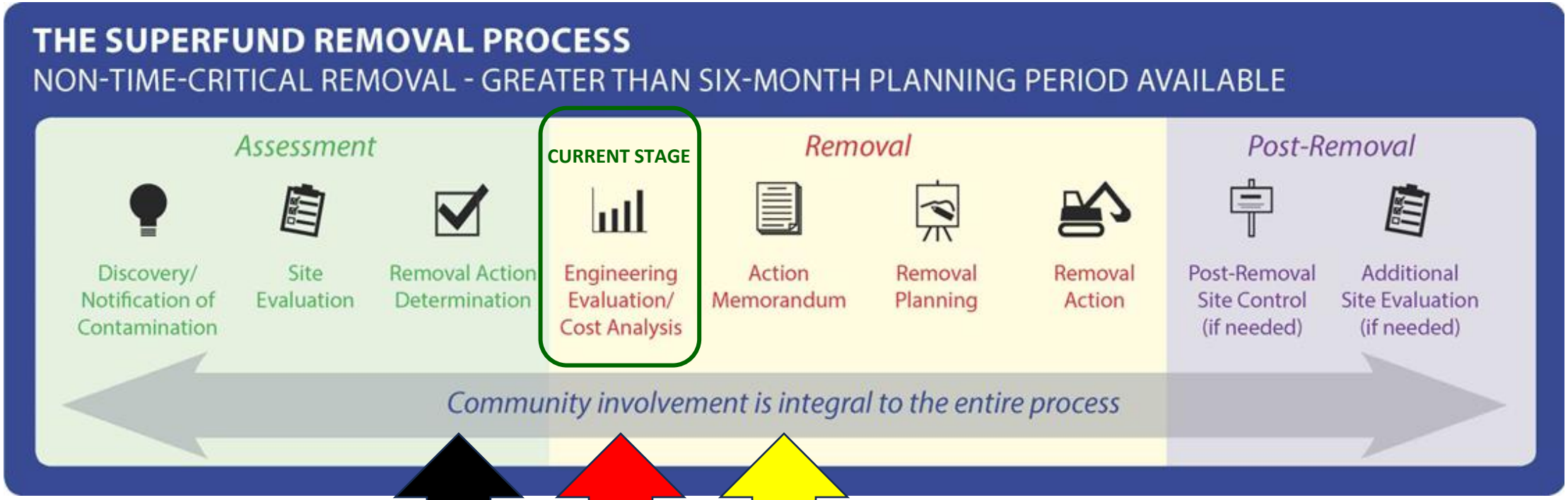
 U.S. EPA Region 3 Attn: Kate Lasseter 1600 JFK Boulevard (Mail code: 3SD24) Philadelphia, PA 19103	 Lasseter.kate@epa.gov	 (215) 814-2009

https://www.epa.gov/superfund/bearcreek

Community Involvement in the Superfund Process

- Community Involvement is the process of engaging in dialogue and collaboration with community members.
- The goal of Superfund community involvement is to advocate and strengthen early and meaningful community participation during Superfund cleanups.

Superfund Process



About the Site

- Located in Baltimore County
- Historic industry contaminated sediments in Bear Creek
- The Site is ~60-acres of contaminated sediment (chemicals, metals, oil & grease)
- 2 main environmental concerns

Removal boundary will be fine-tuned.

