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NEWS CLIPPINGS - LOWER FOX RIVER, WI

OCTOBER 27, 1999 - JANUARY 18, 2000

Fox Clips - Vol. 16

October 27, 1999 - January 18, 2000

Selected - Appleton Post-Crescent, GB Press Gazette, GB News Chronicle, Miscellaneous

- √ Paper companies offer funds for government peer reviewers
- √ Dredging projects finish up, but fall short of goal
- √ Rep. Mark Green grows impatient and offers to act as a go-between
- √ Congressional inaction leaves S$ in doubt
- √ The Peer Models
- √ Recap of Fish Injury Report public meeting
- √ Misc. on Deposit N and 56/57
- √ EPA outreach gets mixed reviews in recent focus groups (By the way, HQ will be issuing the final report on this soon which I will share)

Quotes from Hahnenberg, Grimes and Lyons. Jim, you have a couple of great one-liners in there!

By the way, the Fox River made the Top 10 Stories of 1999 list, right after "talks begin on renovating or replacing Lambeau Field" – I'm glad the Valley has its priorities straight....

Bri

Routing: (if your name is next to someone's, pls share)
Milt Clark/Brenda Jones/Jim Hahnenberg (SR-6)
Shirley Dorsey/Mary Canavan (R-19J)/Phil Hoffman
Roger Grimes (CA-14J)
Bill Muno (S-6J)
Frank Lyons/Dave Ullrich (R-19J)

18 JAN 2000

Mills offer funds for review of models

PRESS-GAZETTE

Seven paper mills held responsible for the cleanup of the Fox River are offering to fund government agencies' participation in a review of computer models of the lower Fox River.

The models predict the behavior of polychlorinated biphenyls in the river.

The mills, known as the Fox River Group, will donate up to $20,000 per agency to allow modeling experts named by the federal and state agencies to appear before a peer review panel established by the American Geological Institute.

The AGI panel is evaluating the effectiveness of modeling tools used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the state Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The models are critical in selecting cleanup strategies for the river.

The news release from the Fox River Group was received too late to get comment from the agencies involved.

At a Dec. 10 hearing, a Fish and Wildlife representative suggested that its experts could not make a presentation to the panel because costs were prohibitive, according to a news release by the mills.

"We hope that with this financial obstacle removed, a constructive, thorough and objective peer review process can continue uninterrupted," said Marie Lindley of Fort James Corp., a group member.

Other members are Appleton Papers Inc., NCR Corp., P.H. Glatfelter Co., Riverside Paper Corp., U.S. Paper Mills Corp. and Wisconsin Tissue Mills Inc.

The AGI, founded in 1946, is a not-for-profit federation of 34 professional organizations in the earth sciences.

The EPA has proposed 39 miles of the lower Fox River and 21.5 miles of Green Bay for listing as a federal priority cleanup site.

The agency has held off on a final designation, providing time for the state and the paper mills to come up with a voluntary cleanup plan for the river.

The DNR estimates the mills discharged 420,000 pounds to 825,000 pounds of PCBs into the river between 1957 and 1971, ending around the time of the federal Clean Water Act's passage.

Almost 70,000 pounds of PCBs are said to remain in the river.

Already known to cause deformities, reproductive problems and death in wildlife, PCBs are classified as probable cancer-causing in people and have linked with developmental problems and lowered IQs in children exposed to higher levels in the womb.

THE POST-CRESCENT

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Perner pitches plan B-6

Great Lakes money a small step at best

Money won't go far after it's spread out, but slow movement forward is welcome

By Bob Vitale
Post-Crescent Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON – With Fox River cleanup estimated to run hundreds of millions of dollars or more, few observers are expecting much local benefit from a Clinton administration plan that would make $50 million in federal money available for polluted sites throughout the Great Lakes.

The money could be put to use, even those with misgivings about it say, but no one sees it going very far after it's spread from Duluth to the St. Lawrence Seaway.

"That $50 million at (31 sites) doesn't go a long way," said Rep. Mark Green, R-Green Bay. "But incremental steps forward are something that are welcomed."

The initiative was unveiled Monday by Vice President Al Gore and will be included in the administration's budget proposal to Congress for fiscal 2001. The federal money would be offered in grants to help state and local governments address sites identified by a U.S.-Canadian panel as the biggest sources of Great Lakes pollution.

Of the 31 U.S. sites from New York to Minnesota, five are in Wisconsin: the Fox River and lower Green Bay, the Menominee River along the Michigan state line, the St. Louis River at Duluth-Superior, the Sheboygan River, and the Milwaukee River and harbor.

Gore called the plan a "major new partnership" with communities in the Great Lakes region. The federal money would require a 40 percent match from those receiving grants, stretching the program to $80 million total.

Environmentalists called the initiative more symbolic than substantive.

"It's not enough to get the job done, but we welcome all the help we can get," said Emily Green, director of Great Lakes programs for the Sierra Club. "It's a good first step forward. For the Fox River, though, it's not going to do much."

Gore suggested the federal money, to be awarded by the Environmental Protection Agency, could be used for cleaning contaminated sediments, controlling stormwater runoff, restoring wetlands or acquiring waterfront land.

The first option alone for the Fox River has been estimated to cost anywhere from $300 million to more than $700 million, and some predict it will cost $1 billion-plus. PCB contamination in the river has been identified as one of the biggest sources of pollution in the Great Lakes.

The seven companies that will pay to clean the river generally oppose federa involvement out of fear the government will dictate the cleanup methods and costs. A spokesman for one of those companies,

Please see LAKES, B-5

LAKES: Money put to good use

From B-1

however, said the new program sounds promising.

"Somebody talking about funding for Great Lakes cleanup is far from that being a reality," said Dave Lee of P.H. Glatfelter Co. "But it's encouraging that there's talk."

The amount of money spent is less important than how it's used, Lee said, echoing the companies' own arguments for lower-cost cleanup options.

Green termed the administration's announcement a trial balloon, whose details and bottom line could very well change as Congress works on the next federal budget during the coming months.

The Republican said he'd support the proposal, though, as long as it fits into overall spending restraints and doesn't attach federal strings to the federal money.

"Assuming we will maintain local control, any help the federal government can provide is a plus," Green said. "My great concern is that we keep the solution locally."

Great Lakes cleanup moves ahead

Clinton is requesting funds to depollute the worst areas, including Green Bay

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration said Monday it will ask for $50 million in next year's budget to clean up some of the most polluted areas of the Great Lakes.

Communities that are home to the 31 sites on the U.S. side of the lakes would compete for matching funds. In Wisconsin, the program would offer help getting rid of contaminated sediment in Lower Green Bay, the Fox, River, the Menominee River, the Milwaukee Estuary and the Sheboygan River.

"People want to see the Great Lakes cleaned up," said Vice President Al Gore, who announced the proposal. "After awhile, if an effort this size continues, it's going to have a huge impact."

If Congress approves the proposal, the federal government would provide 60 percent of the cost, with the rest being shared by state and local governments.

In theory, that would generate some $80 million to clean up toxic sediment, control polluted runoff, restore wetlands or make other improvements.

It would be in addition to about $17 million worth of other Great Lakes cleanup programs, plus the region's share of Superfund money, Environmental Protection Agency waterways funding and the portion of the Army Corps of Engineers budget devoted to Great Lakes work.

However, the total need of the 31 sites is in the billions, said Reg Gilbert of Great Lakes United, a U.S-Canadian environmental group.

The polluted sites, including lower Green Bay and the Fox River, along with a dozen in Canada, were designated "areas of concern" in 1987 by the U.S.-Canadian International Joint Commission.

Once the $50 million is divided up, each site is unlikely to get enough to make much of a difference, he said.

"It takes $2 million just to build a wall around a 2-acre dump," he said.

Emily Green of the Sierra Club's Great Lakes Office said the polluted sites have so many cleanup needs that "we're thrilled to see the Great Lakes back on the front burner," even if it isn't enough to get the job done.

"I think it's going to have quite a bit of impact because it's well targeted," said Gore, who is seeking the Democratic nomination for president. He added that the expected budget surplus will make the new spending possible.

Dealing with the areas of concern has been a problem for more than 30 years.

All over the Great Lakes, years of unchecked factory discharges have left contaminated sediment that states can't afford to clean up.

Dredging just one of those sites, Indiana Harbor, is expected to cost $78 million. Silt polluted with heavy metals and cancer-causing chemicals has piled up some 20 feet deep there, choking the navigation channel so much that ore barges running half empty still have scraped bottom.

"I hope all the money comes here," said Rep. Steve LaTourette, R-Ohio, whose district includes the Ashtabula River.

The Clinton administration's interest in Great Lakes cleanup has varied widely from year to year, said LaTourette, co-chair of the House Great Lakes Task Force.

"I can remember two budgets in which the Army Corps operation and management account, the one that pays for dredging, was zeroed out and we had to replace all the money," he said.

BRIEFLY ACROSS WISCONSIN

From the Associated Press

CUDAHY

Police looking for duo accused of neglect

Police on Monday searched for a couple who fled with their four children and were charged with child neglect.

The parents, Jeffrey and Michelle McKelvie, each were charged Sunday with four counts of child neglect three days after officers went to their home in response to a call from the couple's 12-year-old daughter.

The child had called police to tell them her mother had been hurt in a fall. However, once at the home, officers found the family living in poor conditions, said Cudahy police Lt. Stan Kay.

MADISON

Woman dies weeks after son killed in fire

A Monona woman whose 10-

Options sought for Fox River dredging

Petri, Green question the role of U.S. Army's Corps of Engineers

By Bob Vitale
Post-Crescent Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Reps. Tom Petri and Mark Green on Friday urged U.S. Army Corps of Engineers leaders to move quickly on a congressionally mandated study to determine whether the agency should have a role in cleaning the Fox River.

In a letter to corps commander Lt. Gen. Joe Ballard, the two Republicans called on the agency to get to work on a $100,000 study into the feasibility of an agency dredging project as an answer to the river's pollution problems.

The money was included in the current federal budget last fall at the request of Petri and Green, whose districts include portions of the river that are polluted by PCB-laden sediment, and Wisconsin Sens. Herb Kohl and Russ Feingold.

Congress considers the river a priority, they said in the letter, citing a 1996 measure that listed the Fox as a priority environmental dredging project.

"The listing of this project reflects the importance given by Congress to this site," wrote Petri and Green.

The two lawmakers aren't necessarily backing dredging as the final solution for the Fox. Petri, for one, has publicly questioned whether digging up the toxic sediment might only make the problem worse.

The study would determine whether the corps has an interest in being part of the cleanup effort, according to the lawmakers' letter.

Green, who has called repeatedly for local control over the cleanup, said the study will help clarify options for that eventual undertaking.

"The sooner we can get the results of this study, the sooner we will know what are options are on the Fox River," he said.

Green Bay
Press-Gazette

★ TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2000 SERVING AN ALL-AMERICA CITY www.greenbaypressgazette.com 50 CENTS



Look what's popping up

Popcorn has long been a fun favorite in American diets. **D-1**

Plan would make Fox, bay eligible for grants

By Brian Tumulty
Press-Gazette
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Green Bay area would be eligible for federal matching grants to clean up the Fox River and lower Green Bay area under a $50 million Great Lakes initiative announced Monday by Vice President Al Gore.

The Environmental Protection Agency would award the grants to 31 areas in eight states based on competitive merit if Congress agrees to fund the program for the 2001 fiscal year starting Oct. 1.

The 31 sites — 26 in the United States and five in waters shared with Canada — were identified in 1987 by the two-nation International Joint Commission as areas in most serious need of cleanup. Another dozen are exclusively in Canada.

"All have significant water pollution problems that restrict either fishing, swimming or boating or use for drinking water," Gore told reporters in a conference call. "We hope and anticipate that our Canadian partners will also continue to address the sites located exclusively in their territory."

The federal government would require local communities or states to cover 40 percent of costs, pushing overall spending to $80 million annually.

But Mike Bradley, the mayor of Sarnia, Ontario, said the initiative announced by the Clinton administration highlights the track record of both Washington and Ottawa in failing to properly fund the expensive cleanup projects identified many years ago.

In Wisconsin, the state Department of Natural Resources estimates the cost of cleaning up the 39-mile stretch of the Fox River will cost between $136 million to $720 million over 10 years, beginning around 2002.

The eventual cost depends on how much of the toxic PCBs in the riverbed between Lake Winnebago and Green Bay are removed. A

Please see Grants, A-2

Grants/Feingold, Green react to plan

■ From A-1

final plan of action could be a year or two away, said DNR spokesman Ed Lynch.

Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wisconsin, said $50 million in federal funds spread throughout the Great Lakes region only "represents the tip of the iceberg of our total remediation needs in the region."

The upside, Feingold said, is that the proposed program "may help communities to begin to initiate cleanups without the fear of having to bear the full cost."

U.S. Rep. Mark Green, R-Green Bay, said he would support the $50 million program on the condition that local and state officials retain control over the projects.

"If this is working with local officials, environmental officials and community leaders, then I think it can be a positive step," Obey said. "I hope we can make an important step forward a positive [illegible] solution."

However, Green wondered how seriously the proposal will be pursued, given that the Clinton administration has been "floating" it in advance of the president's Jan. 27 State of the Union address.

Since the start of the year, the Clinton administration has been making daily announcements about proposed budget items.

Friday, a related announcement called for doubling the amount of money spent by the Department of Agriculture — to $1.3 billion — to fund programs ranging from reducing storm water runoff from farms and golf courses to preventing pesticides from infiltrating rivers and lakes.

Besides lower Green Bay and the Fox River, areas in Wisconsin eligible for the grants would be the Menominee River on the Wisconsin-Michigan border, the Milwaukee Estuary and the Sheboygan River.

Gore, responding to criticism that $50 million covers only a small share of the region's needs, pointed out that the federal government already has several major programs to improve water quality and to clean up so-called Superfund sites.

According to the White House, the current budget includes $1.4 billion for Superfund, $1.35 billion for a clean water revolving loan fund, $820 million for a drinking water revolving fund and $200 million for grants to control pollution runoff.

Fox Team: No doubt folks at the Jc 19 meeting in Green Bay will ask us some questions about this. Bri

cc: Ullrich, Lyons, Munn, Grimes, Hahnenberg, Paster, Dorsey, Hoffman

Jan. 11, 2000

MILWAUKEE
METRO AND STATE NEWS

MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL — FINAL EDITION

OSHA tells company it will be cited in Miller Park accident

Page 3

SECTION B

$80 million Great Lakes cleanup proposed

Fox, Milwaukee rivers could qualify for federal grants

By Tom Vanden Brook
of the Journal Sentinel staff

The Clinton administration onday proposed spending ore than $80 million to help ean toxic slop from Great ıkes sites, five of which are Wisconsin, including the lilwaukee River.

Environmentalists and embers of the state congresonal delegation offered temered praise for the anouncement. Some hailed it s a positive move for better ater quality, while others viewed it skeptically for its lack of detail and low level of funding relative to the enormous cost of treating toxic waste.

The plan, which the president will present to Congress as part of the 2001 budget, would commit the federal government to spend $50 million in grants to local communities for Great Lakes cleanup.

State and local governments would be required to pay 40% of each project's cost, resulting in more than $80 million total for cleanup. Eligible projects would include cleansing contaminated sediments, controlling storm water, restoring wetlands and acquiring land to buffer and control polluted runoff.

Communities eligible to apply for the grants are those identified by an international commission as "areas of concern" for significant pollution. There are 26 in the U.S. and five more in waters shared by the U.S. and Canada.

The five in Wisconsin: the Milwaukee River estuary; the lower part of Green Bay and the Fox River; the Menominee River at the Wisconsin-Michigan border; the Sheboygan River; and the St. Louis River, which empties into Lake Superior at the Duluth-Superior harbor.

The sites share a history of industrial development and industrial-strength pollution.

The bottom of the Fox River, for example, contains tons of sediments contaminated by toxins expelled by the paper-making industry. Scientists suspect that those some of those toxins, polychlorinated biphenyls, cause cancer, prompting the U.S. Environ-

Please see TOXIC page 5

Toxic/Cleanup plan calls for $50 million in grants

mental Protection Agency to consider slapping a Superfund label on nearly 40 miles of the river's bed.

Vice President Al Gore announced the initiative Monday in a conference call with reporters from the Midwest. Gore said progress had been made to enhance water quality, but more is needed to be done, adding that attention to the Great Lakes was "long overdue."

"People want to see the Great Lakes cleaned up," said Gore, who is seeking the Democratic nomination for the presidency.

How much the president's proposal would accomplish remains to be seen.

Gore, reminded that the proposed cost of cleaning the Fox River alone could approach $1 billion, said the administration's plan could have "quite a bit of impact." He pointed to the additional local money that could be leveraged and the participation of environmental activist groups.

Emily Green, director of the Sierra Club's Great Lakes Program, credited the administration with addressing the problem of contaminated sediments. But she called on the EPA to bolster the program by advising local governments on cleanup options.

"We're pleased to see it; it's a positive first step," Green said. "But this money needs to come with technical advice as well."

Cameron Davis, the Chicago-based director of the Lake Michigan Federation, added that the proposal had symbolic clout to bolster its limited amount of cleanup power.

"We need more money," he said. "But given the fact that the cleanup of these sediments has stalled, this is a huge reminder that past problems need to be addressed."

Wisconsin congressmen whose districts would be affected by the proposal offered varying degrees of praise.

U.S. Rep. Mark Green, a Republican from Green Bay, called the proposal "long on hope and short on detail."

If the money could be used by local governments without "strings attached," Green said, he would support it. But he added that Congress must first deal with other priorities, including debt reduction.

Green's Democratic colleagues from Milwaukee, Tom Barrett and Jerry Kleczka, were more effusive.

"This initiative to clean and preserve our precious commodity is a solid step forward," Barrett said in a statement.

Kleczka said that work on the Milwaukee River estuary, which includes the area downstream from North Ave., a portion of the Kinnickinnic River and the harbor, was "long overdue."

In addition to the new proposal, $17 million is planned for Great Lakes cleanup. Federal government dollars also flow to Great Lakes states through Superfund and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects.

reminded his peers the scholarship cation unclaimed.

9/25/99

National Research Council holds meetings on Fox River PCB work

GREEN BAY – The National Research Council is holding meetings Monday and Tuesday to discuss the cleanup of polychlorinated biphenyls from the Fox River.

The Research Council has been retained by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to evaluate different approaches for remediating Fox River sediments contaminated by PCBs.

During the meetings, presentations will be made by representatives of federal and state government agencies, industry, environmental groups and other interested individuals.

The Monday meeting will be in Phoenix Room B of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay Union from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The Tuesday meeting will be in the UWGB Union Christie Theater A117 from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

John Farrington, associate director for education and dean of graduate studies at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, Mass., is chairman of the Research Council committee.

An agenda is available at www.nationalacademies.org under Current Projects and the title "Remediation of PCB-Contaminated Sediments."

The National Research Council is the principal operating arm of the National Academy of Sciences and National Academy of Engineering. It is a private, nonprofit organization that provides advice on science and technology under a congressional charter.

EPA chief calls for end to diluting pollution in lakes

By Susan Campbell
Press-Gazette

9/25/99

MILWAUKEE — U.S. EPA Administrator Carol Browner vowed Friday to safeguard the Great Lakes and called for an end to what has long been known — and derided by environmentalists — as the "dilution solution."

Speaking at the International Joint Commission's 1999 Great Lakes Water Quality Forum, the nation's top environmental regulator announced a proposal to prohibit the allowance in the Great Lakes of new mixing zones, in which contaminants are allowed to mingle with lake water to dilute.

"It didn't work. That's what science tells us today," Browner said to loud applause. "We can do better. Dilution is no solution to pollution."

The initiative targets so-called bio-accumulating chemicals, pollutants like mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls that are slow to break down and persist for years in the environment.

From there, Browner said, the chemicals make their way into the food chain, starting with small aquatic organisms and working their way to fish and wildlife and, ultimately, people.

Once in the body, the contaminants can attack the liver and kidneys and the nervous, reproductive and immune systems of animals. Researchers have found some similar effects in humans, and a national scientific panel recently called for further studies.

"By allowing these chemicals to gather first in mixing zones, we guarantee that over time they will spread, and accumulate throughout the delicate environment of our shared Great Lakes," Browner said.

"Despite how big this resource is — the great depth, the size of the Great Lakes — they too are vulnerable to toxic pollution that remains in the water for years," she said.

Browner said existing mixing zones would be phased out during 10 years under the EPA proposal. The agency sought to ban mixing zones once before, but the policy was overturned in the courts.

← Hey Mike! even Carol talks about liver!

Environment must be addressed now

Professor 'guardedly optimistic' about future

By Robert Woessner
Press-Gazette

In nearly 30 years of teaching at St. Norbert College, James Hodgson has seen concern over the environment grow far beyond the campus on the Fox River. During an interview in his office in the Minahan Science Building at the De Pere school, he discussed how those concerns may play out in the coming millennium.

Q. What do you want students to take away from your classes?

A. An awareness. A concern. A zeal for the quest of learning. To be inquisitive. To go out and challenge oneself and be a better person. In the environmental perspective, to develop an ethic — and you have to develop your own ethic. Maybe I can help design those tools to help you define that effort. We all have heroes. Aldo Leopold — that name was a very obscure name when I started doing environmental science. But I think it's in about everyone's vocabulary right now. So it's a land-ethic sort of thing. To be able to think environmentally you have to be more than ethical. That's my piece of the pie. I want people to talk about that and to begin to think that he or she is part of the solution. You can't keep passing it off to succeeding generations? Should we think more like First Nation people — seven generations. I don't have the realistic answer. I like to be involved in providing this comme[illegible] Antarctica, the ozone hole, the North Atlantic this year. Why? An anomaly or related to global warming? Why are (some) butterflies expanding their range? In Northeastern Wisconsin is probably the lakes. You need to be concerned about that. The Great Lakes are just a tragedy. On a million to $800 million to clean the Fox River. But over a 50-year span that is miniscule compared to the economic value of a



Holly Balsis/Press-Gazette

Jim Hodgson, environmental professor at St. Norbert College in De Pere, is skeptical of the worsening condition of natural resources.

COUNTDOWN 2000

Conversations on the Millennium

Conversations on the Millennium, a monthly series looking at the future, will run through 1999.

Staffer Robert Woessner is profiling and interviewing people who have insight into religion, technology, education, government, history, diversity and other topics.

If you have suggestions for topics or people to be interviewed, contact Woessner at (920) 431-8327, by fax at (920) 431-8379, by e-mail at pgnews@netnet.net or by mail at Box 19430, Green Bay, WI 54307-9430.

out or compete with other species. Yes, it is a concern. And it's probably going to get a lot worse before it gets better.

Q. This is a growing area ...

A. That concerns me. It's one of the fastest-growing places in the state. But just talking about population, talking globally now, we're going to get nowhere unless we do something with the population. If anyone gets up and says that there is no global population problem, (they're) wrong. Just take the China example — 1.3 billion people times anything is a tremendous number. One of the examples I like to use is if the Chinese decided to drink just one more beer [illegible]

piece of the pie. I want people to talk about that and to begin to think that he or she is part of the solution. We can't keep passing it off to successive generations.

Q. What have you seen change in attitudes toward the environment?

A. I'm more optimistic. But guardedly optimistic. Certain things are changing the population. They're becoming more aware. You see surveys, you know, where 70-plus percent want this kind of change. Not just environmental "change," all sorts of change. I'm excited about that. But what frustrates me is the political system doesn't seem to get that message. I don't know exactly why. It might have to do with where the money is in industry. I think 75 percent of people recognize or think that global warming is a problem and something needs to be done. Politicians will probably be very slow in responding. So, in that particular perspective I'm frustrated. I get pessimistic.

As a global society, the realism is that we have to try to meet the needs of 6 billion people. The sprawl issue is about what's being gobbled up at an alarming rate. I'd like to see bigger chunks of land set aside, but you have to realize that people have a right to develop these particular areas. I'm more optimistic teaching this generation than I was teaching the parents of this generation. They come to me much more knowledgeable, much more concerned, and that's where I take the hat off to the primary and secondary school teachers that have done it.

Q. Let's say I've worked hard and want to build my trophy house on 6 acres of woods. Why can't I do that?

A. One person doing it is fine. Two people doing it is fine. But you're going to be driving miles and miles and miles and using gas and, from this perspective, (building) in some of the best agricultural land. It's what we want for ourselves. That's the beauty of this particular society. So it's not trying to prohibit people from doing that. It's maybe getting the change to redefine wants and needs and to take a close look at the equality or inequality of the quality of life and standard of living. Would those needs be met in a different scenario? Should we protect these scenarios for future generations? Should we think more like First Nation people — seven generations. I don't have the realistic answer. I like to be involved in providing this conversation to get people to question their own values.

Q. What role do you see for individuals, government, business and education?

A. I look at the quality of student successes not on how well they answer questions, but how well they ask questions and the quality of questions. Look at a whole array of ideas and concepts and piece it together. Challenge your own prejudices. Put together ethics. Put together a value system. That's for educators. Government, I guess, is government of the people and its response to the electorate. We could do it much better if our representatives would be representatives.

Q. And business?

A. Business will do what people want. If people decide they don't want something, it doesn't take the business sector very long to realize it.

In lectures, I role-model a person running for office and I tell my students that if elected I'm going to put a $4 to $5 surcharge on a gallon of gasoline. Gas is way too cheap. If you paid $5 or $6 for a gallon of gasoline, things would change enough that attitudes would change. Then I ask if I would be elected. I can't be elected. Even students, idealistic young people from an environmental perspective, don't want that sort of economic mandate. But these are the sorts of things necessary to influence the change we want to see.

There is no silver bullet if we are going to have to reduce carbon emissions by 3 or 4 billion tons annually to address global warming. How are you going to do that? We grouse about a few cents for energy costs and people can't get those sorts of things through Congress. Go through the whole laundry list of things that seem to indicate that it's getting warm. Climatic change, or call it climatic modification, is driven primarily by putting excess carbon into the atmosphere, the greenhouse effect. It just gets warm. We're seeing more frequent and more severe El Ninos. Is that cause and effect? We don't know. But you look at other things. There were no icebergs in the North Atlantic this year. Why? An anomaly or related to global warming? Why are (some) butterflies expanding their range? In Antarctica, the ice shelves are getting much smaller. It's related to some sort of global change. Is that global change due to our impact? I would look at the data to try and support the hypothesis that it is in terms of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. I see it as a very serious problem and I see it as very difficult to mediate and so more and more we ignore it.

What do we do? What as individuals are we going to consume?! Part of this is the argument about living in the country 25 miles from where I work compared now to a mile from where I work. Walk to work versus 50 miles (driving) daily. There are all kinds of issues there. There has to be change in attitudes. I see that as part of my role. You look at this array of issues and see where your value systems are.

Q. Will environmentalists have perpetually guilty consciences because they could have bought the smaller car?

A. There's probably some reality to that, particularly if you live with a spouse that is really an environmentalist.

Q. Is there any deeper ethical impact in a place like St. Norbert, which has religious ties?

A. I don't think you can address human issues without addressing environment issues from a global perspective. Empowerment of women, for example, addressing children's issues, are not without consideration of environmental issues. So if, indeed, we do have a greater emphasis on human issues because of the religious nature of the institution then maybe so, but I'm stretching for answers. Because anyone in an intellectual environment can see that. I think it's the nature of the people that teach to come to a position because you have a dedication to the contents of the disciplines.

A. Let's narrow to Northeastern Wisconsin. What should we be doing more of and less of?

A. Doing less of is what we all should be doing as consumers. We need to be wise consumers and we need to look at resources as exhaustible resources. This is a good place to live and to raise kids. The educational systems are good. But our important resource in Northeastern Wisconsin is probably the lakes. You need to be concerned about that. The Great Lakes are just a tragedy. On a smaller scale, it's a tragedy on the Fox River. I think that whole contaminated sediment business — we've got to get through that debate. As a scientist, I don't know for sure what the role of PCBs is. But as an environmentalist, I would argue that you have to draw a line. We need to do something about the PCBs and we've got to quit pointing fingers.

Paper mills put it in there, but during that particular time I suspect that there weren't a lot of people worrying about (carbonless) paper (containing PCBs). There were mistakes. There are some responsibilities, I think, that can be shared. The bottom line is really to do something. We need to get that system cleaned up. We owe it to the next generation. We need a resource here in Green Bay which is usable, recreationally usable. You have to be careful in the science. But I embrace the philosophy that if we're going to err, let's err on the side of the environment.

Q. Is the Fox River a test of how the system is going to respond to problems?

A. Yes. We could do nothing and things would ultimately change. But we're dealing with decades, with centuries really. What are we going to accept as quality environment? Do we want to be able to fish in the Fox River and be able to eat those fish? A lot of us say we don't care. Then we have a Hmong population utilizing that resource and we need to be concerned. I'd like to see people say they want to be able to use this resource. To want to be able to go swim at Bay Beach and want to be able to fish the walleyes, eat them once in a while and not be worried.

Q. How do you put a cost on that?

A. I don't know. We can put dollar signs on many kinds of things, but we have difficulty putting dollar signs on what healthy ecosystems are. What's the value of a wetland? What's the value of a walleye fishery? I guess you could do the walleye fishery — measure the fees paid, etc. I've been around long enough to realize it's not going to make any environmental sense unless it can make economic sense. When we do that, then we can say it might cost us $700 million to $800 million to clean the Fox River. But over a 50-year span that is miniscule compared to the economic value of a healthy system.

Q. Is there preventive value? People see the river and say, "Let's not let this happen again."

A. I would hope that would be part of the thinking. The river's come a long way in the 30 years I've been here. The college has been documenting fish populations in the river and that's quite high, it's quite diverse in terms of species. We're still predominated by carp and catfish, but it's made remarkable changes in terms of environmental health. Look at the potential for lamprey. (People) think of the lamprey as this predator that decimated the lakes fish population. But it's a very persnickety critter. It needs very good water to spawn. The Fox River is getting to the point where we have to be concerned about lampreys getting into Lake Winnebago.

We have probably one of the most pronounced world-class walleye fisheries right here below the dam, but unfortunately it's not usable — not usable in the sense of the warnings of PCB and mercury contamination. Many Wisconsin lakes have mercury advisories. Where does it come from? It comes globally from the atmosphere. But if we're going to find someone to blame, by far the most significant source of mercury is coming down in precipitation from coal-powered utilities.

Q. How big a concern are invasive species such as purple loosestrife and zebra mussels?

A. They change the system. Once something gets into the system, it's very hard to clear out. The zebra mussel is an interesting story. It does a wonderful job cleaning up water. Yet it's occupying about every square centimeter of the (bottom). It out-competes by far native mussels and clams. That's a concern. Right now, these huge windrows of mussel shells on the bay, what do you do with them? You can't landfill it. It's toxic waste. It's got PCBs in it. You've got to go to really far remote places to find unperturbed ecosystems. I do that when I take students into the rain forest of Central America.

We will need to live our lives, but there are some species that overwhelm the system and drive tremendous numbers. One of the examples I like to use is if the Chinese decided to drink just one more beer a year, it would take the entire grain production of Norway. So on a smaller scale, we're increasing in numbers. It's nice because it increases tax base, but it also requires more service.

Look at the De Pere example now. We can't keep up with education needs and roads and sewers, both kinds of infrastructures. There's a concern, I think, about how we do this and how we design our cities. How we design or how we address our education problems. It becomes a societal sort of thing, but there's definitely environmental implications involved. The environment is not an entity in itself. It entwines with everything else.

Q. Is there a point at which a place is no longer the place that drew people because it has grown and evolved so much?

A. Watching your own kids grow up, you don't see them grow up unless you get pictures of them. As we live in a community for a long period of time, we accept change and all of us look at change differently. Some of us say, "Hey, it is a better place because of these opportunities." Some will say, "It's not what it used to be." There is no clear-cut answer. Attitude is the local part of it.

As an environmentalist, as an ecologist, I have some real concerns for society. We have to literally save the planet. We have to be convinced that we are in this race to save the planet. We only have 40 years to save it. If we don't reduce pollution, if we don't reduce carbon, if we don't do something about acid rain, if we continue to let business go as usual, in 30 or 40 years things will be such that we cannot change.

You need to go to a place like Lima or Bangkok. Then you get a different perspective on what it means to not have the resources we have. We in this country represent probably around 6 percent of the world's population but we consume (much more) of the world's resources. It may well be simply an academic issue, but I think all of us fear that — Green Bay included — "I'm part of the 6 percent, part of this thing called Planet Earth." What I do in terms of lifestyle? What I do in terms of how much energy I use? Any slight change I do is going to help. We all need to participate.

LAHEY'S VIEWPOINT



Lower Fox River named as Great Lakes 'hot spot'

Appleton Post Crescent 1/11/2003

Administration places 31 sites on wish-list for cleanup of toxic waste

WASHINGTON (AP) – The Clinton administration says it will ask Congress to steer an extra $50 million to the Great Lakes states next year to help clean up the worst toxic hot spots.

The initiative would make Great Lakes communities eligible for matching grants to help restore waterways for drinking, fishing, swimming, boating and urban development.

"People want to see the Great Lakes cleaned up," said Vice President Al Gore, who announced the proposal. "After a while, if an effort this size continues, it's going to have a huge impact."

The money for the lakes' 31 most polluted sites, if provided by Congress, would be distributed based on a competition, with the winners required to kick in 40 percent of the total.

In theory, that would leverage some $80 million to clean up toxic goo, control polluted runoff, restore wetlands or make other improvements.

It would be in addition to some $17 million worth of other Great Lakes-targeted cleanup programs, plus the region's share of Superfund money, Environmental Protection Agency waterways funding and the portion of the Army Corps of Engineers budget devoted to Great Lakes work.

Even all of that, though, is small compared with the needs of the 31 polluted sites, which along with a dozen in Canada were designated "areas of concern" in 1987 by the U.S.-Canadian International Joint Commission.

Total need, said Reg Gilbert of Great Lakes United, is "in the billions."

Emily Green of the Sierra Club's Great Lakes Office said the hot spots have so many cleanup needs that "we're thrilled to see the Great Lakes back on the front burner," even if it isn't enough to get the job done.

Gore said the expected budget surplus will make the spending possible.

Dealing with the areas of concern, which environmentalists generically refer to as "the hot spots," has been a vexing problem for more than 30 years.

All over the Great Lakes, years of unchecked factory discharged have left a legacy of toxic goo that states can't afford to clean up and can't afford to leave alone.

STATE SITES

Waterways on the U.S. side of the Great Lakes that have been designated highly contaminated "areas of concern" by the International Joint Commission. The Clinton administration is proposing a new $50 million program to help rid them of toxic sediment, control polluted runoff, restore wetlands or make other improvements. Wisconsin sites include:

- Lower Green Bay & Fox River
- Menominee River
- Milwaukee Estuary
- Sheboygan River

RIVER: Corps studying possibility of cleanup involvement

From A-1

bility in the cleanup.

Both state and federal regulators support the study.

"We look forward to having the Corps of Engineers bring their expertise and resources to the Fox River and Green Bay cleanup project," said DNR Secretary George Meyer.

The study will identify federal benefits that would flow from the cleanup and determine what role the corps might play. It will rely largely on years of costly scientific analysis already conducted by the DNR and by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Although the corps traditionally uses dredging as a tool to enable navigation, it can also dredge for other reasons.

"In this particular case, the dredging would be to make sure the natural habitat is protected," Lynn Duerod, a corps spokeswoman, said Wednesday.

Boosting local recreation by making fish safe to eat could also be considered a legitimate reason for corps involvement, officials said.

DNR officials said one possible benefit of corps involvement, in addition to its expertise in navigational dredging and sediment handling, would be the ability to direct federal funds toward the cleanup without having to place the Fox River on the National Priority List of Superfund sites.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed the river as a Superfund site, but has held off on making that designation while it funds a risk assessment and feasibility study (RIFS) which is being conducted by the DNR.

A draft RIFS was released in February 1999. The final RIFS and a proposed cleanup plan are scheduled to be released by the DNR and the EPA in late spring or early summer. That will be followed by a period of public comment and then, perhaps early next year, by a final, decision on the cleanup plan, either mandated or negotiated.

EPA officials have said a Superfund designation – which has been opposed by the DNR and by Gov. Tommy Thompson – can be averted if the Fox River Group negotiates a cleanup plan with regulators, a plan that will likely cost the companies hundreds of millions of dollars.

Environmental organizations, such as the Clean Water Action Council, support Superfund designation because it would authorize the immediate use of federal money to begin the cleanup, money which could be recovered through legal action against the paper companies.

The six paper companies are on the hook because they discharged tons of polychlorinated biphenyls into the river before the ban on their use in 1976. PCBs are known to cause reproductive failure in some species of fish-eating mammals and birds. The long-lasting industrial compound has also been linked to developmental problems in the children of mothers who regularly ate contaminated fish.

Although the discharges were legal, the companies are still liable for the cleanup costs under state and federal environmental law.

An infusion of federal money through the corps, and possibly state money, could reduce that liability. Area residents and municipal officials have voiced general support for such shared funding through public meetings and discussion groups hosted by both federal and state agencies.

Area municipalities would benefit from a negotiated cleanup because they are not currently being held liable for the cost.

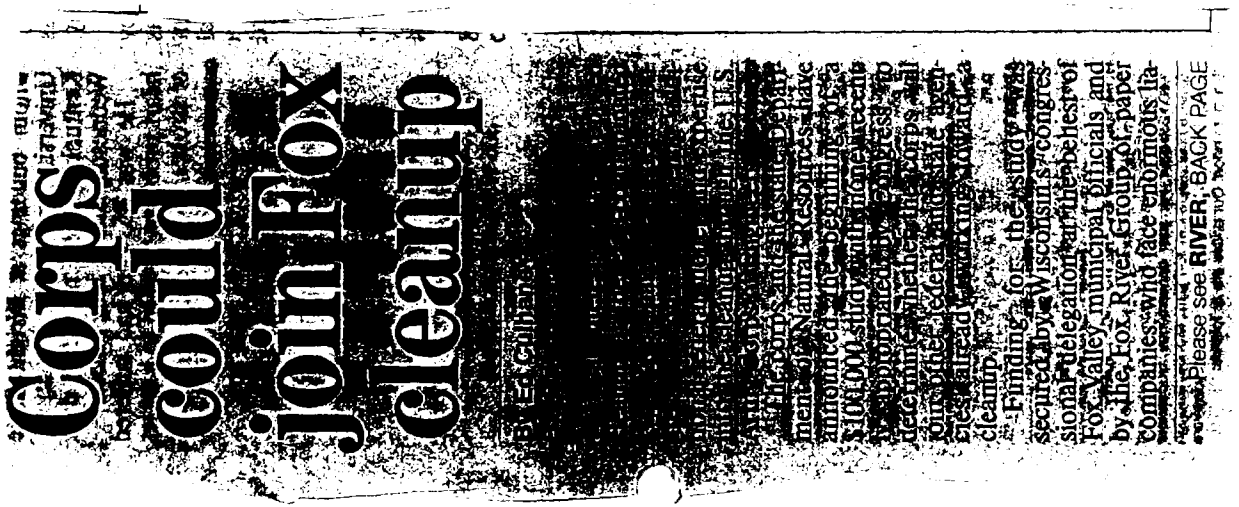
If the Fox River is designated as a Superfund site, however, and the case is litigated in court, area municipalities could be named as codefendants because PCBs moved through wastewater treatment plants. Other businesses that had lesser roles in the transportation of PCBs could also be dragged in.

The $100,000 inquiry is being called a reconnaissance study. Jinane Karmo, project manager for the corps, said she will report to Congress on the results of the study in July or August, about the time the DNR and the EPA release the final RIFS and cleanup plan.

Congress would then have to appropriate a significant sum of money to fund any corps participation in the cleanup, officials said.

Such an action would likely be dependent on the success of negotiations between the Fox River Group and state and federal regulators.

Members of the Fox River Group are Fort James Corp., P.H. Glatfelter Company, Riverside Paper Corp., U.S. Paper Mills Corp., Wisconsin Tissue Mills Inc., Appleton Papers Inc., and NCR Corp., a former owner of Appleton Papers.


Corps could join Fox cleanup

By Ed Culbert

Finding for the study was secured by Wisconsin's congressional delegation after the belest of Fox Valley municipal officials and by the Fox River Group of paper companies who face enormous lia-

Please see RIVER, BACK PAGE

G.B. P.G. 1/5/2000

Army engineers to study PCB work

Corps to consider assisting in any dredging of Fox River, bay

PRESS-GAZETTE

The Army Corps of Engineers will study whether it should help with any potential dredging of PCBs from the Fox River and bay of Green Bay.

Congress last year appropriated $100,000 for the Corps to do the study, according to a statement Tuesday by the state Department of Natural Resources and the Corps' Detroit District office.

The results of the study will be released in late July or August and will help determine a role the Corps might play in the environmental dredging of the area.

As part of the study, the Corps will examine information developed by the DNR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to determine the level of federal interest and benefit, said Jinane Kallas, Corps project manager.

The Corps also [illegible] at about two decade[illegible]wn dredging data for th[illegible] gational channel, [illegible] major shifts in the [illegible] One spot, by the De[illegible] an average of 4 feet [illegible] between 1977 and 19[illegible]

"We look to ward[illegible] Corps of Engineer[illegible] expertise and results [illegible] River and Green Bay cleanup project," said DNR Secretary George Meyer.

The DNR last year released draft studies outlining cleanup options ranging from $150 million to $738 million.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed 39 miles of the lower Fox River and 21.6 miles of the bay for listing as a federal priority cleanup site.

The agency has held off on a final designation, providing time for the state and the seven paper mills held responsible for the contamination to come up with a voluntary cleanup plan for the river.

The DNR estimates the mills discharged 420,000 pounds to 825,000 pounds of PCBs into the river between 1957 and 1971, ending around the time of the federal Clean Water Act's passage.

Almost 70,000 pounds of polychlorinated biphenyls are said to remain in the river.

Already known to cause deformities, reproductive problems and death in wildlife, PCBs are classified as probable cancer-causing in people.

PCBs also have been linked to developmental problems and lowered IQs in children exposed to higher levels in the womb.

Minergy suit is settled quietly

12-31-97

Agreement assures lease payments to Neenah continue to be used for parkland

By Duke Behnke
Post-Crescent staff writer

NEENAH — The 3½-year-old lawsuit seeking the removal of Minergy Corp.'s $45 million paper sludge recycling plant from Arrowhead Park has been quietly settled out of court.

It has been dismissed with prejudice, meaning that no party may file any lawsuit challenging the location, placement, completion of the Minergy facility on Arrowhead Park or the operation of the facility as it is presently permitted or authorized. Minergy spokeswoman Kathy Lange-Novak said, reading from an approved statement in the settlement agreement.


MEYER

The settlement was mediated by George Meyer, secretary of the state Department of Natural Resources. It assigns no wrongdoing and prohibits parties on both sides of the lawsuit from discussing details of the deal.

"There is very little that I can say," Lange-Novak said. "We are pleased that it is settled so we can concentrate our efforts on operating the plant safely and efficiently."

The plaintiffs in the case are John and Ann Gillen of Neenah, William Dunwiddie of Oshkosh, Friends of Our Neenah Parks and the Clean Water Action Council of Northeastern Wisconsin. They sued Minergy, the city of Neenah and the Glatfelter Co. in May 1996, alleging that Minergy's use of Arrowhead Park violates the state's public trust doctrine.

Dunwiddie said the cost of an appeal of a circuit court ruling unfavorable to the plaintiffs and the uncertain outcome were factors in the decision to settle.

"The burden would have been rather considerable," he said, with a risk of the appeals court backing the earlier ruling.

Dunwiddie said the settlement does not cover any of the plaintiffs' legal expenses but does guarantee that the lease payments from Minergy to the city — estimated at $325,000 over 10 years — be used for the acquisition and development of parkland.

"That has been the city's intent and practice all along. It has spent $110,000 of the Minergy money to help acquire the 100-acre Carpen-

Please see MINERGY, B-3

MINERGY: Details kept secret

From B-1

ter Preserve and another $15,000 to improve the trail at Riverside Park.

Arrowhead Park is a capped, PCB-laden landfill that originally was a part of the bottom of Little Lake Butte des Morts. The land was conveyed to the city through a legislative grant in 1951 for a public purpose.

The lawsuit initially was dismissed by Winnebago County Circuit Judge Robert Hawley, who ruled the plaintiffs lacked the legal standing to sue because they failed to exhaust state administrative remedies on the DNR's decision that allowed Minergy to proceed.

The plaintiffs appealed, and the issue found its way before the state Supreme Court, which ruled that the plaintiffs did have legal standing and remanded the case back to circuit court.

The lawsuit then was dismissed by Judge William Crane, who agreed with the defendants that the plant serves a public purpose because it recycles paper sludge and saves landfill space.

The plaintiffs subsequently appealed Crane's decision.

Meyer said he intervened, even though the DNR was not named in the lawsuit, due to the case's potential ramifications.

If the lawsuit had been decided in the plaintiffs' favor, Minergy, which Meyer called "a very sound environmental operation," could have been shut down.

If it had been decided in the defendants' favor, a legal precedent could have been set allowing private development on other lakebeds.

The DNR maintains that Minergy's and Glatfelter's uses of Arrowhead Park violate the public trust doctrine, but [illegible] agency provided [illegible] review and approval for the use of the land. "I chose [illegible] them," he said.

"We felt [illegible] resolved," Meyer said.

Meyer referred questions regarding the specifics of the settlement to the Department of Justice, but the attorney familiar with the case was not available.

Neither Lange-Novak, Glatfelter Co. die hot Neenah Mayor Dean Harwood could [illegible] whether the settlement included any payment. Harwood said he was not part of those discussions.

"I don't know what [illegible] lead to this point," he said.

Harwood said the city has no financial obligation in the settlement. "We don't give, and we don't get anything either," he said.

The mayor said [illegible] ized the continuation of the case would have cost a lot of money in legal fees without [illegible] respective goals.

"No one was going to [illegible] they wanted," Harwood said. It [illegible] wasn't going to close Minergy, and it wasn't going to [illegible] amount of cash for the park system.

Harwood said the plaintiffs would have been better off had they settled the lawsuit in this office a year ago. He had arranged a deal in which Minergy would have paid $300,000, with no admissions of guilt, if the plaintiffs dropped their case.

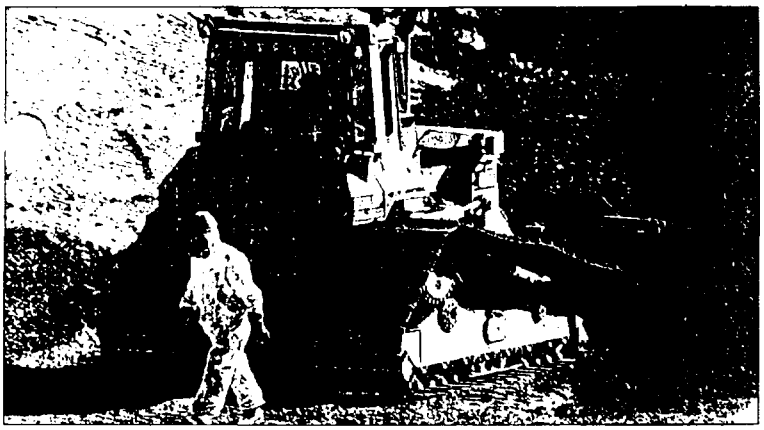
About $50,000 of the total would have been used to pay the plaintiffs' legal fees, and the balance would have been used to enhance the city's park system.

"Hindsight is always better than foresight," Dunwiddie said.

The Fox Valley Glass Aggregate Plant, as Minergy's facility formally is called, has been operating since February 1998.

It burns industrial paper sludge and natural gas at a high temperature to produce steam for the adjacent Glatfelter paper mill and glass aggregate for the construction industry. It has the capacity to consume more than 350,000 tons of paper sludge annually, saving 10 acres of landfill space a year.

12-000 30-99



H. Marc Larson / The News-Chronicle

DEWATERED AND SOLIDIFIED SEDIMENT is deposited in a cell at the Fort James Landfill during September cleanup operations on the Fox River.