2018 “toxicity” testing of sediment

MID-ATLANTIC REGION

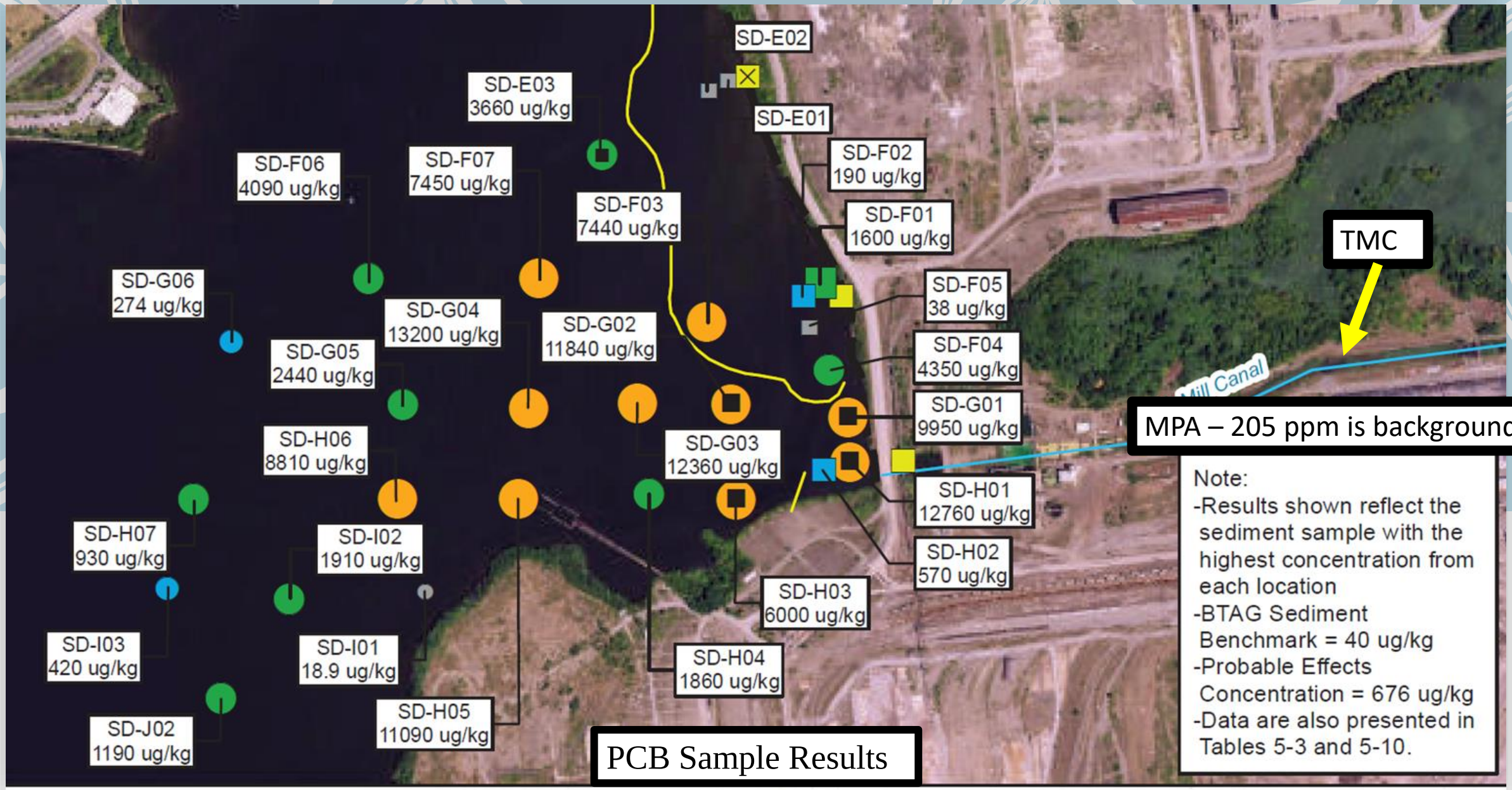
Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF
THE ENVIRONMENT

FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORY

A consumption advisory is in effect for certain fish caught in these waters. Please read the information on fish advisories for this area online using our interactive map via computer or cell phone at http://mde.maryland.gov/FCA

Please read the information on fish advisories for Baltimore County online at https://mde.maryland.gov/BaltimoreCountyFCA

Maryland
Department of the Environment


SD-E02
SD-E03
3660 ug/kg
SD-E01
SD-F06
4090 ug/kg
SD-F07
7450 ug/kg
SD-F02
190 ug/kg
SD-F03
7440 ug/kg
SD-F01
1600 ug/kg
SD-G06
274 ug/kg
SD-F05
38 ug/kg
SD-G04
13200 ug/kg
SD-G02
11840 ug/kg
SD-G05
2440 ug/kg
SD-F04
4350 ug/kg
SD-G01
9950 ug/kg
SD-H06
8810 ug/kg
SD-G03
12360 ug/kg
SD-H01
12760 ug/kg
SD-H07
930 ug/kg
SD-I02
1910 ug/kg
SD-H02
570 ug/kg
SD-H03
6000 ug/kg
SD-I03
420 ug/kg
SD-I01
18.9 ug/kg
SD-H04
1860 ug/kg
SD-J02
1190 ug/kg
SD-H05
11090 ug/kg
TMC
Mill Canal
MPA – 205 ppm is background
Note:
-Results shown reflect the sediment sample with the highest concentration from each location
-BTAG Sediment Benchmark = 40 ug/kg
-Probable Effects Concentration = 676 ug/kg
-Data are also presented in Tables 5-3 and 5-10.
PCB Sample Results

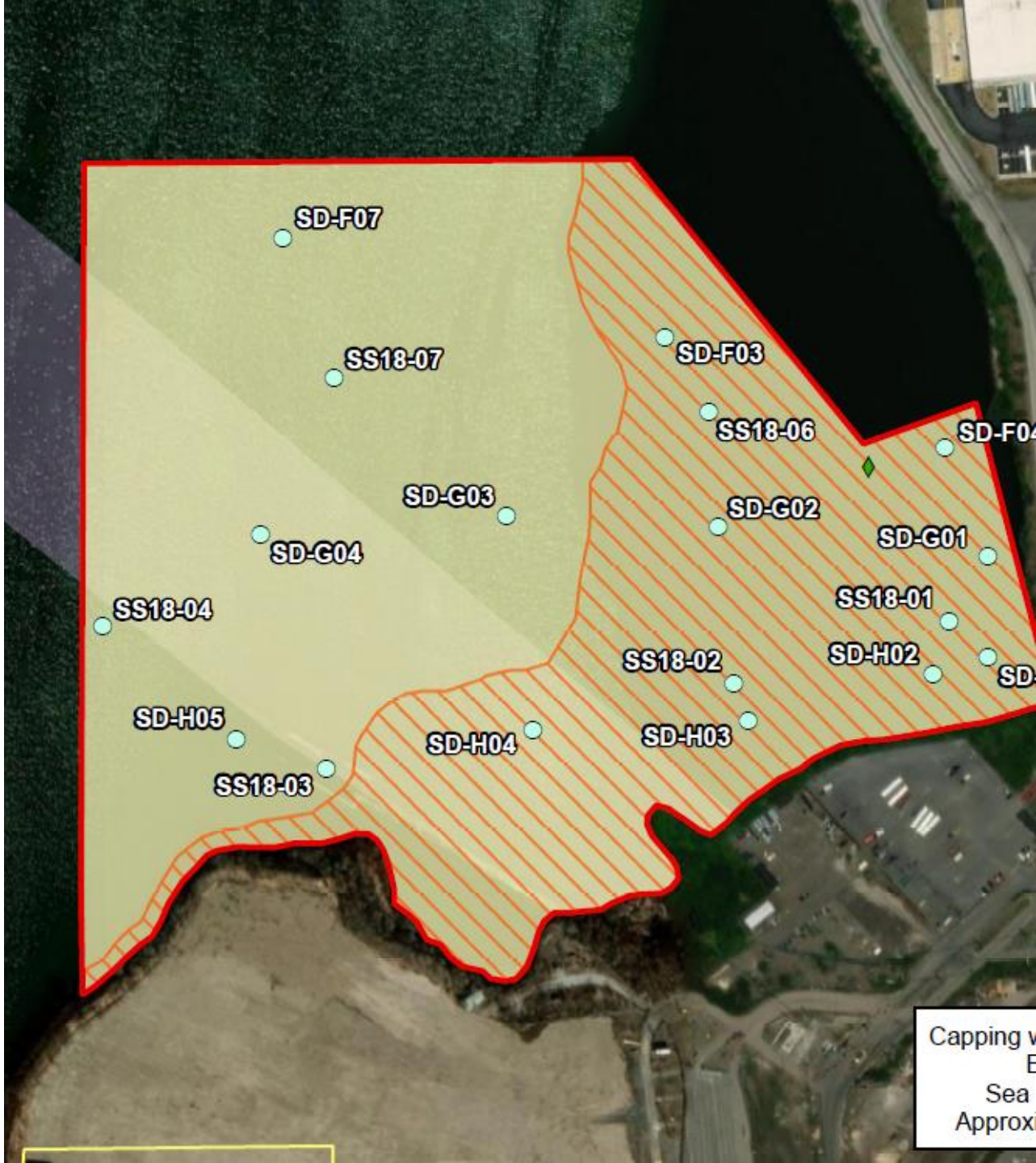
EPA Goals

The removal action objectives are:

- Reduce exposure to contaminated sediment
- Minimize chance for contaminated sediment to move elsewhere

Preferred Removal Action Alternative

- Dredge ~30-acres of sediment, dispose off-site in landfill (maintain open water habitat)
- Cap the entire 60-acres of sediment with 2’ clean sand
- Controls & monitoring to ensure caps stays-put
- ~$45M & ~18-months
- Effective, implementable, cost-effective
- Some deep water (>6’) becomes less deep



Other alternatives considered…

	Just capping all 60-acres (no dredge)	**Dredging all 60-acres; and then capping all 60-acres**
Effectiveness	• 6-acres of open water are filled in • Will cap stay put?	
Implementability	• Problems with filling in open water (compliance with law?)	• Requires management and disposal of much more sediment (staging space, transport, landfill space) • Requires more time (~2 years)
Cost	~$30M	~$70M
Bottom Line	• Loss of open water habitat is step backward in terms of protecting the environment • Difficulties complying with laws about filling in open water • Cap erosion worries	• Higher Cost • More time (~2 years) • Lot more transport and landfilling (190k cy vs. 90k cy) • Not much more protective