Cleanup plan for the Fox expected in May or June

Air and water monitoring results from dredge tests should be ready soon

By Melinda Naparalla
The News-Chronicle



The new year won't bring an end to the PCB contamination of the Fox River, but it may bring a cleanup plan.

For decades, 39 miles of the Fox and more than 20 miles of Bay have been contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls. The long process of cleaning the river has created controversy and much work still needs to be done before a cleanup option is even chosen.

By May or June, a draft document of the remedial investigation-feasibility study (RIFS), which is a continuing plan for the river, should be complete, said Bob Behrens, the state Department of Natural Resources project manager.

"Hopefully that will be finalized by the end of the year for public review," Behrens said.

Once the RIFS document is completed, the next step is a record of decision that will determine the method of cleanup.

Earlier this year, the DNR outlined alternatives that range in cost from $150 million to $728 million and include various combinations of dredging, capping or natural recovery.

Dredging began Sept. 1 at the area known as Sediment Management Unit 56/57, near the Fort James Corp. West Mill, 1919 Broadway, considered the spot on the lower Fox River with the greatest concentrations of PCB-contaminated sediment.

The site was expected to remove 80,000 cubic yards of sediment to allow officials to gather information about how dredging affects the river ecosystem, but less than half that amount was removed.

The Fox River Group, the coalition of seven paper mills potentially responsible for the contamination in the river, plans to use the information gathered from SMU 56/57 in its study of the 39 miles of river contaminated by PCBs.

Fort James spokesman Mark Lindley said the company is looking forward to the next year because of the amount of information that will be collected during 2000.

"The results of the test sites will be back, which will give us an idea of the potential effectiveness of dredging," he said.

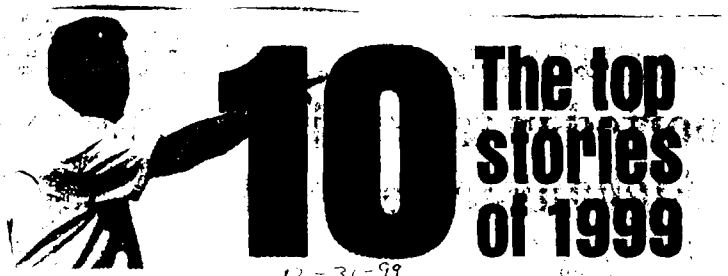
The results of air and water monitoring will be available in early 2000 and that information will be included in the RIFS, Behrens said. Even though less contaminated sediment was removed then expected, Behrens said there is nothing firm indicating the DNR will return to the area near Fort James Mill.

"Going back will depend on if there is enough money left and if the FRG is interested in it," Behrens said.

Besides information from the test sites, the various peer review of water modeling of the river will determine if the models are good or if they need to be reworked, Lindley added.

"Hopefully 2000 will give us a good blueprint of what the Fox River is like," he said.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has said if the Fox River Group is willing to implement a protective remedy, it would not list the site on the National Priority List, or Superfund.



10 The top stories of 1999

12-31-99

5. Mike Holmgren leaves the Packers

Voted by the P-C editorial staff



Post-Crescent file photos

Arts center tops staffers' picks

By Dan Wilson
Post-Crescent staff writer

The proposal to build a performing arts center in Appleton led the list of regional stories for 1999, according to *The Post-Crescent* editorial staff.

The No. 2 story was the continuing story of former Outagamie County Airport Director Debra Giuffre's firing by County Executive Toby Paltzer and the subsequent dismissal of county executive coordinator Gene Lillge, her husband, who apparently was judged guilty be reason of marriage.

Paul Heid, owner of Heid Music and a member of the committee overseeing the project, said the performing arts center story is the obvious choice for No. 1.

"I think this is one of the biggest things to happen here and I have been around long enough to see a lot of major things downtown," said Heid.

"It will bring a lot to the downtown, but that is secondary. It is what it will mean to the whole Fox Cities area. It's difficult for people in the surrounding areas to get real excited about a downtown store, or business or hotel, but the PAC will have a ripple effect on the whole area and it is certainly worthy of recognition."

It was on Sept. 8 when the Aid Association for Lutherans announced it would donate $8 million in seed money toward the construction of a 2,400-seat arts center to be known officially as the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center.

The facility, with a total price tag of $32 mil-

Please see **TOP**, A-6

THE LIST

1. Performing arts center announced for downtown Appleton
2. Firing of Outagamie County Regional Airport Director Debra Giuffre
3. Fire in downtown Isla
4. Area schools hit by wave of threats
5. Packer coach Mike Holmgren leaves; Ray Rhodes is hired
6. Employers grapple with continued low unemployment
7. Talks begin on renovating or replacing Lambeau Field
8. Continuing discussion of the possible cleanup of PCBs from the Fox River
9. Convicted child abuser Angeline Rogers escapes and is recaptured.
10. Developments at Banta Corp.



8. Fox River cleanup project

...Iola fire forever changed the shape of the downtown

From A-1

lion, will be built in the north 400 block of W. College Avenue, requiring the relocation of several businesses.

Work is expected to begin next August with a completion date of 2002.

As the year came to a close, several questions remained.

One, with the AAL donation of $8 million, and another $4 million in anonymous pledges, there is still the matter of raising another $20 million. An aggressive fund-raising campaign is already under way. The cost of infrastructure work has already been budgeted by the City of Appleton.

Two, who will manage the facility? Present plans call for a governing board with day-to-day operations entrusted to a professional management firm.

Three, how will operating costs be covered? Bookings don't necessarily pay the freight and among the options under consideration is a boost in the local room tax.

The story of Debra Giuffre's firing began on Oct. 12 when County Executive Toby Paltzer, Corporation Counsel Joe Guidote and Human Resources Director Rob Sundstrom presented Giuffre with a resignation letter that would have given her three months' pay. The letter came just two weeks after she was promoted to the position of airport director from airport manager and given a raise.

Guiffre was told to accept the resignation offer or be fired. Giuffre was fired.

The case took a twist with the firing of Guiffre's husband, Gene Lillge, the county executive coordinator, who, 10 days after Giuffre's letter, received one of his own, which offered him a resignation pay package with a 21-day deadline. Lillge, who worked for the county [illegible] years, had been on paid [illegible]istrative leave since Oct. 12.

[illegible]illge was offered six months' pay provided he signed a letter promising not to sue the county. Lillge, like his wife, refused the offer and he was fired on Dec. 18.

A fire that forever changed the face of downtown Iola was the No. 3 story of the year.

The Father's Day fire, which began from an unknown source in the basement of Grandpa's Still, a liquor store, quickly progressed through a series of connected, turn-of-the-century frame structures and displaced 20 residents and 11 businesses along Iola's Main Street. Eight buildings were destroyed, leaving half a city block empty.

The fire would have kept on going unless firefighters hadn't taken the drastic step of knocking down adjacent structures with a backhoe.

The mess left behind put local officials in a quandary because modern-day building and zoning codes prevented the rebuilding of anything resembling the old storefronts.

Finally, the village, using its Community Development Authority as a middleman, bought the properties for $87,800 and then sold them to a Stevens Point developer for $88,000. The developer will use the site to put up a mini-mall.

The No. 4 story was the aftermath of the shootings at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., April 20. The shootings, which left 15 dead and scores injured, touched off a wave of scares in schools around the country.

A combination of jittery school officials and students testing the system, created havoc in state and local school districts.

In Weyauwega, a series of notes shut down the school for two days.

In Appleton, incidents at Wilson Middle School, Madison Middle School and Appleton East required evacuations and searches.

In all, 11 incidents were recorded and in every case, someone was caught and prosecuted and/or expelled/suspended from school.

The departure of Green Bay Packers head coach Mike Holmgren and the hiring of Philadelphia head coach Ray Rhodes was voted the No. 5 story.

After two trips to the Super Bowl under Holmgren, who left to coach the Seattle Seahawks, Rhodes' first year provided the fans with the team's worst record since 1991.

The No. 6 story was the low unemployment rate in the area that bottomed out at 2.2 percent, putting local employers in a bind, but making it a good deal for wage earners looking for opportunities. The crunch has been most keenly felt among low-wage service industries.

Our No. 7 story was also Packers-related. A dwindling cash flow forced the Packers to look at either renovating Lambeau Field or building a new stadium. Packers President Bob Harlan has initiated talks with state and local officials to explore funding sources.

The continuing story related to the proposed PCB cleanup of the lower Fox River was voted No. 8 on the top 10 of 1999.

Two cleanups on polychlorinated biphenyls were conducted, one at an area known as Deposit N, near Little Chute paid for Department of Natural Resources and another near Green Bay sponsored by the Fox River Group, a consortium of paper companies identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as potentially responsible for any cleanup.

Late this year it was announced the public will not get a look at any proposed cleanup plan until sometime in 2000.

The escape of convicted child abuser Angeline Rogers finished ninth on the 1999 top 10.

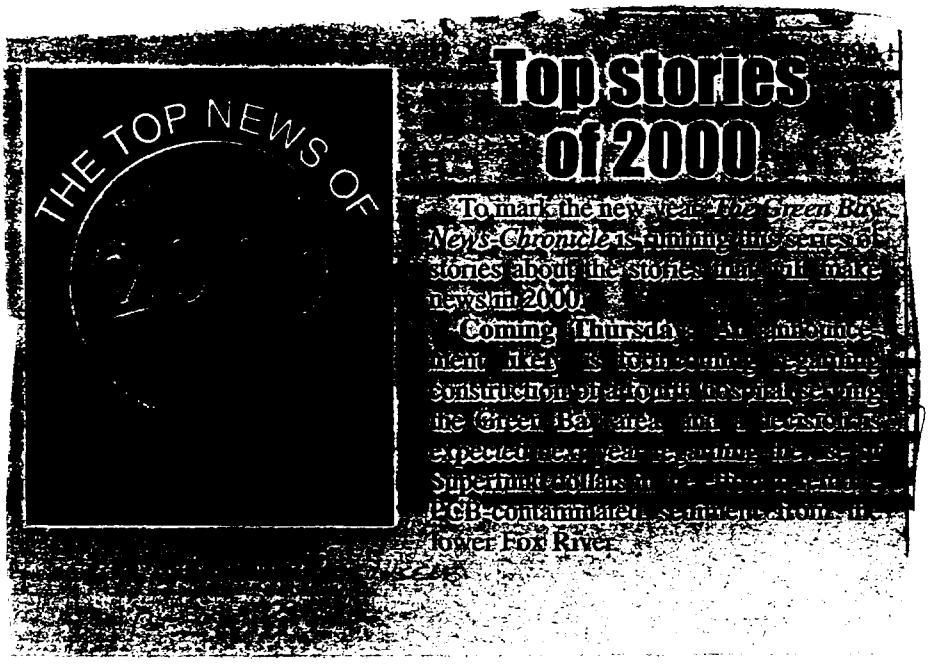
Rogers, 28, Brillion, walked away from work release while serving a one-year jail sentence for keeping her daughter locked in a dog cage in the basement.

Rogers was recaptured in Texas, returned to Wisconsin, and sentenced to 14 years in prison. Meanwhile, her husband, convicted of the same charges, completed his one year in jail without incident and was placed on probation.

Rounding out the top 10 for 1999 were several developments at Banta Corp.

Among the developments was the layoff of 650 employees, including 65 in the Fox Cities.

The layoffs came in the same year the printing company signed two large contracts and ended the previous year with record sales.


THE TOP NEWS OF
Top stories of 2000
To mark the new year, The Green Bay News-Chronicle is running this series of stories about the stories that will make news in 2000.
Coming Thursday: An announcement
Tower Fox River

COLUMNIST'S PERSPECTIVE

Happy new millennium: We're killing ourselves



Curt Andersen

For The Green Bay News-Chronicle

I read an interesting article by Jeff Nesmith of Cox Newspapers in the Dec. 20 *News-Chronicle* (Page 14) that described the work of Rutgers University astronomer Michael Molnar. He discussed the possibility that the biblical star of Bethlehem was actually the planet Jupiter (indicating regal), the constellation Aries (indicating Judea) and possibly some other planets, all approaching the moon.

In early astrology, this could be interpreted as predicting a momentous, royal birth in Judea in 6 B.C.

If this is indeed the case, and with the bad math done under Julius Caesar and Pope Gregory, it is possible we passed into the new millennium at the end of 1994, making all this millennial hoo-ha. even more ludicrous.

We've got serious problems with or without the millennial hoo-ha.

We've got serious problems with or without the hoo-ha. I've already told you about the continuing pollution of the Fox River. I've predicted calamity if the Crandon mine goes in. I have criticized conservatives who have caused the Republican Party to abandon its traditional role of conservation.

I have not done enough.

Every day, all across America, citizens put pesticides on their lawns, saying, "I only use a little."

Every day, paper mills discharge all sorts of contaminants into rivers saying, "It's perfectly legal."

Every day, nuclear plants are creating more and more nuclear waste, saying, "It doesn't produce any greenhouse gases."

Every day, land that has been producing the food we eat is turned into lots for the starter-castles that seem to be the norm these days, with the excuse, "I have to live somewhere."

Every day, incinerators belch more pollution into the air we breathe, telling us, "The high heat breaks down the toxins" (wink-wink).

Every day, coal-fired power plants pollute the air and the water we need for basic survival, with greenhouse gases, soot and mercury.

Every day, industrial waste is dumped into sewage systems, where we taxpayers carry the burden of treating it. That dried sludge is spread on farmland as "fertilizer," where crops are grown and animals are raised and are sold to us as "safe."

Every day, people use all sorts of chemicals to clean their toilets, their clothes and their cars, insisting, "How else am I going to clean them?"

Every day, new chemicals are approved for use without serious testing, with the claim that, "If we find there are problems with it, we'll pull it off the market."

Every day, huge acreage is sprayed or dusted with hideous poisons that kill weeds and bugs and fungi, even though those poisons don't know that we are neither weeds nor bugs nor fungi.

Every day, huge amounts of publicly owned land is clear-cut by timber firms right up to a creek's edge, causing erosion that fouls the water for trout, salmon and people.

Every day, tons and tons of garbage, much of it unnecessary packaging, is hauled to landfills where the witch's brew of gunk can eventually get into our groundwater, soon to be our drinking water.

Every day, fishing boats put out to sea and drop drift nets that catch everything in their path, ruining entire ecosystems and affecting our food supply, some of the catch to be tossed, dead, back into the sea to rot.

All of this is being done in dribs and drabs. We are slowly killing ourselves, just like the old cartoon that shows the man sitting on the same tree branch that he is sawing off.

Isn't it time to join an environmental group?

Andersen, whose column appears here each Wednesday, is a lifelong resident of the Green Bay area and a small-business owner. He served in the Navy during the Vietnam era. He teaches part time at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College and is president of the Clean Water Action Council. Write to him via e-mail at editorial.nc@bcpdenmark.com.

G.B. PRESS GAZETTE 12/27/93

Cleanup proposal expected by May

By Susan Campbell
Press-Gazette

By mid-May, Fox River Valley residents could have their first look at a comprehensive cleanup proposal for the PCB-contaminated Fox River.

State and federal regulators plan to release a proposed cleanup plan then along with final studies assessing the health of the river, Green Bay and the contaminant risks to people and wildlife.

The plan will come nearly two years after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposed 39 miles of the lower Fox River and 21.5 miles of the bay for listing as a federal priority cleanup site.

Since then the agency has held off on a final designation, providing time for the state and the seven paper mills held responsible for the contamination to come up with a voluntary cleanup plan for the river.

The proposed plan — and the mills' response — will be a critical step toward learning whether such an agreement can be worked out without a formal Superfund designation.

"We still have the same position. If we believe the Fox River Group is committed to implement a protective remedy we still would not list the site," said Jim Hanneberg, who oversees the project for EPA's Region 5 office in Chicago. "If we think there's any hope of implementing that remedy, we might still hold out that hope. We greatly prefer working cooperatively."

Please see Cleanup, A-2

Fox River damage

The federal government has named these seven paper companies as potentially responsible parties for PCB damage to the lower Fox River.



Press-Gazette

Incorporating more than a decade's worth of other river and bay studies, the

Cleanup/Fox River pilo. dredging project fell far short of goal

■ From A-1

cleanup proposal will detail what the EPA and the state Department of Natural Resources seek to accomplish with the river cleanup, what methodology would be used and how much it would cost.

Preliminary studies released by the DNR earlier this year outlined cleanup scenarios ranging from $150 million to $728 million. Those scenarios included various combinations of dredging and capping the contaminants, or leaving the river to heal itself — the least costly option and the one favored by the mills.

Agency officials say the proposed plan scheduled for release in spring — to incorporate comments from the mills, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and others with an interest in the project — will be available for public review during a comment period of 45 or 60 days.

The agencies expect to review those comments and issue a final cleanup plan, known as a record of decision, for the river in fall.

'Final decision'

From there, the ball is in the mills' court, Hahnenberg said.

"Once we have the record of decision done, that is the final decision," he said.

The mills will have the option of working with the agencies and affected Indian tribes to negotiate a court-approved consent decree and begin the cleanup. If those negotiations were to fall apart, however, Hahnenberg said the EPA could order the mills to start the cleanup.

If the mills choose not to comply, the EPA could start the cleanup with money from the federal Superfund — an option that would expose each company to a $25,000 fine for every day of noncompliance and triple the cost of the cleanup expenditures.

"That's the nuclear bomb," Hahnenberg said.

"Given all that, oftentimes a company will decide it's in their best interest to comply," he said, adding that companies can then try to recoup costs in the courts.

Paying for the cleanup with Superfund dollars presents its own problems, as Congress failed again this year to renew taxes on oil and other specified compounds — revenues that fund the Superfund — because of disagreements over how to reform the program. The Superfund budget now sits at around $1 billion.

"If we had a remedy that was hundreds of millions and the total Superfund budget was $1 billion, you can't do too many projects like that," Hahnenberg said.

To be honest, it would be very difficult to fund a project like the Fox River even in the best of times," he said, adding that the project would have to be done in a piecemeal fashion over a long period of time.

Despite the absence of a formal agreement, the Superfund already has been tapped for the Fox River and lower bay. To date, the EPA, which administers the fund, has spent $4.5 million on the river and bay cleanup studies.

Next steps for Fox

In the meantime, at least one mill representative said the companies are interested in discussing continuing cleanup measures on the river as the agencies' cleanup proposal moves forward.

With work on a pilot dredging project outside Fort James Corp.'s West Mill in Green Bay now finished for the season — exhausting the remainder of a $10 million agreement with the state for Fox River improvements — the mills are interested in talking with the agencies about "next steps."

"It's been suggested that maybe we could get together now to talk about what's next, and I think that's probably likely to happen by mid-January sometime," said Phil Servidea, vice president of government affairs for NCR Corp., which owned Appleton Papers-Appleton Coated Papers Mill at a time when PCBs were used to produce carbonless copy paper. "I think there's probably interest on both sides, the government parties as well as the companies, in seeing whether there is a way to continue to do work on the river with the goal in mind to accelerate the cleanup."

Those talks, if they occur, appear unlikely to involve negotiations about a voluntary, comprehensive settlement for the river cleanup. The last time all the parties met was for a 90-minute, closed-door discussion with Gov. Tommy Thompson in March. Servidea said the mills are in no better negotiating position today, and the agencies appear uninterested in settlement talks until they've finished the proposed cleanup plan for the river.

Work in progress

Nonetheless, mill representatives and state and federal regulators agree that work could continue on the river as the cleanup plan evolves. Where they disagree is on what form that work might take.

Servidea said the mills have little interest in further dredging until the results are known from the Fort James project and a smaller project that Kimberly finished by the state a year ago. Instead, the mills are interested in exploring other cleanup technologies — notably capping contaminated sediment in place.

"Not that we wouldn't be interested in doing any more dredging, but our position is we've done two dredging locations, and until we know what the results of those are, it doesn't make a whole lot sense to pour more money in that," he said.

Hahnenberg said the EPA would consider work that would fit in the overall plan for the river cleanup.

"We are interested in keeping some activities going," he said.

But Bob Paulson, working on the cleanup studies for the DNR in Madison, said the state wants the mills to finish the work they started outside Fort James — where PCB levels measure up to 700 parts per million, the highest known in the river.

The mills removed almost 30,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment from that site before cold weather forced the project to shut down earlier this month, far short of the 80,000 cubic yards goal.

"The only project we'd have them do is back in the hole they started," Paulson said. "We're kind of disappointed in the progress of that."

Correction policy

The *Press-Gazette* corrects factual erro

Plan would rebuild the eroded Cat Islands along west shore of Green Bay

The island restoration proposal will be open to public comment for 30 days

By Melinda Naparalla
The News-Chronicle

A possible project to restore the eroded Cat Islands near the northwest shore of Green Bay would improve vegetation beds, nesting areas for waterfowl and spawning grounds for various fish species.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released a draft ecosystem restoration report and a draft environmental assessment this week that outlines the process, plan implementation and findings.

The reports, which are available from the Corps of Engineers, are open for public comment until mid-January.

The restoration of the islands was proposed in 1996 by Jeff Finley, Brown County's former port director, as a way to use low-level contaminated sediment dredged from the shipping channel.

The plan would provide environmental benefits and another place to put dredged material, said Janet Smith, field supervisor for the Green Bay ecological field office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The islands would be restored and stone dikes also would be installed to prevent further erosion.

"The island chain functioned as a barrier to the shore from waves and storms," Smith said. "From the 1930s to the 1960s, there was a vast amount of wetlands from Duck Creek to the shipping channel."

According to the 1994 draft Remedial Action Plan study, about 85 percent of the remaining wetlands on Lake Michigan in Wisconsin lie along the coast of Green Bay.

Studies conducted locally found nearly 90 percent of coastal wetland habitat had been lost in the Green Bay area of concern through a combination of wetland filling, shoreland development, high lake levels, coastal erosion and sedimentation.

The loss of wetland, island and gravel reef habitats resulted in a general decline in species abundance and diversity in lower Green Bay area, the report stated.

"The area is a valuable wetlands and wildlife habitat that should be restored if it's feasible," said Chuck Larscheid, port and solid waste director for Brown County.

Wetlands have shallow water that warms quickly and is more protected than the open water of the bay, so it offers protection to waterfowl and spawning fish, Larscheid said.

The importance of restoration was stressed by various groups studying the project, including the state Department of Natural Resources, the Lower Green Bay and Fox River Remedial Action Plan, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and other local groups.

"It's a feasible idea that poses little impact on the ecosystem while protecting the shore and wetlands from the effects of waves and currents," said Scott Parker, deputy district engineer for project management for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Island restoration has been accomplsihed across the country. One success story is islands on the west end of Lake Erie at the mouth of the Detroit River, where the Corps worked with Michigan DNR to provide protection to wetlands that were being threatened by erosion, Parker said.

The restoration is designed to provide fish hatchery benefits, bird nesting especially among the common tern that has lost habitat to erosion, and an improvement in vegetation beds and water clarity, Smith said.

If everything falls into place, construction could start in a couple of years although not all construction would be done at the same time for cost reasons, Smith said.

The project needs a local sponsor and Larscheid said he would be willing to be a part of the project, but it would have to be supported by the Brown County Board.

The restoration would include the western island nearest the northwest shore that would be 2,000 feet wide and 800 feet deep; the middle island, which would be 2,100 feet wide and 1,100 feet deep; and the east island nearest the navigation channel, 4,500 feet wide and 1,500 feet deep.

Now that the draft reports are out, there will be a public review process that includes a public comment period, Smith said. The comments will be reviewed and then more specific planning and designing begins.

A local sponsor would have to pay about 25 percent of the costs associated with the construction of the three islands, while the federal government would provide the remaining 75 percent.

FYI

COMMENT PERIOD

Any person who has an interest that may be affected by the proposed project may request a public hearing. Public comments will be accepted for 30 days from Dec. 17 and can be sent to Department of the Army, Detroit district, Corps of Engineers, Box 1027, Detroit, Mich., 48231-1027

Frosty skyline



H. Marc Larsen / The News

STEAM AND SMOKE BILLOW into the frigid air over Gre
Tuesday morning.

THE POST-CRESCENT

WIS info

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1999

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Scientists ready to settle PCB disputes

Paper companies, DNR have different models for Fox River pollution

By Ed Culhane
Post-Crescent staff writer

NEENAH - A distinguished panel of scientists hired by the Fox River Group of paper companies to review disputed science behind the proposed Fox River cleanup appeared ready and able Friday to give the companies their money's worth.

At issue are complex computer models used to characterize the erosion and depositing of sediments in the river and the movement of PCBs and other harmful pollutants contained in those sediments.

The models are being used by state and federal regulators to develop a cleanup plan for the river, a plan that could cost the companies hundreds of millions of dollars.

Models being used by the state Department of Natural Resources show that if nothing is done, PCBs will continue to contaminate fish and endanger the health of birds, animals and people for more than a century. The same models show that after an aggressive cleanup, which could take a decade, most fish could be safe to eat within 12 years.

The companies dispute this. Their experts have developed a computer model that shows the river cleaning itself to safe levels within 25 years, making massive environmental dredging unnecessary.

At an all-day conference Friday in Neenah, attended by only a handful of area residents, the FRG experts presented their model to the panel of scientists. The panel, chosen by the American Geological Institute, turned out to be a tough group. FRG experts were grilled for hours, facing rigorous, and sometimes critical questioning.

At one point, panelist Steve Chapra of Tufts University determined that one reason for the differing results was that FRG experts plugged different assumptions and different estimates on historic PCB discharges into their model.

He asked the FRG experts if they ran the DNR's model using the changed assumptions and fig-

Please see **DISPUTES**, B-3

APPLETON, WIS. ■

DISPUTES: Panel of scientists hopes to answer questions

From B-1

ures. He was told they had not.

"So it is really difficult to see how the two are related because you changed too many things," Chapra said.

He was also critical of the DNR, which declined to send its own modeling expert to be interviewed by the panel. Instead, the DNR was represented by cleanup managers Greg Hill, chief of the agency's water quality monitoring section, and Ed Lynch, who is managing the final Fox River feasibility study and cleanup plan due out next spring.

When Chapra asked if he and other panelists could contact DNR mathematicians directly, he was told they would have to put their questions in writing and send them through Hill.

"That's unacceptable," Chapra shot back. He said he didn't care about the politics.

"As for anything else, we are just here to do a job and be objective about it," Chapra said.

Lynch referred to a contract signed in January 1997 by the FRG companies and the DNR. Under that contract, the FRG companies provided $10 million to fund a pilot dredging project in the river.

The companies also agreed to work cooperatively with the DNR to develop methods to test, and possibly enhance, computer models being used to develop the cleanup plan. The deadline for that work, which remains unfinished, was February 1998.

"The DNR has been frustrated that the FRG has not been timely in efforts to cooperatively complete the model evaluation process," Lynch told the panel. "The FRG did not follow the process in the development of their alternative model."

In presenting the FRG model Friday, consultant John Wolfe said it used recent studies on erosion and deposition that were conducted in the Fox River and more accurately portrayed the burial of more highly contaminated sediments under cleaner sediments.

But when FRG consultants displayed model diagrams showing deposition upon deposition in the river, with little erosion, they were questioned sharply by panelist William Lick of the University of California-Santa Barbara, who is so well known that one of the equations used to calculate sheer stress on sediments bears his name.

"You have no erosion in the narrow part of the channel?" he asked, clearly finding this unusual.

FRG consultants replied that their models showed the depositing of sediments would more than make up for any erosion.

The panel is expected to complete its review of the models by February. Whether the DNR will include its work in the feasibility study remains uncertain.

Wolfe said the panel is so well qualified, its recommendations could hardly be ignored.

"The views of these experts can only enhance the quality of the models," he said.

Green Bay
Press-Gazette

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Kewaunee doctor mends quilts, patients

Dr. Carla Hassel is well-versed in stitching together quilts as well as patients. She will display her quilting skills this Thursday. **D-1**

Level of PCB contamination differs in models

2 programs studied by peer panel

BY SUSAN CAMPBELL
PRESS-GAZETTE

NEENAH — Two computer models predicting how riverbed sediment and the PCBs that cling to it move through the Fox River were on trial Friday before a peer review panel.

The scientific panel was convened by the American Geological Institute — a nonprofit federation representing more than 100,000 environmental scientists — to review the accuracy of two models that show widely varying outcomes.

Seven paper mills facing a potential multi-million-dollar cleanup because they discharged polychlorinated biphenyls into the river from 1957-71, are financing the review because they question the government model and have devised their own.

"We have taken the framework and modified it based on new data not available before, and that allowed for a recalibration and confirmation of the overall framework," said Joe DePinto of Limno-Tech, an environmental engineering firm working for the mills.

For example, the mill consultants said a change in how the models treat PCB-tainted sediment in the top 10 centimeters of the riverbed results in a 40 percent difference in how the two models' calculate PCB mass exported to the bay of Green Bay.

The result: The mill model shows a net export in one study area of the river of about 8.8 pounds of PCBs to the bay over 25 years compared to the 66 pounds predicted by the government model.

The mills use their model to argue that PCBs are buried in river sediment and for the most part stay put — an argument for allowing the river to heal itself over time.

The government model, developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1989, supports the EPA and state Department of Natural Resources' position that the riverbed is not static and that PCBs wash into the bay at a rate of about 600 pounds per year.

But the DNR's top modeler stayed in the lab Friday rather than defend the agency's model. The reason: The DNR already is evaluating the model, fulfilling its part of a 1997 agreement with the mills that the two parties would work together on the evaluation.

"In lieu of working cooperatively with the DNR on model evaluation, the (mills) independently developed an alternative Fox River model showing little or no re-suspension of sediment or transport of PCBs," a DNR statement to the panel reads.

COMMUNITY'S PERSPECTIVE

Watch out, Fox River polluters — the cat is back



Curt Andersen

For The Green Bay News-Chronicle

I have tried to give you all a break from the monotonous Fox River cleanup story for the past few weeks, giving the Fox River Group, comprising the paper mills "potentially" responsible for polluting the Fox River, a long-desired rest.

They needed it, since the public and I have been haranguing them for the last few years, and the mills have had to create some fantastic malarkey to cover their butts to make them look like they care. I'm quite sure the spokesmen all took their vacations while the cat was away, but now the cat is back and we have breaking news.

A rumor says the Fox River Group is going to buy the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile and rename it the Baloney Wagon.

A rumor is going around that the Fox River Group is going to buy Oscar Mayer's Wienermobile and rename it the Fox River Group Baloney Wagon. Apparently it will travel from city to city in the Fox Valley, doling out huge baloney sandwiches to anyone interested in that sort of diet.

Like baloney, the paper mills' propaganda is full of the snout, lips, eyelids and gums of the real story about their "efforts" at cleaning the toxic mess they've made. The biggest pile of baloney is this nonsense about "natural recovery," which, according to my Funk & Wagnalls, means, "We don't wanna do nuttin', honey."

This baloney science means they pay less by doing little or nothing, allowing them to recover their profits naturally (there's the real "natural recovery"). The bay of Green Bay and Lake Michigan would become more polluted.

You may have heard the other baloney about the PCBs being "trapped under layers of cleaner sediment." If this is true, why do more than 600 pounds of PCBs flow out of the river every year? This data was complied long before any of the dredging projects got under way, so dredging is not to blame. I do not believe those figures include the tons and tons of channel spoils located at Renard Isle and Bay Port Industrial Park.

I predicted a year ago the mills would do everything they could to make dredging look bad. They are already warming up for their big whinefest, wherein they complain about sunken lumber, cable and branches messing with the dredging.

I'm shocked! Can you even imagine finding such stuff on the bottom of a river? Could these guys think we're all so dumb that we think the bottom of the Fox River looks like an empty eaves trough? Come on, give us a little credit for having some brains.

A recent poll showed people were frustrated with the lack of progress on the cleanup. It should be no surprise to us that a number of people actually believed paper mill propaganda that a cleanup was in progress. Nay, these projects are but experiments to determine the best cleanup methods. Once again, more studies. Studies until we are sick to death of studies.

I believe the mills are waiting and hoping for a serious economic slowdown so they can once again blackmail their employees by jangling their keys and hinting of layoffs.

Cameras monitoring the dredging found long parallel grooves in the mud on the bottom of the river. What they were was a mystery at first, but now we know them to be marks from the mills' dragging their feet on a cleanup.

Andersen, whose column appears here each Wednesday, is a lifelong resident of the Green Bay area and a small-business owner. He served in the Navy during the Vietnam era. He teaches part time at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College and is president of the Clean Water Action Council. Write to him via e-mail at editorial.nc@bcpdenmark.com.

SATURDAY/SUNDAY, DEC. 11-12, 1999

The Brown County CHRONICLE

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READERS' COMMENT

Letter off-base on PCB dredging

Alisa Syrjka's letter of Dec. 1 (Page A1) includes a number of factual errors concerning the management and goal for the most recent Fox River dredging project.

Fort James Corp. was not allowed control over dredging the largest PCB hot spot on the river, as Ms. Syrjka erroneously states. Neither Fort James nor any other member of the Fox River Group managed or directed the dredging project she refers to in her letter, commonly called deposit 56/57.

That project was managed by the Department of Natural Resources. An independent contractor under the supervision of the DNR carried out the physical dredging. Fort James and other members of the Fox River Group financed this project, but we did not manage it.

The mass removal of sediment was not the goal of this project. Deposit 56/57 was designed to help us find out if dredging PCBs is effective.

Many questions surround dredging as a potential tool for reducing risks associated with PCBs. How much sediment can you remove and at what cost? Does dredging reduce exposure risk, or are more PCBs released into the environment as a result? These are vital questions; the results of deposit 56/57, which will be provided by the DNR, can help provide some of the answers.

Mark C. Lindley
Director, Corporate Communications
Fort James Corp.
Green Bay

Letters to The Green Bay News-Chronicle must include the author's name, address and telephone number. Please limit them to 300 words; all are subject to editing. Longer, well-written letters will be considered for publication. Submit comments to the postal address, e-mail address or fax number listed below.

G.B. News-Chronicle
12/22/99

Our mission:
"The ess-Gazette strives, as it has since 1915, to be the primary prov. of information in Northeastern Wisconsin, keeping the welfare and development of the Greater Green Bay area at heart. It is our responsibility to provide a forum for free and open expression of diverse opinions while maintaining the public trust necessary to serve our readers, advertisers, employees and stockholders."

OPINION

★★ THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1999

IN OUR VIEW

Pilot dredging project a disappointment

Is a disappointing dredging project an omen of more delay in removing PCBs from the Fox River to cleanse it and keep the poisons from Green Bay?

Seven riverside paper mills put up $9 million to attack a concentration of PCBs in river-bottom sediment near the Fort James Corp. west side mill, the former Fort Howard Paper Co. The aim was to test the effectiveness of dredging to remove PCBs in the river between Apple and Green Bay.

PCBs are a concern for three reasons. The compounds once used in carbonless papers recycled by mills are linked to deformities and reproductive problems in wildlife. They accumulate in fish, and children whose mother's diets include river fish may have lowered IQs and learning skills. The river's PCBs are gradually spreading into Green Bay.

In October, the pilot project seemed a promising step toward a large-scale cleanup. Mills and the Department of Natural Resources expected 80,000 cubic yards of contaminated material to be sucked from the river by hydraulic dredges. On-land processing would remove PCBs for safe deposit in landfills.

But as winter nears, less than 40 percent of the material — about 30,000 cubic yards — has been removed. Less than $2 million remains in the project account. It is uncertain if dredging will resume in spring.

■ Issue:
Removing PCBs from Fox River

■ Our view:
The mills must make Fox River cleanup a priority, and not wait for court battles.

There haye been a variety of problems. A plastic liner in a settling basin ripped. Dredges encountered debris. River sediment was more granular than expected and that slowed processing.

There are pluses.

One of the highest concentrations of PCBs has been reduced. Mills and the DNR have data on the cost of dredging, its effectiveness and how disturbing the river bottom may expose and spread contaminants.

Still, what has happened since October is disappointing.

The rate of PCB removal is slower than expected and the cost looks to be higher.

The mills have not as yet said they will pay more to finish anticipated work at the Fort Howard hot spot.

There is no indication the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will back away from declaring the river a Superfund site. That designation could begin long, costly rounds of legal bickering to determine who will pay for a cleanup likely to cost hundreds of millions of dollars.

In addition, the mills and regulatory agencies have conflicting data on the amount of PCBs washed into Green Ba The mills' computer model shows far less material leaves the river than mod els used by the DNR and EPA.

Frustration has spread beyond environmentalists pushing for a large cleanup.

Republican U.S. Rep. Mark Green of Green Bay, for example, says he is "ver impatient. Everybody involved needs t understand this: We have to clean up tl Fox River and if paper companies or anybody else somehow thinks that we don't, I think they're wrong," Green said in a meeting with the *Press-Gazette's* Editorial Board.

He sensibly wants a "locally adminis tered cleanup," but knows "the feds wi step in" unless there is progress towar a local solution. Ominously, Green saic he hasn't been taken up on his offer to serve as a go-between on a cleanup.

Like Green, we prefer local control of a Fox River cleanup to federal supervision.

We also hope autumn's disappointment will not become a reason for mor delay.

The mills must make cleanup a prior ty and not hunker down for court battles sure to accompany EPA designatio of the Fox River as a Superfund site.

Green reflects on first year on Hill

Q&A

with Mark Green

Q&A is an occasional feature with community newsmakers. To suggest a person for a Q&A profile, call Mike Blecha at (920) 431-8248.

Awe fades quickly as congressman gets to work

By Mike Blecha
Press-Gazette

U.S. Rep. Mark Green is finishing his first year representing the Eighth District in Congress. The Green Bay Republican recently met with our Editorial Board to discuss his accomplishments over the past year and his expectations for the future. Following is an edited transcript of that interview.

Congressional inaction leaves future of Superfund in doubt

Republicans say program needs to be overhauled

GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Congress has left the future of the nation's toxic waste program in doubt while sticking taxpayers with a big chunk of the bill to clean up the poisonous mess.

When lawmakers left town last month, they passed a $390 billion spending bill that includes $1.4 billion for cleanup of the nation's 1,396 Superfund toxic waste sites. For the first time, that funding included general revenue money — $700 million in taxpayers' funds.

"The cleanup ought to be paid for by the polluters, not the public," said Ed Hopkins, a lobbyist for the Sierra Club.

In the past, cleanup has been paid for by a trust fund created by imposing taxes on oil companies, chemical companies and other industries that have contributed to the toxic waste problem. But Congress has not renewed those taxes since they expired in 1995, and the trust fund is running out of money.

There is about $1.5 billion left — enough to last through fiscal 2001, Environmental Protection Agency officials said.

By spending general revenue on Superfund, Congress prevented the trust fund from being depleted as quickly, buying time to try to pass legislation to overhaul the cleanup process without shutting down the program.

But many lawmakers, business leaders and environmentalists are skeptical that Congress will accomplish much when it reconvenes.

"Bottom line — the odds are for continued inaction next year," said Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., who is on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. "It's still a long shot that Congress will adopt comprehensive Superfund reform, but it's not impossible."

The only Superfund reform bill that advanced this year was sponsored by Rep. Sherwood Boehlert, R-N.Y. His bill giving states more authority over cleanups passed two House committees before becoming ensnared in the debate over renewing taxes on polluting industries.

The Clinton administration fears that conservative Republican congressional leaders will use "reform" legislation to let big polluters off the hook for cleanup costs.

"We don't need a comprehensive Superfund bill," EPA Administrator Carol Browner told a House transportation subcommittee. She said administrative reforms already have streamlined the Superfund program, with more than 89 percent of sites now either cleaned up or in the process. GOP leaders counter that the Superfund process remains bureaucratic and unfair to many businesses. Key leaders, echoed by business groups like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, want to give states greater control over toxic waste sites and say they won't support renewal of the taxes on the chemical and oil industries unless there is sweeping overhaul.

"Superfund is notable among the major federal environmental statutes not only for its abysmal track record, but also for its heavy reliance on EPA action rather than state implementation," Sen. Bob Smith, R-N.H., told the Senate earlier this year.

These starkly different perceptions of Superfund have resulted in stalemate over its future.

"I think there's a stronger sense that a major revision of Superfund will wait until 2001 when hopefully the Democrats will take over (Congress)," said Sen. Frank Lautenberg, senior Democrat on the Senate's Superfund subcommittee. Lautenberg's state, New Jersey, has approximately 115 Superfund sites — the most in the country.

At the same time, Republicans are counting on a Republican president to break the logjam on the issue.

Meanwhile, EPA officials warn that the progress they've made in speeding up the cleanup process during the past six years could stall unless Congress comes up with a stable source of funding.

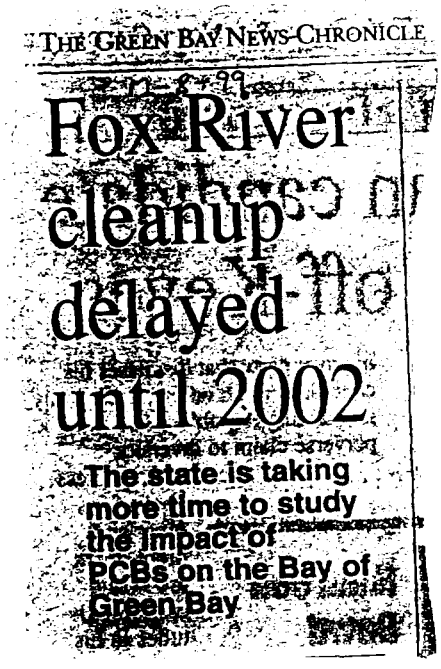
More than 650 of the nation's 1,396 Superfund sites had been cleaned up as of Oct. 19, but work on the remaining sites could be slowed without adequate funding, said Michael Shapiro, the EPA's deputy assistant administrator for solid waste.

In Wisconsin the EPA has proposed 39 miles of the Fox River as a Superfund site because of PCB contamination. The agency has held off on a formal designation while the state prepares a comprehensive cleanup plan, expected this spring. Preliminary cleanup estimates for the river range from $150 million to $728 million.

Money allocated to the Superfund program by Congress for the 2000 fiscal year amounted to a $100 million cut in funding, Shapiro said. Lawmakers are taking advantage of the gridlock to push through piecemeal legislation exempting some of their favorite industries from liability for Superfund cleanup.

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., won approval last month of a provision that exempts metal recyclers from liability. The provision, tacked onto a giant spending bill, angered the chemical industry, which will have to pay a bigger share of the Superfund taxes if those taxes are reimposed.

"We think it's unfair to let others out when we're left holding the bag," said Kate McGloon of the Chemical Manufacturers Association.


THE GREEN BAY NEWS-CHRONICLE

Fox River cleanup delayed until 2002

The state is taking more time to study the impact of PCBs on the Bay of Green Bay

Associated Press

APPLETON — The state has pushed back a deadline to June for recommending a cleanup plan for the PCB-contaminated Fox River so it can take a look at the waters and sediments of the Bay of Green Bay into which the river flows, authorities said Tuesday.

"I wouldn't call it a setback. What it does is increase our study area," said Ed Lynch, the coordinator of the study for the Department of Natural Resources.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which is supplying $1.5 million for the additional studies, requested the work after a peer review board suggested that neglecting the bay in the study was an oversight.

"We expect to have the recommendations in late spring," Lynch said.

At one point, the state was hoping to have its recommendations completed by January.

"Expanding the scope of the study to include Green Bay should, by no means, be taken as an indicator that EPA envisions large-scale cleanup of the bay," said Francis Lyons, EPA's Region 5 administrator.

Greg Hill, one of the cleanup managers for the DNR, agreed.

The EPA has said that no final decision on cleaning up the Fox River is expected until late 2000 or early 2001.

Seven area paper mills contend the PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, are buried under clean riverbed sediment and rendered immobile and are best left alone.

Paper companies dumped PCBs into the river while making carbonless paper and other products at mills from 1957 until the government banned the chemicals in the 1970s.

Studies have linked PCBs to cancer, reproductive problems and poor mental development in children and said they are hazardous to aquatic life.

THE POST-CRESCENT

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1999

Wisconsin's Best Newspaper

Actual Fox River cleanup unlikely before year 2002

Dispute over including Green Bay, sediments delays project again

By Ed Culhane
Post-Crescent staff writer

State and federal regulators now say it will be late spring before they unveil a cleanup plan for the PCB-contaminated Fox River.

At one time, it was thought the final feasibility study (RIFS) and proposed cleanup plan being prepared by the state Department of Natural Resources would emerge this year. Then it was scheduled for release in January, then March. Now state and federal regulators are talking about June.

The primary reason for this latest delay is that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which is paying for the study, insisted the DNR consider not only the Fox River, but also the waters and sediments of Green Bay into which is flows.

Previously, the DNR paid scant attention to the bay because PCBs, once they have left the river, are distributed over such a large area, and in such relatively low concentrations, that going after them would be simply too difficult and too expensive when weighed against the benefits.

The strategy all along has been to stop the "bleeding" – to clean the heavily polluted Fox River, which is responsible for more than 70 percent of all PCBs that flow into the bay and Lake Michigan.

But an EPA peer review board concluded neglecting the bay in the study was an oversight, and the agency provided the DNR with another $1.5 million to expand the study.

"There is too much low-concentration (pollution) and high-volume sediment out there to ever afford being able to do anything about it," said Greg Hill of the DNR, one of the cleanup managers. "Now we are going to do a complete RIFS to document that – that there is nothing affordable we can do with it."

EPA officials seem to agree – given that the cost of cleaning up the more accessible pollution in the 39-mile lower Fox River will be measured in the hundreds of millions of dollars – but say the study is worthwhile anyway.

"Expanding the scope of the study to include Green Bay should, by no means, be taken as an indicator that EPA envisions large-scale cleanup of the bay," said Francis Lyons, EPA's Region 5 administrator.

In the meantime, other peer reviews have emerged and more are coming.

The EPA released two last month. It selected panels of experts outside the agency to determine whether the RIFS contained scientific data in sufficient quantity and quality to make decisions about the cleanup and whether the RIFS sufficiently examined the ability of the river to clean itself over time, a process called natural attenuation or natural recovery.

The panel examined the data – the results of 10 years of study by the DNR – and gave the state agency a passing grade. The panel concluded the science was sufficient to make a final cleanup decision.

But the second panel, composed of experts on natural recovery, came to a different conclusion – the computer models used in the RIFS needed better explanation, and the DNR failed to consider adequately natural recovery in assessing different cleanup strategies.

The panel said "there may be a strong technical basis from which to conclude that natural recovery processes will substantially reduce environmental exposure to PCBs in the lower Fox River over time."

Executives of the Fox River Group, a collective of seven paper companies determined to be responsible for the PCB pollution, have steadfastly opposed expensive, large-scale dredging as a cleanup solution. They seized upon the panel's conclusions as a validation of their long-held belief that leaving most of the river alone is a good idea.

"It really sustained our comments on the (draft) RIFS," said Dennis Hultgren of Appleton Papers Inc. "Natural recovery, in any scenario, has to be a major part of the solution."

Members of the Fox River Group are Fort James Corp., P.H. Glatfelter Co., Riverside Paper Corp., U.S. Paper Mills Corp., Wisconsin Tissue Mills Inc., Appleton Papers Inc. and NCR Corp., a former owner of Appleton Papers.

EPA and DNR officials put less emphasis on the panel's findings, saying the review requires only that they do a better job of justifying their conclusions about the limits of natural recovery. The EPA said that, while natural recovery is unlikely to protect people's health and wildlife from PCBs, it would be examined in greater detail in the final RIFS.

PCBs are long-lasting industrial solvents, once used in the manufacture of carbonless paper, that have been linked to reproductive problems and deformities in fish-eating birds and to developmental problems in the children of mothers who regularly eat contaminated fish.

"When you say 'over time' you have to ask yourself, 'What period of time are you talking about, and is that a reasonable period of tin
said Jim Hahnenberg of the I
"The peer review panel d
address that. That doesn't nece
ily agree with the FRG assessr
of (significant risk reduction
eight to 10 years. We would s
would be much more than a
dred years."

DNR officials said natural re
ery is already being considered
the stretch of the river betw
Appleton and Wrightstown, wl
concentrations of PCBs are
But it is still likely the agency
propose large-scale dredging in
er stretches of the river whe
releases the final RIFS next yea

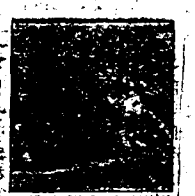
"We don't agree with th
(FRG officials) on the effect
ness of natural recovery," said
Lynch, the DNR official in ch
of the RIFS. "I don't think thi
going to change the outcome."

The EPA has said that with
release of the RIFS in late spri
which will be followed by a per
of public comment, a final decis
on cleaning up the Fox River co
be reached late in 2000 or early
2001.

A start on actually cleaning
the river, if that is to happen, is
likely before spring of 2002, exp
on both sides of the issue said, a
then only if regulators can avoid
extended court battle by negot
ing a cleanup plan with the pa
companies.

Hahnenberg was asked whet
that was likely.

"Let's just say I am hopeful,"
said.



INSIDE: Dredging operation falls short of expectations / **B-1**

■ **Fox River Group** scientists to hear from public / **B-1**

Please see **RIVER**, BACK PAGE

RIVER: DNR study scope expanded to include Green Bay

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1999

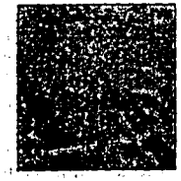
PCB dredging of Fox River short of goal

Statistics on long-term effects of industry project not known

By Ed Culhane
Post-Crescent staff writer

The large-scale, industry-funded PCB dredging project in the Fox River, beset from the start by equipment problems, will end this month having fallen far short of expectations.

Engineers working for the Fox River Group of paper companies estimate they will have removed nearly 30,000 cubic yards of highly contaminated sediments by the time dredging equipment is pulled from the river this month.



That's no small chunk, and it means more than 900 dump trucks of pressed sediments, representing some of the worst pollution in the river, have been removed from Sediment Management Unit 56-57 and encased in a specially designed landfill cell owned by Fort James Corp.

But the goal was 80,000 cubic yards and, had it been met, FRG engineers would have effectively removed the largest and worst concentration of PCBs in the 39-mile stretch of the lower Fox River.

Instead, handicapped by a late start and equipment problems, they managed only to take a large bite out of it, raising concerns about the 50,000 cubic yards of hot material being left behind in the project area, located just off the west shore of the river at the Fort James west paper mill in Green Bay.

Environmentalists with the Clean Water Action Council had opposed the demonstration project from the start, fearing that incomplete dredging would expose more highly contaminated sediments to the aquatic food chain.

Whether that will be the case won't be known until scientists take readings from the floor of the river later this month.

"We are making a real effort to

Please see **STATISTICS,** B-5

Public hearing on cleanup Friday

By Ed Culhane
Post-Crescent staff writer

A panel of scientists hired by the Fox River Group of paper companies to review the science behind the proposed Fox River cleanup will hear comments from the public Friday in Neenah.

The panel was assembled by the American Geological Institute of Alexandria, Va., at the behest of the FRG companies that state and federal regulato hold responsible for PCB poll tion in the Fox. Paper compar officials said the panel will pr vide "an objective and scientif cally based review."

At issue are the comple computer models the stat Department of Natura Resources uses to predict th movement of PCBs in the river FRG officials have been disput

Please see **HEARING,** B-5

STATISTICS: Industry-funded dredging project on Fox finishes short of goal

From B-1

get any of the higher concentrations out," said Mark Travers of De Maximus Inc., an environmental engineering firm hired by the paper companies.

To keep the numbers from 56-57 in perspective, compare them to the 11 million cubic yards of contaminated sediments in the lower Fox River. The most aggressive cleanup alternatives being considered by government regulators would address between 5 million and 8 million cubic yards, those with higher levels of contamination. Estimated costs for a whole river cleanup range from roughly $200 million to $700 million, depending on the scope of the cleanup and the technologies employed.

No decisions have been made, nor are they expected soon, on whether the 56-57 project will be considered finished once the equipment is removed this month. The FRG paper companies had set aside $7 million for the project and Fort James added an additional $2 million to the pot to make the goal of removing 80,000 cubic yards feasible.

It is possible, however, that closing of 56-57 marks the end of the two demonstration dredging projects envisioned in a January 1997 contract between the FRG paper companies and state Department of Justice, acting on behalf of the state Department of Natural Resources.

The DNR finished dredging at the smaller Deposit N near Kimberly earlier this year and also removed neighboring Deposit O because the equipment was available on site and there was time and money available.

While DNR officials have tended to look at the projects as the beginning of the whole river cleanup, FRG officials have always considered them test cases – exercises designed to determine how safe and effective environmental dredging can be in the Fox and at what cost.

Those answers are slow in coming. The DNR has said that Deposit N was dredged efficiently, without stirring up sediments or releasing any significant amount of pollution into the air or water, a conclusion shared by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Jim Hahnenberg of the EPA said both dredging projects were conducted cleanly.

"That counters what the FRG has been saying, that dredging is going to cause horrible problems, stirring everything up," Hahnenberg said. "That has been shown not to happen."

But the DNR has not yet released the results of monitoring at Deposit N, so the public does not yet know what quantities of sediment were left behind nor the level of PCB contamination left exposed to the river's current.

FRG officials – who oppose expensive, large-scale dredging as a cleanup option – will be studying the monitoring results from both projects in coming weeks as they prepare for the final feasibility study and cleanup plan, being prepared for release late next spring by the DNR under federal grants.

Members of the Fox River Group are Fort James Corp., P.H. Glatfelter Company, Riverside Paper Corp., U.S. Paper Mills Corp., Wisconsin Tissue Mills Inc., Appleton Papers Inc., and NCR Corp., a former owner of Appleton Papers.

Fox/Mills collected the data they sought

■ From A-1

inc. — which represents the seven area paper mills financing the project — said processing the dredged sediment also has slowed because the consistency of the riverbed in places is more granular than expected.

The amount of contaminated sediment coming out of the river falls far short of the goal: 80,000 cubic yards by Nov. 25.

And it remains uncertain whether the dredges will return to finish the job next spring. Of $9 million allocated for the project, less than $2 million remains.

"I really don't know at this point," Behrens said. "It depends how much money is left for the project and how successful or unsuccessful it has been."

Travers said the mills will have to determine how much more could be accomplished by returning to the site in spring. The mills believe they have collected the data they sought from the demonstration project, although much of it still must be analyzed.

In addition to learning [illegible] dredging should [illegible] Fox River, the mills and the DNR have monitored PCB [illegible] into the air, water and surrounding sediment.

The DNR and federal regulators say environmental dredging brings a net benefit to the river that any releases occurring during dredging are significant as the amount of contamination that continually flows through the river.

The mills argue dredging recirculates contaminants in the air and water and causes more problems than it solves.

"The goal is to see what happens. Travers said. You took one ounce out of the river and you ultimately take one ounce to the landfill. How do you take some thing less than one ounce? I mean ing you don't somewhere in the system?

Left behind

[illegible] dramatically scaled back [illegible] environmentalists who were critical the mills' hope of 80,000 cubic yards or a 20,000 cubic yard bar spot was driven by how much money the mills allocated.

They worry more that higher levels of PCBs could be exposed in areas where the dredges are pulled out early.

"It may very well end up with some areas like that being exposed at higher concentrations, but that may be the price we may have to pay," Behrens said. "That may be the price of a full-scale river cleanup as well," he said, should that ever come to pass.

"It's not all going to be done in one year obviously so we're going to end up with similar situations where you get to some point and you've got to shut down," Behrens said. "There's going to be that edge that you've dredged up to, that's going to be exposed."

Again, the DNR's expectation is that whatever exposed contaminated sediment would be lower than the estimated 600 pounds of PCBs that are swept into Green Bay every year along the river's natural currents.

Meanwhile, Behrens said the material that has been removed holds some of the highest PCB concentrations in the riverbed.

Behrens said PCB levels in sediment hauled to Fort James' landfill near Austin Straubel Airport has measured around 50 parts per million to 125 ppm. And an area of the hot spot where PCB levels were measured at up to 700 ppm before dredging began — the highest known concentration on the river — is thought to have been removed.

"I think we've gotten the really, really hot stuff out of there," Behrens said.

MISSISSIPPI MONITOR

The Newspaper Dedicated to the Mississippi River

Volume 3, Number 12 December 1999

Walleye Cancer Caused by PCBs

Walleyes in the Fox River and Green Bay have developed cancerous tumors because of chemicals that were dumped for years by paper companies, a federal environmental report concludes.

When the dangers of the chemical PCB were identified in the 1970s, a consumption advisory was put on all recreationally caught fish. The loss to anglers has been about $106 million, said David Allen, a natural resource damage assessment manager for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The agency's report surveyed anglers and concludes that they are concerned about the fish population. "Even with aggressive cleanup, the effects of PCBs in the environment are so important to this public," Allen said.

The Environmental Protection Agency wants PCB-contaminated silt to be removed from the river. State and federal studies released in February outlined options for river cleanup that cost from $150 million to $728 million and include dredging, capping and natural recovery.

The EPA could decide to exercise its "Superfund" authority, which lets the agency force a cleanup and bill responsible parties.

Paper companies widely used PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, to make carbonless paper and other products until the chemical was outlawed in 1977. PCBs have been linked to cancer, reproductive problems and poor mental development in children.

The latest reports, to be presented at a public meeting in Green Bay, looked at tumors found on walleyes' livers and ruled that they are "strongly associated with PCB exposure."

The report also studied lake trout, but found that their reproductive problems have been caused not by PCBs but by a thymine deficiency caused by the arrival of a foreign species, possibly alewives.

Green Bay Press-Gazette
SERVING AN ALL-AMERICA CITY
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1999

Dredging on Fox will end soon

PCB project met less than 40% of goals

By Susan Campbell
Press-Gazette

A PCB dredging project on the Fox River will wrap up in less than two weeks having met less than 40 percent of its goal.

Bob Behrens, project manager for the state Department of Natural Resources, said the dredge operators hope to complete those areas where dredging has started before cold weather forces an end to the project.

"We're sort of into borrowed time now," he said.

November projections that 40,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment would be removed by the time the dredges pulled out of the river were overly optimistic, Behrens said. That projection has now tipped to about 30,000 cubic yards.

"They were never able to meet the production rate they had hoped," Behrens said.

Fort James Corp. and six other mills held responsible for widespread contamination in the river are financing the pilot project to learn more about the effectiveness of large-scale dredging.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is considering listing the river as a Superfund site because of health risks posed by PCBs, chemical compounds linked with reproductive problems and deformities in wildlife, and to lowered IQs and learning skills in children exposed to elevated levels in the womb.

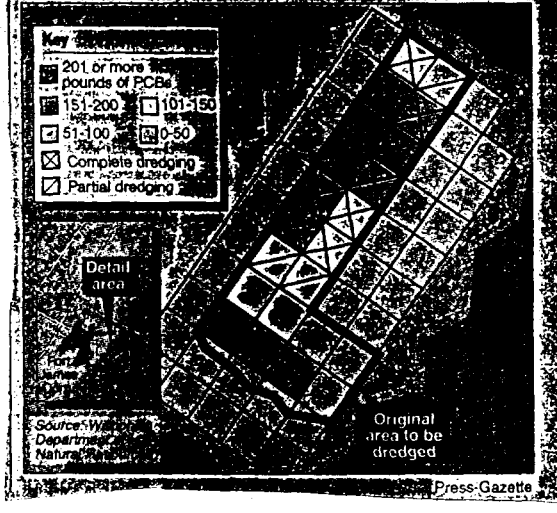
The pilot project was slowed early on by a rip in the plastic liner of one of the site's settling basins, and other delays have resulted when the dredges struck rocks, lumber and other river debris.

Mark Travers, senior project director for de maximis

Please see Fox, A-2

PCB dredging to end

A Fox River dredging project is expected to remove up to 30,000 cubic yards of PCB-tainted sediment this fall — about 50,000 cubic yards short of its goal.



Mistake made in letting polluters do PCB cleanup

Fort James Corp. was allowed control over dredging the largest PCB hot spot right next to its business. This site is estimated to have 120,000 cubic yards of PCBs in it. With only $9 million from Fort James and six other area paper mills, a goal of dredging 80,000 cubic yards of PCBs was set.

Now Fort James says it may reach only half its goal before winter. At this time, all it has dredged is 20,000 cubic yards and has only $2 million to $2.5 million left. Company officials don't know if coming back in the spring to clean out the rest of this toxic chemical will be worth it to them.

The polluters never meant to take care of even two-thirds of the hot spot with the money they had set aside for it.

Everyone should be outraged they did such a fine job of dumping this cancer- and birth defect-causing chemicals in the Fox River but now seem to be all thumbs when it comes to cleaning up their mess.

Next year they will test the area they dredged to see if it was effective. Let me ask you, what happens when you dig a hole in the middle of the river? It fills in with all the sediment and PCBs around it. So any testing they do will be inaccurate and false. The polluters know this and it is exactly what they want.

All we will learn is that giving polluters so much say in a cleanup they never wanted was foolish and devastating. Unless we all make enough noise for Superfund, the Fox River will be ruined for centuries to come.

Mistakes, at your expense, the polluters are now planning to leave at least two-thirds of the PCBs in the biggest hot spot of them all.

Alice Smith
Green Bay

The Leading Voice of Green Bay and Brown County

News-Chronicle

www.greenbaynewschronicle.com ◆ NOVEMBER 26-28, 1999

Dredging still may yield results

Air and water monitoring results should reach the Department of Natural Resources within a couple of months

By Melinda Naparalla
The News-Chronicle

Although dredging at a demonstration site in the Fox River near the Fort James Corp. West Mill is expected to fall about 50,000 cubic yards short of the goal, officials still are confident enough information was gathered to answer questions.

Dredging began Sept. 1 at the area known as Sediment Management Unit 56/57, considered the spot on the lower Fox River with the greatest concentrations of PCB-contaminated sediment.

After officials realized the demonstration was behind schedule, around-the-clock dredging began to try to meet the goal of removing 80,000 cubic yards of sediment.

Initially, it was estimated about 900 cubic yards a day could be dredged, but debris such as rocks, lumber and cables continued to jam the pipe pumping sediment to the settling basins.

"We never reached the dredging amount we hoped to," said Bob Behrens, project manager for the state Department of Natural Resources. About 300 to 350 cubic yards were dredged daily.

Please see **DREDGING**, Page 4

CLEANUP: PCBs correlate with tumors in fish

From B-1

600,000 pounds of industrial PCBs into the Fox River beginning in 1954, the seven paper companies damaged surface waters, causing contamination that far exceeds federal and state health standards.

The third conclusion in Monday's report is that PCB contamination in the river and bay correlates with cancerous tumors in the livers of walleye. Researchers found that 24 percent of the walleye from Green Bay had cancerous or precancerous tumors, compared to 6 percent of walleyes from two inland lakes – Winnebago and Patton Lake in Florence County. The incidence of tumors in both cases corresponded with levels of PCB contamination.

Researchers also looked for a connection between PCB contamination and the failure of lake trout to reproduce in Green Bay and Lake Michigan but did not find one, said Mark Holey, a Fish & Wildlife Service biologist.

Instead, Holey said, it is believed that an enzyme in invasive species eaten by the trout, such as alewives, causes thiamin deficiency in the trout, leading to reproductive failure.

Two retired paper company scientists at the meeting, Dan Hayford and Don Churchill, chastised the service for not publicizing two aspects of the walleye study – that PCBs do not cause the tumors and that fish populations are increasing.

"It only points out that there is no problem with walleyes," said Hayford.

Allen said that while PCBs don't cause the tumors, they enhance the development and growth of the tumors. Nor does the service contend that fish populations are crashing.

"I am not trying to say the sky is falling," Allen said, "but we will stand by our finding that walleye are, in fact, injured by PCBs."

This extended discussion of PCBs and tumors in walleye confused at least one person attending the meeting, and served to highlight the specific and limited role played by the Fish & Wildlife Service in the river restoration campaign.

"People do get sick from PCBs, don't they?" asked George Reif of Bowler.

Allen said that this was indeed the contention of the federal government. But questions of human health are the responsibility of the EPA and DNR, he said. The Fish & Wildlife Service is documenting injuries to water and wildlife – a natural resources damage assessment – and documenting its findings in a manner that can be defended in court.

For instance, in computing the losses suffered by recreational fishermen, the agency conducted an exhaustive survey of licensed anglers from eight counties around the bay, obtaining a 79 percent response rate. Economists hired by the service concluded that the lost value to fishermen could be set at $9.75 for each day of fishing by one angler.

"We only wanted to measure the things we could measure well, to measure those things we can defend conclusively," Allen said.

Becky Katers of the Clean Water Action Council said the study was incomplete in that it did not assess the losses suffered by those fishermen who no longer fish in the bay because of the contamination. Allen agreed, but said the service did not have unlimited funds to study every loss.

The service has repeatedly refused to disclose how much money it has spent during the years of study on the damage assessment, but it is clearly in the millions. One person at the meeting spoke of her frustration at the time and money being spent on research and the years spent waiting for action.

"They keep bringing out studies to find out stuff, and they keep finding out that the fish are full of PCBs," said Jan Moldenhauer of Oshkosh. "They keep studying it, but they don't do anything about it."

■ *The NRDA reports are available on the Internet at http:/www.fws.gov/r3pao/nrda.*

DREDGING: Cleanup planned downstream

FROM PAGE 1

Behrens expects workers will remove about 30,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment instead of the original estimate of 80,000 cubic yards.

To try to improve the output, filter presses were doubled as were the number of water treatment facilities, and the dredge was modified to pump more quickly, but the presses haven't been able to press solids as fast as the department had predicted, Behrens said.

At this point, the dredge will continue to move downstream and finish cleaning up the areas where dredging had already begun, Behrens said. He added they expect to finish up and begin removing the equipment Wednesday.

Information gathered from the dredging as well as the air and water monitors will be examined and used to determine how effective the demonstration dredging was, Behrens said.

The results of the air and water monitoring should be available to the DNR in a month or two. The information will be studied to see how successful the project was in removing contaminants and the impacts it had on the area, Behrens said.

"I think we have enough data to get the answers we wanted," he said.

The Fox River Group, the coalition of seven paper mills considered responsible for the contamination in the river, will use the information gathered from SMU 56/57 and use it in its study of the 39-miles of river contaminated by PCBs.

The Fox River Group wants to evaluate the best science overall for the river and dredging is just one element to reduce the exposure of PCBs, said Tim Weeden, regional manager of Midwest public affairs for Fort James Corp.

The DNR is experiencing problems making goals, but the whole point of a demonstration is to find out how it would work, Behrens said, adding he believes it's too early to tell what's best for the river.

Of the $9 million designated for the project, about $4.5 million is designated for dredging and about half of that amount is still available. The DNR will discuss returning to the site after all of the information is collected and examined, he said.

THE POST-CRESCENT

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Lost fish valued at $160 million

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service study concludes Green Bay fishermen want PCBs removed from the bay rather than compensation

By Ed Culhane
Post-Crescent staff writer

GREEN BAY – To compensate sport fishermen for past and future PCB contamination to fish in Green Bay would cost the polluting paper companies between $106 million and $160 million, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service reported Monday.

The variance in the figures is based on the speed of any cleanup and the amount of time it will take to remove health advisories on the consumption of fish caught in the bay. The faster the cleanup, the less the financial damage.

More significant, said Dave Allen of the Fish & Wildlife Service, is the agency's finding that sport fishermen would rather have the contamination removed than to have better fishing or reduced boat launch fees.

"The most important thing to the people who still fish in Green Bay is the immobilization of PCBs," said Allen. "So you have to do a cleanup."

The report – the latest in a series of studies conducted by the service on the effects of PCBs on wildlife in the Fox River and Green Bay – was released at a public meeting Monday in Green Bay attended by about 85 people.

The studies, which have taken years to compile, lay the legal groundwork for a federally mandated cleanup of the river. That mandate could be issued late next year, once the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the state Department of Natural Resources complete feasibility studies on the cleanup and produce a cleanup plan.

The study, a stack of papers an inch and a half thick, also concluded that by releasing more than

Please see CLEANUP, B-3

●●●

"I am not trying to say the sky is falling, but we will stand by our finding that walleye are, in fact, injured by PCBs."

DAVE ALLEN,
Fish & Wildlife Service spokesman, commenting on the contamination to the walleye population in Green Bay

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On B-4

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— Staff reports

ITTERIES

PCBs not blamed for lake trout woes

Study aims to calculate bay, river damages

By Susan Campbell
Press-Gazette

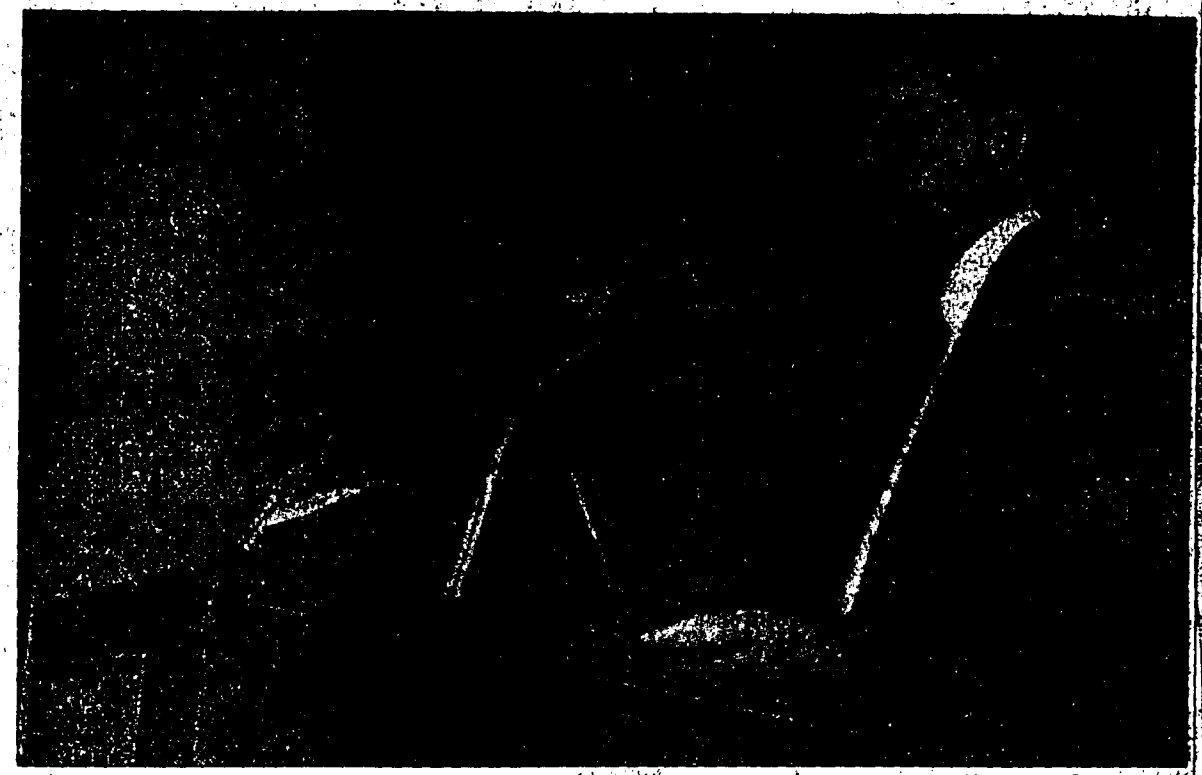
PCBs may spur tumor growth in walleye, but they are not the cause of reproductive failure in Green Bay and Lake Michigan lake trout, according to studies by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Those studies, which aim to quantify damages to area fish and wildlife stemming from the PCB-contaminated waters of Green Bay, have found nothing to link the chemical with the lake trout's inability to produce eggs that can survive in the wild.

"When we're looking at PCB damages, we cannot conclude that PCBs have caused reproductive failure in lake trout," Mark Holey, project leader in the Green Bay fisheries research office, announced at a public meeting at the Brown County Central Library Monday night.

The finding was one of several to come out of the latest in a series of reports that make up the agency's Natural Resource Damage Assessment for the Fox River and the bay.

The assessment attempts to calculate the cost of rehabilitating the river and bay, and the habitat it provides for fish, birds and animals. Once calculated, that cost will be filed as a damage claim against seven Fox River paper mills, which are held responsible for PCB discharges through papermaking and recycling processes from the 1950s-70s.



Mika Brunetta/Press-Gazette
Mark Holey, project leader in the Green Bay fisheries research office, talks about the effects of PCBs on fish in the Fox River during a slide show Monday night at the Brown County Central Library in Green Bay.

Scientists have been trying to determine why the popular lake trout has been unable to reproduce in the bay and Lake Michigan since the population crashed in the 1940s — because of the influx of the nonnative sea lamprey. Stocked lake trout can survive in the waters, but remain unable to reproduce on their own.

When Fish and Wildlife looked at the levels of polychlorinated biphenyls in lake trout and lake trout eggs, they found they weren't nearly as high as the PCB levels needed to cause reproduction problems in laboratory eggs.



Reif
Won't eat fish from Fox River



Alien
Cites subtle effects of PCBs

■ Fish and Wildlife Service to study cormorants, B-3

Holey said it has been shown that a deficiency in thiamine — or vitamin B1 — in lake trout eggs harms their viability. Because alewives and smelt both carry an enzyme in their bodies that either digests or binds up thiamine, he speculated that a lake trout eating a diet of these fish could have less thiamine to pass on to their eggs.

On the other hand, the damage assessment concludes that PCBs speed liver tumor growth in bay walleye, though they do not trigger tumors, Holey said. Finally, the assessment also includes a human component, calculated in economic losses to people who have had their use of the river compromised by chemical PCBs. The study focused on recreational anglers, as they represent the largest and most easily identified group of people affected by fish consumption advisories on the bay.

Please see PCBs, B-2

Fish/Survey: Advisories are top concern

■ From A-1

promised by chemical PCBs discharged by area paper mills.

Dick Hentz, vice president of the Green Bay chapter of Walleyes for Tomorrow, said anglers are due some sort of compensation — whether it be habitat restoration, enhanced fish-stocking programs or the like.

"There's no question of that," he said. "There's no question we have missed out because of the quality of the water we are fishing in."

Allen said he's excited about the release of the first economics report — which targets sport fishermen — because it represents never-before-seen research on an issue that often seems overflowing with studies.

"This isn't the only element of damages, but it's certainly one of the most straightforward and most important," he said.

"To cut right to the punch line, we think this study of recreational fishing damages is the most concrete and rigorous evidence to date that the PCB problem really is important to the general public."

To calculate anglers' losses in terms of dollars, the Service surveyed hundreds of anglers living in eight counties bordering on or near the Fox River and bay of Green Bay about their fishing habits and preferences.

Specifically, anglers were asked to rate the importance of higher catch rates, less stringent fish-consumption advisories and cheaper boat-ramp fees.

"The results were striking," Allen said. "It really shows dramatically how important to people the PCB problem is," Allen said. He noted that among those who fish in the river or bay today, the survey found roughly seven times more demand to lower fish-consumption advisories than to increase catch rates.

"So people who are currently fishing actually would rather have the consumption advisories lower, than increase the speed with which they can catch those fish," he said.

The study used conservative assumptions throughout, said Allen, who said Fish and Wildlife wanted a realistic and justifiable number it could stand behind.

For instance, he said the agency calculated PCB-related damages back to 1981 although it could have gone back to 1976, when the federal Superfund law went on the books and laid the foundation for the Natural Resource Damage Assessment process.

Hentz couldn't say whether $106 million is too high or low a figure.

"You can't put a dollar amount on how much the fishermen or the environment have lost because of this. You really can't," he said. "We lost."

The Fish and Wildlife study also contains information about PCB concentrations in water, sediment and fish, and considers the role PCBs may play in walleye tumors and the inability of lake trout to reproduce in bay waters.

PCBs/Advisories cover all species

■ From B-1

David Allen of Fish and Wildlife said a statistical model derived from questions asked in a 1998 survey of 3,190 anglers who fish in Green Bay found the average angler would pay $9.75 per fishing day to catch fish that are not contaminated.

When multiplied by the number of years fish consumption advisories have and will remain in place for the bay, the agency figured a conservative $108 million to $148 million in damages – depending on how many years it would take to clean the river enough to eliminate fish consumption advisories.

The dollar amount is conservative in part, Allen said, as the survey didn't take into account people who don't fish in Green Bay because of the fish consumption advisers, or local commercial fisheries that had to close down because of the contamination. Today, every species of fish that inhabits the bay and the Fox River carries a fish consumption advisory somewhere within the system.

George Reif of Shawano County is one of the untallied many who would never fish in the tainted waters of Green Bay or the Fox River. After a bad experience eating Fox River fish 40 years ago when the river was more polluted, he always heads north.

"I tried to eat the fish here on the Fox and Lake Winnebago, but I can't eat them because they tasted like paper," he said.

Don Hayford, a retired chemist from Appleton Papers, criticized the agency for focusing on walleye tumors when the walleye population is thriving in the bay.

"I am not trying to say the sky is falling ... but there are many long-term, subtle effects," Allen said. "If we try to tell people that 'You're going to lose (plant and animal life) in Green Bay because of PCBs,' that would be misleading."

Green Bay
Press-Gazette
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1999 SERVING AN ALL-AMERICA CITY

Fish advisories may cost mills millions

Study reports anglers among those affected by PCB contamination

By Susan Campbell,
Press-Gazette

Compensating sport anglers for decades of living with fish-consumption advisories on PCB-laced Fox River and bay of Green Bay fish could cost paper mills a minimum of $106 million, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says.

David Allen, overseeing river restoration studies from Fish and Wildlife's Green Bay office, said that amount represents the losses sport fishermen have experienced for the past two decades and at least two decades to come — the earliest the advisories could be lifted under the most aggressive cleanup scenario.

"If you do a slower, or a less complete cleanup, it will be more," said Allen, who said the agency pegged its predictions to the various draft cleanup scenarios the state released for comment last February.

The finding is one of several to come out in a series of reports that make up the agency's Natural Resource Damage Assessment for the river and bay. Those results will be presented at a public meeting tonight in Green Bay.

What's next

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will hold a public presentation on the release of its Fish Tissues and Economics Reports for the Fox River and Green Bay from 7 to 10 p.m. today.

The meeting will be held at the Brown County Library, 515 Pine St., Green Bay.

The reports are scheduled to be posted online today at www.fws.gov/r3pao/nrda/

The damage assessment attempts to calculate the cost of rehabilitating the river and bay, and the habitat it provides for fish, birds and animals. It also includes a human component, calculated in economic losses to recreational anglers and Indian tribes who have had their use of the river com-

Please see Fish, A-2

The Leading Voice of Green Bay and Brown County

THE BAY News-Chronicle

www.greenbaynewschronicle.com ◆ MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1999

ANNIVERSARY 27

Anniversary series begins today

Starting today and through Thursday, four special sections testify to our history and yours over the 27 years *The Green Bay News-Chronicle* has been in existence. We take a year-by-year look at that history starting today with the 1970s.

INSIDE

A great day for the great Dayne



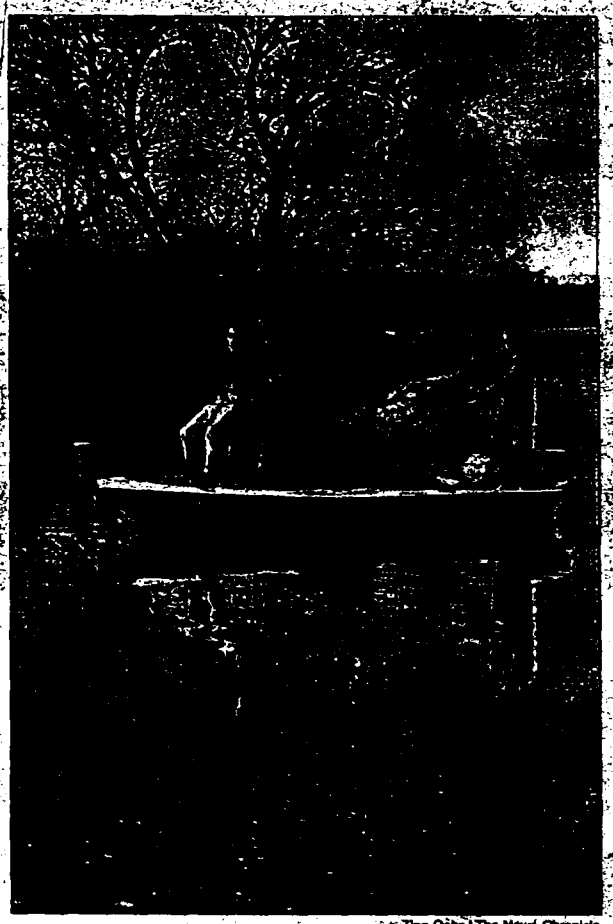
Ron Dayne's countdown to the all-time NCAA rushing record is down to two digits. He needs only 99 yards to break Ricky Williams' mark after a 222-yard day in the Badgers' 28-21 victory over Purdue. Wisconsin moved into ninth place in the Associated Press poll.

PAGE 39

Bombs aimed at peace talks

Four pipe bombs were set and three went off in a coastal town in Israel on Sunday. No one was killed but many were injured. The bombs are believed to be aimed at peace talks scheduled to begin today between Israelis and Palestinians.

PAGE 13



Tina Gohr / The News-Chronicle

BEN GOGGINS, LEFT, AND LEON ZITLOW fish the tranquil waters of the Fox River on Sunday morning near Voyageur Park in De Pere. The men said they fish only for the sport.

Sport fishing industry loses $150 million from PCBs

Every sport fish in the Fox River and the bay of Green Bay is covered by consumption advisories

By Melinda Naparalla
The News-Chronicle

Reports to be released today by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service confirm that walleyes in the Fox River and Green Bay are harmed by PCBs released by paper mills into the river from the 1950s to the 1970s, and the resulting public recreational fishing loss could reach $150 million.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will present three reports at a public meeting tonight, including a fish injury report that will expand an already-released document, a water and sediment injury report, and a report on the economic value of recreational fishing losses.

The reports are part of the Green Bay and Fox River natural resources damage assessment conducted by the federal government and the Oneida and Menominee tribes as part of the process that will determine whether the river is placed on the Superfund list.

The reports compare PCB levels in Green Bay fish to toxic levels and explain where the fish were exposed to the contaminants. At the meeting, agents will explain how the data and studies are used for making legal determinations of fish injuries, as well the implications of those studies.

Please see **FISHING**, Page 4

Bears 14, Packers 13: Complete coverage in The Final Score wraparound

THE GREEN BAY NEWS-CHRONICLE

FISHING: Report confirms cancerous tumors in walleyes

FROM PAGE 1

The Fish and Wildlife Service released a report earlier this year on the effects of PCBs that found cancerous tumors on walleyes' livers. The latest report extends those findings and includes further investigation and the cause of injuries to lake trout.

The report confirms what was already known: Walleyes from the river and bay have cancerous tumors and elevated levels of PCBs, said David Allen, Green Bay natural resource damage assessment manager for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

A larger data set shows the path of PCBs is continuous and the Fox River is the source, he said.

"Walleyes are directly injured by PCBs," Allen said.

Lake trout, on the other hand, are showing reproduction problems not from PCBs but because of a thymine deficiency that is probably connected to the invasion of foreign species into the Great Lakes, primarily alewives.

Allen said the most important point of the report is that since the problem was identified in the 1970s until now, everywhere in the river and the bay, every sport fish has a consumption advisory on it.

To more fully understand the impacts of PCBs on fish, the water and sediment also had to be studied.

Water criteria findings are all water in the Fox River and Green Bay is injured and there are widespread water-quality problems, Allen said.

The injuries to the water, sediment and fish were factored into the economic study of public recreational fishing losses.

The service looked at the effect of fish advisories on the public, including examining literature, the primary study of fish advisories and public perception of the importance of the advisories.

The survey queried active anglers — people who still fish on the river and the bay even though there are advisories — and did not include losses from people who no longer fish because of the advisories or private losses such as bait and tackle shops.

"PCBs were overwhelming to people who still fished," Allen said.

A telling finding from the report is anglers would rather have fewer advisories than be able to catch fish more quickly, he said.

From the time of contamination to now, it was determined there have been $106 million in damages, but if nothing is done the figure could reach $150 million.

"Even with aggressive cleanup, the effects of PCBs in the environment are so important to this public," Allen said.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service compiled a team of economists from across the country to examine the economic impacts.

"Only conservative assumptions were made," Allen said. "We didn't try to find every problem."

Natural resources are held in trust for the public, and they deserve to be compensated for their loss, he said.

FYI

MEETING TODAY

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has scheduled a public meeting to release its latest findings about Fox River and Green Bay fishing at 7 p.m. today, Brown County Library auditorium, 515 Pine St.

The Leading Voice of Green Bay and Brown County

THE BAY News-Chronicle

www.greenbaynewschronicle.com ◆ NOVEMBER 5-7, 1999

Fox cleanup decision near

More information on the natural recovery process is required before the choice of PCB cleanup techniques is made

By Melinda Naparalla
The News-Chronicle

Independent studies for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources have concluded enough information is available to make a final decision on how to clean up the PCB-contaminated Fox River.

But the so-called "peer review" studies, released Thursday, said more information is needed regarding a process called natural recovery.

In September 1998, EPA's contractor selected experts and formed two technical panels to review parts of the draft lower Fox River remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS).

The first panel included experts on Superfund data evaluation and decision making, and the second panel had experts on natural recovery and behavior toxic chemicals.

The panel on Superfund and decision making concluded there is adequate information to make a decision for remediation, which supports the DNR position, said Edward Lynch, environmental engineering supervisor for the state agency.

The natural recovery panel questioned if there was truly an adequate discussion of the process in the draft RI/FS and determined more information was needed.

Natural recovery, the biological breakdown of PCBs, was defined as "naturally occurring physical, chemical or biological processes that reduce the risks associated with contaminants in sedi-

Please see **FOX,** Page 4

FOX: Final study expected in spring

FROM PAGE 1

ments over time."

"We need to delve further into this issue and take to heart the detailed review of the evaluation of the natural process," Lynch said.

More information has to be gathered on the effects of natural recovery, he added. The changes and new information gathered will be included in the final RI/FS, which is expected out in spring.

The final RI/FS is taking longer because the bay is being included in the study as well as additional information from the Fox River Group that the DNR didn't receive in time to be included in the first draft.

The Fox River Group is the coalition of seven paper companies identified as responsible for discharging the PCBs into the river from the 1950s through the early 1970s.

The panel on Superfund concluded enough good data has been obtained to begin remedial actions, identify and choose a cleanup method, and determine where cleanup efforts should be concentrated.

In addition to seeking more information, the panel on natural recovery found the technical basis of natural recovery needs to be described in more detail.

A copy of the complete report is available on the Internet at www.epa.gov/region5/foxriver.

Fox/Natural recovery debated

■ From A-1

port the need for a river cleanup, and concluded it does. It also found that enough data exists to decide where cleanups should take place along the 39-mile river, and to identify and select a cleanup method.

While paper mills argue that new data should be included in the studies, the panel noted that the river is so dynamic that even new data could be outdated by the time cleanup commences.

"In other words, obtaining more data today of 'better' quality (i.e. representative of better conditions) will not ensure that the distribution of contaminants of concern has not changed prior to any remediation construction activities," it wrote.

Having said that, the panel said the existing data should be used to choose appropriate cleanup methods now, and "real time" data must be collected as the actual cleanup work gears up.

The second panel was asked to assess whether the government studies did a fair job characterizing natural recovery — the cheapest cleanup approach and the one favored by the mills.

The panel had harsh words in concluding that the studies failed in that respect. Furthermore, it wrote that the studies misrepresented natural recovery as a "walk-away," no-action alternative, when EPA's definition calls for long-term monitoring of a river's natural processes to see that it heals.

In several instances, the panel criticized the DNR and EPA for dismissing natural recovery in their studies, when the same studies reference materials that suggest there may be a strong technical basis from which to conclude that natural recovery processes will substantially reduce environmental exposures to PCBs in the Lower Fox River over time."

The panel also determined that the agencies should shore up computer modeling that predicts changes in PCB concentrations at and near the surface of the riverbed, where they pose the greatest threat of entering the food chain.

Having reliable long-term predictions are critical, the panel wrote, when the studies note that about 75 percent of the PCBs between De Pere and Green Bay are located within 10 centimeters of the surface.

"The presence of more than 95 percent of the contaminants at depths below the biologically active zone also raises concerns for active removal options that will expose and redistribute a portion of this material," the panel wrote. The sentiment echoes one often voiced by the mills, which contend dredging could expose now-buried PCBs in the riverbed.

While the panelists wrote that the studies' inadequacies raised serious questions about their quality, they also wrote that the technical reports referenced in the studies gave them more confidence about the studies' conclusions.

Dennis Hultgren, of Appleton Papers Corp. — one of the targeted mills — agreed that the studies gave weak treatment of natural recovery.

"Natural recovery is not a do-nothing alternative," he said.

"If you know natural recovery is occurring and you're lowering (PCB levels) in fish tissue and surface concentration over a period of time, you can say 'OK, that's a solution.' But if in five years we're not on that curve, or lower, then that isn't working and we ought to go back and do something more intrusive."

Grimes said that ultimately, the panels' findings will improve the final cleanup plan for the river.

"We think the document has some unfortunate wording in it," he said.

"But if you step back a little and look at it in a broader context, none of the things laid out in there are things we cannot repair, and we anticipate doing exactly that in the final version."

The agencies don't expect the additional work will delay the release of the state's proposed cleanup plan, Grimes said, which is expected out in mid-May.

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Avoiding the Freshmen 15

College students may find those fast foods and munchies are tipping the scale. **D-1**

INSIDE

Flanagan signs extension

The Packers' backup center signs a deal that will keep him in Green Bay through the 2001 season. **C-1**

Reviews differ on studies of Fox options

Peer groups weigh in on cleanup

BY SUSAN CAMPBELL
PRESS-GAZETTE

Two independent scientific panels assessing state and federal studies of possible Fox River cleanup options gave the studies mixed reviews.

One peer review panel found that the quality and quantity of Fox River data is adequate to support the need for cleanup action on the river, and that enough data exists to begin remediation.

But a second panel found that the government failed to adequately assess natural recovery — allowing the river to heal itself — as a viable cleanup option.

■ OPINION: Residents are tired of cleanup delay, A-7

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which contracted both peer reviews, released the results Thursday.

"It's not uncommon, but it certainly is not done in every case," Robert Grimes, assistant regional counsel for EPA's Region 5 office in Chicago, said of the reviews.

"We just thought that because of the controversy surrounding this case it would be a wise thing for us to do this and get an independent outside review of some of the questions that came out of the (studies)," he said.

Those studies, released in February by the state Department of Natural Resources, outlined preliminary cleanup scenarios for the PCB-contaminated Fox River that range from $150 million to $728 million. Included among the options were dredging, capping, and natural recovery.

The EPA hired an outside firm, Roy F. Weston Inc. of Vernon Hills, Ill., to assemble both three-member expert panels. Grimes said Weston chose what data to give the panelists and wrote up the findings for both.

The first panel looked at whether existing Fox River data is of sufficient quality to support the state and federal cleanup studies now under way.

Seven paper mills that are held responsible for the polychlorinated biphenyls in the riverbed today have challenged the government data, saying much of it is outdated because it is 10 years old.

The panel broadened its inquiry to assess whether adequate data exists to sup-

Please see Fox, A-2

Our mission:
"The *Press-Gazette* strives, as it has since 1915, to be the primary provider of information in Northeastern Wisconsin. Keeping the welfare and development of the Greater Green Bay area at heart is our responsibility, to provide a forum for free and open expression of diverse opinions while maintaining the public trust necessary to serve our readers, advertisers, employees and stockholders."

OPINION

IN OUR VIEW

Residents tired of Fox River cleanup delay

■ Issue:
Survey showing support for EPA Superfund listing.

■ Our view:
We still support local control of the cleanup, but believe mills, politicians must pay attention to poll

Sensible public policy must be based on hard facts, not sentiment reflected in opinion polls. That is particularly true in complex environmental situations such as the Fox River cleanup.

But careful polling can provide a context in which to view environmental controversies. A new survey in regard to the river has done just that.

At issue is the removal of an estimated 63,000 pounds of polychlorinated byphenyls left in more than 30 miles of the Fox's bed by seven riverside paper mills processing carbonless paper from the 1950s to the 1970s. PCBs, ingested by humans primarily by eating fish, have been linked to health risks, especially for women of child-bearing age and their children.

In September, the St. Norbert College Survey Center questioned 424 Brown County adults about their views on the Fox River. Fully 70 percent of those polled support a federal Superfund listing. That would put the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, rather than state and local governments, in charge of a cleanup.

We continue to support a nonfederal effort because the Superfund takes the cleanup out of local hands and can lead to agonizing and costly delays as complex scientific and economic issues are sorted through adversarial court proceedings.

But we agree with the interpretation given survey results by Chris Borich, the college's survey center director.

"EPA's justification for putting (the river) on the priority list was that nothing was getting done," he told Susan Campbell, *Press-Gazette* environmental reporter. "Maybe that's in the public eye right now, that this thing's been around and a problem for a while, so why not take a major step to cleaning it up?"

Our further reading of poll results is that Brown County residents are knowledgeable about the river. Significant numbers use the river for fish and recreation. They know water quality has improved, but is still poor.

But they — women in particular — are wary of PCB-related health risks. They are keenly aware that years of research, modelling and debate have done little to remove significant quantities of PCBs. We believe, too, that county residents fully understand that delaying a cleanup will only allow PCB contamination to spread from the river into Green Bay and Lake Michigan.

Local leaders, state officials and decision-makers for the seven paper mills must pay attention to the poll. It can't replace the sound science needed to make wise decisions on a huge project. But the poll shows that people in Brown County understand the situation. They are tired of delay and want remedial action, even if that means shifting control from local to federal hands.

Green Bay
Press-Gazette
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Boss' comeback worth the wait

Milwaukee will be the 'Lucky Town' when Bruce Springsteen and E Street Band, on a reunion tour, take the Bradley Center stage. **MORE Section, D-1**

www.greenbaypressgazette.com 50 CENTS

Dredging project might meet only half of its goal



Steve Levin/Press-Gazette

The project to dredge PCBs from the Fox River is behind schedule, and it appears only about half of the sediment slated for removal from the river will be taken out by the time cold weather forces closure of the project.

Time, money limit amount of sediment removed

By Susan Campbell
Press-Gazette

As much as half the contaminated sediment slated for removal may be left behind in the Fox River when cold weather forces a close to a pilot dredging project outside Fort James Corp.'s West Mill this month.

Not known is whether there will be enough money to finish the job in spring, project managers for paper mills and the state Department of Natural Resources announced Wednesday.

Mark Travers, of the environmental consulting firm de maximis inc., estimated that 40,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment could be removed from the river before it freezes.

The goal had been to remove 80,000 cubic yards by Thursday, Nov. 25, but Travers said during a news conference at the dredge site that delays have slowed work since it began Sept. 1.

Fort James and six other area mills held responsible for widespread PCB contamination in the river are financing the pilot project to learn more about the effectiveness of large-scale dredging on the Fox River.

About 20,000 cubic yards and 800 truckloads of contaminated sediment have been removed to date, and about $2 million to $2.5 million remains of a $9 million budget paper mills set aside for the project.

That money is enough to carry the work through the

Please see Goal, A-2

Drug costs outpacing inflation

Group says seniors having trouble affording medicine

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Prices for the drugs older Americans use most often have been soaring far above the overall rate of inflation — more than four times higher last year — says an advocacy group that wants prescription benefits added to Medicare.

"More and more seniors are finding the cost of these drugs unaffordable," said Ron Pollack, executive director of Families USA, which released a study of drug prices Wednesday.

In 1998, wholesale prices for 50 prescriptions commonly filled by the elderly rose by 6.6 percent even though the overall inflation rate that year was just 1.6 percent, according to the study.

The research also found that in the five-year period between January 1994 and January 1999, prices for the same prescriptions rose 25.2 percent, nearly double inflation generally, which was 12.8 percent.

Responding to the study, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America said the drug industry plows 21 percent of its revenues back into research to find new cures and treatments.

"Any time a senior lacks access to our medicines, the pharmaceutical industry is concerned," said the association in a written statement.

The statement also contended that the Families USA study is skewed by a few drugs that have seen unusually big markups in recent years.