Other considerations

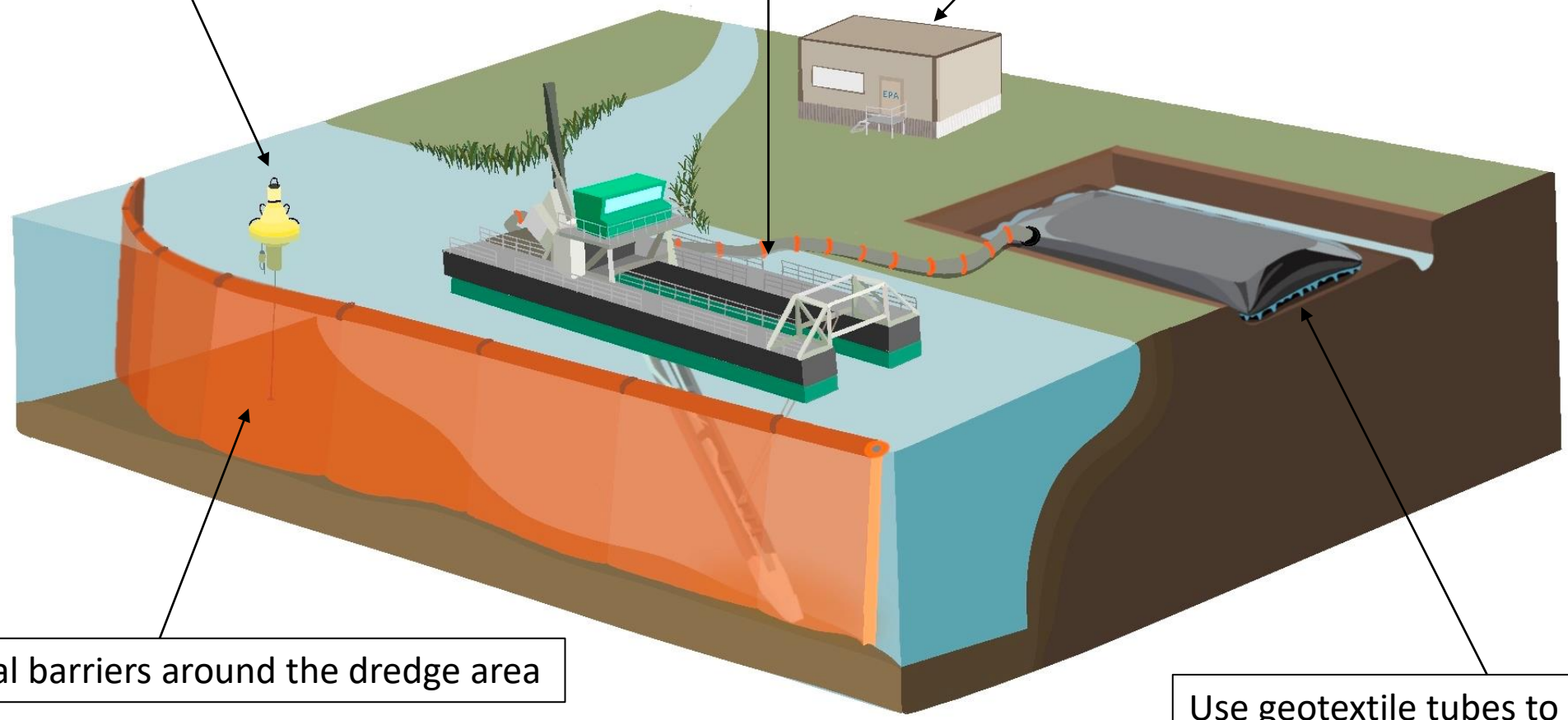
- MDE will comment but has expressed support
- EE/CA- April
- Action Memo 2024
- seeking to start 2025
- Seeking to finish 2027

How will the design protect against releases during dredging and treatment?

Use a specific type of dredging equipment

Conduct monitoring around dredging operations

Conduct monitoring around the treatment area



Deploy physical barriers around the dredge area

Use geotextile tubes to dry sediment

Technical Assistance Services for Communities Affected by the Bear Creek Sediment Site

Objective: Ensure community understands EPA's preferred alternative and can voice questions and concerns during public comment

- Develop a 2-4 page technical review fact sheet
- Present technical review (in-person or virtual) with Q&A
- Assist community, as needed, in preparing public comment response

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TASC technical advising manager: Hagai Nassau, hnassau@skeo.com

Next Steps & Opportunities for Community Involvement

- The Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) cleanup recommendation is available for public review and comment.
- Public Comment Period – January 25-March 10, 2024.
- Technical Assistance Support is available to the Community.
- All public comments will be reviewed and responded to in a Responsiveness Summary prior to finalizing the Cleanup plan.

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Questions? Contact Us

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