The study, conducted by University of Minnesota researchers, measured changes in the wholesale price of a year's supply of drugs at common dosages.

Older people tend to need drugs more often but at the same time are among the most likely to be without insurance coverage for them.

Medicare, the nation's health insurance program for the elderly, does not currently cover prescriptions, and about 14 million retirees have no private drug coverage.

Goal/Project has been plagued by setbacks

■ From A-1

end of the season, Travers said, but it's too early to predict whether any will be left in the spring.

Bob Behrens, project manager for the DNR, said steps are being taken to seal off those areas within the site as they are worked on to prevent high-level polychlorinated biphenyls from being exposed in the sediment that is left behind.

"What we're trying to do is make sure we leave the least amount of exposure we can, knowing that we're probably not going to get all of it out this fall," he said.

"Is that going to be a significant risk? I don't know. That's open to interpretation, I guess," he said.

The biggest setback occurred when a plastic liner for one of the site's settling basins was ripped by a piece of equipment, putting the basin out of commission for three weeks.

A clay liner below added another layer of protection, but it will be inspected for any contamination at the close of the project.

Cables, rocks, lumber and other debris in the river also caused delays, Travers said.

To make up for lost time, dredging has been expanded to 24 hours a day as opposed to only daytime hours, and the number of some on-site equipment has been doubled.

> "The (mills) are going to have to make a decision next spring based on how much money is left from the project, if it's worthwhile trying to come back, or if they want to put more money into it."
>
> — **Bob Behrens,** DNR project manager

> "Those mills ought to step forward and come up with the cash needed to clean up that hot spot. They cannot leave the most contaminated site in the river half-done, or one-third done."
>
> — **Emily Green,** Sierra Club spokeswoman

Travers said the goal is to boost production at the site to 900 cubic yards of material a day, from approximately 300 to 500 cubic yards today.

Whether work will resume next spring at the river's hottest hot spot — where PCB concentrations reach up to 700 parts per million — is anybody's guess.

"The (mills) are going to have to make a decision next spring based on how much money is left from the project, if it's worthwhile trying to come back, or if they want to put more money into it," Behrens said.

Returning to the site in the spring could grow more costly, he said, if the contractors remove equipment from the site this fall and have to return it after the river thaws.

Meanwhile, Travers stressed that the mills' goal for the project was not a cleanup, but to learn more about dredging on the Fox River in order to inform cleanup studies for the whole river. The mills could determine they have sufficient information when the project shuts down this month, he said.

In an agreement with the DNR in July, Fort James allocated $2 million to the project when it was learned the original budget of $7 million would scale removal down to 45,000 cubic yards. DNR officials said at the time that cutting the project back that much would be unsafe as it could expose high levels of PCBs in the riverbed.

The agreement also included a clause that precluded Fort James from returning to the site to remove more PCBs after the 80,000 cubic yards of sediment were removed.

Behrens said Wednesday that because the agreement stipulated the removal of 80,000 cubic yards, it shouldn't stand in the way of completing the job in the spring if deemed necessary.

Further, he said the remainder could be removed during a larger river cleanup sometime in the future.

Emily Green of the Sierra Club's Midwest office in Madison said even if the mills were to allocate enough money to complete the job, it would still leave behind one-third of the 120,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment near Fort James.

"It was dropped from a full cleanup of that site to 80,000 cubic yards because of money, and now it's down to 40,000," she said.

"Those mills ought to step forward and come up with the cash needed to clean up that hot spot," Green said. "They cannot leave the most contaminated site in the river half-done, or one-third done."

The Leading Voice of Green Bay and Brown County

THE BAY News-Chronicle

www.greenbaynewschronicle.com THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1999



Marc Larson / The News-Chronicle

WORK CONTINUES ON THE PILOT DREDGING project on the Fox River near the Fort James Corp. West Mill on Wednesday afternoon.

Fox dredging project fights the calendar

The pilot project experienced setbacks that lowered output to one-third to one-half the original goal

By Melinda Naparalla
The News-Chronicle

Despite dredging 24 hours a day, seven days a week, it appears only about half of the estimated 80,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment will be removed from the Fox River near the Fort James Corp. West Mill.

Dredging began Sept. 1 in the area known as Sediment Management Unit 56/57, considered the spot on the lower Fox with the greatest concentrations of PCB-contaminated sediment.

Officials said during a media tour of the area Wednes-

Please see **DREDGING**, Page 5

DREDGING: Crews have removed 20,000 cubic yards

FROM PAGE 1

day that unforeseen problems have kept crews from dredging the goal of 900 cubic yards a day. The goal was to be done with a good portion of the project by the end of October, said Mark Travers, senior project director from De Maximis Inc., an environmental project management company based in Illinois.

Travers said about 20,000 cubic yards of sediment have been removed and 800 truck loads taken to the company landfill near Austin Straubel International Airport.

The goal is still to remove 80,000 cubic yards, he said. Both Travers and Bob Behrens, project manager for the state Department of Natural Resources, said it's too early to tell if they will return to the site in the spring if the goal isn't met.

"I don't know if we will finish this year," Travers said. "We'll have to wait and see where we are at the end of this year."

Originally the dredging was confined to daylight hours, but once the project got behind schedule, the project switched to round-the-clock.

The site now features double filter presses and double the amount of water treatment facilities, and the dredge was modified to pump more quickly, Travers said.

For much of the past two months, only about 300 to 500 cubic yards have been dredged daily because debris such as rocks, cables and lumber would become stuck in the pipe that brought the sediment to settling basins, he said.

The project also faced an operational problem when the dredge in one of the settling basins tore the basin's primary liner and had to be shut down for three weeks until the rip was repaired. The clay liner underneath the primary liner was unharmed.

If the production rate is around 900 cubic yards a day, about half of the original goal will be removed, Travers said. Since the dredging increased to 24 hours a day, there have been days where 1,200 cubic yards have been removed.

Doug McLaughlin, a scientist from an engineering firm called BBL, said this site is probably one of the few cases where monitors are trying to look at and understand the environmental effects of a dredge project of this magnitude.

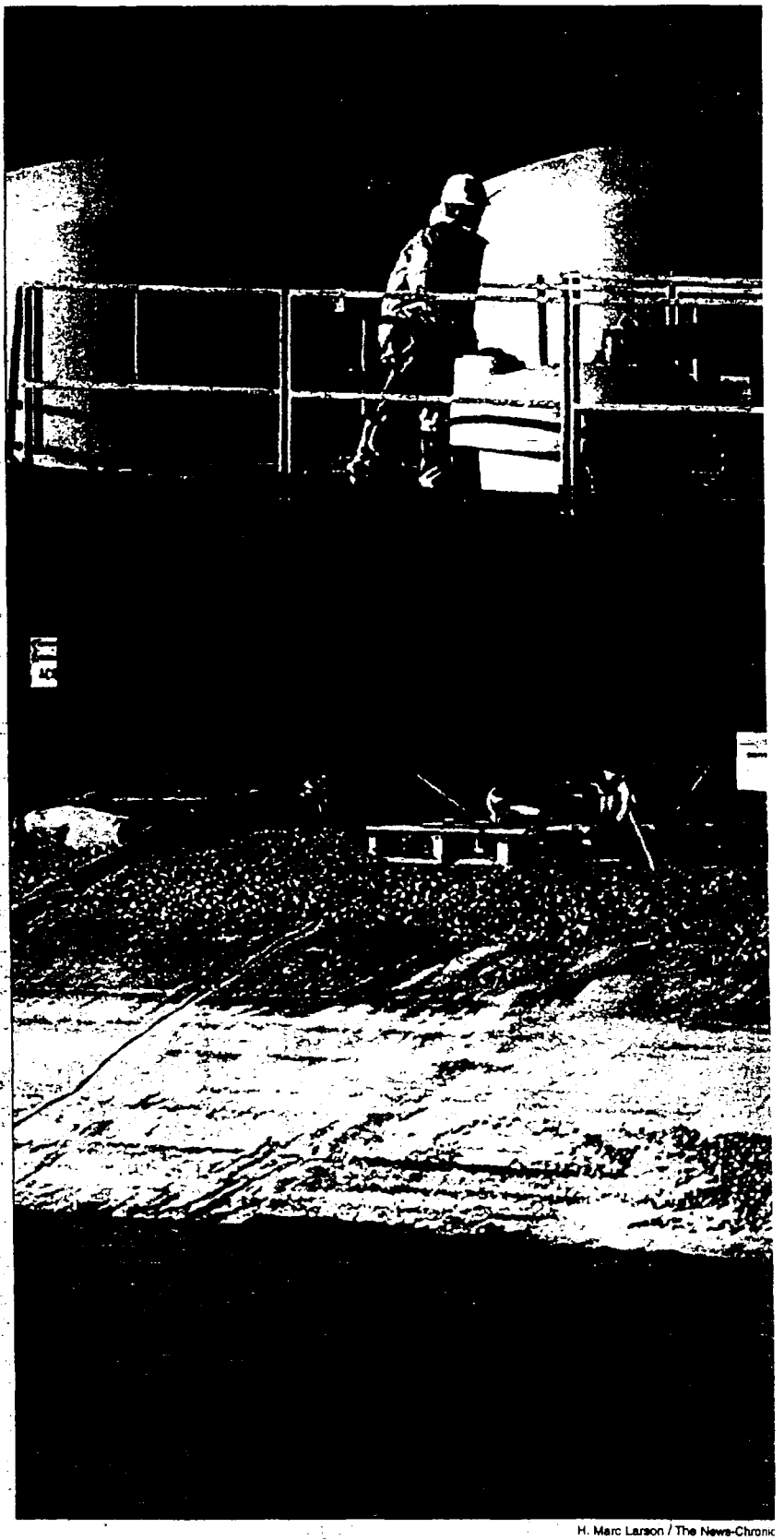
This gives the groups involved an opportunity to answer questions, but those questions won't be answered for a few months until the data is gathered and analyzed, he said.

On Oct. 1, an aerial photo was taken showing some cloudy water in and near the site, but that could be caused by anything from a change in flow direction to traffic on the river, McLaughlin said.

Of the $9 million designated for the project, about $4.5 million is designated for dredging and about half of that amount is still available.

Fort James donated $2 million more to the project with the clause that when the 80,000 cubic yards was removed, the project would not return to that area.

Behrens said from the DNR perspective the original agreement said 80,000 cubic yards would be removed and if that's removed, the agency won't go back without a reason.



H. Marc Larson / The News-Chronic

A TECHNICIAN WORKS AT the water treatment facility of the pilot PCB dredging project near th the Fort James Corp. West Mill on Wednesday.

GREEN BAY

Comments sought on Fort James project

The Department of Natural Resources has received an application from the Fort James Operating company, 1919 S. Broadway, for a permit to place a structure on the bed of the Fox River.

The structure would be a self-recording acoustic meter on the bed of the river to monitor river currents and will either be jetted into the riverbed or placed on the bed at a depth of 18 feet. The meter will be in a 25-inch long, 12-inch wide PVC pipe.

Written or verbal comments can be sent to Michael Hanaway at the DNR Green Bay area service center, 801 E. Walnut St., Green Bay, WI 54301 or by phone at 448-5166 by Nov. 12.

Author: "Swanson, Gregory W" <SwansG@mail01.dnr.state.wi.us> at FWS
Date: 11/04/1999 2:08 PM
Normal
BCC: David P Allen at 3MS-GBFO
TO: "Baker, Bruce J" <BakerB@mail01.dnr.state.wi.us> at FWS,
"Behrens, Robert D" <BehreR@mail01.dnr.state.wi.us> at FWS,
"'Bill.Briana@epamail.epa.gov'" <Bill.Briana@epamail.epa.gov> at FWS,
"'David_P_Allen@fws.gov'" <David_P_Allen@fws.gov> at FWS,
"Hill, Gregory A" <HillG@mail01.dnr.state.wi.us> at FWS,
"Lynch, Edward K" <LynchE@mail01.dnr.state.wi.us> at FWS,
"'Pastor.Susan@epamail.epa.gov'" <Pastor.Susan@epamail.epa.gov> at FWS,
"Polczinski, Leonard" <PolczL@mail01.dnr.state.wi.us> at FWS,
"Warzecha, Charles" <WARZECJ@dhfs.state.wi.us> at FWS
Subject: PM News
---------- Message Contents

<<...>> <<...>>
Dredging experiment may not resume next year
Last Updated: Nov. 4, 1999 at 12:06:58 a.m.
GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) - There may not be enough money to finish a project to
dredge polluted silt from northeastern Wisconsin's Fox River in the spring
if the effort is not completed by the end of the year, the Department of
Natural Resources says.
The paper mills on the river that dumped PCBs, polychlorinated biphenyls,
into the river before they were banned in the 1970s are funding the pilot
project that may determine the merits of dredging. But mechanical problems
and river rubbish have set back the effort.
"I don't know if we will finish this year," said project director Mark
Travers from Illinois-based De Maximis Inc. "We'll have to wait and see
where we are at the end of this year."
Removing equipment from the site this fall and then returning it after the
river thaws in the spring could be more costly, Bob Behrens, project manager
for the state DNR, said Wednesday.
"The (mills) are going to have to make a decision next spring based on how
much money is left from the project, if it's worthwhile trying to come back,
or if they want to put more money into it," Behrens said.
But the project's delay will not set back the DNR's report on how to clean
up the river that is expected to be released next spring, Behrens said
Thursday.
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency wants a 39-mile portion of the
river from Lake Winnebago downstream to Green Bay cleansed of PCBs. The EPA

could sue the paper companies to pay for the cleanup.
Digging began Sept. 1 at a site considered to have the river's greatest
concentration of PCBs, which poison aquatic life and are suspected of
causing cancer.
The dredging project near a Fort James Corp. paper mill has a removal goal
of 80,000 cubic yards of sediment.
Unanticipated difficulties, including a dredge that broke through a settling
basin liner, have kept crews from dredging a goal of 900 cubic yards a day,
Travers said
For much of the last two months, only about 300 to 500 cubic yards have been
dredged daily because rocks, cables, lumber and other trash get stuck in
suction pipes, Travers said.
About 20,000 cubic yards has been removed and 800 truck loads taken to a
dump near Austin Straubel International Airport, Travers said.
The mills did not intend their project to clean up the river, but to learn
more about dredging on the Fox River in order to provide information for
cleanup studies for the whole river, Travers said. The mills could determine
they have enough information when the project shuts down this month, he
said.
The companies say the polluted sediment has been covered by clean silt and
should be left undisturbed.
Even if the mills completed the job, it would still leave behind one-third
of the 120,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment near the Fort James
plant, said Emily Green of the Sierra Club's Midwest office in Madison.
"It was dropped from a full cleanup of that site to 80,000 cubic yards
because of money, and now it's down to 40,000," she said. "Those mills ought
to step forward and come up with the cash needed to clean up that hot spot,"
Green said. "They cannot leave the most contaminated site in the river
half-done, or one-third done."
But Behrens said sediment left over after the project is completed could be
removed during a larger river cleanup in the future.

Email / Print this story
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Author: "Swanson, Gregory W" <SwansG@mail01.dnr.state.wi.us> at FWS
Date: 11/04/1999 8:28 AM
Normal
BCC: David P Allen at 3MS-GBFO
TO: "Baker, Bruce J" <BakerB@mail01.dnr.state.wi.us> at FWS,
"Behrens, Robert D" <BehreR@mail01.dnr.state.wi.us> at FWS,
"'Bill.Briana@epamail.epa.gov'" <Bill.Briana@epamail.epa.gov> at FWS,
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"Hill, Gregory A" <HillG@mail01.dnr.state.wi.us> at FWS,
"Lynch, Edward K" <LynchE@mail01.dnr.state.wi.us> at FWS,
"'Pastor.Susan@epamail.epa.gov'" <Pastor.Susan@epamail.epa.gov> at FWS,
"Polczinski, Leonard" <PolczL@mail01.dnr.state.wi.us> at FWS
Subject: The Latest News
---------- Message Contents

Dredging experiment slowed by problems
Last Updated: Nov. 4, 1999 at 3:59:38 a.m.
GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) - Mechanical problems and river rubbish have
contributed to setbacks for a project that may determine the merits of
dredging polluted silt from northeastern Wisconsin's Fox River.
Unanticipated difficulties have kept crews from dredging a goal of 900 cubic
yards a day, project director Mark Travers said Wednesday.
Digging began Sept. 1 at a site considered to have the river's greatest
concentration of PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls), which poison aquatic life
and are suspected of causing cancer.
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency wants a 39-mile portion of the
river from Lake Winnebago downstream to Green Bay cleansed of PCBs.
Paper companies, whose riverside mills are blamed for some of the pollution,
could be sued by the EPA to pay for the cleanup.
PCBs are no longer used. The companies say the polluted sediment has been
covered by clean silt and should be left undisturbed.
They are helping fund dredging experiments to determine the effectiveness of
the technique.
The dredging project near a Fort James Corp. paper mill has a removal goal
of 80,000 cubic yards of sediment.
For much of the last two months, only about 300 to 500 cubic yards have been
dredged daily because rocks, cables, lumber and other trash get stuck in
suction pipes, Travers said.
Another problem involved a dredge that broke through a settling basin liner
and had to be shut down three weeks, he said.
Travers, senior project director from De Maximis Inc., an environmental

project management company based in Illinois, said about 20,000 cubic yards
has been removed and 800 truck loads taken to a dump near Austin Straubel
International Airport.
Bob Behrens, project manager for the state Department of Natural Resources,
said it is too soon to say how the DNR will react if the goal of 80,000
cubic yards is not met.
"I don't know if we will finish this year," Travers said. "We'll have to
wait and see where we are at the end of this year."

Email / Print this story

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Bay added to Fox River PCB cleanup studies

By Susan Campbell
Press-Gazette

Once a poor stepsister to the Fox River, the bay of Green Bay — all 2,700 square miles of it — now will be incorporated into state PCB cleanup studies.

The state Department of Natural Resources is complying with a federal request to add bay cleanup options and costs to earlier scenarios that had featured only the lower Fox River.

The decision puts the bay — its waters, sediment, fish and wildlife — on the map in terms of evaluating the spread of polychlorinated biphenyls from papermaking-related discharges.

But it doesn't mean the PCBs in the bay will be addressed when all is said and done, according to both the DNR and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which recommended the studies.

"Expanding the scope of the study to include Green Bay should, by no means, be taken as an indicator that EPA envisions large-scale cleanup of the bay," Francis Lyons, EPA region 5 administrator, said in a prepared statement.

"We do need to know what the PCB impacts have been and what needs to be done to reduce additional environmental pollution in the future."

Bob Paulson, an environmental toxicologist with the DNR, said that in the coming months, the agency will attempt to define the extent of PCB contamination in the bay, potential health risks and cleanup options.

The scope of the studies will include the entire bay, which measures about 23 miles across and stretches 119 miles from the city of Green Bay north to Michigan's Garden Peninsula.

Paulson said the DNR left the bay out of cleanup studies the agency released in February, believing a bay cleanup would not be fea ble.

About 19,000 pounds PCBs are said to be lodged bay sediments, about half them concentrated in a mile zone near Dyckesvi But Paulson noted findi that the chemicals are d persed so widely an estim ed 52 million cubic yards

Please see PCB, B

PCB/ Reports delayed until May

From B-1

diment would have to be edged to remove them. Furthermore, he said PCB con- ntrations in the bay are low mpared to those found in the r River — measuring around 2 rts per million in the bay to andreds of parts per million in e river.

"You don't get the amount of ng for your buck," Paulson said a bay cleanup. "We understand e EPA's need and desire to do ls, but we don't think it was re- lly necessary."

Cleanup plan pushed back

Incorporating the bay studies is expected to delay the release of he state's proposed cleanup plan until mid-May 2000, a document originally expected out for public comment in late December.

It also drives up the cost, though the EPA is financing all of the studies through its Superfund program. The agency allocated $1.5 million to the project this week and plans to allocate another $1 million this year, for a total of $4.5 million overall.

The bay already is being looked at in terms of PCB-related damages to fish and wildlife, part of a Natural Resource Damage Assessment under way by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. That assessment will result in a damage claim against the paper companies seeking money that would be used to restore losses to people and wildlife — but not for PCB cleanup.

Jim Hahnenberg of the EPA said the DNR studies may show that removing or capping contaminants in the bay is uneconomical.

"But in order to make that determination, we have to go through a rigorous scientific analysis. You can't just do it by gut feel," he said. "Knowing that there are, in fact, negative contaminant effects on Green Bay fish, waters and sediments, it just becomes obvious that it's something that must be evaluated in terms of the Superfund process."

Cleanup costs could rise

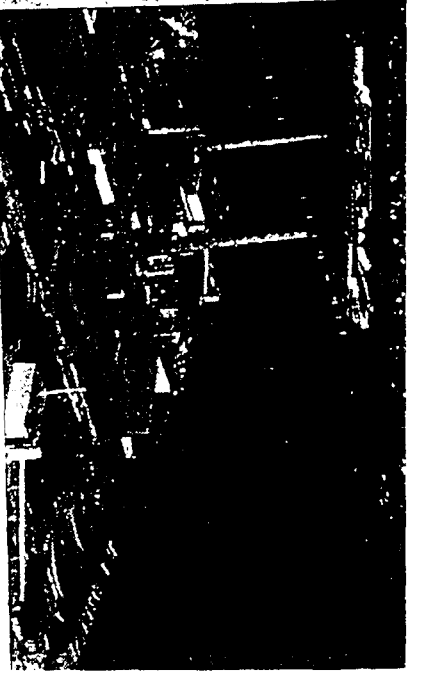
Paulson, however, worries that including potential cleanup costs for the bay along with river cleanup costs will inflate the overall price tag — even if a bay cleanup never materializes.

Cleanup opponents, including the paper mills that would foot the bill, are likely to use that in arguing against even a river cleanup, he said.

Mark Lindley, spokesman for Fort James Corp., said he wasn't aware that Green Bay was added to the cleanup studies. But he said the mills continue to disagree with the underlying contention of all of the studies that PCBs from the Fox River flow into the bay.

"As we've said time and tim again, our view — based on wh our scientists and engineers ha shown us — is that the river is n depositional. So we don't see ho those (PCBs) could have ended t in Green Bay," Lindley said.

"Obviously, that's somethi that the EPA feels different about."



Steve Lavin/Press-Gazet

Dredging continues on the Fox River beside the Fort James Wes mill this week. Cleanup studies for the Fox River have been e panded to assess whether a cleanup of Green Bay is feasible.

Inside

m Blaney, former coroner
d colorful local politician;
os.

On B-3

BRIEFLY

GREEN BAY

Cleanup studies to include bay

The release of the state's proposed cleanup plan for Fox River PCBs, expected out late this year, will be delayed until late spring 2000 now that the project scope has been broadened.

The delay will allow time for the state Department of Natural Resources to expand the scope of its cleanup studies to include the bay of Green Bay. Until now, the state's studies have focused exclusively on the Fox River.

Specifically, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has requested that the DNR include a remedial investigation, cleanup feasibility study and risk assessment for human and ecological health for the bay. Similar studies have already been done for 39 miles of the Fox River.

Pilot dredging project wraps up; another eyed

By Susan Campbell
Press-Gazette

A pilot project dredging PCBs from the Fox River near Kimberly has been completed within its $4.5 million budget, and state officials are using the leftover funds to attack another nearby hot spot.

The state Department of Natural Resources announced Tuesday that since August, about 7,500 cubic yards of contaminated sediment have been removed from the that hot spot, known as Deposit N. It was the second go-around at that site after cold weather forced the project's shutdown last fall.

"We're ahead of schedule and under budget and since we have the equipment and the contractor on site, we decided to go ahead," Bill Fitzpatrick, project manager for the DNR, said of the decision to dredge another spot across the river. "We'll do as much as we can."

Fitzpatrick said that hot spot — known as Deposit O — is substantial, but has lower PCB concentrations than Deposit N: around 2 parts per million, compared with around 45 ppm at Deposit N. The PCB levels are low enough at Deposit O that he said it would not have been economical to dredge the site if the equipment and contractor were not already there.

The deposit contains about 8,000 cubic yards of sediment laced with about 6 to 10 pounds of PCBs. Fitzpatrick said the agency should have enough money to remove about 1,000 cubic yards of sediment and 1 to 2 pounds of PCBs. That may not sound like much, he said, until one considers that 1 pound of PCBs can contaminate more than 1 million pounds of fish.

"Every little bit helps," Fitzpatrick said. "Every pound we get out of the river is a pound that won't get in the fish and threaten human health."

Information collected at both sites, as well as from a much larger pilot river dredging project that paper mills are funding outside Fort James Corp.'s West Mill, ultimately will be included in a DNR proposal for a whole river cleanup.

Fox Clips - Vol. 15

August 5 - October 22, 1999

Appleton Post-Crescent, GB Press Gazette, GB News Chronicle, Miscellaneous

Sorry it took me so long to get this stack out. (I've been working on press releases..... ☺

- √ Paper companies arrange for "independent" peer review of computer models
- √ Brown County residents back Superfund cleanup
- √ Paper companies angry that DNR sat out NAS meetings
- √ Several articles about paper industry reorganizations, stocks, etc. mergers, etc.
- √ Small group of Oneida protest at Ft. James landfill
- √ State-lead NRDA blasted
- √ Misc. on Deposit N and 56/57
- √ EPA outreach gets mixed reviews in recent focus groups (By the way, HQ will be issuing the final report on this soon which I will share)

Bri

Routing: (if your name is next to someone's, pls share)
Milt Clark/Brenda Jones/Jim Hahnenberg (SR-6)
Shirley Dorsey/Mary Canavan (R-19J)/Phil Hoffman
Roger Grimes (CA-14J)
Bill Muno (S-6J)
Frank Lyons/Dave Ullrich (R-19J)

THE POST-CRESCENT

REGIONAL

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Landfill to take more PCBs

With Deposit N near completion, DNR to dredge at new location

By Alex Hummel
For The Post-Crescent

OSHKOSH – Up to another 2,000 tons of low-level PCB-contaminated Fox River sediments will be buried at Sunnyview landfill north of Oshkosh as the state Department of Natural Resources prepares to tap into a new deposit directly north of Deposit N between Kimberly and Little Chute.



ALEX FITZPATRICK

The new Deposit O site sediments contain only two parts per million of PCB contaminants compared to the 15 ppm load scooped out of the river at Deposit N, said Alex Fitzpatrick.

The landfill, under a Solid Waste Management Board and DNR contract, can receive only sediments with PCB levels below 50 ppm – the benchmark for "toxic" concentrations.

The Deposit N project was restarted in August after an early freeze last fall halted dredging at the site. Now that project is near completion.

Nearly 4,000 tons of Deposit N sediment have been trucked to the landfill since the project began. A joint contract between the Solid Waste Management Board and the DNR limits the amount of sediments the landfill can receive to 100,000 tons.

About 975 tons were brought to the landfill through December 1998. Another 3,000 tons were shipped between August and October of this year.

The new project, although smaller in scope, is similar to Deposit N, said Len Polczinski, a DNR Bureau of Waste Management manager.

"When you look at the characteristics of Deposit O and Deposit N, they are the same sediments," he said. "If the (Fox River) channel wouldn't have split (the sites) apart, they would have been the same deposit."

Deposit O Project Manger Bill Fitzpatrick said work has begun at the new site.

Because of its proximity to Deposit N and that project's quick finish under budget, the DNR

Please see PCB, B-3

PCB: DNR dredges Deposit O

From B-1

decided to dig into Deposit O while it had the equipment and time to do it, Fitzpatrick said.

"We have an opportunity here to do more good with our equipment and treatment site. The contractor is already mobilized so it just seemed prudent," he said.

Fitzpatrick said the Deposit O sediments will be handled and stored at the landfill in the same manner as was the Deposit N material.

Sediments are encapsulated under several layers of clay, fabricated membranes and soil. They are stacked on 60 feet to 80 feet of other landfill waste and never come into contact with the earth.

The dewatering and stabilization processes sediments undergo to contain the PCBs before they reach the landfill also tame any heavy-metals threats, Fitzpatrick said.

But concerned Town of Oshkosh resident Michael Potopinski wasn't satisfied when he attended the county Solid Waste Management Board's Wednesday morning meeting.

"He's blowing smoke," Potopinski said after learning of Fitzpatrick's comments.

Potopinski said he's more concerned about the concentrations of heavy metals and toxic dioxins than about the low-level PCBs. "I don't care how much they get rid of," he said. "I want to know how much is already in the landfill.

"It's the stuff that gets through that kills," he said, noting that heavy metals and dioxins are more apt to leach into soil.

Potopinski was concerned his well water may one day be affected by the sediment-storage project.

"It's not going to hurt anybody in my age, but the next two generations from now Oshkosh may be a toxic waste site," he said.

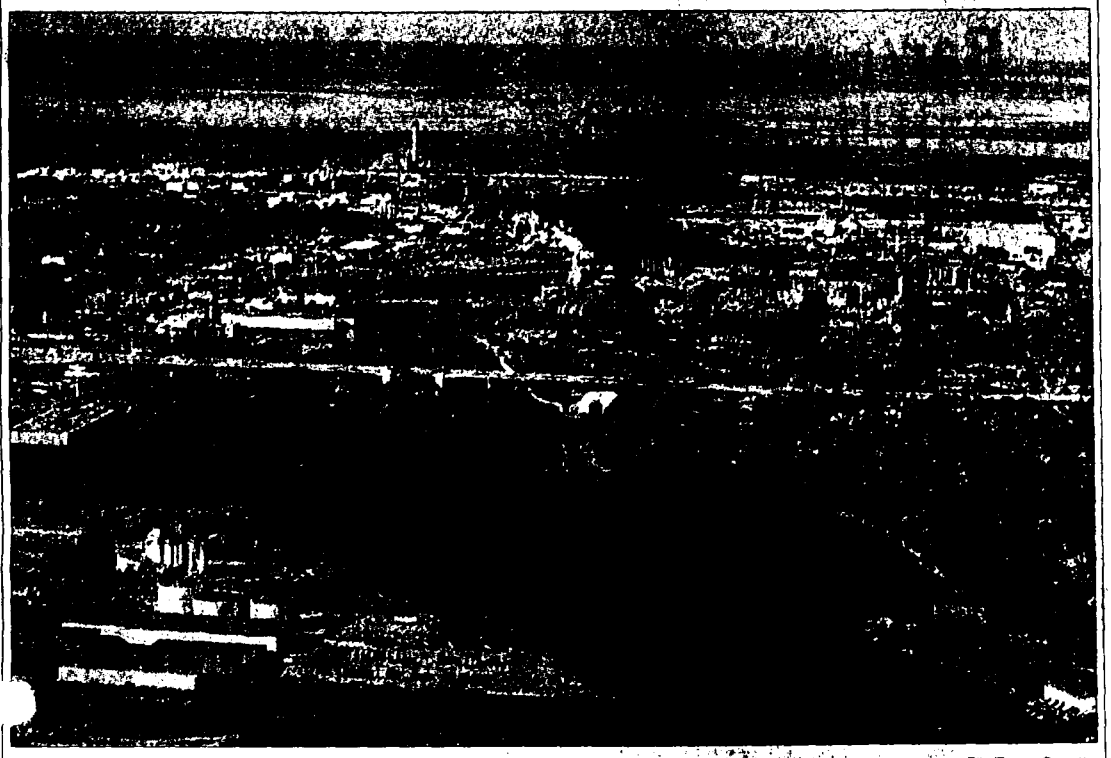
The board voted unanimously to fold references of the Deposit O project into its contract already specifying receipt of PCBs from Deposit N.

Fitzpatrick said the Deposit O project could be completed within one or two weeks.

■ *Alex Hummel writes for Thomson Wisconsin Newspapers/The Oshkosh Northwestern.*

WILLIAMSON on Packers
THE POST-CRESCENT

Most residents back Superfund cleanup



File/Press-Gazette

A survey released Wednesday by the St. Norbert College Survey Center in De Pere shows most Brown County residents favor a Superfund-led cleanup of the Fox River.

Survey on Fox River finds health concerns

10/21/99

By Susan Campbell
Press-Gazette

DE PERE — Most Brown County residents favor a Superfund-led cleanup of the Fox River and worry about the river's effect on their health, a new survey found.

The first-time survey — released Wednesday by the St. Norbert College Survey Center in De Pere — also found that a majority, 65 percent, of residents polled believe that the seven paper mills responsible for the river's PCB contamination should pay to clean it up.

Other findings:

- 72 percent of Brown County residents rate the quality of the Fox River as poor or not too good.
- 68 percent say the river's quality has improved during the last decade.
- Residents are split in their satisfaction with river cleanup efforts.

The center conducted 424 random telephone interviews in September, polling people age 18 years and older with varying education and income levels. The study, which was financed by the survey center, has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.7 percent.

"What the findings say are both in some ways expected and in others, a bit surprising," said Chris Borick, the survey center director.

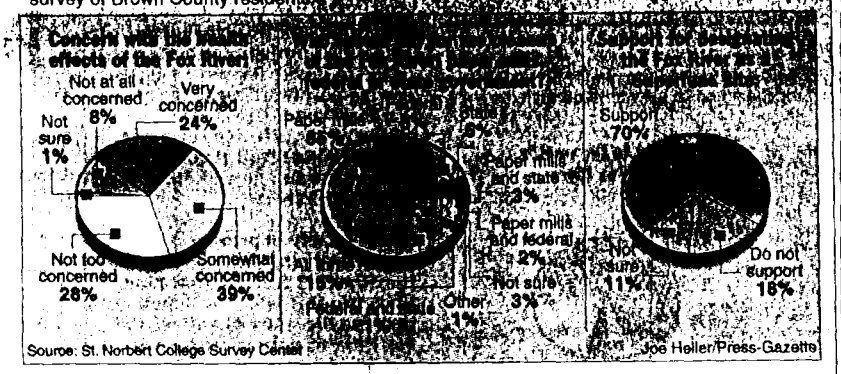
Surprising, he said, was the overwhelming support for a federal Superfund designation for the Fox River. Fully 70 percent support a Superfund listing, which would force paper mills to begin cleaning up an estimated 63,000 pounds of polychlorinated biphenyls in the riverbed — or face hefty fines.

To date, the U.S. Environ-

Please see Fox, A-2

Fox River cleanup survey

Health concerns about the Fox River, support for a Superfund designation and a belief that paper mills should pay to cleanse the Fox River of PCBs emerged as key findings in a survey of Brown County residents.



Source: St. Norbert College Survey Center

Joe Heller/Press-Gazette

cc: Laura Miccl

Fox/Survey may reflect public frustration

■ From A-1

tal Protection Agency, which runs the Superfund program, has proposed the river for listing and said a formal designation could be avoided if paper mills and the state can negotiate an acceptable cleanup plan.

"The issue of Superfund has been a controversial issue because of its history, perceptions about its efficiency and the impact on an area that's designated Superfund," Borick said. "Superfund has had, in many ways, a negative connotation for a lot of people."

Borick said it's possible the survey reflects the public's frustration that the issue has been around for more than a decade with no measurable progress toward a large-scale cleanup.

"EPA's justification for putting it on the priority list was that nothing was getting done," he said. "Maybe that's in the public eye right now: that this thing's been around and a problem for a while, so why not take a major step to cleaning it up?"

Health worries

Another surprise, he said, was the high level of concern among individuals regarding the possible health effects from PCBs in the river. That concern is particularly pronounced among women, 67 percent of whom said they were her very or somewhat con- ned, compared with 58 percent of men.

The response is eye-opening, he said, given that environmental experts and public health officials have stressed that eating contaminated fish from the river poses the greatest risk to those living in the area, far greater than any other route of exposure.

Borick speculated that the higher level of concern among women could reflect that they are targeted in warnings against eating contaminated fish because of studies showing developmental delays and lowered IQs in babies exposed to higher levels of PCBs in the womb.

"It wasn't something I necessarily expected," Borick said. "People see it may not be the cleanest river in the world, and obviously hear all the discussions of it having pollution problems — but directly affecting their health was something a little bit surprising to me."

Brian Merkel, a University of Wisconsin-Green Bay immunologist studying whether PCBs affect a key component of the human immune system by testing pregnant women, wasn't surprised by the finding, however. The women who volunteer for his study typically fit that profile.

It's a valid concern, Merkel said.

"Certainly the primary route of exposure is fish consumption, but people can be exposed in other ways," he said. "Put it this way: It's something I think about."

Bill Dean of the town of Scott, who agreed with most of the answers given by survey respondents, thinks about it, too. He's seen newspaper reports showing a large PCB hot spot outside his bayfront home, formed by PCBs flowing northward along the eastern shoreline of Green Bay.

"We're all affected, and now we're talking about it going into Lake Michigan," he said. "So it includes other areas."

Water quality improving

Not surprising, Borick said, was the survey's finding that more than two-thirds of those polled perceive the water quality of the Fox River as not good or poor, and a comparable number believe it has improved during the last 10 years.

The first, he said, likely is recognition of the river's long history of industrial use; the latter, the result of reports of many species returning to the river and other milestones that indicate the waterway is becoming cleaner.

Mark Lindley, spokesman for Fort James Corp., one of the mills held responsible for discharging PCBs into the water through papermaking and recycling processes from the 1950s-70s, took heart in findings that the public sees a river on the mend.

Further, the finding that 66 percent of residents say the mills should pay for cleaning up the river — as opposed to using state or federal tax dollars — is not surprising, he said.

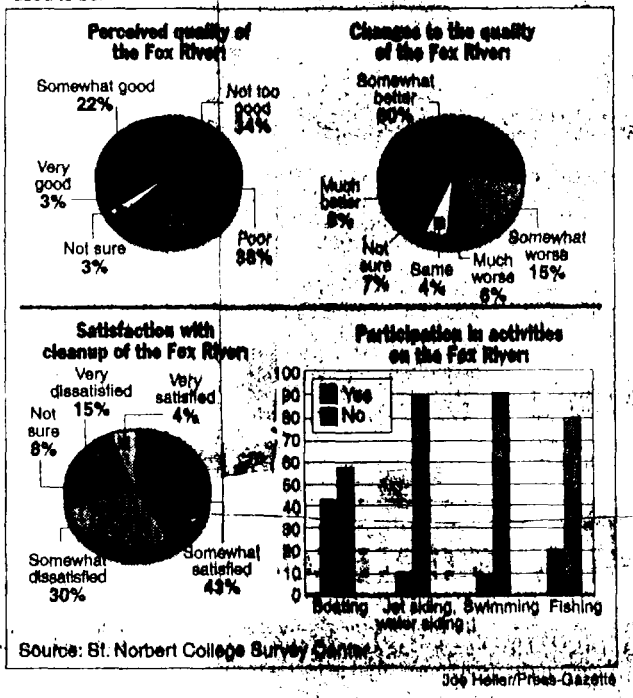
"We've always said the paper companies bear a responsibility for restoring the river," Lindley said. "We do have a role."

What is unexpected is the broad support for Superfund, according to Lindley.

"What a lot of this tells me is we need to do a better job of explaining what's involved in a lot of these different restoration options — Superfund, what have you — so people have a really good idea of the issue and the process," he said.

Fox River opinions

Most Brown County residents surveyed believe the quality of the Fox River is not good or poor but most also believe it's better than it used to be.



Source: St. Norbert College Survey Center

Joe Heller/Press-Gazette

Vast majority polled favor Superfund cleanup of Fox

The survey finds few people are using the Fox for recreation purposes

10/21/99

By Melinda Naparalla
The News-Chronicle

A survey released today indicates that 70 percent of Brown County residents favor designating the Fox River as a federal Superfund site.

The survey conducted by the St. Norbert College Survey Center also found that 65 percent think the responsible paper mills should pay for the cleanup of the 39-miles of river polluted with polychlorinated biphenyls.

The 1999 Fox River Survey was conducted to gather information from the residents of Brown County about the quality of the Fox River and area cleanup efforts.

The sample was taken from random telephone numbers obtained from Genesys Sampling Systems of Fort Washington, Pa. A total of 424 Brown County residentsover the age of 18 were interviewed in September. The poll had a margin of error of plus or minus 4.7 percent.

While the majority of people surveyed are in favor of the designation, 18 percent did not support Superfund and 11 percent were not sure.

The overwhelming support for the Superfund designation surprised a representative of Fort James Corp., which owns one of the seven paper mills being held responsible for releasing PCBs into the river when the chemicals were used in the production of carbonless paper.

Some people believe that Superfund may speed up the process, but the company's research s[illegible]ust the opposite, said Mark Lindley, direct[illegible]ommunication for Fort James.

Of the approximately one-third who did not think the paper companies alone should foot the bill, most said the federal and state governments should make some contribution.

"The mills have always said we have a role in the cleanup," Lindley said. He added the mills will step up and be part of the cleanup plan.

The survey did show that most people are not yet using the river for recreational purposes. In the past three years, 55 percent of those surveyed had not gone boating on the river, 90 percent had not waterskied or used personal watercraft on it, 91 percent had not swum in the river and 80 percent had not gone fishing in the river.

The survey also questioned residents on the quality of the river, the health risks the river poses and their level of satisfaction with the cleanup efforts. When questioned about the changes to the river in the past 10 years, more than two out of three respondents felt a positive change in the river quality had occurred. Respondents who had lived in Brown County for five years or less thought the quality had improved, while 66 percent of respondents who lived in the county for 16 years or more said there had been a positive change.

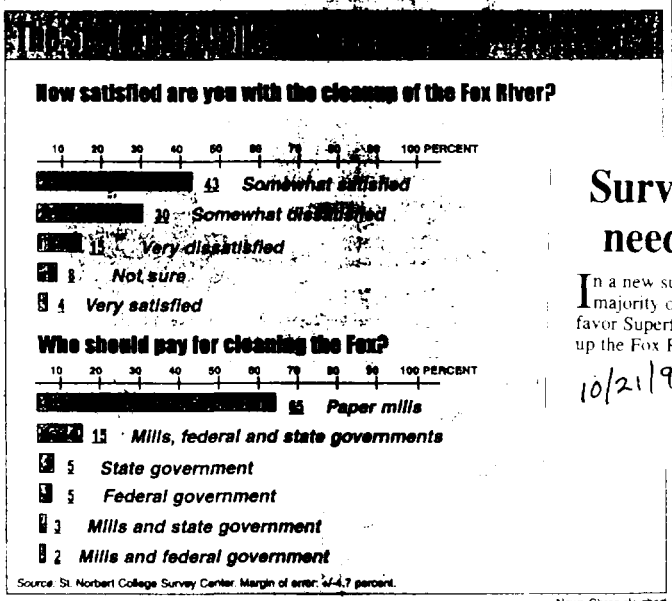
Lindley said residents seeing a change in the river is positive, because the mill is also seeing an improvement in the river.

Health effects were a concern to a majority of respondents, but women were slightly more concerned than men. Nearly two-thirds, 63 percent, of respondents had some level of concern about the health effects of the river, while 36 percent said they were not too concerned or not at all concerned with the effects of the river on their health.

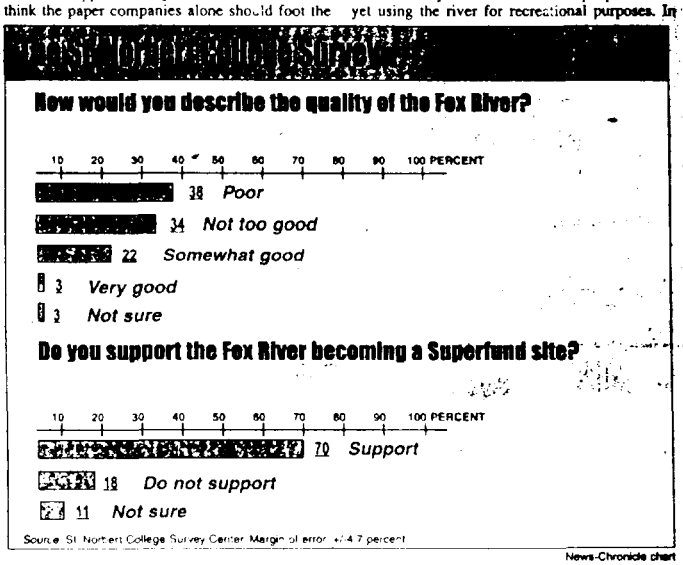
Sixty-seven percent of women were very concerned or somewhat concerned about the possible health effects, and 58 percent of men registered similar concerns.

Views were mixed when residents were split over the progress of cleanup efforts.

Forty-seven percent of people surveyed were either very or somewhat satisfied with the cleanup efforts of the river, compared to 45 percent of them respondents were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.



News-Chronicle chart



News-Chronicle chart

Survey: Fox needs help

In a new survey, the vast majority of those polled favor Superfund help to clean up the Fox River.

10/21/99

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Scientists hired by paper industry

Group will take a look at models used to aid in deciding whether dredging should be done on the Fox River

10/18/99

By Bob Vitale
Post-Crescent Washington bureau

WASHINGTON – A new team of scientists has been asked by Fox Valley paper companies to study PCB pollution in the Fox River, promising an "objective and scientifically based review" despite its ties to one side in the debate.

The American Geological Institute, an Alexandria, Va.-based group with more than 100,000 scientists as members, is forming the panel that will work this fall and winter to review existing computer models of how PCBs move and settle in the Fox.



It is being put together at the behest of the Fox River Group, a coalition of seven paper companies state and federal agencies hold responsible for the pollution and its eventual cleanup.

A top official with the state Department of Natural Resources said the FRG is pursuing validation of a computer model, produced by FRG consultants, that shows no need for environmental dredging in the Fox River. DNR officials have described the industry computer model as being flawed.

The DNR's computer model - a refinement of a model already in use by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - predict that without action, PCBs in the river will remain dangerous for more than a century.

The FRG model predicts PCB contamination in fish tissues and in the water column will decline to safe levels just as quickly if no action is taken as it would if millions of cubic yards of contaminated sediments are removed from the river through environmental dredging.

Both FRG paper company officials and AGI scientists said their new study will be independent of any influence from its sponsors.

"We have not even been in con-

Please see **RIVER**, A-8

RIVER: Paper firms promise PCB study will be independent

From A-1

tact with the Fox River Group," said Christopher Keane, a spokesman for AGI, who said his organization was approached about the project by an outside company with which the Fox River Group has contracted.

"It's been a totally hands-off process by the Fox River Group," Keane added.

Mark Lindley, a spokesman for Fort James Corp., one of FRG companies, said Thursday he was unaware of any Fox River Group tie to the study.

After confirming the companies are footing the bill, he said it will "be an independent panel, regardless."

"They'll be totally independent," Lindley said. "We are funding it because third-party research is critical."

The new panel will be headed by John Tracy, a hydrologist with the Desert Research Institute in Reno, Nev. Other members are Steve Chapra of Tufts University, James Bonner of Texas A&M University, Louis Thibodeaux of Louisiana S' University, William Lick of t. niversity of California-Santa Barbara, and Kevin Farley of Manhattan College.

All hold doctorate degrees and are described by the American Geological Institute as experts in the development of computer models and the fate of PCBs in river systems.

Keane said none have worked on Fox River issues before, and all have been asked to sign conflict-of-interest statements to ensure their objectivity.

The scientists have been asked to review the existing computer models that have played a key part in the contentious Fox River cleanup debate.

Lindley said EPA and DNR officials have decided not to conduct an independent peer review of their work, which he called a common practice in scientific fields.

DNR officials say this is not true; the model they are using has already been extensively peer reviewed.

"It has been peer reviewed more than once," said Bruce Baker, deputy administrator for the DNR's division of water.

Baker said the FRG companies agreed in a 1997 contract with the DNR and the state Justice Department to participate in an evaluation of the computer model being used in ' Fox River evaluation.

He said the company has consistently failed to produce work on that evaluation called for under the contract.

"We feel we are being genuine and living up to our original agreement," Baker said. "We are still pushing to complete that effort, and are still having some trouble getting them to live up to their part of the agreement."

As part of the new, industry-sponsored review, the six scientists will be host to a public hearing this fall somewhere in the Fox Valley for residents to offer comments and ask questions.

Keane said the DNR and EPA will be invited to participate in the process as well. He said the panel's final report, due by March, will look at the strengths and weaknesses of existing models.

EPA spokesman Mick Hans said the agency hasn't been asked yet to participate in the review, "but as a rule we're wide open to anything that continues the dialogue."

■ *Post-Crescent staff writer Ed Culhane contributed to this story.*

AGF: revised workplan
10/7/99

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Subject: Similar news...
---------- Message Contents

Fox River Group takes issue with DNR again
By Karl Ebert
Of the Northwestern

The group of paper companies responsible for PCB contamination in the Lower
Fox River are upping the pressure on the science that undergirds an evolving
plan to remove PCBs from the river and taking a top state Department of
Natural Resources official to task for opposing part of an ongoing review of
river science.

The Fox River Group is taking exception to comments made by Bruce Baker, the
DNR's Lower Fox River team leader, explaining the agency's decision not to
participate in recent National Research Council forums on PCB

cleanup
techniques.

The September meetings, held in Green Bay, are part of a congressionally
ordered study of the human and ecological risks of various cleanup
approaches, including dredging, capping and letting nature take its course.

In news reports, Baker said the agency wouldn't participate in the forums
because officials saw the meetings as an industry-driven attempt to call
into question the safety and effectiveness of dredging.

The study, which is being overseen by the National Academy of Sciences, was
ordered by Congress in response to a request by General Electric Corp.,
which faces a large-scale cleanup on New York's Hudson River.

In a letter to DNR Secretary George Meyer, the Fox River Group of paper
companies said Baker's comments imply an unwillingness to listen to what
outside experts have to say about river cleanup issues.

"What is most egregious about Mr. Baker's comments is his implication that
private companies can somehow influence the NAS and it's conclusions.
Congress - not private companies - charged the NAS to conduct this review of
national sediment policy," the group wrote.

On Friday, Baker reiterated the agency's objections to the NAS effort.

"The history is pretty clear and factual that this was the result of GE
going to Congress, in a joint effort with other companies, in an attempt to
block any dredging," Baker said. "They couldn't do that, so the fallback was
to ask NAS to look into dredging and see if somehow call it into question."

The study requirement was added as a rider to the U. S. Environmental
Protection Agency's funding appropriation last year, by Rep. Gerald Solomon,
R-N.Y., whose district includes contaminated stretches of the Hudson. A
proposed moratorium on dredging died in the face of a threatened veto by
President Clinton.

GE and the EPA have been scrapping over cleaning up the Hudson since 1980,
when the river was listed as a federal Superfund cleanup site.

"It's clearly an industry-driven initiative," Baker said.

David Lee, a spokesman for P.H. Glatfelter Co., said it was surprising that the DNR chose not to participate in a discussion about the effectiveness of dredging, especially since its governmental partners, including EPA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service participated.

"Here's a very reputable group, mandated by Congress to come up with some answers, and the DNR does a slam dunk on their credibility. That's what I find pretty outrageous," Lee said. "For groups to be taking a position and holding on to their beliefs without letting neutral groups assess the information and give their read on it, that's wrong."

Meanwhile, the companies have agreed to pay for a peer review by the American Geological Institute of the models used by the DNR to predict the movement and fate of the roughly 63,000 pounds of PCBs remaining in the 39-mile contaminated stretch of the river between Neenah and Green Bay.

The Fox River Group has raised questions about the accuracy of assumptions within the DNR model - a computer program designed to simulate and predict changes caused by the flow of the river. The group has spent million to develop its own model, which the group claims shows that PCBs are being naturally covered by clean sediment and are not moving down river to Green Bay at the rate predicted by the DNR's model.

The companies and DNR are at loggerheads over the competing models, which prompted the Fox River Group to use part of the $10 million it has agreed to pay for river study to have the models evaluated independently.

DNR officials say they are comfortable with the existing model, which has been developed over more than a decade of study.

"The DNR is not receptive to reconsidering their model, and rather than for us to stand in two separate corners, we thought there's be merit in having an independent group take a look at the models and draw a conclusion that hopefully has some credibility," Lee said.

AGI, a not-for-profit federation of 34 earth sciences organization, will evaluate both models and release a report early next year.

Baker said the agency is open to adjusting its model to

incorporate comments
from the A

GI review as well as other comments it has already received.

But, he said, changes to the model would affect only a portion of the
Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study, or RI/FS, that will serve as
the underpinning of a cleanup effort.

"They're trying to portray it as playing a significant role in the RI/FS but
if you look at it, it's a minor role," Baker said. "It deals with only one
alternative - the no action alternative - and that's the one they prefer.
But most of the cleanup options are being driven by a risk assessment and
that doesn't depend on the model.

The risk assessment is a separate evaluation of the risk of PCB exposure to
the environment and human health.

The EPA has agreed to provide up to $2 million to fund an expansion of the
study to include all of Green Bay, which was not included in the DNR's draft
evaluation.

The additional work will push back release of the next draft of the RI/FS to
early summer. The document was originally scheduled for release in January.

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Subject: The latest news...
---------- Message Contents

Milwaukee Journal-Sentinal

Paper companies angered by DNR official's boycott of forums
Last Updated: Oct. 16, 1999 at 3:31:43 p.m.

OSHKOSH, Wis. (AP) - The group of paper companies responsible for PCB
contamination in the Fox River want to know why a top state Department of
Natural Resources official decided not to participate in recent forums on
sediment cleanup.

DNR Fox River team leader Bruce Baker refused to participate in last month's
forums conducted by the National Research Council in Green Bay because
officials saw the meetings as an industry-driven attempt to

call into
question the safety and effectiveness of dredging.

The forums are part of a congressionally ordered study of the human and
ecological risks of various cleanup approaches, including dredging of PCBs,
or polychlorinated biphenyls, that were widely used in the making of
carbonless paper and other products at paper mills along the Fox before they
were banned in the 1970s.

The study, which is overseen by the National Academy of Sciences, was
ordered by Congress in response to a request by General Electric Corp.,
which faces a large-scale cleanup on New York's Hudson River.

Baker's comments imply an unwillingness to listen to what outside experts
have to say about river cleanup issues, the Fox River Group, a consortium of
paper companies negotiating with environmental agencies on the Fox River
cleanup, said in a letter to DNR Secretary George Meyer.

"What is most egregious about Mr. Baker's comments is his implication that
private companies can somehow influence the NAS and it's conclusions," the
letter said. "Congress - not private companies - charged the NAS to conduct
this review of national sediment policy."

Baker Friday reiterated the agency's objections to the NAS effort.
"The history is pretty clear and factual that this was the result of GE
going to Congress, in a joint effort with other companies, in an attempt to
block any dredging," Baker said. "They couldn't do that, so the fallback was
to ask NAS to look into dredging and see if somehow call it into question."

GE and the Environmental Protection Agency have been scrapping over cleaning
up the Hudson since 1980, when the river was listed as a federal Superfund
cleanup site.

"It's clearly an industry-driven initiative," Baker said.

It is surprising the DNR didn't participate in a discussion about the
effectiveness of dredging, especially since the EPA and the U.S. Fish and
Wildlife Service participated in it, said David Lee, a spokesman for P.H.
Glatfelter Co, a member of the Fox River group.

"Here's a very reputable group, mandated by Congress to come up

with some
answers, and the DNR does a slam dunk on their credibility. That's what I
find pretty outrageous," Lee said.

Meanwhile, the paper companies have agreed to pay for a peer review by the
American Geological Institute of the models used by the DNR to predict the
movement and fate of the roughly 63,000 pounds of PCBs remaining in the
39-mile contaminated stretch of the river between Neenah and Green Bay.

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The *Press-Gazette* strives, as it has since 1915, to be the primary provider of information in Northeastern Wisconsin, keeping the welfare and development of the Greater Green Bay area at heart. It is our responsibility to provide a forum for free and open expression of diverse opinions while maintaining the public trust necessary to serve our readers, advertisers, employees and stockholders."

OPINION

IN OUR VIEW

We must work to save Great Lakes

■ Issue:
Water quality

■ Our view:
U.S., Canada must continue joint efforts, research to protect resource vital to our area

Water quality in the Great Lakes is gradually improving. But pollutants, fluctuating water levels, invading species and eroding habitat for native fish such as yellow perch are long-range problems.

That mixed message shows the need for continued research into the condition of the lakes and sensible, ongoing regulation to protect them. The two-level task must be supported by those living around the lakes and carried out by national, state and provincial governments bordering them.

Fortunately, laws and agencies exist to handle the chore. The lakes' mixed message was delivered in Milwaukee at a three-day meeting of the International Joint Commission. The commission was created after the United States and Canada signed the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement in 1978. An estimated 2,000 people attended the conference.

The encouraging news is that reduced pollution in air and water is allowing the lakes to heal after generations of abuse. One example: Toxic air emissions across the region have dropped to 215 million pounds a year from earlier levels of 585 million pounds.

But "there is a long way to go to get to the goal of (restoring) the physical and biological integrity of the lakes," said John Mills of Environment Canada. Further improvement depends on reducing pollution from lawn, farm-field and parking-lot runoff.

Pollution raises concerns about both human health and good habitat for fish and wildlife. That concern sparked a seminar before the commission meeting on effects of human exposure to PCBs, mainly from eating contaminated fish. Removal of PCBs is the focus of controversy along the Fox River.

Concern for fish and wildlife habitat is exemplified by Lake Michigan shoreline surveys by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Late this summer, DNR crews found no yellow perch from Sheboygan south to Kenosha. But they did turn up white perch, an aggressive invader related to the white bass. The invaders, who eat the eggs of yellow perch, likely entered the Great Lakes through the St. Lawrence Seaway, possibly hitching rides in the ballast tanks of ocean ships.

Also disturbing, a new climate-change model based on global warming suggests Lake Michigan's level could drop as much as six feet by 2070. The model shows Green Bay could drop 39 inches in 30 years.

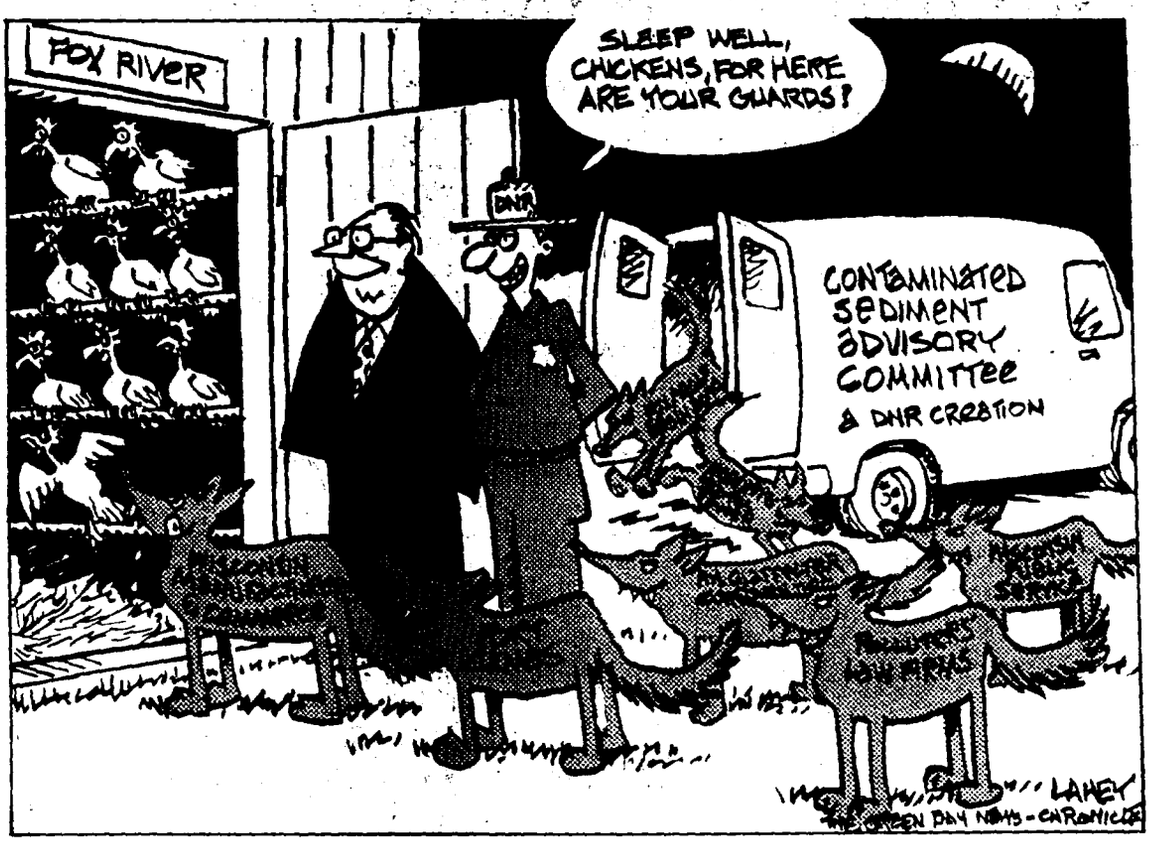
Also on the horizon is potential demand for Great Lakes water. Last year, an Ontario firm's effort to ship water to Asia was rebuffed. But given water scarcity elsewhere, more offers to buy Great Lakes water could surface if demand grows so great that current economic and geographic barriers to diversion become less of an issue.

Quick reaction to the 1998 sale proposal was encouraging because it showed a desire in both the United States and Canada to protect the lakes. Such unity will be essential as the International Joint Commission continues the vital work of healing and protecting them. Efforts must include:

- Commitment to guard against backsliding on pollution control and remedial work.
- Willingness to consider more regulation if sound science shows new threats
- Adequate government funding to ensure independent scientific study and monitoring.

The five Great Lakes are the dominant feature of a vast region shared by the United States and Canada. Millions of people live along the lakes and depend on them for water, recreation, transportation and commerce. The lakes must be studied and nurtured without regard to political boundaries.

LAHEY'S VIEWPOINT



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OUR VIEWS 10/6/99

The Riverfront Plan: An interesting development

If you saw the front page of Tuesday's *Post-Crescent*, the size of the map used to detail Appleton's Riverfront Plan was almost unprecedented in this publication's history.

But in a way, that large-scale map matches the scope of the Riverfront Plan. It is huge, it is sweeping and it is almost unprecedented in this city's history.

And it is entirely worth talking about, both in informal settings and at the forum scheduled for the third floor of The Avenue Mall on Thursday, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Since the commercial utilization of the Fox River has become history, the waterway has become – with considerable exception in the 1980s, when the Historic Fox River Mills Apartments were created – not much more than an inconvenience for city planners and developers. It is something over which to build a bridge, something that separates Appleton's north from its south.

With some planning, some foresight and considerable dollars, the Fox River can become a reason for people to come to downtown Appleton. ... Still, significant questions must be addressed.

With some planning, some foresight and considerable dollars, the Fox River can become a reason for people to come to downtown Appleton. It can be used in a way it has never been used before, as a setting for urban revitalization.

There's nothing wrong with that. In fact, it should be encouraged. There's a lot to be said for using that resource to pull visitors – and residents, for that matter – to the downtown. Developed in concert with the rest of downtown Appleton, the waterfront can be a tremendous asset to the future of this region.

Still, significant questions must be addressed. There is no agreement on what to do with the PCBs that line the river's bed, and it probably will be years before such an agreement is reached. The economic impact felt from the cleanup of the Fox could be felt for years in this area, and discretion might dictate that developing the riverfront in the face of uncertain economic times would be unwise.

And that leads to the cost of such a huge project. No one has an estimate on that, and the issue of how to finance the improvements and developments hasn't been handled yet, either.

Those two crucial issues are certain to get some discussion at Thursday's forum, as well they should. But we urge those who care about the city's future well into the next century to attend the event, to listen and speak and think about what the Fox River has to offer your generation and many generations to come.

10/6/99 PEOPLE'S

Pollution in lakes causes perch decline

GREEN BAY — Recently there were meetings and seminars held by fishing people from around the Great Lakes area trying to assess the quality of water in the lakes and determine what happened to the decline of the perch.

I'm no rocket scientist, but by living on the banks of the East River for the past 45 years and being interested in the outdoors and a fisherman, I've experienced the ups and downs of our once great fisheries. A person could go out and catch 30 to 40 perch in an hour in the bay and off any dock. This was wonderful for the whole family to enjoy.

For the past 20 years or more where there were crabs, frogs and turtles in the East River and Green Bay.

These creatures have vanished. Where did they go?

Recently I baited three crab boxes with liver to see if the crabs have returned, and three days later checked the boxes. No crabs. My kids used to catch a five-gallon bucket full with liver and string in a couple hours. Where are they now?

If one crosses the rivers, they think it's the same water that was home to all these creatures.

Ask any older hunter or fisherman where on the Green Bay and East River one could find wild rice and water lilies. There are none today. In fact even the cattails along our banks are gone. Why?

Pollution from the mills, and herbicides and pesticides.

This type of water certainly isn't healthy for the fish to spawn. Thus, no young perch or the other creatures and plants to survive.

I'm sure the DNR and others know that the waters are poisoned but don't want to alarm the public.

They have to arrive at a solution to correct this problem if it isn't too late already.

When I was a kid, we had green grass, fruit and vegetables without any of these chemicals. Nature and the birds took care of the insects.

Today, one sees very few birds and some I haven't seen in many years because they were killed off.

We must stop using some of these chemicals and limit the use of others.

And, remember, we're drinking this water. It's sad to see this great resource being destroyed and probably the people, too. Think about it.

Al Possley

proud of.

Peggy Crabb

10/3/99

Pollution in Fox River is reason for perch decline

SUAMICO — It may be a mystery to some people (Sept. 27 article in *Press-Gazette*) but not me. Fifty years ago the DNR turned their heads as the paper mills on the Fox discharged PCBs and all kinds of chemicals into it. For 50 years the DNR and the paper mills pounded sand, and took money for silence. The PCBs have wiped out the spawning grounds and the May flies (Green Bay Flies) – two key elements in maintaining the perch population.

Then came the St. Lawrence Seaway. Another rotten job. It destroyed the Great Lakes ecosystem, which will never be the same. We got alewives and zebra mussels. This letter tells everyone why we have no more perch population. Reading about all the studies and workshops makes me down right sick. It's disgusting to read articles like Monday's "Perch decline still a mystery!"

For the people who have lived here for 60 some years; it is no mystery. The Fox has to be cleaned out from one end to the other, and we need zero discharge from the paper mills.

Wayne J. Calewarts

New review of Fox PCBs called unnecessary

The review of water models will be open to public review

By Melinda Naparalla
The News-Chronicle

An environmental group and the state Department of Natural Resources are raising doubts about a new industry-supported plan for peer review of the federal computer models of the Fox River and bay.

The American Geological Institute, a nonprofit federation of 34 professional organizations in the earth sciences, convened a panel of five members and a chairman of specialists in river modeling and the transportation of PCBs, said Christopher Keane of the institute.

The panel were chosen from academia and have dealt with these issues before, he added.

Clean Water Action Council, an environmental group in Green Bay, said another review of the model isn't needed because people know there is a problem and know that polychlorinated biphenyls are continuing to drift into Green Bay.

State and federal studies have concluded PCBs have contaminated 39 miles of the Fox River and about 63,000 pounds of the hazardous chemicals still remain in the river, while about 600 pounds a year travel into the bay.

Computer modeling relies on the dispersal of PCBs and how quickly they are dispersed, said Becky Katers, executive director of CWAC.

"There is so much emphasis on computer models that are really just approximations," Katers said. "Computer models are only as good as the information collected. This review is not going to help us make better decisions."

It's been 15 years since the problem was identified, and it's time to get moving, she said.

Models are mathematical representations of the environment, said Greg Hill, acting chief of water quality modeling for the DNR. He agreed with Katers' statement that models are just approximations and added that the details are all driven by available data.

The model being studied was developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as part of the 1989 study of the Fox River and the bay, and it predicts PCBs will continue to drift into the bay for another century if they are not removed.

It also predicts that a 100-year storm could send the contaminated material into the bay in all at once.

The AGI study is supported by the Fox River Group, the coalition of seven area paper companies determined to be potentially responsible for the PCB discharges into the river.

"Since the DNR and Environmental Protection Agency have decided not to conduct an open and public peer review of the predictive models for the Fox River, The AGI review process will fill this critical need," said Mark Lindley, director of communications for Fort James Corp.

"AGI has designed its review process to be open and comprehensive, and we hope that the DNR will consider the results of the panel's evaluation when making important decisions about the Fox," he said. "This type of panel peer review, which includes an opportunity for public input, is a more rigorous and thorough method of peer review than simply publishing an article in a technical journal."

Hill said the DNR and the Fox River Group signed an agreement in 1997 to coordinate the evaluation of models and the information gathered will be used to modify the models if necessary.

The new enhanced model will then be used in the final remedial investigation and feasibility study.

The DNR's view of the study is it's contrary to the process already developed between the state and the seven paper companies, Hill said. The DNR models has already been published in professional journals.

The seven mills disagree with the findings of the federal model and have varied the model's results by feeding it different data and assumptions. The companies' findings state the sediment and the PCBs that cling to it tend to stay in place after passing over the Fox River's De Pere dam.

Keane said the panel has to dissect a small crate of information about the models and use it to develop their own decision on the fate and transport of PCBs.

Over the next month, the panel will review, analyze and critique the information.

The peer review is not creating a model recommendation, Keane said.

"We're going to provide decision makers with information to weigh the pros and cons," Keane said.

The panel expects to have information to report around early December but does not expect to present the findings until February. The findings will be available to the public probably in March to ensure everyone has the opportunity to see it.

Information about the American Geologic Institute is at the group's Web site, www.agiweb.org/FoxRiver.

Paper companies angry as DNR official boycotts forums

State officials said the forums were designed to discredit dredging of Fox River sediment

10/18/99

Associated Press

OSHKOSH — The group of paper companies responsible for PCB contamination in the Fox River want to know why a top state Department of Natural Resources official decided not to participate in recent forums on sediment cleanup.

DNR Fox River team leader Bruce Baker refused to participate in last month's forums conducted by the National Research Council at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay because officials saw the meetings as an industry-driven attempt to call into question the safety and effectiveness of dredging.

The forums are part of a congressionally ordered study of the human and ecological risks of various cleanup approaches, including dredging of PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, that were widely used in the making of carbonless paper and other products at paper mills along the Fox before they were banned in the 1970s.

The study, which is overseen by the National Academy of Sciences, was ordered by Congress in response to a request by General Electric Corp., which faces a large-scale PCB cleanup on New York's Hudson River.

Baker's comments imply an unwillingness to listen to what outside experts have to say about river cleanup issues, the Fox River Group, a consortium of paper companies negotiating with environmental agencies on the Fox River cleanup, said in a letter to DNR Secretary George Meyer.

"What is most egregious about Mr. Baker's comments is his implication that private companies can somehow influence the NAS and its conclusions," the letter said.

"Congress — not private companies — charged the NAS to conduct this review of national sediment policy."

Baker Friday reiterated the agency's objections to the NAS effort.

"The history is pretty clear and factual that this was the result of GE going to Congress, in a joint effort with other companies, in an attempt to block any dredging," Baker said.

"They couldn't do that, so the fallback was to ask NAS to look into dredging and see if they could somehow call it into question."

GE and the Environmental Protection Agency have been scrapping over cleaning up the Hudson since 1980, when the river was listed as a federal Superfund cleanup site.

"It's clearly an industry-driven initiative," Baker said.

It is surprising the DNR didn't participate in a discussion about the effectiveness of dredging, especially since the EPA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service participated in it, said David Lee, a spokesman for P.H. Glatfelter Co, a member of the Fox River group.

"Here's a very reputable group, mandated by Congress to come up with some answers, and the DNR does a slam dunk on their credibility. That's what I find pretty outrageous," Lee said.

Meanwhile, the paper companies have agreed to pay for a peer review by the American Geological Institute of the models used by the DNR to predict the movement and fate of the roughly 63,000 pounds of PCBs remaining in the 39-mile contaminated stretch of the river between Neenah and Green Bay.

Fox River's health can be measured by its biology

Someone once said, "Water, water everywhere, not a drop to drink." Sound scary?

Maybe it is, maybe not. Keep in mind we do not consume water like we do potatoes, bread, salad, etc. We just change its form, and "quality," during usage.

Water is the lifeline of the living. Thus, keeping the Fox River clean is not only necessary for our survival, it is our duty to do so for many generations to come.

What is water? Water is a special liquid with important anomalous properties around which life is built. It can exist in three forms: solid (ice, snow), liquid and vapor (steam). All three forms are temperature-dependent. It boils at 100 degrees Celsius and freezes at 0 degrees C. Its density is highest at 4 degrees C, which is actually a blessing for fish because when water freezes, the denser water remains liquid at the bottom where fish can survive.

Water is considered a universal solvent and helps in diffusion, osmosis, electrokinetics, and other day-to-day functions of the living. Most dissolved materials increase its boiling point to above 100 degrees C, depress its freezing point to less than 0 degrees C, and can decrease surface tension.

What is pollution? There are many definitions based on levels of allocations for an industry at a set location. In general, pollution means any change, positive or negative, from the natural state. For example, though a little higher temperature caused by the outfall of a power plant may improve fishing in that location, it can be labeled as thermal pollution and, thus, may be required to be controlled. What, then, is a natural state? Remember that the only sure thing in nature is change. The whole system is dynamic. The so-called natural state baseline, thus, keeps changing.

These changes come from many pressures. Nature can dump impurities through volcano eruptions, forest fires, floods, etc.; through land animals whose excretions are washed into our waterways; and through fish and other aquatic organisms that dump impurities through excretions in water (I have not seen any fish walking out to a bathroom). All these pressures are in the "pristine" water.

Nature takes care of all the above impurities. So ask yourself a question, "What happens when we as a society dump?" Ultimately, it all boils down to the type and concentration of the pollutant and what kind of a balance it can create in the natural environment.

What is natural water? Natural waters contain thousands of soluble and insoluble "impurities" of organic and/or inorganic nature. Also present are different types of life forms, such as algae, fish, daphnia, caddisfly, mayfly, zebra muscle, etc. Impurities also play a part in the survival of life in waterways. I hope you realize that pure water (distilled water) is a desert; it must have "impurities" for life to exist and survive. River water is a complex solution; sea water is even more complex.

The Fox River is no exception. In such a large reservoir of thousands of different chemical and biological species, I wonder how one can guarantee and control the interactions and synergism of a chemical studied in the laboratory under controlled conditions.

Lower Fox River: About 40 miles long, the Fox River is one of the few rivers flowing north. It has nine locks and dams to control a 170-foot drop with a flow averaging about 4,000 cubic feet per second. The Fox serves 19 pulp and paper mills (and other industries), and satisfies the personal and recreational needs of a large surrounding community. (For information on the Fox River not covered in this article, please review the excellent 80-page special report "It's Our River" published by *The Post-Crescent*, on Sunday, Oct. 4, 1998. It did not cover the biological study results.)

At one time, the Fox River was a heavily used body of water, under stress, and fighting for survival. Not anymore.

The rebirth of the Fox River started many years ago, especially during the '70s and '80s. By mid-1980, fishable and swimmable goals were largely achieved, mainly because of improved scientific understanding, improved regulations, improved engineering to install waste treatment plants (on and off mill sites), and capital from both the government and the industry.

A successful new partnership (called P3) also was implemented among regulatory agencies, industry and the community; it was the brainchild of Tom Schmidt, president of the Wisconsin Paper Council. The paper industry has not only installed pollution-abatement technologies, it has also taken conservation approaches to save on water, energy, material and manpower. The industry continues to improve on, and implement, process changes that reduce environmental pressures.

Dave Rades, senior biologist at Integrated Paper Services, has been monitoring the Fox and other rivers for many years using actual monitoring of the benthic populations. He has been directly involved in the collection and identification of the critters in the lower Fox for almost 35 years.

His observations concerning the Fox are: Benthic populations have shown several changes; marked improvements were found in the river's critter density and diversity, especially after treatment plants were brought online; significant improvement in water quality has occurred over the last few years. Improvements in sport fishing also was witnessed; currently, river bottom areas that contain bark, wood chips, screen rejects, coal, cinders, etc. (all from earlier depositions), remain a poor habitat for the benthos.

Rades believes poor benthos may be a blessing, as the critters do not stand a chance against hydraulic dredging. He said, "Critters came before humans and will be there after we get done tinkering with the river."

Based on other studies done at The Institute of Paper Chemistry by Allan Springer, I can safely say bleached fibers will be the first to vanish from the underwater deposits, say within one to two years. Unbleached fibers will be longer lasting, followed by woodbark, which would be long lasting.

How to monitor health of river: There are three main ways to monitor water quality: aesthetic (color, turbidity, etc.), chemical (pH, organics, inorganics, etc.), and biological (living components). Logically, biological monitoring makes more sense. It is a direct measurement of the environmental condition; there is no other better way.

The biological method involves a study of any living component of the aquatic system. Macroinvertebrates (organisms without backbones large enough to see) are one of these components. Aquatic insects, clams, snails, leaches, etc., are included in these forms and are good indicators of environmental quality. These are used because they are easy to collect, their scientific identification family is established, and they have recognized tolerance limits to water quality parameters such as dissolved oxygen, pH, etc., and are food for fish.

By sampling through time (seasonally, annually) and space (upstream, downstream from suspected source of pollutants), a picture of the river's health can be developed, documented, and used to measure progress in improving environmental quality.

Because these studies are involved, time consuming, and somewhat expensive, their monitoring frequency should be decided based on scientific justification, and input from the regulatory agency and the industry. Although some mills conduct such studies on a yearly basis, I think a minimum of a two- to three-year cycle may be sufficient. It would be like going to a doctor for a physical on a regular basis.

Whatever we do, it is not for the industry, DNR, EPA and us; it will be for the sake of our children and their children. Just awaken the sleeping natural processes and let them do their jobs.

report



Hardev S. (Doug) Dugal is chief executive of Integrated Paper Services Inc., Appleton, the local successor to the Institute of Paper Chemistry. He spent 21 years at IPC and was a founder of IPS in 1988. It provides technical services to the paper industry. To contact him, call 749-3040, ext. 103 or fax 749-3046.

COLUMNIST'S PERSPECTIVE

Toxins: A problem you can't sweep under the water



Curt Andersen

For The Green Bay News-Chronicle

Back when the old Walnut Street bridge was being torn down to make way for the new bridge, some hapless worker kicked some pieces of concrete into the river. Both he and the company he worked for got a dandy fine and rightly so.

They're supposed to know the rules, but that one got past them.

What they really needed to do was pound the concrete into dust, mix it with toxic chemicals, mix that with a thousand gallons of water and then dump it in the river. It would also have helped if they had made a tidy donation to Tommy Thompson's campaign chest.

Most residents older than 40 remember the sulfer stench that used to lay over Green Bay.

Just think of all the rigmarole they could have avoided if they had known those two little rules.

Smaller companies usually don't have the money for election campaign bribes to government officials, so they get short shrift when it comes to the state bending some rules to help them.

That's the trouble with our state baksheesh problem. Not everyone can afford to play.

There are other rules of thumb that can help polluting industries. This one has been used by every paper mill in the state, I'm sure.

Remember those 1970s TV news stories showing gunky brown effluent gushing from an enormous pipe into a river? Now, instead of having their discharge pipes right out in front of God and everybody where we can see the disgusting pollution, the mills have put the pipes in the river below the water, so the pollution is mostly invisible. Still toxic, mind you.

You can still see the eddies and note temperature changes, but you've gotta be there to see that. Their rent-a-cops will chase you away, too. They don't want us poking our noses in mill back yards. (Ed Gein felt that way about this place, too.)

People who are concerned about the environment have contacted me on occasion to tell stories about the way the mills used to dump their waste. One gentleman told me how a mill dumped its dye-saturated fiber into the river, making the water red, yellow, blue, etc.

One wonders what kinds of toxic crud they used for dyes back then. Many of these older dyes have been taken off the market because of carcinogenic connections. Even the natural dye indigo is carcinogenic.

Many older adults have told me about huge islands of wood fiber floating down the river after being dumped by a paper mill. This stuff was visible and easily identified. The mills had to do something to improve their image.

Most residents older than 40 remember the sulfur stench that used to lay over Green Bay like a beer, chili and pickled egg bodily emission.

To put the frosting on the cake (yeeeeech!) the mills, with various city and town approvals, dumped its sulfite liquor on the gravel roads "to keep down the dust."

Driving in the country became quite a gag-fest back then. You could go out and look at the autumn leaves and toss your cookies during the same trip. Many mills now get their pulp elsewhere, including some from Brazil.

Because we whined about the stench, now they're making South Americans puke. I'll bet the fishing down there is stinko, too.

Andersen, whose column appears here each Wednesday, is a lifelong resident of the Green Bay area and a small-business owner. He served in the Navy during the Vietnam era. He teaches part time at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College and is president of the Clean Water Action Council. Write to him via e-mail at editorial.nc@bcpdenmark.com.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1999 Wisconsin's Best Newspaper 50¢

Joint venture spells loss of jobs in Valley

Creation of Georgia-Pacific Tissue sparks the shift or elimination of about 70 jobs at the former Wisconsin Tissue Mills operation in Neenah and Menasha

By Avi Stern
Fox Valley Inc. editor

About 50 jobs at the former Wisconsin Tissue Mills operation in Neenah and Menasha will be transferred elsewhere or eliminated early next year.

The job shifts come in the wake of Monday's announcement that Georgia-Pacific Corp. and Chesapeake Corp. completed the creation of Georgia-Pacific Tissue, a joint venture in which the two companies have combined their away-from-home tissue business, products used at businesses, hotels and restaurants.

While the merged organization will transfer 20 Atlanta-based workers to Menasha's Customer Satisfaction Center, another 70 Fox Cities support and headquarters jobs are slated for elimination or transfer elsewhere.

The job shifts will take the Neenah-Menasha work force from about 1,300 to 1,250.

"This will probably take some time - anywhere from two to 18 months - before it's all finalized," said Jeff Johnson, a Georgia-Pacific Tissue spokesman. "Some people will remain during the transition period and some will see changes more quickly than that.

"Some job positions will be absorbed through retirements. Some will transfer to Atlanta and some will be transferred with

Please see JOBS, A-9

JOBS: Valley area jobs to be lost with creation of Georgia Pacific Tissue

From A-1

in the company."

Production positions will remain generally unaffected, he said.

"In terms of hourly people, we're constantly evaluating that," Johnson said. "The process will continue even with the joint venture."

Georgia-Pacific Group - the pulp, paper and building products business of G-P - contributed assets from its commercial tissue business to the joint venture. It will control G-P Tissue with a 95 percent equity interest.

Chesapeake contributed the assets of Wisconsin Tissue to the joint venture, for which it received a 5 percent interest in the newly created venture and an initial cash distribution of about $755 million.

Initially the two companies had agreed Chesapeake would retain a 10 percent interest and receive $730 million, "but Georgia-Pacific wanted to maintain the maximum control and ownership of the business that it could," Johnson said.

Despite G-P's overwhelming majority of ownership, Johnson dismissed the suggestion the venture more closely resembled an acquisition of Wisconsin Tissue.

"It depends on how you define a merger," he said. "From a technical and legal standpoint, it is a merger.

"There's no question the combined companies will be stronger in the long run. Georgia-Pacific has some real plusses in the strength of their manufacturing structure and multiple locations in the Southeast. Wisconsin Tissue brings a strong relationship with customers and a broad product line."

All Wisconsin Tissue signs will be changed to mark its new name, Georgia-Pacific Tissue.

"This agreement establishes Georgia-Pacific Tissue as a significant, competitive player in the commercial tissue business in North America," said A.D. "Pete" Correll, chairman and chief executive officer of G-P.

William A. Raaths, previously president of Wisconsin Tissue, has assumed the position of president of Georgia-Pacific Tissue as well as a vice president from Georgia-Pacific Corp. Other key players who will report to Raaths:

- Lee M. Bingham, formerly vice president of G-P's main operations, will become vice president-manufacturing G-P Tissue. He will be based in Menasha.
- Pete Chiericozzi, executive vice president for Wisconsin Tissue, will become vice president of sales and marketing for the joint venture.

Those operations will be based in Atlanta.

- Dave Pierro, director-customer satisfaction for Wisconsin Tissue, will serve in the same post for G-P.

Customer service functions will remain in Menasha.

- Alberto Navarro, formerly president of Wisconsin Tissue de Mexico, now holds the same title for G-P Tissue de Mexico.

G-P Tissue operates 13 manufacturing facilities with an annual production capacity of about 530,000 tons of commercial tissue products.

Georgia-Pacific assets included in the joint venture: tissue converting facilities at Brattleboro, Vt., and LaGrange, Ga.; a tissue mill in Gary, Ind.; and tissue converting operations at Crossett, Ark., and Palatka, Fla.

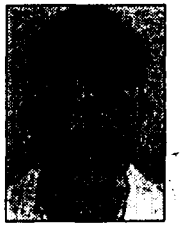
Former Wisconsin Tissue assets included are in Neenah and Menasha as well as Bellemont and Flagstaff, Ariz.; Alsip, Ill.; Greenwich, N.Y., and Tolucah, Mexico.

With the partnership now on line, Georgia Pacific has canceled plans to build a recycling plant in North Carolina. The merger will allow G-P to expand its commercial tissue capacity without construction.

The joint venture with Georgia-Pacific follows moves by Chesapeake to transform itself from a commodity producer into a marketing-focused supplier of specialty packaging and merchandising services.

COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE

It's no easier to see the toxins with three eyes



Yvonne Metivier

For The Green Bay News-Chronicle

Simon de Coteau (pronounced Dakota), Oneida man, is protesting the dumping from the Fox River cleanup, along with a small band of Oneida people.

I was passing the casino and airport on State 172 when I spotted the group by the entrance to the dump site on the west side of the road. I honked, slammed my brakes and did a graceful 360 to stop.

I ran to the protesters and hugged them. What a gutsy group. Those old trucks carrying the toxic waste, packaged for safe dumping are big — bigger than all the protesters.

They made the killer mess, and now we all have to pay for it with our money, our health, our lives.

OK, cool. I went on my way and forgot all about the protesters. The next day, there they were again. Small band. One sign. Big trucks. Stopped again.

"Simon, what made you decide to do this?" I asked. Simon says it's wrong, it's dangerous and they intend to stop it. Simon says, "Who did this to us?"

He goes back to clicking photos of those big trucks, looking quite determined over his gray mustache and suspenders and just-so cocked fedora.

I know that in 1967 Fort Howard (now Fort James Corp.) purchased land on the Oneida reservation northwest of the current casino, and the Department of Natural Resources has given it permission to dump the stuff from the Fox River cleanup on what is now land owned by Fort James.

So it's all legal. Legal like the PCBs dumped in the Fox River and who-knows-what into the ground, groundwater or air.

Do any of you really know what PCB stands for? I don't. I only know that there are no more perch in that area and I, growing up on the water supply, have a third eye.

Simon says, "Who did this to us?" and we all wonder. Who ruined our water, our precious water? Who? Who? For now we know that Fort Howard was one of those that dumped the toxic stuff in the Fox, and Fort James, the new owners, are paying a little to clean it up.

For Fort James, it's just a one-time payment. But for the rest of us three-eyed species, the payout never ends. The water is still ruined. The cost of glasses for three-eyed people has tripled.

The "safe dump" site is safe because they say so, but they did the damage in the first place. They make me think of the tobacco companies who knew and hid for years the scientific findings that smoking cigarettes is a killer habit.

We were all once told that what the paper mills blew into the air and pored into the Fox was safe. Today we know it's not. Now we are all being told the cleanup waste being stored on the Oneida reservation is safe. How do we know?

Contaminated waste sites inevitably leak and do more damage. The paper companies and the regulatory agencies were dead wrong about the contamination of the Fox then.

This does look a bit like nobody else wants the toxic waste dumped in their back yard, but it's OK to give it to the Indians.

They made the killer mess, and now we all have to pay for it with our money, our health, our lives. They should have to keep paying big bucks to all of us and pay 100 percent of the cleanup. Killing the Fox River made them rich and us sick.

The U.S. Justice Department just cracked down on the tobacco companies, and now it's time to crack down on the toxic polluters.

Simon says, "It's wrong." Simon says, "It's dangerous." Simon says, "It's got to stop."

Are you going to believe what "they" say or what Simon says?

Metivier, whose column appears here each Thursday, is a member of the Oneida Nation and is active in the Oneidas for Oneida group that is seeking changes in tribal operations. Opposing or supplemental viewpoints are welcome. Write to her via e-mail at chronicle@itol.com.

THE POST-CRESCENT

BUSINESS

Wisconsin's Best Newspaper

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1999 ■ B-5

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Paper industry leader decries government rules

Paper industry would thrive with less federal regulation, Glatfelter chief tells crowd at Hall of Fame dinner

By Joanne Zuhl
Post-Crescent staff writer



Don't lose sight of the forest for the trees, says one paper industrialist, who believes the industry will prosper if the federal government will only let it.

Thomas C. Norris, chairman of P.H. Glatfelter Co., spoke before a packed house of industry leaders Thursday evening for the fifth annual Paper Industry International Hall of Fame induction ceremony at the Park Plaza Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton.

Norris berated faulty government policies now stifling the industry, including air and water standards and restrictive forestry practices.

"In the case of the pulp and paper industry, the federal government has been particularly tough on our industry group," Norris said. "They continue to limit access to our basic resource – the forest – and they have been difficult to deal with and inconsistent in terms of environmental rules and regulations."

Norris noted that millions of acres of publicly owned forestland have been put in the status of off-limits for the practice of forestry, at the direction of the federal and some state governments.

"Governments generally do a poor job in the management of the lands under their control," he said.

The forest service's single most effective tool for maintaining forest health, reducing the risk of forest fire and limiting the spread of insects and disease is science-based, active forest management, Norris said.

Unreasonable regulations from governments have aggravated already challenging market conditions, in which nearly 5 million tons of U.S. pulp and paper production have permanently shut down since January 1998.

"I think all of us in this industry agree that the environment is something that must be continuously improved upon and the environmental impact of our businesses must be less as time goes along," he said. "However, the Environmental Protection Agency must work with industry as opposed to the command and control approach currently employed."

In particular, Norris said, the EPA had changed its interpretation of set air and water standards for the industry known as the Cluster Rules. If approved, those changes, he said, could cost some companies an additional billion dollars in equipment to comply.

On a more positive note, Norris outlined how the industry can create solutions to those challenges of its own initiative. An industry technology group titled Agenda 2020 is working on the paper mill of the future, he said, one that prevents pollution and produces safe, essential products using renewable and sustainable raw materials.

The industry's Sustainable Forestry Initiative is another program originating from the pulp and paper industry aimed at improved forest management.

"The opportunities are present for new technologies that improve the process, the product and the environment without bankrupting our corporations," Norris said. "We do need a friendlier, more cooperative government at all levels."

Thursday's event was the fifth year the industry honored members of its ranks, past and present, with induction into the Hall of Fame.

Those inducted were:

■ Stephen J. Baisch, retired, founder and president of S.J. Baisch Associates Inc. in Kaukauna.

■ H. Lyman (Tad) Bretting, president and CEO of C.G. Bretting Manufacturing Co., Inc. in Ashland.

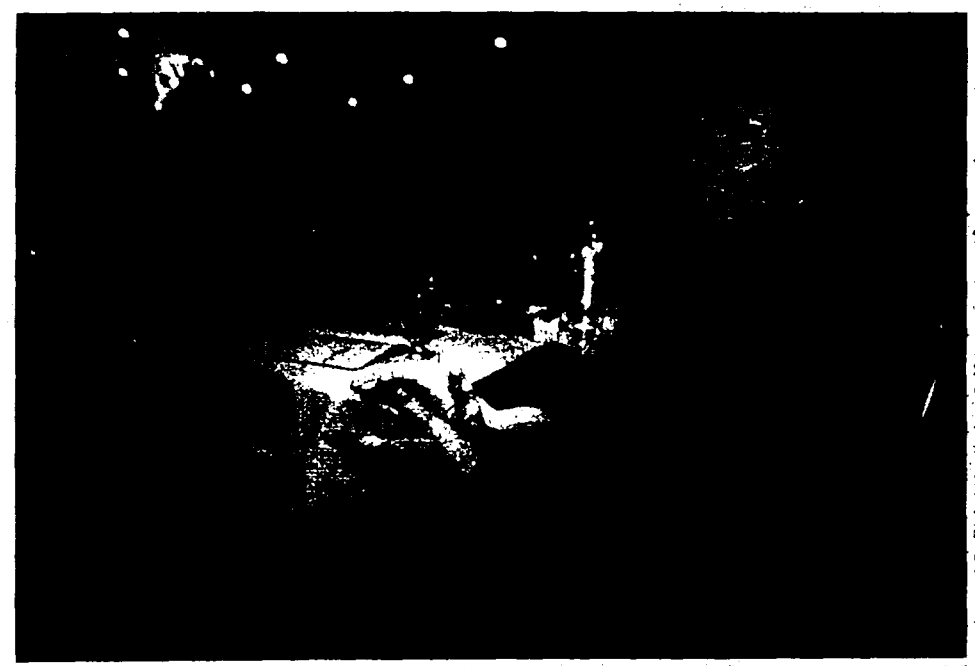
■ Charles B. Clark, deceased, founder, Kimberly-Clark Corp. in Neenah.

■ Herbert Ortner, retired, senior vice president Voith Sulzer Papiermaschinen GmbH, Heidenheim, Germany.

■ Joseph D. Parker, deceased, associate director of research of Beloit Corp. in Beloit.

■ Reinhardt N. Sabee, founder, chairman, CEO and president of R. Sabee Co. in Appleton.

■ John G. Strange, deceased, president of the Institute of Paper Chemistry in Appleton.



Post-Crescent photos by Kristyna Wentz-Graff

BARBARA BRETTING CLAPS as her husband, H. Lyman Bretting, is inducted into the Paper Industry International Hall of Fame Thursday at the Park Plaza Paper Valley Hotel. At right, Thomas Norris, chairman of P.H. Glatfelter Co., addresses the crowd.

THE POST-CRESCENT

BUSINESS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1999 ■ A-10

Wisconsin's Best Newspaper

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Appleton Papers closing Pennsylvania plant

That means $25 million carbonless coating operation expansion here, with 40 additional jobs

By Joanne Zuhl
Post-Crescent staff writer

To deal with declining carbonless paper sales, Appleton Papers is ending its production at its Harrisburg, Pa., plant, a move that will mean more capacity and a few more jobs in Appleton.

Bill Van Den Brandt, manager of corporate communications, said as part of the departure from Harrisburg, the company will invest $25 million to expand its carbonless coating operations in Appleton and add 40 more jobs.

The process will take 12 to 18 months, after which the Harrisburg plant will be sold, he said.

Under the departure plan, two coating machines from the Harrisburg facility are being moved to Appleton during the 12- to 18-month period, Van Den Brandt said.

The move is part of Appleton Papers' efforts to consolidate capacity on carbonless paper as consumption continues to decline.

"Carbonless paper was introduced in 1954. It's considered a mature product," Van Den Brandt said. "We feel like the market peaked around 1995, and has been declining approximately 5 percent annually."

Appleton Papers is the world's largest producer of carbonless paper, manufacturing more than 500,000 tons of the product in 1998. The company declined to discuss individual plant production figures for competitive reasons.

Appleton Papers built the Harrisburg plant in 1973 and has expanded it twice, most recently in the late 1970s, Van Den Brandt said. The plant employs about 450.

The transfer is expected to eliminate about 200 jobs at the facility in 2000, according to the company press statement.

Some employees will be staying on to work at the facility's remaining two coaters until the plant is sold, the company said.

Appleton Papers foresaw the decline in the carbonless paper business almost a decade ago.

This kind of paper's reliance on pressure stimulation to copy is the primary reason it is losing ground in the market. More sophisticated printing technology is taking away business.

"The increased use and affordability of things like laser printing and ink jet printing, as well as electronic commerce and the Internet - all those things have contributed to the ongoing decline in demand for carbonless paper in business forms," Van Den Brandt said.

"Because we are the world's largest producer of carbonless paper, we follow the market very closely and have a fairly good sense of how that market is reacting, and we expect that that slow decline will continue."

Appleton Papers also is moving some of Harrisburg's finishing equipment to its plant in Roaring Spring, Pa., a move that is expected to create about 40 new jobs there.

As Appleton Papers tightens its capacity on carbonless, its parent company, London-based Arjo Wiggins Appleton, is looking to identify and expand into new markets. AWA, the world's largest manufacturer of premium papers, reorganized in January to refocus resources on products and markets rather than geographic locations.

"We need to find growth opportunity to fill some of this declining manufacturing capacity," Van Den Brandt said. "We are identifying different markets and products and customer needs."

Appleton Papers entered the coated free-sheet market in June 1995, including the purchase and upgrading of a mill in Newton Falls, N.Y. It also invested $180 million to expand its mill in Combined Locks.

In August, the company said it was closing its Newton Falls facility and shifting production to Combined Locks, where it intended to invest $25 million to accommodate the additional production.

No jobs were added at Combined Locks in that move.

Appleton Papers expects its coated free-sheet business to continue growing. Coated free-sheet is a glossy white product commonly used for annual reports and high-end advertising publications.

Appleton Papers also sees more growth for its thermal paper products, specifically tag, ticket and label production.

A portion of the Appleton Papers thermal business is at its Appleton plant, where it also produces a variety of niche products for specialty applications.

Panel wraps up PCB hearing

It criticizes lack of choices for cleanup

By Susan Campbell
Press-Gazette

A national science panel studying the technologies available for PCB cleanups leaves Green Bay having gleaned some insights into where the decision-making process could be improved.

The National Research Council's Committee on Remediation of PCB-Contaminated Sediment on Tuesday wrapped up a two-day visit that included a boat tour of the Fox River and two public hearings at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

The scientific panel has been charged by Congress and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to study PCB cleanup methods and develop guidelines for how such cleanups should be handled nationwide.

The committee expects to issue its findings before the end of 2000, said Roberta Wedge, project director for the NRC — the operating arm of the National Academies.

"What they take home from this is it gives them lots to think about, and it gives them an idea of where they should be looking for further information," she said. "They need time to digest what they've learned, and I think they found this very productive."

The 14-member panel, which listened to almost eight hours of presentations from the public and various parties involved in the Fox River PCB cleanup, appeared to spot some potential shortcomings in the decision-making process for cleanups.

At both hearings, panelists sought to determine whether the EPA employs a systematic approach to monitoring sites before or after a particular cleanup method is used in order to judge its effectiveness.

"The issue right now is there's not a systematic approach, and I think that came out at the meeting last night, too," Wedge said. "They don't spend two years before they put a technology in place, necessarily, to determine what all the baseline values are."

Committee member Diane Henshel, associate professor of zoology at Michigan State University, was disappointed that only two options were presented at the hearings: dredging, and a process known as natural recovery — or leaving a water body to heal itself.

"There was a large lack of other options presented," she said. "I feel like people are walking around with blinders on."

The presentations reflected the standoff that exists concerning the Fox River cleanup today. On one side, the seven paper mills held responsible for addressing the river's contamination favor natural recovery; on the other, the EPA and state Department of Natural Resources favor a remedy that includes dredging as a major component.

On Tuesday morning, the panel heard presentations from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the EPA.

David Allen of Fish and Wildlife detailed physical harm to local fish and wildlife that have been exposed to polychlorinated biphenyls from the Fox River and the bay of Green Bay, and said the river serves as a PCB spigot to the bay.

"If there is a way to turn the spigot off, then we must

Please see PCB, B-2

PCB/Sport fishing big business

■ From B-1

turn the spigot off," he said.

Bill Muno, director of the EPA's Superfund division for Region 5 in Chicago, underscored the importance of addressing contaminated sediment in the Great Lakes basin, in part, because of the vital role it plays in the region's economy.

Sport fishing in the Great Lakes is a $4 billion-a-year industry supporting 80,000 jobs, he said. Yet fish consumption advisories are in place for most of the Great Lakes and their tributaries — with contaminated sediment the greatest source of chemical pollution to the lakes.

The public also had an opportunity to comment during the hearings. On Monday, H.J. "Bud" Harris, a professor emeritus at UWGB with about 25 years of experience studying the bay, noted that the 640,000-square-mile Fox River watershed is one of the largest feeding into Lake Michigan.

"The real issue here is this is a strongly connected system, and that's what gives me concern about natural recovery," he said.

Harris said natural recovery's dependence upon continued soil erosion from within the watershed to bury PCBs in the riverbed is inconsistent with calls for a 50 percent to 75 percent reduction in sediment loading to the system.

"The current rates of soil loss are not sustainable," he said, noting that the soil and nutrients that run off the land into the Fox River and Green Bay have been identified as two primary stressors to the waters.

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Normal
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Subject: News Article
---------- Message Contents

FYI --

A news article on the NAS hearing.

-- Joan

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
Copyright 1999

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

News

Hearing to focus on Fox River cleanup Committee studying ways of removing
sediment contaminated with PCBs
Associated Press

People who want to see the Fox River cleaned of industrial chemicals can take a step toward that goal by attending a hearing
today in Green Bay, the leader of an environmental group says.

The hearing was scheduled by a National Research Council committee that
Congress has authorized to propose methods of removing the poisoned sediment.

"It's extremely important, if people want to see this river and other
contaminated sites cleaned up and want to encourage these scientists to take a
strong stand, that they be (at the hearing)," said Rebecca Katers, executive
director of the Green Bay-based Clean Water Action Council. "These are highly
influential scientists that need to know that these are real people they are
dealing with. This is not a theoretical laboratory exercise."

The Fox River, which flows into Green Bay, contains polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) that can cause cancer. The U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency wants them removed.

That could mean dredging tons of silt at great expense. Some observers have said that the tainted silt from years ago has been
covered by more silt and ought to be left alone rather than stirred up.

Congress has asked the council Committee on Remediation of PCB-
Contaminated Sediments for suggestions.

The committee also is visiting Albany, N.Y., because of PCB contamination of the Hudson River.

"This is an issue that attracts a lot of attention, not only in
Wisconsin but around the country," said Roberta Wedge, project director for the council, a branch of the National Academies.

The hearing, at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, is intended to gather
perspectives on the cleanup.

Among the commentators is the Fox River Group, which represents
paper companies whose riverside mills formerly used PCBs and could be sued by
the EPA to pay for dredging.

Others on the presentation agenda include the EPA, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service, American Indians and the Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District.

"The committee is trying to develop a framework on how to approach the whole
issue of what techniques should be used," Wedge said. "Obviously, the general
public, activist groups and industry groups all get factored in."

Congress ordered the council study in response to a request from General
Electric Co. for a review of the merits of dredging.

Like the seven paper mills along the Fox between Lake Winnebago
and Green Bay, GE faces an expensive bill for cleaning up the Hudson. Estimates
of the Fox dredging range from $150 million to $728 million.

GE has said that dredging would worsen the problem by stirring up
contaminants. The company wants the EPA barred from PCB dredging projects
nationwide until a National Academies study is completed.

"The focus of the committee is the technology, but the task is to provide a
framework for assessing the risks for the technologies," Wedge said.

Environmental monitoring efforts to be inventoried for EPA

The Fox-Wolf Basin is part of the federal study of the Lake Michigan ecosystem 9/29/99

By Melinda Naparalla
The News-Chronicle

An area conservation group is helping a federal agency collect monitoring information about the Lake Michigan basin ecosystem.

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Fox-Wolf Basin 2000 is identifying local monitoring efforts that may contribute to a evaluation of the health of the lake, said Bruce Johnson, executive director of the nonprofit group.

"It's an attempt to better measure the ecosystem health," Johnson said. "There is concern with the health of the Lake Michigan watershed."

The Fox-Wolf basin, which covers a 6,400-square-mile, 13-county area, is one of 14 focus areas in the Lake Michigan basin where environmental monitoring efforts will be inventoried.

Several indicators are used to judge the health of an ecosystem, from the presence of exotic species in the basin to the physical appearance of the water, Johnson said. The effects of land use on the water habitat are also considered, he added.

The Lake Michigan Tributary monitoring project is the first of its kind to focus on the watershed as a whole rather than individual poli regions. The inventory is being coordinated the Great Lakes Commission.

Information from the monitoring invent will be used to support planning efforts, such the lakewide management plan and reme action plans, for 10 designated areas of conc on Lake Michigan, Johnson said.

The project will produce a database of inf mation on monitoring efforts and identify g and unmet needs.

Fox-Wolf Basin 2000 became involv because the group holds an annual monitori workshop, Johnson said.

To be included in the inventory or for mc information, call Bruce Johnson at 920-73 7025.

COLUMNIST'S PERSPECTIVE

Free speech sure seems to cost a lot these days



Curt Andersen

For The Green Bay News-Chronicle

On Thursday, people concerned about campaign finance abuses met to discuss the issue with local elected officials. The meeting drew about 100 people, an enormous crowd considering our busy lifestyles. I wish more could have been there.

Speaking that evening for the Republicans were state Sen. Robert Cowles of Allouez and state Rep. John Gard of Peshtigo. Speaking for the Democrats were state Reps. Lee Meyerhofer of Kaukauna and John Ryba of Green Bay.

Guys like Rep. John Gard are slowly but surely eroding your rights to free speech.

Some taxpayer groups are against any public financing of political campaigns. I understand their logic. They don't want unscrupulous politicians to get any free campaign money, and neither do I. If we keep the system the way it is, however, how will anyone who doesn't have these avaricious tendencies ever get elected?

We have to be careful to avoid winning the battle while we lose the war. The way it is now, those who are unafraid to accept donations for later favors will have the upper hand in any elections.

It seems obvious that the few dollars we will have to spend in our taxes will be greatly offset by our increased power. We have already seen how expensive it is to get the Fox River cleaned up. That's because average people don't have the power that paper industry lobbyists have.

Gard said public financing would be "setting up the state for dangerous trends." We all have plenty of dangerous trends, including control of the state by some industries that are so intent to make huge profits they are willing to let us clean up their toxic messes.

You have to realize that if the mills dump their poisonous effluents into the river, their profits will be greater. Unfortunately, your overhead just went up. Whether you have to clean the river, suffer lost tourism dollars because the river and bay are too filthy to fish in, or develop a worrisome condition because of that pollution, you've lost money.

Gard says he finds the idea of "ads run by taxpayer money to be obscene." I find the current ads obscene. Not only do these characters dream up bogus "educational" issues, they buy up all the ad time so that the victimized candidate can't respond to the offending ad. Clean Water Action Council was unable to get one TV station to release its records showing who paid for the ads. Smarmy.

Gard says limiting spending on campaigns will "limit people's right to speak." (I believe he meant "limit people's right to free speech." If found this specious.)

The current system limits free speech to all but the wealthy. Pay attention to this issue, folks. Guys like Gard are slowly but surely eroding your rights to free speech.

Don't let their jibber-jabber confuse you. Our taxes are the least of our worries right now. The few bucks a year will be a bargain compared to what they have in store for us.

Rep. Gard, what level of corruption in campaign funding would have to exist before you thought we had a problem? With Gard's ideals, America has become "of the money, by the money and for the money." I believe he would agree with me on that one.

OOPS!

Last week I said the Green Bay School Board had "decided" to go back to spraying pesticides on school lawns. What I should have said was the board had "decided to discuss" spraying pesticides on school lawns. Sorry for the confusion.

Andersen, whose column appears here each Wednesday, is a lifelong resident of the Green Bay area and a small-business owner. He served in the Navy during the Vietnam era. He teaches part time at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College and is president of the Clean Water Action Council. Write to him via e-mail at chronicle@itol.com.

Favre family talks food, not football

Relatives of the Green Bay Packers quarterback launch their cookbook. **D-1**

Cloned cows to be displayed at expo

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MADISON — A Wisconsin company said Monday it has cloned 40 cows, a development researchers say shows cloning can be a method for increasing agricultural production and fighting human disease.

DeForest-based Infigen Inc. is creating calves from seven different original cells and expects to have more than 100 cloned cows within a year, said Michael Bishop, vice president of research for the biotechnology company.

"We've probably got more calves by more different cell lines than anybody else in the world," Bishop said.

Some of the cows could be the source of drugs available for commercial sale within several years and help researchers develop clones for human organ transplants.

Ten of the calves will be on display Friday at the World Dairy Exposition in Madison.

Those calves all came from one fetal cell and are genetically identical.

The calves are part of Infigen's work with Pharming, a Dutch biopharmaceutical company, to produce five human medicines from cow's milk by attaching human genes to the fetal cow cells. Scientists attach human genes to the fetal cells to get the cow's milk to contain certain pharmaceutical proteins not normally found in the milk.

The proteins then can be used to make drugs for hu

National panel on PCBs focuses on Fox dredging



Mike Brunette/Press-Gazette

This is an aerial view of a pilot dredging project to remove PCBs from the Fox River near the Fort James Corp. West paper mill. A national panel is holding hearings in Green Bay on how PCBs should be handled nationwide. The panel is studying the human and ecological risks associated with various cleanup approaches, including dredging.

State regulators absent from Monday meeting

BY SUSAN CAMPBELL
PRESS-GAZETTE

As a national panel Monday night held the first of two public hearings aimed at exploring different approaches to PCB cleanups, state environmental regulators leading cleanup studies for the Fox River were noticeably absent.

The National Research Council's Committee on Remediation of PCB-Contaminated Sediment invited comments Monday and again this morning from the public and parties involved in the Fox River cleanup.

The panel has been charged with looking at the associated with various PCB cleanup approaches - among them dredging, capping and natural recovery.

Presentations Monday included a discussion on what was characterized as the unproven effectiveness of dredging contaminated sediments, made by consultants for seven Fox River paper mills held responsible for the river's PCB contamination. Others included calls for the immediate removal of the polychlorinated biphenyls, made by environmentalists, tribal representatives and experts who have studied the river extensively.

Bruce Baker of the state Department of Natural Re- sources said the agen



"People can assign all sorts of concerns to this. I can assure you, unequivocally, that we are looking at the facts."

— **John Farrington,** NRC committee chairman

wasn't participating because it views the committee's visit as an attempt to raise questions about dredging as a tool for handling PCB-contaminated sediment.

"We view this as a bold attempt by industry to avoid cleaning up contaminated sediment," he said Friday. "We really don't feel any obligation to follow the direc-



"We would hope that (the EPA) would recognize that natural (recovery) is not walking away from a site. There's no walking away from liability on these sites."

— **Mark Brown,** paper mill consultant

tion that they're heading in."

The DNR has released preliminary cleanup scenarios in which dredging emerges as the most cost-effective tool for addressing an esti-

Please see **PCBs, A-2**

Woman strangled, police say

Student also was beaten before man took own life

BY ANDY NELESEN
PRESS-GAZETTE

■ **Visitation set for today as family reflects on life of the victim, B-1**



Majewski
Freshman at UWGB



Miles
Owed victim money

Police said Monday that Keith Miles lured Katherine Majewski to his Western Avenue apartment Friday by telling her he was going to pay back money he owed her.

Instead, police believe, Miles, 22, beat and strangled her, leaving the body of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay freshman on the floor of his garage.

"She was a college student, [illegible] money," Lt. [illegible] news con- [illegible]day. "She had gone there to collect the debt. It was a ruse. He used that to get her over there."

Both bodies were found about 4:40 p.m. Friday in the garage behind Colonial Pines Apartments, 1706 Western Ave.

Majewski and Miles had a short relationship, only weeks long, before breaking up, police said. She was trying to end the relationship, but he had different plans and at times stalked her, police said.

A suicide note Miles left indicated he planned to kill someone when he killed himself, Arts said. The note did not specify who that victim would be.

Miles used duct tape and a tube to flood the passenger compartment of his 1988 Chevrolet Beretta with exhaust. He died of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Brown County Interim Medical Examiner Joe Grantham said evidence of blunt trauma on Majewski's head would not have been enough to kill her, but he added that the marks were consistent with an injury caused by a fist during a fight.

Majewski died of strangulation, but Grantham refused to speculate what was used to choke her. He did say there were ligature marks on the woman's neck.

Miles had a history of domestic abuse and was arrested for disorderly conduct July 29. He got in a fight with Hannah Lindbo, his live-in girlfriend, and pushed her against a fence and slapped her in the face, according to a criminal complaint filed in Brown County Court.

Miles also threatened to hurt a neighbor who intervened during the argument. In that incident, Miles pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor disorderly conduct charge, domestic violence offense and was sentenced Aug. 23 to 18 months' probation and 2[illegible] hours of community service.

During that proceeding, exactly a month before Majewski was killed, it was learned that Miles suffered from depression and was taking Zoloft, a prescription antidepressant.

Green Bay Press Gazette 9/28/99

Panel wraps up PCB hearing

criticizes ack of choices or cleanup

By Susan Campbell
Press-Gazette

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The National Research Council's Committee on Remediation of PCB-Contaminated Sediment on Tuesday wrapped up a two-day visit that included a boat tour of the Fox River and two public hearings at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

The scientific panel has been charged by Congress and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to study PCB cleanup methods and develop guidelines for how such cleanups should be handled nationwide.

The committee expects to issue its findings before the end of 2000, said Roberta Wedge, project director for the NRC – the operating arm of the National Academies.

"What they take home from this is it gives them lots to think about, and it gives them an idea of where they should be looking for further information," she said. "They need time to digest what they've learned, and I think they found this very productive."

The 14-member panel, which listened to almost eight hours of presentations from the public and various parties involved in the Fox River PCB cleanup, appeared to spot some potential shortcomings in the decision-making process for cleanups.

At both hearings, panelists sought to determine whether the EPA employs a systematic approach to monitoring sites before or after a particular cleanup method is used in order to judge its effectiveness.

"The issue right now is there's not a systematic approach, and I think that came out at the meeting last night, too," Wedge said. "They don't spend two years before they put a technology in place, necessarily, to determine what all the baseline values are."

Committee member Diane Henshel, associate professor of zoology at Michigan State University, was disappointed that only two options were presented at the hearings: dredging, and a process known as natural recovery – or leaving a water body to heal itself.

"There was a large lack of other options presented," she said. "I feel like people are walking around with blinders on."

The presentations reflected the standoff that exists concerning the Fox River cleanup today. On one side, the seven paper mills held responsible for addressing the river's contamination favor natural recovery; on the other, the EPA and state Department of Natural Resources favor a remedy that includes dredging as a major component.

On Tuesday morning, the panel heard presentations from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the EPA.

David Allen of Fish and Wildlife detailed physical harm to local fish and wildlife that have been exposed to polychlorinated biphenyls from the Fox River and the bay of Green Bay, and said the river serves as a PCB spigot to the bay.

"If there is a way to turn the spigot off, then we must

Please see PCB, B-2

PCB/Environmental, industrial interests represented

■ From A-1

benefits of natural recovery — or, leaving the river to heal itself — by the Fox River Group, which represents seven paper mills held responsible for PCB contamination in the Fox River. Rebecca Katers, executive director of the Green Bay-based environmental group Clean Water Action Council, also will be presenting.

On Tuesday morning, the panel will hear presentations on remediating contaminated sediment sites and the process of assessing damages to fish, wildlife and people from representatives of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Spokesmen for the Oneida Tribe of Indians and the Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District also have been added to the agenda, and a half hour has been reserved for public comments at the end of each session.

"The committee is trying to develop a framework on how to approach the whole issue of what techniques should be used, and that, of course, includes how all interested parties are included," Wedge said. "Obviously, the general public, activist groups and industry groups all get factored in.

"If people feel they have an insight into things that should have been done, or could have been done that might have made things better, the committee definitely would like to hear that," she said.

Katers urged anyone with an interest in the Fox River cleanup to attend.

"It's extremely important if people want to see this river and other contaminated sites cleaned up, and want to encourage these scientists to take a strong stand, that they be there," she said. "These are highly influential scientists that need to know that these are real people they are dealing with. This is not a theoretical laboratory exercise."

What's next

The National Research Council's Committee on Remediation of PCB-Contaminated Sediments will meet at the following times and places:

Session 1: 7 to 10 p.m. Monday in Phoenix Room B of the University Union, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

Session 2: 8:30 a.m. to noon Tuesday in Room A117 of Christie Theatre of the University Union, UWGB.

The NRC study was ordered by Congress in response to General Electric Co.'s request that the efficacy of dredging be studied.

Like the Fox River paper mills that are facing a cleanup estimated to cost anywhere from $150 million to $728 million, GE — facing a multi-million dollar PCB cleanup of New York's Hudson River — contends that dredging would worsen the problem by stirring up contaminants buried under clean sediment. GE also has sought to have the EPA, which designated the Hudson a Superfund site and is trying to force a cleanup there, barred from PCB dredging projects nationwide until the Academies' review is finished.

Wedge said the panel's focus is broader than dredging, however.

"The focus of the committee is the technology, but the task is to provide a framework for assessing the risks for the technologies — and risk is not necessarily just the health risks or the ecological risks," she said. "If people perceive there's a risk to their livelihood ...that all needs to be considered."

Katers said the public should apprise the panel of the array of issues that come up with regard to contaminated sediment cleanups.

"Even though this is a committee of scientists talking about the pure science of remediation, we know that in the real world the financial cost is going to be a driving consideration — and that becomes a political issue," Katers said. "That can't be left out of the discussion, or ignored."

Parody on Web

PARADISE VALLEY, Ariz. — Family Circus creator Bil Keane is worried about a less-than-wholesome parody of his kid-friendly comic on the Web.

Keane said Wednesday he was mildly amused by the "Dysfunctional Family Circus" when it began five years ago, but then his readers started to complain.

The Web site uses Keane's cartoons while allowing site visitors to make up the captions. The results are often sarcastic or dark humor, and sometimes obscene and pornographic, Keane said.

Van Damme arrested

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. — Jean-Claude Van Damme was arrested Thursday for investigation of drunken driving.

Van Damme, 38, was booked about 3:40 a.m. and released several hours later. The action star got into a car without comment and was driven away.

The action star's blood-alcohol level was not immediately disclosed.

Rival environmental groups meet across the table

The two organizations have different styles, but say they're after the same goal

9/22/99

By Melinda Naparalla
The News-Chronicle

Two local groups concerned with the quality of the state's water have clashed recently but agreed Tuesday they are ultimately after the same goal.

Board members of Clean Water Action Council of Green Bay and Fox/Wolf Basin 2000 of Appleton met together with the editorial board of *The Green Bay News-Chronicle* for a wide-ranging discussion of their respective views.

The two groups have different styles of communication, different organizational structures and different approaches. Fox/Wolf Basin 2000 board members said they try to form a coalition of interested parties and reaching a consensus in that fashion, while Clean Water Action Council representatives said they use grass roots and travel door to door to reach people.

The council confronts facts and canvasses areas to inform the public, said Rebecca Katers, executive director.

"We build awareness through direct actions," she said. "There's a lot of outrage out there that needs to have a voice."

"Our style is different," said Bruce Johnson, executive director of Fox/Wolf Basin.

"We go for collaborative efforts while Clean Water Action Council takes a stark, grass-roots approach. It's a difference in opinion."

Johnson said his group is primarily concerned with issues facing the watershed such as nonpoint runoff pollution, but it also has an interest in such issues as the proposed mine near Crandon.

Katers said Clean Water Action Council watches developments with mining, energy — especially coal and nuclear power — land use and transportation, and the Fox River.

The group formed after Greenpeace visited Green Bay in the mid-1980s to bring the plight of the river to the forefront, Katers said.

The council's main problem with Fox/Wolf Basin is that it has too many industry connections to resolve some issues, she said.

Johnson denied the group is a front for industry and said "we prefer collaborative solutions." The group has receive funding from industry and municipalities. It also has board members from those groups.

Bruce Bushweiler, president of Waupaca County Land and Water Conservation Department and member of the Fox/Wolf Basin executive committee, said he is working with a great deal of farmers in Waupaca County to help them reduce nonpoint runoff.

"We're doing all kinds of things on the land, but is it accomplishing anything in the water?" he asked.

Clean Water Action Council members said they backed off on pushing the issue of nonpoint source pollution because Fox/Wolf Basin is focusing on it to such an extent.

INC FOX VALLEY

Industry has no easy answer to zebra mussels

By Avi Stern
Fox Valley Inc. editor

As if Fox Cities paper mills didn't have enough to worry about in the last few years - the PCB cleanup debate, cheap Asian imports, overcapacity coupled with soft sales - a little critter about the size of a quarter is expected to create a whole new realm of headaches by next summer.

Experts forecast an exploding infestation of zebra mussels in Lake Winnebago and neighboring waterways next summer, forcing the water-dependent industry to potentially spend millions controlling the pesky and populous mollusk.

"It's going to be a serious threat," said Bill Hartman, environmental manager at P.H. Glatfelter Co. paper mill in Neenah. "Most of the mills are going to have to have some capital outlay. It's not just a threat to the paper industry, but to municipal plants as well. It's going to keep all of us hopping."

VALLEY paper

The mussels, unintentionally introduced to Lake Michigan in 1991 by trade ships traveling from Europe, are rampant reproducers. A single female can generate up to 40,000 eggs annually.

In addition, they latch on to just about any substrait in the water - intake pipes, boat hulls, dock pilings, rocks, each other, etc.

"On some Lake Erie structures, they're approaching 1 million zebra mussels per square meter," said Art Techlow, Winnebago system biologist with the state Department of Natural Resources in Oshkosh.

The mussels also are known for their tenacious grasp. When Mercury Marine in Fond du Lac sent a boat racing to Oshkosh at 70 mph, the critters clinging to the hull did not come off, DNR officials note.

"The next step is to solve the problem, but you won't solve it by getting rid of them," Techlow said. "Once you've got them, they're here to stay."



Thomson News Service photo by Joe Sienkiewicz

THIS TINY ZEBRA MUSSEL taken from a Lake Winnebago buoy last year is the harbinger of an approaching crisis.

P.H. Glatfelter relies on 4.5 million to 5 million gallons of water drawn from the Neenah channel via a 100-yard-long, 48-inch-wide pipe. When it comes to zebra mussels, that's not enough - the species have been known to congest 6-foot-wide pipes in Michigan plants.

"Water is needed for the papermaking and pulping process," Hartman said. "The overriding concern is that (the mussels) will block off intake structures."

Aware of the emerging problem, Hartman last week met with other industry specialists and environmental experts in an informal summit about how to handle the zebra mussel.

"This is my first time dealing with them - and it's pretty much everybody's first time around here," he said.

The mussels initially appeared in the papermaker's intake samplers about four years ago.

"Our mills were the first to discover these, so we've kind of been leading the charge," Hartman said. "We're coordinating with the Wisconsin Paper Council and are in contact with the DNR."

Hartman took no joy in the discovery. "Our hearts kind of sank," he said.

Chlorine, special filters and aquatic "scrapers" are among the options discussed to combat the creatures.

The price tag, regardless of strategy, will not prove cheap.

In 1994, Ohio State University researched the economic impact of zebra mussels on companies with intakes to the Great Lakes. A survey of 160 companies reported mussel prevention and monitoring expenses of $60.2 million during a five-year period.

On average, private utilities spent $173,800 annually to confront the pest; public utilities paid $76,600 a year; municipal water suppliers spent $63,600 annually; and other industries paid about $67,800 a year.

Since then, unfortunately, costs have only climbed.

In addition, the average company had 2.5 full-time-equivalent staff dedicated to monitoring, controlling and researching the mussels.

While paper mill operators have a financial motivation for their concerns, paper industry leaders may find themselves in a unique alliance alongside naturalists and recreationalists, Techlow said.

Environmental advocates fear the outside species will throw off the waterways' delicate ecosystems.

"Whenever you've got a non-native species like that, the results are almost never good," Techlow said. "There are always too many unforeseen consequences with an invasive species like that.

"We're seeing, in some areas, a great reduction in the native mussel populations ... if that happens over a wide enough area, we'll lose native species rapidly."

Outdoor enthusiasts - particularly boaters - will find the mollusks unsightly and irritating when they attach to the sides of their vessels. They'll also find them extremely costly if the free-floating mussel larvae - called veliger - get sucked into their engine cooling systems, mature, and clog the machines.

While lake sturgeon, sheepshead and diving ducks feed on the zebra mussels, "they're nowhere near enough to keep them in control," Techlow said.

"All those native plants and animals evolve with one another in their native ecosystem," he added. "But throw a wrench in there - zebra mussels, in this case - and you've got an exotic species with no natural controls."

WHAT'S NEWS

Marquette University is now holding its fall classes at Perimeter Computer Services, 216 Main St., Menasha. Offerings include introduction to Visual Basic, advanced HTML programming, preparing and presenting powerful presentations using MS PowerPoint, crystal reports, introduction to Java programming and introduction to C++. Marquette's offerings continue through November with additional classes offered in January. For details call 920-720-0797.

The **Children's Discovery Center** has been granted accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, a rigorous, voluntary process by which early childhood programs demonstrate that they meet national standards of excellence. The Children's Discovery Center is at 3425 Commerce Court, Appleton.

The **Park Plaza Paper Valley Hotel** has been named one of the nation's top performing hotels by LH-Lodging Hospitality magazine. The hotel was ranked No. 95 in the magazine's listing of the top urban hotels in the country. **The Pioneer Inn & Marina** of Oshkosh was ranked No. 99 in the listing of the top resorts in the nation.

OSHKOSH - **CitizensFirst Credit Union**, participating with *CU Fleet Department*, now offers an Auto Resource Center and vehicle-leasing program. The programs provide members with new and used vehicle leasing, new vehicle referrals and a member-only used vehicle warehouse. **Dan Stark** has been named CU Fleet representative. He will assist credit union members in sorting through their car-buying options.

Air Wisconsin Airlines Corp., operating as **United Express**, has reported its August traffic. Revenue passenger miles increased 19.2 percent from August of last year, available seat miles increased 28.5 percent, passenger load factor was down 5.6 points and passengers enplaned increased 8.7 percent. For the year to date, RPMs increased 40.2 percent, ASMs increased 40.9 percent, passenger load factor was down 0.3 points and passengers enplaned increased 29.3 percent.

Gulliver's Highway 41 & Breezewood Lane South Neenah

Local Internet Access
Wisconsin's highest rated Internet Service Provider is right here in the Fox River Valley!
Ranked in the top 5 percent of all ISP's by CNet. VBE is Wisconsin's only nationwide ISP with POP's in over 400 cities in the U.S. Canada, UK and Europe! (w/National Service)

(2)

Green Bay Press Gazette 9/29/99

sparsely atten.

The forums have included presentations on preliminary plans for renovations and additions at the three schools. The work, estimated at $48.2 million, is to be part of a Feb. 15 referendum.

A final forum — to discuss plans for West only — is scheduled for 6:15 p.m. Thursday at West, 966 Shawano Ave.

BROWN COUNTY

Forum focuses on crime, punishment

Myth and reality of the criminal justice system will be discussed at a public forum Thursday at the Radisson Inn in Ashwaubenon.

"Crime and punishment are topics that concern everyone," said State Public Defender Nick Chiarkas.

PCB/Sport fishing big business

■ From B-1

turn the spigot off," he said.

Bill Muno, director of the EPA's Superfund division for Region 5 in Chicago, underscored the importance of addressing contaminated sediment in the Great Lakes basin, in part, because of the vital role it plays in the region's economy.

Sport fishing in the Great Lakes is a $4 billion-a-year industry supporting 80,000 jobs, he said. Yet fish consumption advisories are in place for most of the Great Lakes and their tributaries — with contaminated sediment the greatest source of chemical pollution to the lakes.

The public also had an opportunity to comment during the hearings. On Monday, H.J. "Bud" Harris, a professor emeritus at UWGB with about 25 years of experience studying the bay, noted that the 640,000-square-mile Fox River watershed is one of the largest feeding into Lake Michigan.

"The real issue here is this is a strongly connected system, and that's what gives me concern about natural recovery," he said.

Harris said natural recovery's dependence upon continued soil erosion from within the watershed to bury PCBs in the riverbed is inconsistent with calls for a 50 percent to 75 percent reduction in sediment loading to the system.

"The current rates of soil loss are not sustainable," he said, noting that the soil and nutrients that run off the land into the Fox River and Green Bay have been identified as two primary stressors to the waters.

Environment must be addressed now

Professor 'guardedly optimistic' about future

By Robert Woessner
Press-Gazette

In nearly 30 years of teaching at St. Norbert College, Dallas Hodgson has seen concern over the environment grow far beyond the campus on the Fox River. During an interview in his office in the Minahan Science Building at the De Pere school, he discussed how those concerns may play out in the coming millennium.



Holly Balsis/Press-Gazette

Jim Hodgson, environmental professor at St. Norbert College in De Pere, is skeptical of the worsening condition of natural resources.

Q. What do you want students to take away from your classes?

A. An awareness. A concern. A zeal for the quest of learning. To be inquisitive. To go out and challenge oneself and be a better person. In the environmental perspective, to develop an ethic — and you have to develop your own ethic. Maybe I can help design those tools to help you define that effort. We all have heroes. Aldo Leopold — that name was a very obscure name when I started doing environmental science. But I think it's in about everyone's vocabulary right now. So it's a land-ethic sort of thing. To be able to think environmentally, you have to be more than ethical. That's my piece of the pie. I want people to talk about that and to begin to think that he or she is part of the solution. W[illegible]n't keep passing it off to succ[illegible]

generations? Should we think more like First Nation people — seven generations? I don't have the realistic answer. I like to be in[illegible]

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million to $800 million to clean the Fox River. But over a 50-year span that is miniscule compared to the economic value of a

out or compete with other species. Yes, it is a concern. And it's probably going to get a lot worse before it gets better.

Q. This is a growing area ...

A. That concerns me. It's one of the fastest-growing places in the state. But just talking about population, talking globally now, we're going to get nowhere unless we do something with the population. If anyone gets up and says that there is no global population problem, (they're) wrong. Just take the China example — 1.3 billion people times anything is a tremendous number. One of the examples I like to use is if the Chinese decided to drink just one more beer [illegible]

COUNTDOWN 2000

Conversations on the Millennium

Conversations on the Millennium, a monthly series looking to the future, will run through 1999.

Staffer Robert Woessner is profiling and interviewing people who have insight into religion, technology, education, government, history, diversity and other topics.

If you have suggestions for topics or people to be interviewed, contact Woessner at (920) 431-8327, by fax at (920) 431-8379, by e-mail at pgnews@netnet.net or by mail at Box 19430, Green Bay, WI 54307-9430.

Environment must be addressed now

Professor 'guardedly optimistic' about future

By Robert Woessner
Press-Gazette

In nearly 30 years of teaching at St. Norbert College, James Hodgson has seen concern over the environment grow far beyond the campus on the Fox River. During an interview in his office in the Minahan Science Building at the De Pere school, he discussed how those concerns may play out in the coming millennium.

Q. What do you want students to take away from your classes?

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Holly Bakis/Press-Gazette

Jim Hodgson, environmental professor at St. Norbert College in De Pere, is skeptical of the worsening condition of natural resources.

Should we think more like First Nation people — seven generations. I don't have the realistic answer. I like to be involved in providing this awareness. Why are the fish in the North Atlantic this year. Why? An anomaly or related to global warming? Why are (some) butterflies expanding their range? In Northeastern Wisconsin is probably the lakes. You need to be concerned about that. The Great Lakes are just a tragedy. On a million to $800 million to clean the Fox River. But over a 50-year span that is miniscule compared to the economic value of a out or compete with other species. Yes, it is a concern. And it's probably going to get a lot worse before it gets better.

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piece of the pie. I want people to talk about that and to begin to think that he or she is part of the solution. We can't keep passing it off to successive generations.

Q. What have you seen change in attitudes toward the environment?

A. I'm more optimistic. But guardedly optimistic. Certain things are changing the population. They're becoming more aware. You see surveys, you know, where 70-plus percent want this kind of change. Not just environmental "change," all sorts of change. I'm excited about that. But what frustrates me is the political system doesn't seem to get that message. I don't know exactly why. It might have to do with where the money is in industry. I think 75 percent of people recognize or think that global warming is a problem and something needs to be done. Politicians will probably be very slow in responding. So, in that particular perspective I'm frustrated. I get pessimistic.

As a global society, the realism is that we have to try to meet the needs of 6 billion people. The sprawl issue is about what's being gobbled up at an alarming rate. I'd like to see bigger chunks of land set aside, but you have to realize that people have a right to develop these particular areas. I'm more optimistic teaching this generation than I was teaching the parents of this generation. They come to me much more knowledgeable, much more concerned, and that's where I take the hat off to the primary and secondary school teachers that have done it.

Q. Let's say I've worked hard and want to build my trophy house on 6 acres of woods. Why can't I do that?

A. One person doing it is fine. Two people doing it is fine. But you're going to be driving miles and miles and miles and using gas and, from this perspective, (building) in some of the best agricultural land. It's what we want for ourselves. That's the beauty of this particular society. So it's not trying to prohibit people from doing that. It's maybe getting the change to redefine wants and needs and to take a close look at the equality or inequality of the quality of life and standard of living. Would those needs be met in a different scenario? Should we protect these scenarios for future generations? Should we think more like First Nation people — seven generations. I don't have the realistic answer. I like to be involved in providing this conversation to get people to question their own values.

Q. What role do you see for individuals, government, business and education?

A. I look at the quality of student successes not on how well they answer questions, but how well they ask questions and the quality of questions. Look at a whole array of ideas and concepts and piece it together. Challenge your own prejudices. Put together ethics. Put together a value system. That's for educators. Government, I guess, is government of the people and its response to the electorate. We could do it much better if our representatives would be representatives.

Q. And business?

A. Business will do what people want. If people decide they don't want something, it doesn't take the business sector very long to realize it.

In lectures, I role-model a person running for office and I tell my students that if elected I'm going to put a $4 to $5 surcharge on a gallon of gasoline. Gas is way too cheap. If you paid $5 or $6 for a gallon of gasoline, things would change enough that attitudes would change. Then I ask if I would be elected. I can't be elected. Even students, idealistic young people from an environmental perspective, don't want that sort of economic mandate. But these are the sorts of things necessary to influence the change we want to see.

There is no silver bullet if we are going to have to reduce carbon emissions by 3 or 4 billion tons annually to address global warming. How are you going to do that? We grouse about a few cents for energy costs and people can't get those sorts of things through Congress. Go through the whole laundry list of things that seem to indicate that it's getting warm. Climatic change, or call it climatic modification, is driven primarily by putting excess carbon into the atmosphere, the greenhouse effect. It just gets warm. We're seeing more frequent and more severe El Ninos. Is that cause and effect? We don't know. But you look at other things. There were no icebergs in the North Atlantic this year. Why? An anomaly or related to global warming? Why are (some) butterflies expanding their range? In Antarctica, the ice shelves are getting much smaller. It's related to some sort of global change. Is that global change due to our impact? I would look at the data to try and support the hypothesis that it is in terms of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. I see it as a very serious problem and I see it as very difficult to mediate and so more and more we ignore it.

What do we do? What as individuals are we going to consume? Part of this is the argument about living in the country 25 miles from where I work compared now to a mile from where I work. Walk to work versus 50 miles (driving) daily. There are all kinds of issues there. There has to be change in attitudes. I see that as part of my role. You look at this array of issues and see where your value systems are.

Q. Will environmentalists have perpetually guilty consciences because they could have bought the smaller car?

A. There's probably some reality to that, particularly if you live with a spouse that is really an environmentalist.

Q. Is there any deeper ethical impact in a place like St. Norbert, which has religious ties?

A. I don't think you can address human issues without addressing environment issues from a global perspective. Empowerment of women, for example, addressing children's issues, are not without consideration of environmental issues. So if, indeed, we do have a greater emphasis on human issues because of the religious nature of the institution then maybe so, but I'm stretching for answers. Because anyone in an intellectual environment can see that. I think it's the nature of the people that teach to come to a position because you have a dedication to the contents of the disciplines.

A. Let's narrow to Northeastern Wisconsin. What should we be doing more of and less of?

A. Doing less of is what we all should be doing as consumers. We need to be wise consumers and we need to look at resources as exhaustible resources. This is a good place to live and to raise kids. The educational systems are good. But our important resource in Northeastern Wisconsin is probably the lakes. You need to be concerned about that. The Great Lakes are just a tragedy. On a smaller scale, it's a tragedy on the Fox River. I think that whole contaminated sediment business — we've got to get through that debate. As a scientist, I don't know for sure what the role of PCBs is. But as an environmentalist, I would argue that you have to draw a line. We need to do something about the PCBs and we've got to quit pointing fingers.

Paper mills put it in there, but during that particular time I suspect that there weren't a lot of people worrying about (carbonless) paper (containing PCBs). There were mistakes. There are some responsibilities, I think, that can be shared. The bottom line is really to do something. We need to get that system cleaned up. We owe it to the next generation. We need a resource here in Green Bay which is usable, recreationally usable. You have to be careful in the science. But I embrace the philosophy that if we're going to err, let's err on the side of the environment.

Q. Is the Fox River a test of how the system is going to respond to problems?

A. Yes. We could do nothing and things would ultimately change. But we're dealing with decades, with centuries really. What are we going to accept as quality environment? Do we want to be able to fish in the Fox River and be able to eat those fish? A lot of us say we don't care. Then we have a Hmong population utilizing that resource and we need to be concerned. I'd like to see people say they want to be able to use this resource. To want to be able to go swim at Bay Beach and want to be able to fish the walleyes, eat them once in a while and not be worried.

Q. How do you put a cost on that?

A. I don't know. We can put dollar signs on many kinds of things, but we have difficulty putting dollar signs on what healthy ecosystems are. What's the value of a wetland? What's the value of a walleye fishery? I guess you could do the walleye fishery — measure the fees paid, etc. I've been around long enough to realize it's not going to make any environmental sense unless it can make economic sense. When we do that, then we can say it might cost us $700 million to $800 million to clean the Fox River. But over a 50-year span that is miniscule compared to the economic value of a healthy system.

Q. Is there preventive value? People see the river and say, "Let's not let this happen again."

A. I would hope that would be part of the thinking. The river's come a long way in the 30 years I've been here. The college has been documenting fish populations in the river and that's quite high, it's quite diverse in terms of species. We're still predominated by carp and catfish, but it's made remarkable changes in terms of environmental health. Look at the potential for lamprey. (People) think of the lamprey as this predator that decimated the lakes fish population. But it's a very persnickety critter. It needs very good water to spawn. The Fox River is getting to the point where we have to be concerned about lampreys getting into Lake Winnebago.

We have probably one of the most pronounced world-class walleye fisheries right here below the dam, but unfortunately it's not usable — not usable in the sense of the warnings of PCB and mercury contamination. Many Wisconsin lakes have mercury advisories. Where does it come from? It comes globally from the atmosphere. But if we're going to find someone to blame, by far the most significant source of mercury is coming down in precipitation from coal-powered utilities.

Q. How big a concern are invasive species such as purple loosestrife and zebra mussels?

A. They change the system. Once something gets into the system, it's very hard to clear out. The zebra mussel is an interesting story. It does a wonderful job cleaning up water. Yet it's occupying about every square centimeter of the (bottom). It out-competes by far native mussels and clams. That's a concern. Right now, these huge windrows of mussel shells on the bay, what do you do with them? You can't landfill it. It's toxic waste. It's got PCBs in it. You've got to go to really far remote places to find unperturbed ecosystems. I do that when I take students into the rain forest of Central America.

We will need to live our lives, but there are some species that overwhelm the system and drive tremendous number. One of the examples I like to use is if the Chinese decided to drink just one more beer a year, it would take the entire grain production of Norway. So on a smaller scale, we're increasing in numbers. It's nice because it increases tax base, but it also requires more service.

Look at the De Pere example now. We can't keep up with education needs and roads and sewers, both kinds of infrastructures. There's a concern, I think, about how we do this and how we design our cities. How we design or how we address our education problems. It becomes a societal sort of thing, but there's definitely environmental implications involved. The environment is not an entity in itself. It entwines with everything else.

Q. Is there a point at which a place is no longer the place that drew people because it has grown and evolved so much?

A. Watching your own kids grow up, you don't see them grow up unless you get pictures of them. As we live in a community for a long period of time, we accept change and all of us look at change differently. Some of us say, "Hey, it is a better place because of these opportunities," Some will say, "It's not what it used to be." There is no clear-cut answer. Attitude is the local part of it.

As an environmentalist, as an ecologist, I have some real concerns for society. We have to literally save the planet. We have to be convinced that we are in this race to save the planet. We only have 40 years to save it. If we don't reduce pollution, if we don't reduce carbon, if we don't do something about acid rain, if we continue to let business go as usual, in 30 or 40 years things will be such that we cannot change.

You need to go to a place like Lima or Bangkok. Then you get a different perspective on what it means to not have the resources we have. We in this country represent probably around 6 percent of the world's population but we consume (much more) of the world's resources. It may well be simply an academic issue, but I think all of us fear that — Green Bay included — "I'm part of the 6 percent, part of this thing called Planet Earth." What I do in terms of lifestyle? What I do in terms of how much energy I use? Any slight change I do is going to help. We all need to participate.

G. B. Press Gazette 9/28/99

ıg of the Washington D.C.-organization, an agency of orld Health Organization, 120-page report on health g the 600 million people in mber countries as diverse United States, Brazil and

ty health ministers are at-ıg along with former Nor-n premier Gro Harlem tland, the secretary-gener-ıe WHO.

her unexpected develop-s the return of diseases ought manageable, in part the mutating nature of s, Alleyne said.

g-resistant strains of mi-are having a deadly im-the fight against tubercu-alaria, cholera, diarrhea umonia (which) together e than 10 million people de each year," he said in view.

is happening at a time few new drugs are being ed to replace those that their effectiveness."

ıgled out the mosquito ies dengue — the highly ing and untreatable dis-e call "breakbone fever" ıfected 770,000 people in icas last year and killed

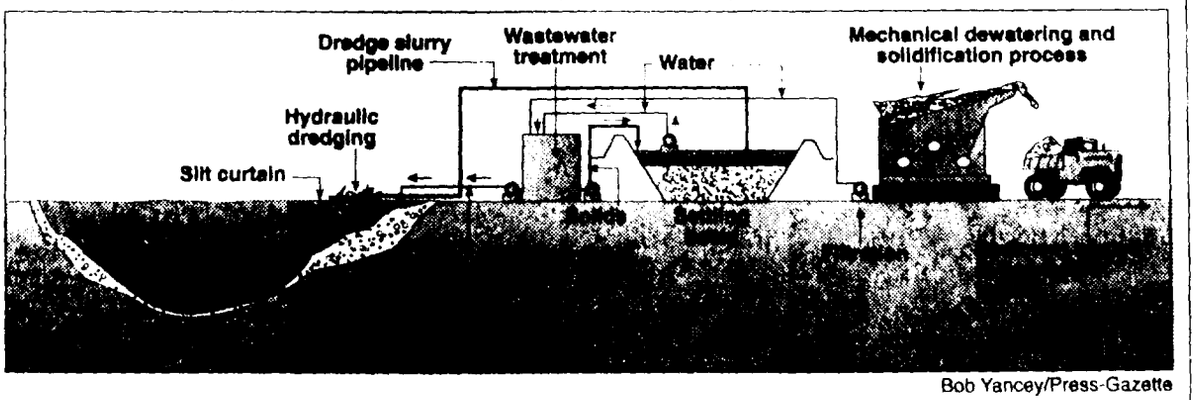
was a time when a lot of l was free of this , but now we find virtu-hole region reinfected," ıid.

ned excessive reliance cal insecticides, which uitoes have become re-and inadequate sanita-provides an environ-ıosquitoes to breed.

losis, affecting 400,000 he region, was another We thought we had the ets to treat it. Now we ing back ... and killing every day."

Sediment removal process

Key project elements will include hydraulic dredging of contaminated sediment, on-shore dewatering (removing water from sediment), water treatment, and the transportation and disposal of PCB-containing sediments.



Bob Yancey/Press-Gazette

PCBs/Industry roots questioned

■ From A-1

mated 63,000 pounds of PCBs that line the sediment of the Fox River today.

Baker said the agency is critical of the national study because of its industry roots. Congress and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ordered the study in response to a request by General Electric Co., which faces a multi-million PCB cleanup in New York's Hudson River and has gone on record opposing dredging as an effective means of cleanup.

The National Academies, he said, is staging the public hearings in Green Bay and Albany, N.Y., only to legitimize an industry-ordered study.

"They're trying to add credibility to their effort and we're not about to offer them any credibility that they're not deserving of," Baker said.

John Farrington, chairman of the NRC committee, said the largely volunteer panel of experts was convened in response to a call from Congress and the EPA.

"They're serving on this committee not because General Electric asked for something, not because some environmental group asked for something, or even because some university asked for something," he said.

"They're doing it because this is a study that's considered to be important by the governing body of the National Research Council.

"People can assign all sorts of concerns to this," he said. "I can assure you, unequivocally, that we are looking at the facts," Farrington said.

The Fox River Group, representing paper mills that face a cleanup estimated to cost anywhere from $150 million to $728 million, has followed GE's lead on dredging, and their consultants re-stated that position Monday.

Paul Doody of Blasland, Bouck & Lee, an engineering firm in Syracuse, N.Y., that also works for GE, questioned the results of five dredging projects that the EPA has cited as successful. Doody said it unclear whether dredging or the river's natural processes were responsible for the improvements.

Meanwhile, Mark Brown, of the same firm, said natural recovery should be a part of any cleanup scenario.

"We would hope that (the EPA) would recognize that natural attenuation is not walking away from a site. There's no walking away from liability on these sites," he said.

Rebecca Katers, executive director of the activist Clean Water Action Council in Green Bay, said leaving PCBs in the river is unacceptable given the health risks the chemicals pose to people, fish and wildlife that accumulate them through the food chain.

"Life is too short," she said. "Many of us now would like to use the resource. We need immediate protection for the people who exist now."

ıools/10 states to develop new math test

ays that Latinos and ericans fail the TAAS ıe rates of white stu-

r and discriminatory school diplomas to on the failure of dized test," said Al-an, the lead counsel which asks that the ing the test to either en in grade or deny

Texas undoubtedly ver into states such

"Part of the reason we're holding the summit is, we're starting to see concerns about low scores on tougher tests states are putting in place," said Matt Gandel of Achieve. "We hope that is not a cause for lowering standards. If anything, it should mean redoubling the efforts to get the kids there."

Achieve's latest accomplishment is an agreement among 10 states to develop an eighth-grade math test that is competitive with the toughest international tests.

States joining: Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, M...

duce those standards over the last decade foundered over sharp political disagreements.

As a result, each state has been left to develop its own standards.

"There's a recognition at this point that education is a state responsibility," said Litow, and that now the priority is to sharpen state standards to the best international standards.

Said Litow: "You may get more quality from that than by holding off and investing in a national system — even if that were politically feasible."

G Quarterback Club

THE GREEN BAY NEWS-CHRONICLE 9/28/99 LOCAL

Two groups on opposite sides of Fox River recovery

A committee studying PCB remediation hears support for dredging and natural recovery

By Melinda Naparalla
The News-Chronicle

Two area groups outlined their pposing views on the cleanup of ie Fox River during a federal hear- g at the University of Wisconsin- reen Bay Monday night.

Clean Water Action Council and e Fox River Group, a coalition of e seven paper mills potentially sp ible for the contamination of e r, presented information to e National Research Council's ommittee on Remediation of PCB- ontaminated Sediments.

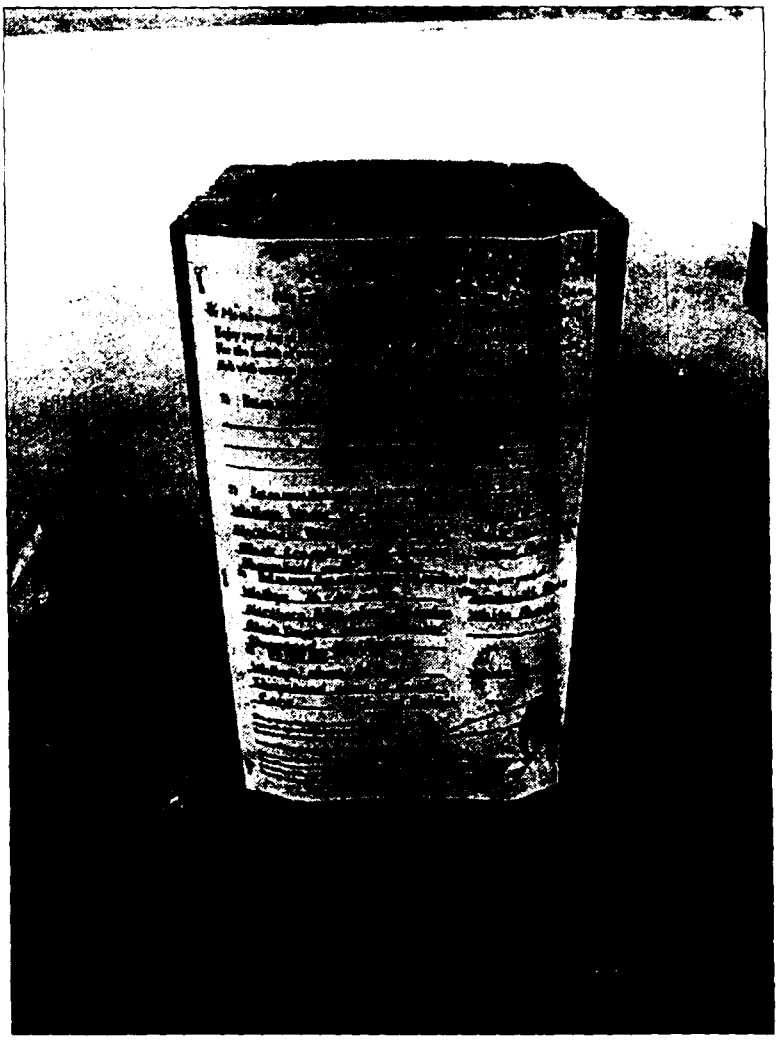
In response to General Electric's quest for a review of the merits of dging, Congress asked the com- ttee to study alternatives for aning polychlorinated biphenyls m river beds.

Clean Water Action Council, a al environmental group, advocat- an aggressive cleanup of the Fox er while ensuring the protection public health and wildlife.

Rebecca Katers, executive direc- said the group is against natural overy, the alternative supported the industry group that would e the contaminated sediment in e under a new layer of clean .

"We don't believe time is an ptable treatment method," she . "We need immediate health ection."

Natural recovery assumes the environment is stable, and the sediments aren't going to stay buried forever, Katers said.



H. Marc Larson / The News-Chronicle

PCB HEALTH ADVISORIES are posted along the Fox River downstream from the De Pere Dam.

Mark Brown, an environmental consultant for the Fox River Group, said natural recovery is as effective as other alternatives such as dredging. Natural recovery isn't a walk-away, no-action alternative, he added.

"There is no walking away from liability," Brown said. "Natural recovery can reduce risk, especially in cases where clean sediment buries contaminated soil."

Paul Doody, an environmental consultant for Fox River Group, said dredging results they have seen from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are not as positive as they seem.

Doody said they examined several sites the EPA dredged across the country, and the reduction in PCB levels in fish was not as great as shown.

In the Shiawassee River in Michigan, the river had declining PCB levels before the dredging began, he said.

Brown said some projects also had cleanup costs higher than first estimated, including a project now underway on the Manistique River in Michigan. Estimates of the Fox River dredging range from $150 million to $728 million.

Tom Nelson, environmental specialist for the Oneida Tribe, said risk assessment is usually linked to population, but the population of the reservation is small compared to the risk from the Fox River PCBs.

Nelson also said the tribe, as a sovereign nation, should be able to declare a Superfund site.

In addition to this week's hearings in Green Bay, the committee is visiting Albany, N.Y., because of PCB contamination of the Hudson River.

The hearing is scheduled to continue today from 8:30 a.m. until noon in the Christie Theater of the University Union.

10 a.m. news conference today.

GREEN BAY 9/27/99

Hearings scheduled on Fox River cleanup

Two public hearings are scheduled at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay by a National Research Council committee that has been authorized by Congress to propose methods of removing PCB-contaminated sediment from the Fox River.

Congress has asked the research council's Committee on Remediation of PCB-Contaminated Sediments for suggestions.

The committee also is visiting Albany, N.Y., because of PCB contamination of the Hudson River.

The hearings are scheduled for 7 to 10 p.m. today in Phoenix Room B, and 8:30 a.m. to Noon Tuesday in the Christie Theater.

Both sites are in the University Union, 2420 Nicolet Drive.

reminded his peers the scholarship cation unclaimed.

9/25/99

National Research Council holds meetings on Fox River PCB work

GREEN BAY – The National Research Council is holding meetings Monday and Tuesday to discuss the cleanup of polychlorinated biphenyls from the Fox River.

The Research Council has been retained by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to evaluate different approaches for remediating Fox River sediments contaminated by PCBs.

During the meetings, presentations will be made by representatives of federal and state government agencies, industry, environmental groups and other interested individuals.

The Monday meeting will be in Phoenix Room B of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay Union from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The Tuesday meeting will be in the UWGB Union Christie Theater A117 from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

John Farrington, associate director for education and dean of graduate studies at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, Mass., is chairman of the Research Council committee.

An agenda is available at www.nationalacademies.org under Current Projects and the title "Remediation of PCB-Contaminated Sediments."

The National Research Council is the principal operating arm of the National Academy of Sciences and National Academy of Engineering. It is a private, nonprofit organization that provides advice on science and technology under a congressional charter.

EPA chief calls for end to diluting pollution in lakes

By Susan Campbell
Press-Gazette

9/25/99

MILWAUKEE — U.S. EPA Administrator Carol Browner vowed Friday to safeguard the Great Lakes and called for an end to what has long been known — and derided by environmentalists — as the "dilution solution."

Speaking at the International Joint Commission's 1999 Great Lakes Water Quality Forum, the nation's top environmental regulator announced a proposal to prohibit the allowance in the Great Lakes of new mixing zones, in which contaminants are allowed to mingle with lake water to dilute.

"It didn't work. That's what science tells us today," Browner said to loud applause. "We can do better. Dilution is no solution to pollution."

The initiative targets so-called bio-accumulating chemicals, pollutants like mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls that are slow to break down and persist for years in the environment.

From there, Browner said, the chemicals make their way into the food chain, starting with small aquatic organisms and working their way to fish and wildlife and, ultimately, people.

Once in the body, the contaminants can attack the liver and kidneys and the nervous, reproductive and immune systems of animals. Researchers have found some similar effects in humans, and a national scientific panel recently called for further studies.

"By allowing these chemicals to gather first in mixing zones, we guarantee that over time they will spread, and accumulate throughout the delicate environment of our shared Great Lakes," Browner said.

"Despite how big this resource is — the great depth, the size of the Great Lakes — they too are vulnerable to toxic pollution that remains in the water for years," she said.

Browner said existing mixing zones would be phased out during 10 years under the EPA proposal. The agency sought to ban mixing zones once before, but the policy was overturned in the courts.

← Hey Mitch, even Carol talks about lives!

the help of a tax increment finance district.

Drawings, unveiled by ar- day afternoon, liked the drawings.

"It makes a nice facade,"

would house retail on the bottom floors, office space

Please see **Plan, A-2**

National panel to address PCB cleanup options

9/24/99

By Susan Campbell
Press-Gazette

A National Academies panel evaluating approaches to cleaning up PCB-tainted sediment is scheduled to hold two public meetings at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay on Monday and Tuesday.

Green Bay is one of just two stops planned by the National Research Council's Committee on Remediation of PCB-Contaminated Sediments, which has been charged by Congress to recommend a framework for determining how polychlorinated biphenyl cleanups are to be handled nationwide.

In keeping with its charge, the panel will look at the human and ecological risks associated with cleanup approaches including natural recovery, source control, dredging, capping and disposal of contaminated sediment.

The panel is visiting Green Bay and Albany, N.Y., to learn about how those communities are grappling with PCB cleanup decisions for the Fox and Hudson rivers, respectively — two large, contaminated rivers that have polarized the communities around them.

"This is an issue that attracts a lot of attention, not only in Wisconsin, but around the country," said Roberta Wedge, project director for the National Research Council, the operating arm of the National Academies.

In Green Bay, the 15-member scientific panel will hear presentations from various perspectives on many of the issues surrounding the Fox River cleanup.

The Monday night session will feature presentations on the use of risk analysis in cleanup decisions, and the

Please see **PCB, A-2**



Ken Wesely/Press-Gazette

Buoys float around the pipe leading to a dredging site **near the Fort** James Corp.'s West Mill. Fort James is part **of a pilot** project for cleaning PCBs from the Fox River.

Sunday

PCB issue just latest balancing act with nature

the paper report



Hardev S. (Doug) Dugal is chief executive of Integrated Paper Services Inc., Appleton, the local successor to the Institute of Paper Chemistry. He spent 21 years at IPC and was a founder of IPS in 1988. It provides technical services to the paper industry. To contact him, call 749-3040, ext. 103 or fax 749-3046.

I am writing the following neither as an environmentalist nor an industry man, but as a person who is for a balanced and sustained environment where all life forms can happily function, survive and evolve.

Fellow Paper Report columnist Tom Schmidt made a case Sept. 5 that dredging and removal of PCBs from the Fox River will be a very expensive project, especially when it may not be needed. From that came questions on what PCBs are all about. I will give you the answers I have.

Volumes have been written on PCBs, most technical in nature and the remaining political and/or emotional. Some information may be reasonably balanced, but most is hard to discern and difficult to comprehend. Some questions will always be hard to answer because there is little clear-cut proof.

At some point we will have to make the hard choice as to what is enough and acceptable - environmentally and socioeconomically.

What are PCBs? PCB is an abbreviation for polychlorinated biphenyl. A phenyl is a benzene ring composed of six carbons and six hydrogens. Think about a benzene ring like a hexagon with one carbon and one hydrogen at each of its six corners. Two hydrogens one from each benzene ring) are lost in forming a biphenyl bond thus, resulting in a molecule con- ... 12 carbons and 10 hydro- ...

A biphenyl is similar to sun glasses with hexagonal frames and the bridge between the two is the bond. During chlorination, one or more of these 10 hydrogens can be substituted by chlorine forming a mono- or poly-chlorinated biphenyl. A general term used for such compounds is "chlorinated organics."

PCBs are a specific type of chlorinated organics and were manufactured by Monsanto. Most transformer oils consisted of a mixture of PCBs containing five, six or seven chlorines per biphenyl. Monsanto stopped producing them in 1977-78.

The paper industry mainly used the lower chlorine content PCBs in coating on a type of carbonless copy paper; it was never used in the manufacture of paper. The industry stopped using PCBs in carbonless paper by 1971, shortly after concerns were expressed and about six years before the federal government banned most applications of PCBs.

The presence of PCBs in the paper mill effluents is a side effect of recycling old papers. It can be called an "accidental" negative effect of the waste paper recycling. I understand from Tom Schmidt's Sept. 5 column their presence in the Fox River is already at the level of other Superfund sites that have been declared "completed and cleaned-up" by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

How are PCBs formed?: According to Gribble (Today's Chemist at Work magazine, July/August 1994):

"Most people might be startled to know that hundreds and probably thousands of organic chlorine chemicals - chlorinated organics - are produced naturally by an array of biological and chemical processes in our environment.

"Over 1,000 are known, and more are being discovered every month. Many of these natural chemicals are identical to familiar man-made chlorinated organics: chlorophenols, chloroalkanes, PCBs, chlorofluorocarbons (CFC), and dioxins. Others are entirely new molecular entities and possess extraordinary biological properties similar to those of natural products penicillin, morphine and taxol."

Many chlorinated organics are biosynthesized by individual organisms for a very specific purpose. They are essential for the survival of these organisms, whose ability to synthesize the compounds has evolved under the stress of natural selection. Please note that man synthesized PCBs by chlorinating biphenyls.

Gribble further writes:

"More remarkable is that our immune system actually uses chlorine, bromine and iodine to halogenate and kill invading microorganisms. Enzymes in mammalian white blood cells oxidize natural blood chloride to chlorine, resulting in the death of the pathogen (bacteria, yeast, fungi, and even tumor cells) by chlorination. Chlorination is apparently as natural a biological process as blood clotting or salivation.

"Forest fires and volcanoes are also known to produce chlorinated organics formerly thought to result only from the actions of man. Such natural chlorine and fluorine compounds are produced in the eruption zone by the combustion of organic material, such as vegetation, sediments, or fossil soils, in the presence of chloride and fluoride mineral deposits. Ash from Mt. St. Helens reveals the presence of three previously unknown isomers of PCBs. Another report indicated that about 130 pounds of dioxins are produced per year by forest fires. This is 10 times more than the worst dioxin accident in Italy." (Today's Chemist At Work, March 1995).

Occurrence of chlorinated organics: Nature is not free of chlorinated organics; they are all around us. Don't forget nature is an incredible recycling center.

One of these sources also reported chlorinated compounds were found in 8,000-year-old marine sediments; 5,200-year-old groundwater; 35,000-year-old aquifer humus; 7,000-year-old peat deposits; and pristine forests and lakes. In our ecosystem, chlorine is as natural as carbon, hydrogen and oxygen.

Several important pharmaceutical agents contain chlorine. I would not be surprised if 60 to 70 percent of the medicines we take for infection control contain chlorine. Ambigol, a recently discovered chlorinated PCB from terrestrial blue-green alga, is active against HIV, Gribble says.

Properties of PCBs: PCBs are generally oily substances, transparent like water and thick like honey. Commercially, they are available as mixtures of different PCBs.

After release into the environment, the composition of mixtures change. Fractions can separate into air, water and solids. PCBs adsorb to organic materials, sediments and soils. The adsorption tends to increase with the chlorine content of the PCBs and organic content of the other material.

As a rule, lower chlorine-containing PCBs are more "soluble" in water and more volatile than those with higher chlorine content. PCBs love to "dissolve" in oils and fatty materials rather than in water, so they accumulate in the fatty tissue of fish or other organisms, animals, etc. Toxic effects have been observed from acute and chronic exposures to PCB mixtures with varying chlorine contents.

In his July 26, 1991, editorial in Science Magazine, deputy editor Philip Abelson writes there is no health-effects justification to base regulations of all PCBs on tests with Aroclor 1260. He referred to a study by the Institute for Evaluating Health Risks (IEHR) which reported Aroclor 1260 (60 percent chlorine) to be carcinogenic in animals, while PCBs with lower chlorine content concentration (54 percent, Aroclor 1254) have produced cancer in animals that was not statistically significant.

He said rats chronically exposed to still lower concentrations of chlorine (42 percent, Aroclor 1242) did not develop any increase in malignant tumors or a statistically significant increase in benign tumors. In the Federal Register Jan. 30, 1991, the EPA also agreed there is inadequate evidence of carcinogenicity of PCBs in humans. Some recent publications, however, are alleging other possible effects such as endocrine disruption, immune system suppression, skin irritation, etc., based on animal studies.

> "Ash from Mt. St. Helens reveals the presence of three previously unknown isomers of PCBs. Another report indicated that about 130 pounds of dioxins are produced per year by forest fires. This is 10 times more than the worst dioxin accident in Italy."
>
> **TODAY'S CHEMIST AT WORK, March 1995**

Work done at The Institute of Paper Chemistry during the mid 1970s by researcher George Dubey and co-workers found most PCBs were adsorbed on fiber fines and went with the sludge of the waste treatment plant. While refining the analytical procedure, Easty's group found PCBs can be lost from the isolated fibers if permitted to air dry at room temperature.

If this is true, guess what might happen to PCBs from the dredged Fox River sludge? They might end up back in the air.

IPC's Eugene Zanella showed most PCBs can be reduced from fish by peeling the skin off (fish fat goes with the skin). He also found that when fish is fried, most PCBs accumulate in the frying oil.

Fate of PCBs: What happens to PCBs in the environment depends on chlorine content. Biodegradation transforms the chemical composition of PCB mixtures in the environment. Anaerobic bacteria (which function without oxygen) in sediments selectively remove chlorines from PCBs, thus appearing to reduce the toxicity and bioaccumulation potential of residues. Please note that such anaerobic conditions would be present below six inches to a foot or more of silt in a river bed. If PCBs were to be present under silt, as in the Fox River, nature could take its course and make it less toxic with time.

Abelson said: "Under aerobic conditions (oxygen present) in nature, mono- and dichloro- and even some tri- and tetrachlorobiphenyls are slowly metabolized by micro-organisms. Aerobes in general are unable to metabolize highly chlorinated biphenyls. However, under anaerobic conditions, partial dechlorination slowly occurs making the resultant substance vulnerable if aerobic conditions are later established."

Some implications: We all know "biologically active" chemicals should not be allowed into the environment. But in cases where doubts exist and the chemical in question is also generated through the natural process, good thinking must be done before decisions are taken that may prove to be of low value in the long ran.

According to Gribble, "scientists, environmentalists and politicians need to be aware of the many naturally occurring organochlorine chemicals and their role in nature. Only then can these decision makers intelligently regulate chlorine and chlorinated chemicals."

Ask yourselves the questions:

What happened to all that DDT? Where is it now?

After the PCB era is over, what will be next?

I anticipate, we will get after the cemeteries and make them pollutant-free so that the groundwater is not afflicted. After all, all those preservatives we use in embalming are toxic, aren't they?

I hope you do not discount that "everything is toxic at a concentration" and "everything degrades with time." We must do things so that nature's balance in and around us is maintained and sustained.

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A WORKER USES a small dredge to move sediment in the settling basin at the Sediment Management Unit 56/57 dredging operations near the Fort James West paper mill.

H. Marc Larson / The News-Chronicle

Cooling off a 'hot spot'

The demonstration dredging effort on the Fox River is expected to be completed by Thanksgiving

By Melinda Naparalla
The News-Chronicle

Officials of the state Department of Natural Resources and Fort James Corp. took care Friday to reassure reporters that they are taking every effort to ensure a pilot Fox River dredging project safely fulfills its goal of cleaning up the largest pocket of PCBs on the lower river.

The occasion was a media tour of Sediment Management Unit (SMU) 56/57, the PCB "hot spot" near Fort James West paper mill, 1919 S. Broadway, one of seven plants identified as responsible for discharging the hazardous chemicals into the river in the years before the danger was fully understood.

Reporters also received a tour of the Fort James landfill 4.5 miles away near Austin Straubel International Airport and behind the Oneida Casino, 2100 Airport Drive, where trucks leaving SMU 56/57 carry about 20 tons of contaminated soil at a time.

Drivers enter a specially prepared 3.7-acre cell and empty their loads while a bulldozer spreads the sediment in a thin layer, supervised by a man in an air mask and sealed suit from Superior Special Services, a company that specializes in hazardous material cleanup. Rich Jones, an engineer who developed the landfill site for Fort James, said there isn't much threat PCBs will enter the air because the material stays qui oist.

Applying the sediment in thin layers keeps the cell compact and reduces concerns about its long-term stability, Jones said.

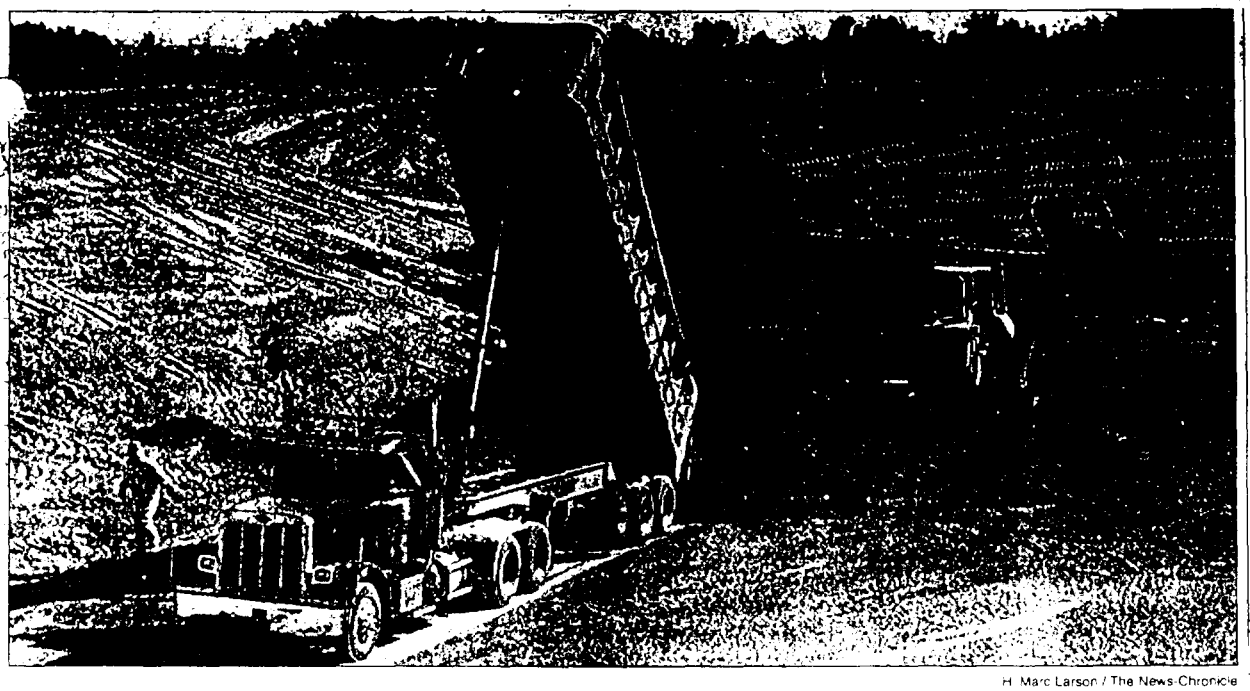
After leaving the Fort James staging area, the trucks travel on Lombardi Avenue west to Ashland Avenue and south to Pilgrim Way, then west on State 172 (Airport Drive) until they reach the site.

The trucks have special characteristics to reduce the risk of contaminated sediment escaping into the environment, Jones said.

"The tailgates are sealed so there's no chance that drops of water will get out," Jones said.

The tarp covering the trucks comes over the sides to reduce the potential of spills. About 4 to 6 trucks make the hourlong trip every day, seven days a week, Jones said.

Please see **SPOT,** Page 5



H. Marc Larson / The News-Chronicle

SEDIMENT FROM THE FOX RIVER IS DEPOSITED at a Fort James landfill near the Oneida Casino.

SPOT: Landfill will hold 48,000 cubic yards

FROM PAGE 1

Inside the landfill cell, a drainage net collects any leachate, which is sent to the Green Bay Metropolitan Sewage District for treatment, he said.

The landfill cell is designed to hold about 70,000 cubic yards of sediment. At SMU 56/57, the DNR plans to remove about 80,000 cubic yards that will be reduced to about 48,000 cubic yards after dewatering.

Mark Lindley, director of communications for Fort James, said the company's agreement with the DNR to take contaminated sediment only applies to SMU 56/57.

The company is not considering accepting any other materials because they need the landfill room for its own waste, Lindley said.

Safety measures have been included at each stage of the process, not just the landfill site.

Monitors have been installed at and near the dredging site to monitor the air and water up to 1.2 miles away.

Todd Lewis, construction manager of Montgomery Watson, the company hired to oversee the dredging, said five water monitors were installed in the river near the dredging and one was installed near Fort James' water intake pipe.

"We don't expect changes in the air quality," said Bill Fitzpatrick, DNR project manager. "Other areas are being monitored and show no atmospheric emissions of PCBs."

The hydraulic dredge, similar to a vacuum, sucks up the sediment from the river bed.

Rich Weber, project manager for Montgomery Watson, said the dredge is set at about 13 feet below the water and cuts between 5 to 12 feet into the sediment.

Test cores were taken before the project began to determine the depth of the PCB contamination under the 9-acre site, Weber said.

"We're dredging to the full depth of contamination," Weber said. "We're dredging to the depth of no contamination."

Once the sediment is dredged, the slurry travels through a double pipe, a 12-inch diameter pipe within a 16-inch diameter pipe, into settling basins.

There, the solids settle out of the liquid. Aluminum sulfate is added to speed up the settling process.

The solids are then dredged out of the settling basins and pumped off for dewatering. During dewatering, plates press the excess water out of the solids.

The leftover water is sent through an on-site filtering system, sampled to ensure it has been cleaned, and then returned to the river.

The settling basins and dewatering areas are in a continuously monitored, secured area that operates 24 hours a day.

Bob Behrens, DNR project manager, said information gathered during this project will be used in the remedial investigation and feasibility study, part of the process of determining whether the federal Superfund will be tapped for the overall Fox River cleanup.

Behrens said although the project is not as far along as he would like it to be, he is confident it will be completed by Thanksgiving.



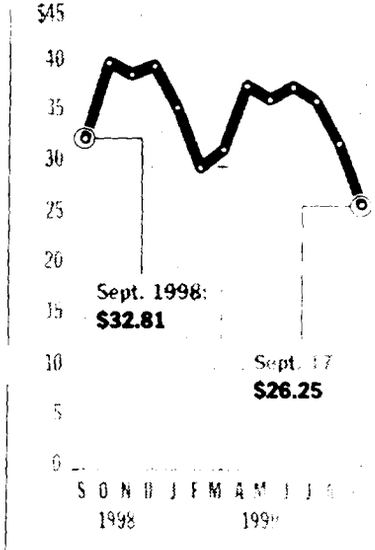
H. Marc Larson / The News-Chronicle

STANDING NEXT TO THE DREDGE SLURRY pipeline out of the Fox River, Todd Lewis of Montgomery Watson conducts a tour of the Sediment Removal Demonstration Project on the river near the Fort James West mill.

9/18/99 Chicago Tribune

Fort James stock

Monthly closes:



Source: Bridge

Fort James stock plunges

Analysts say 3rd earnings warning in year hurts firm's credibility

By Sallie L. Gaines
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Shares of Fort James Corp. plunged Friday after the company announced that earnings will fall far short of projections.

It was the third earnings warning from Fort James in the last year, and industry analysts said Friday the Deerfield-based company's credibility is on the line.

"Something's not right," said Linda Lieberman of Bear, Stearns in New York.

Fort James—whose brands of consumer paper products include Brawny, Dixie, Mardi Gras, Quilted Northern and Vanity Fair—said unexpectedly high distribution costs were the main problem. The company also cited the costs of launching new products and higher prices for pulp and wastepaper.

"They've been talking about having problems with their distribution channels for a long time now," said Michael Jaffe of S&P Equity Group in New York. "They keep saying those problems should be cleared up pretty soon. It's pretty disappointing, especially if you're a shareholder."

Fort James said it expects third-quarter earnings, to be announced Oct. 20, to be 25 percent less than the 66 cents a share earned a year earlier. And for the second half of 1999, the company said profit will be about 20 percent less than last year's $1.27 a share.

A consensus of analysts polled by First Call had predicted earnings of 65 cents for the third quarter and $1.33 for the second half.

The news generated a stampede to sell Fort James stock. The shares dropped $8.87, or 25 percent, to close at $26.25, on 10 times the average trading volume on the New York Stock Exchange.

Jaffe said the announcement shows that, two years after the company was created via the merger of James River Corp. and Ft. Howard Corp., operations have not been integrated effectively. James River made

SEE FORT JAMES, PAGE 2

Stocks

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

showed a loss of 16.24.

The Nasdaq composite index advanced 62.90, or 2.2 percent, to 2869.62. That narrowed the week's loss to 17.44.

The Russell 2000 index of small-company stocks on Friday rose 4.20, or 1.0 percent, to 434.45. For the week, the Russell fell 6.74, or 1.5 percent.

Friday's report on housing starts caused hardly a ripple in the market. Construction of homes and apartments posted a 0.4 percent increase in August, leaving analysts marveling at the continued strength in housing despite higher mortgage rates.

The Commerce Department reported that construction climbed to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.68 million units last month, led by another big rise in apartment building.

The performance surprised analysts. Many had been expecting a 2 percent decline in housing starts because of higher mortgage rates, which in August climbed briefly above 8 percent after starting the year below 7 percent.

Still, analysts detected some hints that rising mortgage rates are beginning to dampen demand a bit.

Construction starts on single-family homes actually fell 1.3 percent last month after rising 1.2 percent in July.

New building permits, considered a gauge of future construction, fell 1.8 percent in August after being unchanged in July.

In the stock market, solid gains from General Electric, up $2.75, to $120, and 3M, up $2.19, to $98.25, helped lift the Dow.

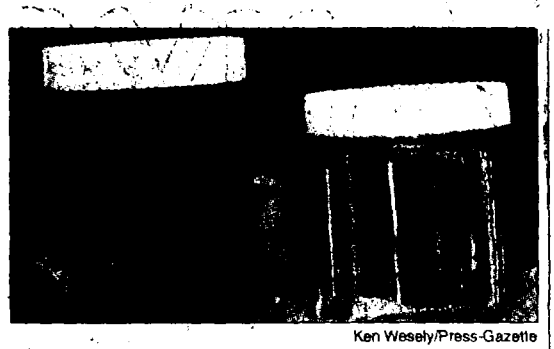
Gains in a wide range of technology shares also supported the market. Microsoft gained $2.44, to $96.44; Cisco Systems picked up $3; to $73.50; and Sun Microsystems added $4, to $88.69.

Adobe Systems jumped $7.12, to $105, after reporting that it earned 80 cents a share in its fiscal third quarter, beating analysts' consensus estimate of 74 cents a share. The software company also declared a 2-for-1 stock split.

Tribune markets writer Bill Barnhart and wires contributed to this report.

les rebounded in an audit report certainty that it is B-3.

Dredging project unveiled



Ken Wesely/Press-Gazette

Shown are samples of watery sediment, left, that has been dredged from the Fox River and the treated water, right, that is returned to the river.



Ken Wesely/Press-Gazette

Todd Lewis, supervising construction manager with Montgomery Watson Constructors Inc., of Addison, Ill., points to a dredging pipe — which is 16 inches in diameter — that goes out to the dredging site on the Fox River.

Fort James gives tour of cleanup

9/18/99

By Susan Campbell
Press-Gazette

Fort James Corp. led nearly 50 people Friday on a tour tracing the path of PCB-tainted sediment as it is dredged from the Fox River, dewatered, and trucked 4½ miles to Ashwaubenon for landfilling.

The company invited elected officials and the media to tour the dredge site outside its West Mill in Green Bay and landfill in Ashwaubenon, briefly parting the curtains on the second PCB dredging project on the Fo[illegible]er in as many years.

R[illegible]kazmierczak, Northeast Region director of the state Department of Natural Resources, noted that for more than a decade, the DNR and others have been criticized for failing to remove even a teaspoonful of PCB-tainted river sediment — despite years of studies and discussion.

"Finally, we've resolved the teaspoon problem," he said. "We're moving it by the cubic yard and the dump truckful."

Indeed, every day from now through the end of November, 30 to 50 trucks are expected to be haul approximately 600 tons to 1,000 tons of contaminated sediment to the landfill just north of Oneida Bingo and Casino.

When completed, 80,000 cubic yards of sediment bearing about 4,000 pounds of toxic polychlorinated biphenyls will have been removed from the river just outside the mill.

Although the river's first dredging project started this past fall near Kimberly, Kazmierczak noted that the project site outside Fort James is larger and more contaminated — with PCB levels measuring as high as 700 parts per million.

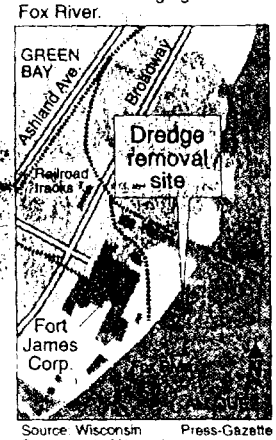
The $9 million project is being designed and financed by Fort James and six other paper mills held responsible for an estimated 65,000 pounds of PCBs lining portions of the riverbed today.

Although environmental dredging has proved effective and safe elsewhere, the mills pushed for the pilot project to be included in a 1996 agreement with the DNR, hoping to explore their questions about dredging.

Please see Project, B-2

PCB hot spot

Paper mills and the state Department of Natural Resources plan to remove PCB-laced sediments to learn more about dredging on the Fox River.



Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Press-Gazette

Panel urges more study of PCBs

Exact effect of chemical to be determined

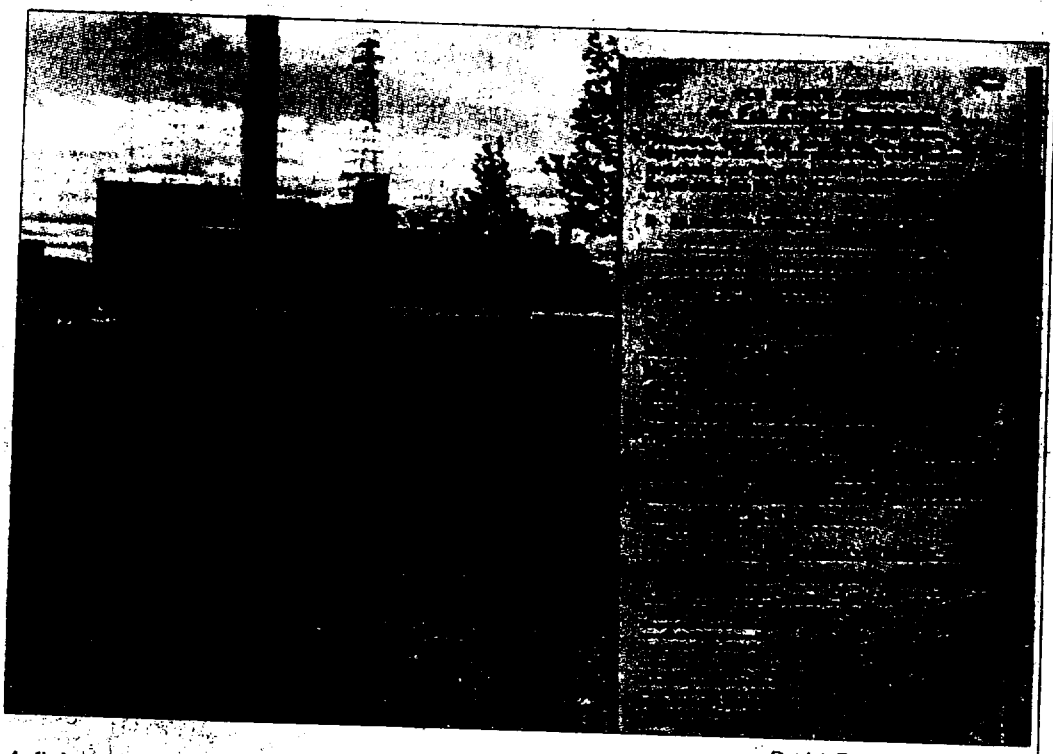
By Susan Campbell
Press-Gazette

A much-anticipated, four-year National Research Council report on the risks that polychlorinated biphenyls and other chemicals in the environment pose to people and wildlife seems to have something for everyone.

Experts familiar with all or portions of the 400-page study say it is interpreted favorably by almost everyone who reads it — regardless of one's stance on whether certain chemicals in the environment wreak havoc on the body by mimicking natural hormones.

"I've talked to about three different people who read the same piece of paper, and they all have three different opinions of what it says," said Ken Stromborg, an environmental contaminants specialist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Green Bay.

John Giesy, a zoology professor at Michigan State University and one of 16 scientists who authored the report released earlier this month, quipped, "It's a little bit like the Bible then, isn't it?"



Patrick Ferron/Press-Gazette

A fish-consumption advisory is posted at the Green Bay Metro Boat Launch, at the mouth of the Fox River, with the Pulliam Power Plant in the background. There are mixed interpretations of a report on the risks posed by PCBs and other chemicals in the environment.

Passages from the report are certain to be cited in the Fox River Valley, where the state and federal governments are squaring off against paper mills over the removal of PCBs along 39 miles of the river.

The study was requested by the U.S. Congress and two federal agencies — the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of the Interior — in response to concerns that some chemicals and pesticides in the environment are disrupting the endocrine, or hormonal, systems of people and wildlife by mimicking hormones.

That specter is troubling because the endocrine system is behind the scenes directing a variety of critical systems, including the body's reproductive, nervous and immune systems —

Please see PCBs, A-2

PCBs/Link to cancer requires more study

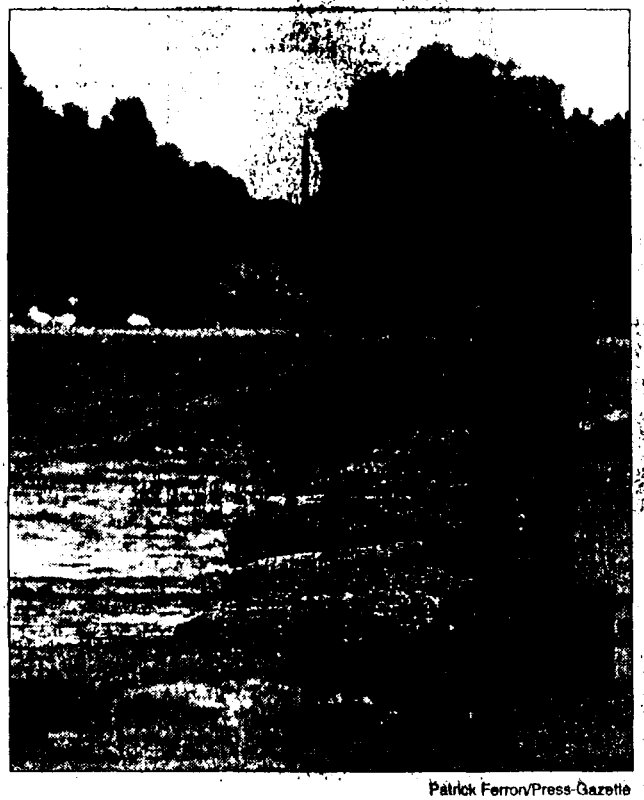
■ From A-1

p[illegible]ularly during development. [illegible] theory is also controversial.

The national 1996 best seller, *Our Stolen Future*, caused a commotion in the science world when it questioned whether such hormone disrupters might be linked to falling sperm counts and fertility problems; breast and other reproductive cancers; and lowered IQ scores and increased aggression in children exposed to higher levels of contaminants in the womb.

The questions spurred the EPA in 1998 to begin screening for hormonal effects in chemicals found in thousands of common household products. Responding to those concerns, the National Research Council, an arm of the National Academies, convened a panel of some of the nation's leading experts on the subject to look for answers.

Their general conclusion after an exhaustive review of the scientific literature: More research is needed.



Patrick Ferron/Press-Gazette

Pete Van Donsel of Oneida fishes Friday on the Fox River at Voyageur Park in De Pere. Van Donsel was fishing for fun and said he doesn't eat the fish. Recently placed health advisories warn against eating some fish from the Fox River because of PCB contamination.

Panel's findings

But the panel did make some pronouncements in its report. Among them:

■ Chemicals in the environment are to blame for a variety of problems in fish and wildlife, such as problems with reproduction, aberrant behavior, deformi[illegible]nd disappearing populati[illegible].

For example, so-called hormonally active agents likely contributed to declines in some wildlife populations, including fish and birds of the Great Lakes. They also may have contributed to diseases and deformities in U.S. mink, and in European otters and marine mammals. Not known, however, is whether these troubles are the result of chemicals masquerading as hormones.

■ There is not enough evidence to date to show that hormonally active agents in the environment are to blame for falling sperm counts in places around the world, or for breast, prostate and testicular cancers.

The report added, however, that "although the current literature does not support associations ... few studies have examined measured concentrations of those compounds in adults in relation to cancer risk."

■ Michigan studies — which showed a range of developmental deficits in children exposed in the womb to higher levels of PCBs by mothers who ate tainted Great Lakes fish — are the most comprehensive to date.

Those and other studies involving humans and animals, the panel found, "indicate prenatal exposure to PCBs can cause lower birth weight and shorter gestation, and has been correlated with IQ and memory deficits as well as delayed neuromuscular development."

'A step forward'

In all areas of research, the panel pushed for more information.

That recommendation was well-received by Theo Colborn, a senior scientist at the World Wildlife Fund and co-author of *Our Stolen Future*.

"It's a real step forward in how we think about risk and chemicals," said Colborn, who sits on a national committee that recommended the EPA's current campaign to test chemicals for hormonal effects.

The report's call for further testing supports that campaign, she said.

"It's definitely a signal for EPA to move forward, to get our act together," Colborn said. "It's telling us where to go and let's move forward."

Colborn wasn't surprised by the panel's finding of no evidence to link cancers of the reproductive system and lowered sperm counts with hormonally active chemicals in the environment.

"That's their right when they say there's been nothing proven that these endocrine disrupters can cause cancer," she said. "But nobody has done the right studies, and they admit that and call for the correct studies. We've got to go back and redesign what we have done — we've got to think differently."

Questions about relationships between hormone disrupting chemicals and reproductive cancers were the most controversial for panelists, Giesy said. In the end, the panel was cautious.

"There are people who would like to have had us say there is more definite proof that these things were caused by (hormone disrupting chemicals), and other people weren't willing to say that for sure," he said.

But Giesy, who is working with area paper mills on contaminant research relating to the Fox River cleanup, said there was little disagreement among panelists about the wildlife portion of the report, which he worked on.

"Our conclusion was that there have been effects in wildlife that have been demonstrated, but whether or not they all involved endocrine disruption is another issue," he said.

Skewed sex ratios

Stromborg, at Fish And Wildlife, said he agreed with the report's findings concerning the effects of chemicals on wildlife, in particular panelists' reluctance to tie those effects to hormone disruption.

"Scientists shouldn't extrapolate from what may be only isolated incidents in wildlife — for example, skewed sex ratios in Great Lakes and California gull populations — to assumptions that they are occurring on a much larger scale, he said.

"We're taking a very small database, that has not been well-replicated, and claiming to know much more of the details than we actually know," Stromborg said. "Once in awhile we have some smoke there, but we really don't understand the details."

Yet John Kennedy, who is monitoring progress on the Fox River PCB cleanup from his seat on Green Bay's Remedial Action Plan committee, said the national panel is making a strong statement simply by calling for more studies.

That act alone validates the work that's been done, he said.

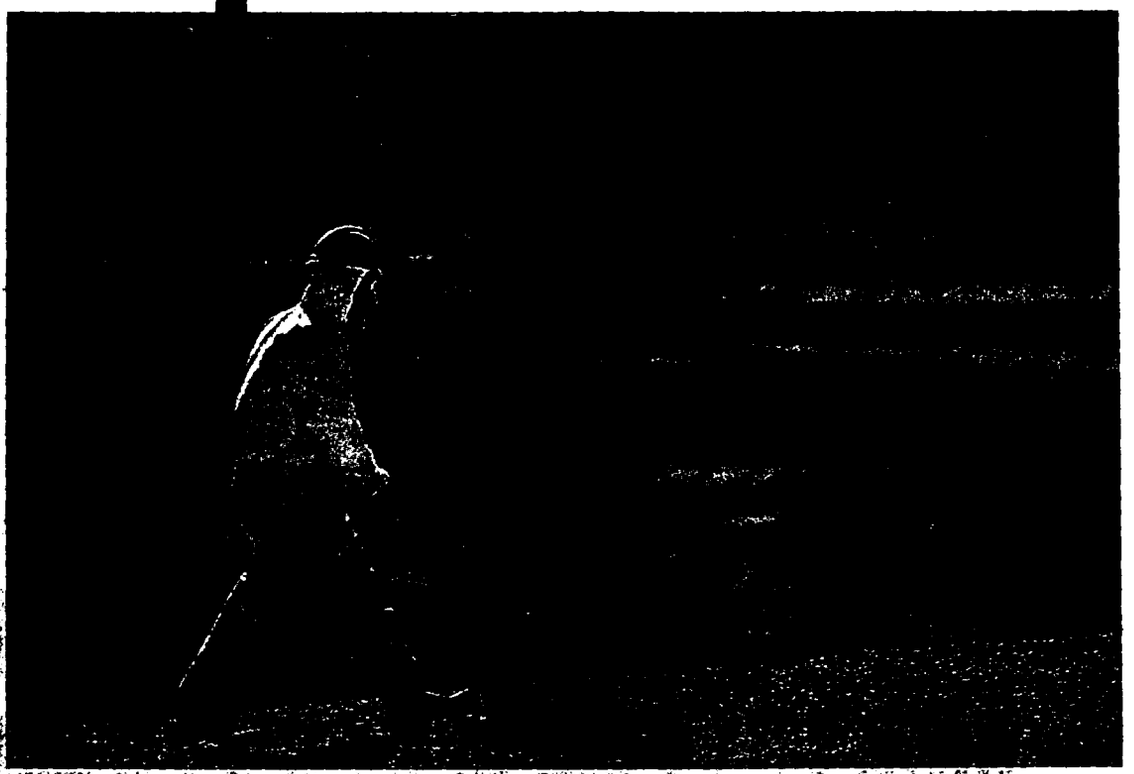
"That really does say a lot about what they think of the quality of the data and the worth of the studies," he said. "To say that, 'Boy, we're really just breaking the surface here and it's serious enough that we need to know more,' they don't make those kinds of recommendations haphazardly."

Stromborg faulted the panel for not doing a better job of explaining itself on an issue of great interest and importance to the public. The public tends to view things in black and white, not the shades of gray that scientists see.

"I would have liked to have seen them say more directly, 'Here is the limit of our knowledge and this means we must do x, y and z to get a better answer,' " Stromborg said. "We're not very good at saying exactly what it is we mean."

hot spot





A WORKER from Superior Special Services of Fond du Lac, dressed in protective gear, walks through an open cell at the Fort James Green Bay West landfill Friday. PCB-contaminated soil from the Fox River is being buried at the site. At top, Bill Fitzpatrick of the Department of Natural Resources explains the operation of an air monitoring station at the landfill.

Post-Crescent photos by Kirk Wagner

Stadium-sized landfill starts accepting PCB waste

By Ed Culhane
Post-Crescent staff writer

9/18/99

GREEN BAY - Two dozen public officials and journalists stood on a high ridge Friday at the Fort James Green Bay West landfill and looked down at the first high-level PCB wastes ever to be buried by legal permit in Wisconsin.

It wouldn't have been much to look at if wasn't for the mammoth size of the operation - and for its far-reaching implications.

Imagine a stadium-sized depression of sand, the sides appearing as smooth and even as a cereal bowl, with a front-end loader down in the bottom, tiny in the distance, spreading out dark, even layers of a material that looks and feels exactly like moist dirt.

The dirt is freshly dredged, compressed sediments from the Fox River, 4½ miles to the east.

Reporters were getting the first close-up look at the largest environmental dredging project ever attempted in the Fox River, a pilot project at river site 56-57 engineered to remove the most dangerous hot spot of contamination in the 39-mile stretch of the lower Fox River.

"Though dredging like this has worked well at other locations, the PCB dredging that is going on here is historic," said Ron Kazmierczak, regional director for the state Department of Natural Resources, during remarks that opened the tour.

A smaller dredging project last fall near Little Chute sent low-level PCB sludge to Winnebago County's Sunnyview Landfill in Oshkosh, but high-level wastes were shipped to a Michigan landfill.

Please see **DREDGING**, B-5

...included issues that were tackled was the

DREDGING: Stadium-sized landfill begins accepting PCB-contaminated soil from Fox River



Post-Crescent photo by Kirk Wagner

CONTAMINANTS from the Fox River are piped into settling pools and treated in on-site treatment facilities like the one shown here.

From B-1

Beyond the landfill, reporters could see a line of three more trucks, operated by Superior Special Services of Fond du Lac, hauling PCBs sediments up the steep access road. The gates of the truck are sealed to prevent leaking and the beds are tightly covered with tarps. After they unload, they are sprayed down so that no PCB wastes leave the landfill.

Earlier, officials and reporters toured the dredging site on the west bank of the Fox River by the Fort James paper mill. Out on the water, a dredging barge traversed the river site by means of fixed cables. A horizontal auger, moving up and down with the contour of the river, cut three feet into the sediment pile, and used suction pumps to draw watery sediment into a 12-inch pipe, sealed within a 16-inch pipe, that stretched its way north to the treatment facility, located just north of the mill on the former Shell Oil lot.

Richard Weber, project manager for the Montgomery Watson engineering firm, said monitors in the river showed no resuspension of sediment 15 feet away from the dredger.

The slurry is pumped into two settling lagoons, each occupying one acre of land and capable of holding 1.2 million gallons. Aluminum sulfate is added to the slurry to hasten the separation of solids, which sink to the bottom. Water is decanted off the top and piped to a sand and carbon filtration system, where it is cleaned and tested before being returned to the river.

The thickening sediment is then dredged and pumped off the bottom of the lagoons into filter presses where more water is squeezed out and sent back for filtration. The final product is called "filter cake," falling off conveyer belts in pancake-sized chunks, one inch thick, which are loaded onto the trucks.

Throughout the process are monitors and devices that grab samples for laboratory testing. Five air monitors on site and another 20 in the nearby area will sniff out the air currents for escaping PCBs. The DNR said this is one more part of the effort to prove that PCBs can be safely dredged from a river.

"We have very good data from other PCB projects," said DNR engineer Bill Fitzpatrick. "We don't expect to see any emissions."

The project is designed, officials said, to provide industry executives and government regulators with scientific information and cost estimates that can be used in planning for a total cleanup of the lower Fox, a cleanup that could cost the Fox River group of paper companies hundreds of millions of dollars.

Richard Jones, an environmental engineer with Fort James, said the company's specially designed landfill cell can hold 77,000 cubic yards of compressed river sediments, more than enough to permanently entomb the 3,600 pounds of PCBs within the 9-acre boundary of the dredging project.

The landfill liner, from the bottom, is composed of a clay-impregnated mat, a 60-mil-thick layer of high-density plastic, a layer of sand designed to capture any leaking moisture, five feet of clay, another layer of 60-mil plastic and then more sand with drainage pipes.

"We don't expect any stability issues with it," Jones said.

Dredging at site 56-57 will remove perhaps 5 percent of the PCBs in the lower Fox River. To address the entire lower Fox, where 11 million cubic yards of sediment are contaminated with 30 tons of PCBs - industrial chemicals that make the river's fish unsafe to eat in any quantity - could cost the Fox River Group of paper mills hundreds of millions of dollars.

A cleanup plan for the entire river is not expected from state and federal regulators until early next year.

But dredging at 56-57 is an important start, Kazmierczak said.

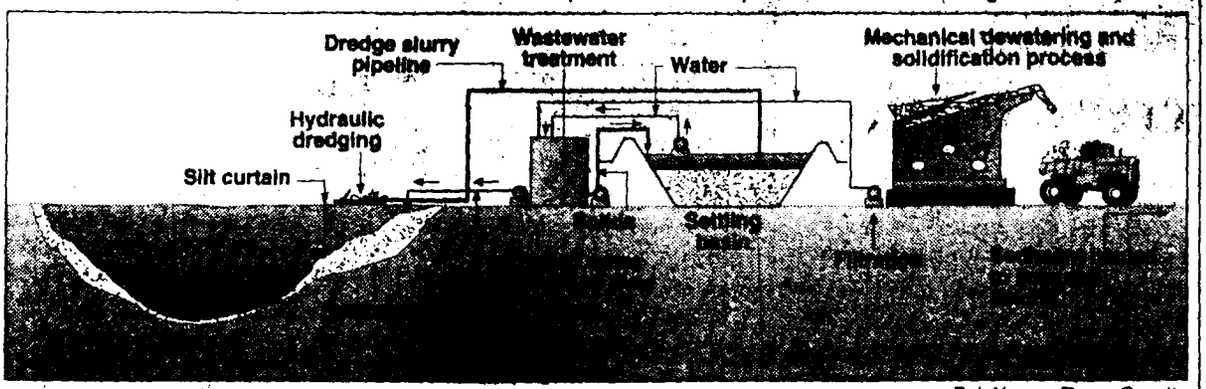
By starting this dredging project we are meeting our responsibility to the public and to the environment," he said. "And we have finally solved the teaspoon problem at last."

For years, the mills and regulators were criticized for seemingly endless studies that didn't remove a teaspoon full of chemicals from the river.

"Right now," Kazmierczak said, "we are moving it by the cubic yard and by the dump truck."

Sediment removal process

Key project elements will include hydraulic dredging of contaminated sediment, on-shore dewatering (removing water from sediment), water treatment, and the transportation and disposal of PCB-containing sediments.



Bob Yancey/Press-Gazette

Project/Concerns addressed

■ From B-1

Their concerns: that dredging might stir up contaminants buried in the riverbed, and that the efficacy of dredging the Fox River be studied before millions are spent on further dredging.

Bob Behrens, DNR project manager, said the goal is to "demonstrate that dredging can be done in a safe and effective manner."

To that end, mill consultants and others detailed a number of precautions that have been taken.

At the dredge site, Todd Lewis, of Montgomery Watson Constructors Inc. said the watery sediment is pumped from the river cleanup site through a double pipe that creates an added barrier against any leakage.

From there, the slurry is pumped into one of two settling basins lined with a foot of compacted clay and a 60-millimeter plastic liner.

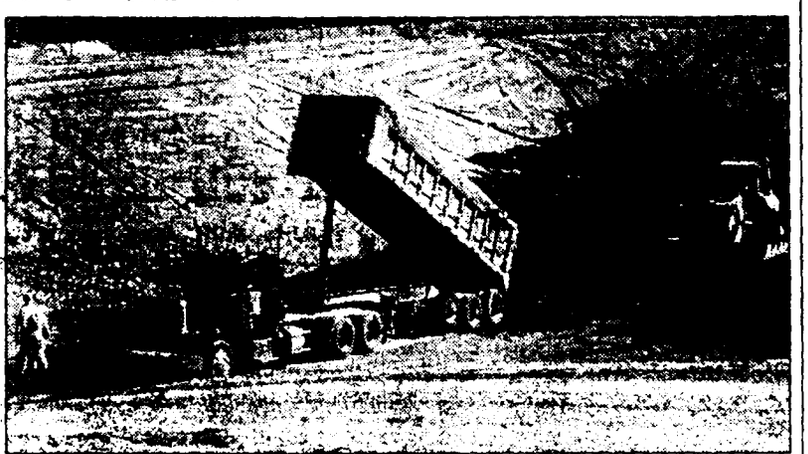
The water is treated before it is discharged back to the river, passing through tanks that remove grit, add lime and run the water through a charcoal filter as an added precaution.

Bob Paulson of the DNR said the treated water returns to the river with a PCB concentration of about 1 ppm.

The sediment is sent through a dredge filter press, which forces out more water.

The sediment "cakes" that result from the process are stockpiled and periodically loaded onto trucks that carry them to the landfill.

Rick Jones, project manager of the landfill portion of the project, said the trucks also are equipped with extra safety features, including sealed tailgates and tarps that cover the truck sides, rather than just the load itself.



Ken Wesely/Press-Gazette

A truck unloads dewatered PCB-contaminated sediment at Fort James Corp.'s landfill near Austin Straubel Airport.

Further, "We have a contingency plan set up in the event of a spill to mobilize the appropriate people and procedures to clean up a spill," Jones said.

About two dozen air-quality meters have been set up around the dredge site and landfill to determine whether PCBs volatilize into the air during dredging, dewatering or landfilling.

But Paulson said the DNR doesn't expect to see elevated PCB levels in the air because the relatively small amount of chemicals that would volatilize from the project would be undetectable against the background level of airborne PCBs in downtown Green Bay. The level there already is twice that of the rest of the region, he said, primarily because of PCBs that are carried in the wind off the surface of the Fox River and the bay.

At the landfill, Fort James has built a landfill within an existing one capable of holding 77,000 cubic yards of tainted sediment. Once compacted, Jones said, the sediment will amount to about 45,000 cubic yards, though the remainder of the cell will be taken up with materials from the dredge construction site.

> "We're not anticipating, or even thinking about, taking any more sediment."
>
> — **Mark Lindley,** Fort James spokesman

Fort James spokesman Mark Lindley said the mill has no intention of its landfill serving as a disposal site for a larger river cleanup.

"We're not anticipating, or even thinking about, taking any more sediment," he said, adding that the mill needs the landfill space for its own disposal needs.

COME TO THE REAL THING | 2nd Annual Amish

Critics blast state-mill PCB damage assessment

Fish and Wil fe says plan limited

9/16/99

By Susan Campbell
Press-Gazette

A joint state and paper mill plan for assessing damages to fish, wildlife and people from Fox River PCB's will substantially underestimate damages and keep costs down for paper mills held responsible for restoring the river and compensating the public, critics say.

The plan limits the assessment area by excluding much of the bay of Green Bay, they say, and ignores PCB-related problems such as deformities, tumors and reproductive problems found in area fish and wildlife.

Those and other criticisms are contained in comments submitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and an independent scientific committee that has been studying Fox River contamination for more than a decade.

On the receiving end are the state Department of Natural Resources and seven Fox River mills that co-authored the plan, which is being carried out on a parallel track to a Natural Resource Damage Assessment that Fish and Wildlife has been working on for more than five years.

In its comments, the federal agency attacks the state for not only failing to collaborate on the federal damage assessment, but for devising a second assessment that is likely to confuse and disillusion the public by reaching far different conclusions about the extent of damages to the Fox River.

"Potentially inconsistent governmental positions will erode the credibility of all the governmental positions, particularly if challenged by the (mills)," Fish and Wildlife wrote. "If the intergovernmental partners fail to take mutually consistent and scientifically supported cleanup, restoration and settlement positions, then neither the public nor the (mills) are likely to accept any of those positions, particularly if costly."

The DNR, however, defends its damage assessment plan, saying it will complement the federal assessment by targeting state natural resources at the same time

Please see PCB, A-2

PCB/State, mill defend assessment plan

From A-1

that the Fish and Wildlife assessment targets federal resources.

"If the documents were completely duplicative, that would be a problem," said Greg Hill, who oversees the state assessment as acting chief of the DNR's water quality modeling section. "But the state has a responsibility to look over the resources for which it is a trustee."

Damages sought from mills

The goal of both assessments is to determine the extent of damages to the river, its fish and wildlife, and the public that has had its use of the river compromised as a result of widespread polychlorinated biphenyl contamination that began in 1957 and continued through 1971.

Those findings ultimately will be filed as a monetary claim against the seven mills held responsible for contaminating the river through paper-making and recycling processes. In Fish and Wildlife's case, that claim could range from tens of millions of dollars to hundreds of millions.

The federal agency has sought state collaboration since 1989, when both Fish and Wildlife and the DNR first discussed launching damage assessments for the lower Fox River and Green Bay.

That idea was set aside in 1994 when the state declined to participate in any damage assessment, and again two years later when the DNR signed a behind-closed-doors agreement with the paper mills.

The mills agreed to contribute $10 million as a down payment toward the river cleanup, allocating most of the money to a pilot dredging project now under way outside Fort James Corp.'s West Mill.

The remainder was reserved for minor restoration projects and the second Natural Resource Damage Assessment, now being conducted jointly by the mills and the state.

Today, with the federal assessment nearing completion and key findings already disclosed at public meetings, Fish and Wildlife and other critics predict the joint state-mill assessment will be rolled out to cast doubt on the federal findings. The state's plan for how the joint assessment is being carried out, released for public comment a month ago, is the first evidence that assumption is correct, they say.

Some injuries ignored

A scientific and technical subcommittee of the Remedial Action Plan committee has been involved in studies of PCB damage to the river and lower bay since 1988, when the group was established in response to contaminant problems there.

In its comments to the DNR, the group echoed Fish and Wildlife's frustration with the state-mill decision to draft their own assessment of damages to state natural resources, and to limit their scope to an area of the bay south of an imaginary line extending from Oconto Marsh to Little Sturgeon Bay.

Just as contaminated birds and fish pay no heed to jurisdictional boundaries in their travels from the Fox River to Green Bay and beyond, the group said the movement of Fox River PCBs does not stop in the middle of the bay.

"It has been documented that PCBs in the Fox River are found throughout the bay system and in Lake Michigan. There is no scientific justification for an arbitrary boundary across the middle bay," the subcommittee wrote. "If the justification is political, economic, or whatever, that should be noted for the record so that accountability for decisions is maintained."

In its comments, Fish and Wildlife said the state-mill assessment will further underestimate damage to birds and fish by failing to document tumors, cancerous lesions, deformities and reproductive problems occurring in a variety of species — all problems associated with elevated PCB exposure.

"These injuries are real, measurable and important," the federal agency wrote.

Instead, among other things, the state-mill assessment plan proposes to evaluate the risk of such injuries rather than the injuries themselves.

"The risk-based approach is an indicator of injury," Hill said. "Whether or not that overestimates or underestimates depends, I guess, on a person's point of view."

Hill said evaluating the injuries themselves is expensive and, because Fish and Wildlife is using that approach in its damage assessment, "We would be subject to the criticism of being duplicative."

Further, he said the risk evaluation is just one of a number of approaches proposed in the state-mill plan.

Other methods include looking at "measured population changes" in fish and wildlife; consumption advisories for chemically contaminated fish and waterfowl; and water quality exceedances.

As for limiting the geographic scope of the state-mill assessment, Hill said it follows the same scope the DNR used earlier this year in preparing a suite of cleanup proposals meant to stave off a federal Superfund-driven river cleanup.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which financed those state cleanup studies, has since criticized the DNR for failing to include the bay of Green Bay, however, and the scope is being revised.

Finally, Fish and Wildlife took aim at the DNR for allowing mill consultants — who have a natural interest in protecting their clients' pocketbooks — to draft a plan so at odds with the federal agency's plan, and downplaying the consultants' role by presenting the plan as a DNR document.

Hill dismissed the criticism as "a silly issue."

Reaction to damage assessment plan

The following are excerpts of comments on a state-paper mill plan for assessing chemical PCB damages in the Fox River and lower Green Bay. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and a technical subcommittee of the Remedial Action Plan committee were among about a dozen who commented on the plan.

From Fish and Wildlife:

- "The plan proposes many approaches which are scientifically and technically unsound."
- "The business of the co-trustees at this site is to restore the natural resources and compensate the public for natural resource losses, whereas the business of the (paper mills) at this site is to ensure that cleanup and restoration costs are affordable ... Therefore, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources should be less reliant on mill consultants to author plan approaches which deviate from the existing assessment."
- "The plan recognizes that natural resources exposed to PCBs may migrate into Lake Michigan. These natural resources are even more likely to migrate within Green Bay, including the upper bay, causing injury and damages throughout. The (plan) suggests that Lake Michigan is a possible PCB source to Green Bay, but does not acknowledge the pathway for PCBs from Green Bay to Lake Michigan."

From the RAP's Science and Technical Advisory Committee:

- "This plan is too important and influential not to have a public informational hearing which explains issues that allows for direct public comment. Important issues such as the scope of the assessment area are not something that should be decided without the general public knowing about it."

9/13/99

PCBs won't disappear by themselves

Editor, *The Post-Crescent:*

It is extremely hard to accept Mr. Thomas Schmidt's statement (Sept. 5 Sunday Inc.) when he says that "Eighty-five percent of the contaminated sediment is buried under 1 foot or more of cleaner sediment, effectively isolating the PCBS" in the Fox River. I think this might be a play with words. Saying 85 percent of the contaminated *sediment* is different than saying 85 percent of the *PCBs*. Why should we believe that cleaner sediment will remain on top?

Years back, the paper companies used the river as a dumping ground for their waste water that contained PCBs, hoping it would dilute and flow down the river. Unfortunately for the paper companies, some of the PCBs hung around and are still in the river. Just because flood waters over the years washed most of the PCBs down the river does not mean natural recovery occurred. The PCBs just went somewhere else.

I do not believe that PCBs are self destructing. Covering them with topsoil or silt does not destroy nor permanently contain them. What exactly does Mr. Schmidt mean by the "natural recovery process?" Is he saying that the PCBs will break down under the silt? That's unlikely.

Allowing the PCBs to go into Green Bay or Lake Michigan will dilute them so there are fewer parts per million, but the PCBs will continue to exist. If you have a small pail of dirty water and dump it into a larger pail of clean water, you will have fewer parts of dirt per sample from the larger pail than you had in the smaller one. However, the once-clean water is now dirty. Allowing the PCBs to migrate into the larger bodies of water in Green Bay and Lake Michigan does not solve the problem. It merely shares it.

Charlotte Arendt,
Neenah

TBALL

PCB dredging resumes on Fox after setbacks

Pilot project might finish on schedule

By Susan Campbell
Press-Gazette

Contaminant dredging on the Fox River has resumed with a new dredge that is better-suited to the project, but a DNR official says a week or more may have been lost by dredging problems and other delays.

A new horizontal auger dredge was brought to the PCB hot spot outside Fort James Corp.'s West Mill in Green Bay this week after the first one proved ineffective.

The original dredge, called a cutterhead, wasn't pulling enough sediment out of the riverbed, said Bob Behrens, project manager for the state Department of Natural Resources. As a result, the sediment slurry was too watery, containing only 3 percent solids compared with the 10 percent to 15 percent called for in the project's design specifications.

A smaller horizontal auger dredge was set up on the site temporarily until a larger one was brought this week.

The pilot project, financed and run by seven area paper mills held responsible for cleaning PCB contamination from the Fox River, suffered a weeklong setback at the outset.

The project was scheduled to begin Aug. 23. But Behrens said dredging was delayed because construction wasn't finished at the site, or at Fort James' landfill — north of Austin Straubel Airport — which will accept the tainted sediment.

"We've lost a week and maybe a couple more days," he said.

Still, Behrens and other project officials believe the project can be completed by Thanksgiving, as planned.

About 80,000 cubic yards of sediment and an estimated 4,000 pounds of polychlorinated biphenyls are to be dredged from the 120,000-cubic-yard hot spot. The site is the largest known hot spot along the 39-mile Lower Fox River between Lake Winnebago and Green Bay, and it contains the highest known PCB concentrations.

The mills pushed for the $11 million project to study the effectiveness of dredging.

The DNR is conducting extensive water and air quality monitoring to determine whether PCBs are resuspended in the water or volatilized in the air during dredging, as the paper mills suggest.

Behrens said some property owners living within 1½ miles of the dredge site have been asked to host one of about two dozen air monitors for the project.

Engineers return to dredging location

Crews attacking PCB-laced sediments with new equipment are confident of meeting Thanksgiving deadline

By Ed Culhane 9/10/99
Post-Crescent staff writer

GREEN BAY – Engineers are once again attacking the most contaminated, PCB-laced sediments in the Fox River, having solved the mechanical and chemical problems that plagued the startup of environmental dredging last week.

Officials said they are confident that 80,000 cubic yards of the most dangerous sediments in the river, containing nearly 4,000 pounds of PCBs, will be removed from the bed of the river, at the hot spot called SMU 56-57, by the Thanksgiving deadline.

A new dredger began operations Tuesday and was able to suction-pump sediment to the surface containing sufficient solids for the processing equipment on shore to work properly, said Charlie Verhoeven, regional water leader for the state Department of Natural Resources.

Please see **RIVER,** BACK PAGE.

RIVER: Dredging project resumes after a temporary delay

From A-1

taining closer to 15 percent solids, the consistency called for in the project design. This second dredger, however, is too small to take enough sediment from the river each day to meet the Thanksgiving Day deadline.

So a third, larger dredger was ordered [illegible] Robert Travers [illegible] a project management firm hired by the Fox River Group of companies [illegible] tanks and then fed into filter presses [illegible] es that remove water. The water is filtered, removing PCBs and other contaminants, and then returned to the river. The resulting sediment, with the consistency of wet sand, will be disposed of in a specially engineered landfill cell.

The slurry from the first dredger contained just 5 percent solids, not high enough for the filter presses to work efficiently.

The second dredger, which employs a horizontal auger below the surface, is producing slurry containing closer to the consistency called for in the project design. This second dredger, however, is too small to take enough sediment from the river each day to meet the Thanksgiving Day deadline.

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50¢

Local money key to river control

By Greg Bump
Post-Crescent staff writer

9/10/99

Governor wants to see fund-raising plan for heritage parkway proposal before unlocking the lower Fox River

Gov. Tommy Thompson issued a challenge to Fox Valley municipalities: If you want local control of the Fox River, show me the money.

In response to the governor's rallying cry, The Fox River Trailblazer Project, a regional effort involving three community foundations and every municipality along the lower Fox River, is attempting to raise $2.5 million in local pledges that would be the catalyst for a Wisconsin Fox River Heritage State Parkway.

According to the group's proposal, "It's time to return the complete Fox River to the people."

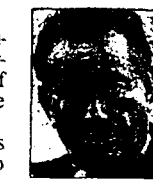
The proposal for a heritage parkway is the first of its kind in Wisconsin, according to John Forster, acting chairman of The Fox River Trailblazer Project committee and president of Friends of the Fox.

By Oct. 1, the governor wants the group to have a plan for raising $2.5 million, the local share of the estimated cost of restoring the Fox River locks system.

Forster said the locks and their rehabilitation, which he terms as the most important factor in maximizing the potential of the Fox River system, will probably be the first phase of the project.

"This plan has met with tremendous interest all the way from Green Bay to Fond du Lac, and as far away as Portage. People in general realize the tremendous

Please see CHALLENGE, BACK PAGE



THOMPSON: Challenges Fox Valley municipalities

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Maehl orders revenue-tracking study

Results to determine how Winnebago County will use PCB money

By Ed Lowe
Post-Crescent staff writer

OSHKOSH – Winnebago County Chairman Joe Maehl will seek a study tracking the revenue the county Solid Waste Management Board will reap from its decision last year to accept low-level PCBs from a Fox River dredging site.

Maehl said he would do so after Janet Moldenhauer of Oshkosh, speaking to the County Board Tuesday night, questioned how the PCB revenue would be used.

About 50 local residents filled the meeting room gallery after the original meeting agenda mistakenly attributed Department of Natural Resources Secretary George Meyer's visit to a presentation on PCB disposal. Meyer had intended only to discuss a plan to develop the lower Fox River into a heritage corridor through the use of federal, state and local funds.

A corrected agenda was issued, but not in time to alert public to the change of topics. In the end, the will of the people determined PCBs would receive equal time.

"Who gets the money?" Moldenhauer asked from her seat in the gallery.

"Winnebago County," responded DNR engineer Len Polczinski.

"Where does it show up in the budget?" she asked.

Supv. Ken Robl, vice chairman of the autonomous and self-funded Solid Waste Board, said the revenue would go toward landfill operations.

Please see **PCB**, B-5

PCB: Meyer said he can guarantee disposal will be safe

From B-1

Moldenhauer, not satisfied with the explanation, pressed further. "Our taxes built that landfill. All this extra money coming in – that doesn't come back to the county government? That goes to the landfill also? Somehow that doesn't make sense. We paid for it already."

Maehl said the Solid Waste Board will spend millions developing the county's next landfill and closing the current one when it reaches capacity. It will do so with its own tipping-fee revenues, not taxpayer funds.

Maehl then said he would have the county's University of Wisconsin-Extension office public educator prepare a study of the PCB proceeds.

The landfill accepted some 925 tons of non-toxic PCB-tainted sediments from the Kimberly site last year and will accept another 5,000 to 7,000 tons this year. The solid waste board's contract with the DNR calls for it to receive $58 per ton of the material – roughly $400,000 for the lot.

A public outcry last year forced the board to nix its pursuit of any toxic-level material, or low-level material from the next project in Green Bay, which could have added millions of dollars in revenue to the Solid Waste Board's budget.

However, Solid Waste Director Len Leverence has said the contract was designed only to compensate the department for its additional costs in handling the PCB-laden material. Leverence said the Solid Waste Board entered into the contract only as a means to help the state avert a costly federal takeover of the project.

Town of Oshkosh resident Dic Purtell criticized proposed state budget legislation that fails to provide full financial protection from future PCB contamination to the municipalities and local interests in the county.

"This indemnification was one of the key components of the whole (contract) negotiation process," Purtell said.

Meyer said the DNR never intended to provide all county municipalities with indemnification – only the county and the Oshkosh wastewater treatment facility, since they were the only ones who could suffer harm from the plan to accept PCB-laden dredgings at the Sunnyview landfill.

Meyer said he agreed with Purtell that the legislation should guarantee both parties full indemnification from future lawsuits. Meyer said he will ask Gov. Tommy Thompson to make the language limiting protection to the county and Oshkosh.

Donna Lohry of Oshkosh said she believes the DNR must decide to incinerate the tainted spoils, rather than bury them in specially designed landfills. Incineration would add potentially hundreds of millions of dollars to the cost of the river cleanup, but Lohry said the region should bear the additional expense.

She said the Green Bay demonstration project known as Sediment Management Unit 56-57 should be stopped immediately, since it involves the highest concentrations of PCBs on the river.

Meyer said the landfill disposal method has been proven sound enough that papermaker Fort James Corp. has volunteered to receive the sediments from 56-57 project at its own landfill in Green Bay.

Meyer said the DNR expects to decide by February the safest and most practical means of disposing of the vast majority of material to be dredged from the river in future years.

COLUMNIST'S PERSPECTIVE

If it looks like a duck, pollutes like a duck ...



Curt Andersen

For The Green Bay News-Chronicle

I marveled at the response to my Aug. 11 column by Fox-Wolf Basin 2000's Bruce Johnson on Aug. 25 (both columns on Page 11). Johnson's attempts to duck and weave around the language shows that he is a talented dancer as well as a smooth talker.

He had to admit that his group's board of directors does include what he calls two paper company "employees." Johnson tried to make it sound like they were members of the rank and file, but they are executives, not millwrights or machine operators or secretaries.

We would really like to see zero litigation on the Fox River cleanup, but the polluters will force the issue.

Johnson never addressed the main point of my column, which was that Fox-Wolf Basin 2000 is primarily an alliance between government officials and industrial wastewater dischargers along the Fox River. It is poor form on its part to pretend that it is an environmental group when its actions serve the self-interest of the financiers. As I said in that Aug. 11 column, 64 percent of its money ($617,026) comes from Fox River polluters, while only 1.5 percent comes from donations by average people.

Johnson states that "the leaders of the Clean Water Action Council lack a clear understanding of Fox-Wolf Basin 2000 ..." Oh, no, we don't. We have a clear picture of what it is up to. It is attempting to make itself look like a real environmental group while it works against serious PCB cleanup. This also confuses the public, which it wants dearly to do.

Johnson patronizingly pats Clean Water Action Council on the head for our "diligence" and then gives it the back of his hand. He says the council and other environmental groups "concentrate on ... political action, on litigation and on regulation," as though these were dirty words. Each of these activities is necessary to maintain environmental protection, especially for environmental groups that are regularly underfunded and which must square off with corporate deep pockets.

Clean Water Action Council would like to concentrate on public education, but when we are backed into a corner, we will use litigation, as we did (successfully) in the Kidney Island case.

When local and state government officials refuse to hold public hearings or respond to public opposition, that was the only remaining option.

We would really like to see zero litigation on the Fox River cleanup, but the polluters will force the issue. Their lawyers are already busy getting their ducks in a row.

Regulation? Yup. Regulations were written to protect people like you and me from predatory profiteers and hucksters. Regulations tend to keep the parasites in society from having a too-easy day. If it wasn't for regulations, we'd be gagging from the hideous-smelling air, and we could walk on the river because of all the pollution.

The council would like to challenge Mr. Johnson to show the actual results from his "more effective" work, other than his success snuggling up with industries that have no intention of doing the right thing.

It seems that Johnson spends a lot of this time parroting industry propaganda. He is a paid enabler for the polluters. As Upton Sinclair said, "It is difficult for a man to believe something when his salary depends on his not believing it."

Andersen, whose column appears here each Wednesday, is a lifelong resident of the Green Bay area and a small-business owner. He served in the Navy during the Vietnam era. He teaches part time at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College and is president of the Clean Water Action Council. Write to him via e-mail at chronicle@itol.com.

CHALLENGE: Governor wants to see the money

From A-1

asset the Fox River is," Forster said.

If local communities demonstrate support for local control of the locks, Thompson has said the state will accept the federal properties and navigation structures along the Fox. These properties are scheduled to be declared excess by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and then abandoned.

By accepting the property transfer Thompson would make the ... ces property of the state, w... local caretaking commitments expected.

In addition to the locks, the transfer would involve more than 120 acres of primarily riverfront land.

Members of the Trailblazer Project hope that acreage is just the beginning of a park system that would eventually include the upper Fox River all the way to Portage.

Thus far, the Trailblazer Project has secured a couple of hundred thousand dollars in pledges, even though the formal fund-raising is just beginning, Forster said.

The federal government has offered $15 million to be used to either restore or close the locks, while the state has offered $5 million.

Brown County Executive Nancy Nussbaum said the Thompson's challenge was a good move.

"I think it's a great catalyst and I think the governor showed a lot of wisdom in doing it that way," Nussbaum said. "It's an opportunity for local participation. Obviously if there's not an interest here, the state doesn't want to go out on a limb, and it's understandable the governor would want to know that up front."

The community foundations for the Fox Cities, Green Bay and Oshkosh offered earlier this year to act as the fiscal agents for federal and state dollars involved in transferring ownership and operating responsibilities for the Fox River locks system.

"We see it as a great project and a real opportunity to tap the tremendous resource that the Fox River offers this area for economic and recreational and quality of life benefits," said Larry Kath, director of the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region Inc.

"This is kind of a plan to bring back control of the Fox River to the Fox Cities and Green Bay and Oshkosh so the local communities can utilize its great potential," Kath said.

Kath said too much time has been wasted waiting for an outside source to help repair the locks system, help that never came. That's why he thinks the Trailblazer Project will succeed.

"The people, not the government, will be making this happen," Kath said.

"I am optimistic because it's a natural heritage, we do have to take care of all our natural benefits that the good Lord gave us," Joe Maehl, Winnebago County Board chairman, also a member of the Fox River Commission.

Nussbaum is also optimistic about the proposal's prospects.

"I think there have been some real obstacles in the past that have included some sort of public funds to be raised locally, and this is the first plan that eliminates that obstacle," Nussbaum said.

Maehl gives credit for the plan to the East Central Planning Commission for putting together "a very comprehensive project, wherein Brown, Outagamie, and Winnebago Counties work together.

"The East Central Regional Commission developed a comprehensive plan where there would be guaranteed maintenance for 25 years at a very nominal cost for the counties involved," Maehl said.

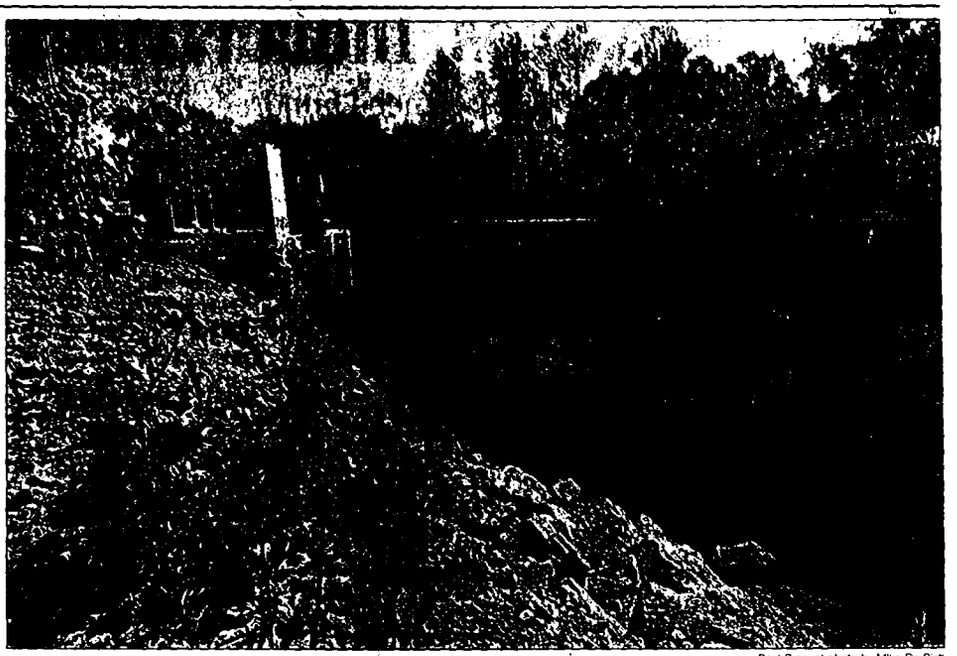
Maehl likened the future Heritage Parkway to the Erie Canal in New York, a man-made waterway that has been a boon for tourism in that area after it was no longer useful as a commercial endeavor.

"The heritage corridor would be primarily designed as a benefit not only for the people of Wisconsin, but for the wonderful world of tourism," Maehl said.

"We can envision all the bike, hiking, and snowmobile trials along this parkway. A multitude of museums, shops and restaurants would thrive all year-round," Maehl said.

"This is all because the Army Corps of Engineers pulled out and now are offering us $14 million to take over the facility," Maehl said.

The Army Corps of Engineers will continue to be involved only in maintaining water levels on the river. Maintenance of the shoreline and dredging will be left to the local municipalities.



Post-Crescent photo by Mike De Sisti

THE RAPID CROCHE LOCK just west of Wrightstown was closed and sealed in 1987 to prevent sea lamprey from invading the lower Fox River. The lock would still remain sealed under a proposal to reopen the locks system as a part of a unique heritage parkway proposal.

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9/8/99

Wisconsin Tissue entering the fold

85-year-old Menasha firm added to G-P's diversified business

By Joanne Zuhl
Post-Crescent staff writer

It is a different world today than the one Anton W. Asmuth lived in when he launched a small converting company in Menasha called Wisconsin Tissue.

That was 85 years ago, years before the Great Depression forced people to rethink stability in business and decades before Europe and Asia would look beyond feudal territories toward a global economy.

Wisconsin Tissue survived it all. In 1963, the company added a second paper machine capable of producing tissue at more than 1,000 feet per minute. Sales doubled and the company grew from 210 employees to 450.

In 1977, Asmuth sought and found a partner in Philip Morris, which expanded the operations and added a third paper machine.

By the time Chesapeake Corp. came calling in 1985, Wisconsin Tissue was an established leader in bathroom tissue, towels, facial tissue and a host of other tissue-based products for institutional and restaurant markets.

In the mid-1990s, under Chesapeake, Wisconsin Tissue through acquisitions and construction expanded from a single-site operation to having plants across the country and into Mexico.

As the tissue industry heads for the next millennium, the name Wisconsin Tissue will probably stay behind, but the company, its assets and influence within the industry will continue through a partnership with Georgia-Pacific Corp.

The resulting firm is a consolidation of G-P and Chesapeake's comme[illegible] tissue operations, which for Ches[illegible]peake, is Wisconsin Tissue in total.



Post-Crescent file photo

A PARTNERSHIP between Wisconsin Tissue parent company Chesapeake Corp. and Georgia-Pacific Corp. will result in a name change for the 85-year-old Menasha plant.

"It's not really an outright sale, it's a partnership," Jeff Johnson, director of public relations with Wisconsin Tissue, said after the partnership was announced. "It's different in the sense that the prior owner will retain ownership. They aren't selling us because of any perceived lack of performance, it's just to concentrate their resources on the packaging side of the business."

The proposal for a joint venture with Georgia-Pacific follows other moves by Chesapeake to transform itself from a commodity producer into a marketing-focused supplier of specialty packaging and merchandising services.

The agreement is to be finalized by the end of the third quarter.

Georgia-Pacific's contribution includes the commercial production at its five tissue plants, about 200,000 tons annually, compared with Wisconsin Tissue's 320,000 tons annually. Georgia-Pacific operates tissue mills in Crossett, Ark.; Palatka, Fla.; Gary, Ind.; Plattsburgh, N.Y.; and Bellingham, Wash.

Chesapeake manages more than 60 locations in the United States, Europe, Mexico and Canada, with assets approaching $1 billion.

> "It's not really an outright sale, it's a partnership."
>
> **JEFF JOHNSON, director of public relations with Wisconsin Tissue**

William Raaths, president of Wisconsin Tissue, will take the helm of the new partnership under the working title of Georgia-Pacific Tissue.

The terms of the agreement give Chesapeake a 10 percent equity interest in the new company, leaving Georgia-Pacific Group - the pulp, paper and building products division of G-P Corp. - with the remaining 90 percent. Chesapeake will also receive an initial distribution of about $730 million.

Chesapeake's decision to retain 10 percent interest in the partnership - rather than sell outright - stems in large part from the new firm's potential for profits in the tissue markets, according to Johnson.

"They think the tissue business is a good business," Johnson said. "With this partnership it will be an even better business with a good future."

Retaining 10 percent also translates into a tax benefit for Georgia-Pacific.

"It gives them the benefit of deferring income taxes on the gain of the partnership," Johnson said.

Georgia-Pacific is diverting to Chesapeake the $730 million that would otherwise have been taxed, according to Johnson.

Chesapeake has announced it will use a portion of the initial cash distribution, along with a portion of the proceeds from the sale of timberland, to purchase back 20 to 30 percent of the company's outstanding common stock.

From its headquarters in Menasha, Wisconsin Tissue operates manufacturing facilities in Chicago and Flagstaff, Ariz.; and converting facilities in Bellemont, Ariz.; Greenwich, N.Y.; and Mexico City.

With the partnership now on line, Georgia Pacific canceled plans to build a recycling plant in North Carolina. The merger will allow G-P to expand its commercial tissue capacity without construction.

cc Frank Boenzi

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cc Frank Boenci

Please see **SPEED,** BACK PAGE

Meyer proposes unlocking Fox River

By Ed Lowe
Post-Crescent staff writer 9/8/99

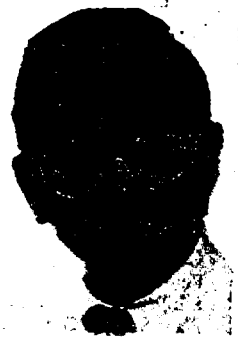
OSHKOSH – Boats could again travel the length of the lower Fox River under a plan pooling federal, state and local funds, Department of Natural Resources Secretary George Meyer said Tuesday.

Meyer, speaking before the Winnebago County Board, said a plan to redevelop the river as a heritage corridor appears seaworthy and a bona fide plan to restore the network of 17 locks on the river could begin within three years.

The current owner of the locks, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has long planned to relinquish its control of the locks system, but only recently has offered enough funding to make a restoration plan feasible, he said.

Under the plan, the federal government would award the system to the state and contribute $14.2 million toward a lock restoration plan esti-

Please see **LOCKS,** BACK PAGE



"The river does have the potential for the transfer of cargo, especially heavy equipment. ... This could be an excellent tourism draw." – George Meyer

DNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1999

LOCKS: Plan could put boats back in the water

From A-1

mated to cost $19.2 million over the next 25 years. The DNR would contribute half of the remaining costs, Meyer said.

"That leaves $2.5 million as the local share from cities, counties and villages, but it doesn't have to be paid all at once," Meyer said.

Local governments, nonprofit organizations and businesses would contribute $350,000 a year for seven years to guarantee the Fox River can remain open for at least 25 years under the proposal, which Meyer hopes to have ironed out by Oct. 1.

He said maintenance of the locks would likely extend beyond 25 years through a sinking fund, and perhaps as long as 40 years. The funds would be managed by the Fox River Management Commission, which would operate within the DNR.

Meyer said the DNR negotiated diligently with the corps, which offered to reimburse the state $9 million originally.

The plan would allow boats to travel from Lake Michigan to Lake Winnebago, using a lift device to circumvent the Rapide Croche lock that has been sealed, Meyer said.

"The river does have the potential for the transfer of cargo, especially heavy equipment," Meyer said. "For some companies, that may be more feasible than by rail or highway."

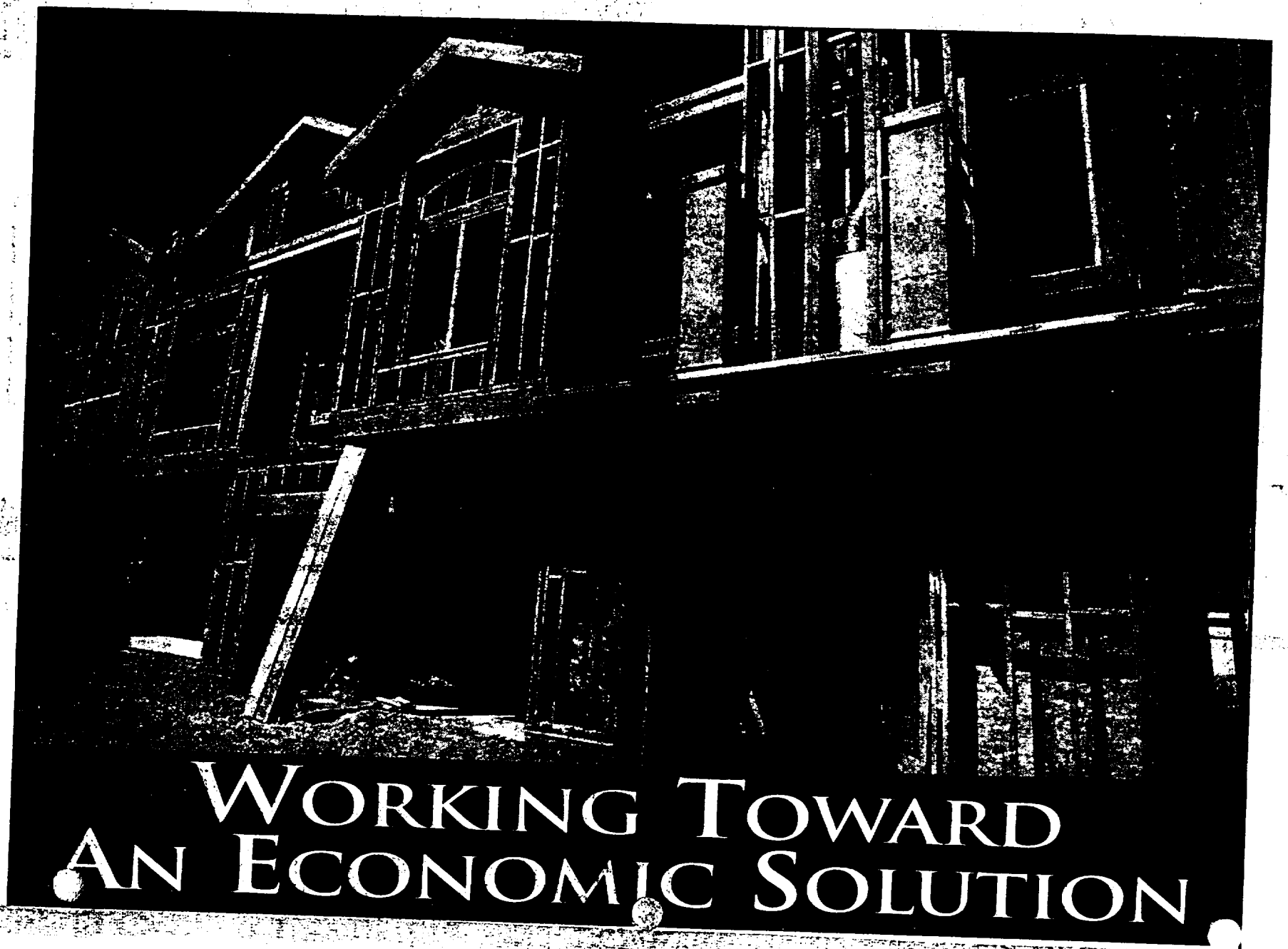
Although the potential for pleasure boating and industrial uses make the plan appealing, the greatest impact of the plan may occur along the river's banks, where parks and trails would likely sprout.

"This could be an excellent tourism draw," Meyer said.

The local share would be funded by taxes, grants from nonprofit organizations and contributions from industries, he said.

The state and local partnership that would result in the restoration and maintenance of the lock system would begin within three years if the plan is approved, he said.

Meyer said the plan is designed to forbid the entry of the sea lamprey into Lake Winnebago, where he said it would have a devastating effect on fisheries. He said the DNR would never have considered the plan if increased the risks of the parasite entering the lake.



WORKING TOWARD AN ECONOMIC SOLUTION

cc Buenzi

AN ECONOMIC SOLUTION

Most everyone agrees — the solution to the Fox River PCB issue must be based on accurate scientific data. Yet it's important to consider that any solution should be implemented only when its effect on the local economy is fully understood. During the next few months, government bureaucrats will make decisions concerning the Fox River that could impact the livelihoods of tens of thousands of northeastern Wisconsin wage earners. What's unclear is whether or not these decisions will give proper consideration to science and our economy. A sensible, scientific solution for the river is possible, without threatening the heart of the local economy.

PROSPERITY UNDER SIEGE

Few people outside the Fox River Valley can fully appreciate this area's economic vitality and quality of life. Over 20,000 local residents work directly for the paper companies, earning incomes well above the national average. The paper industry has fueled the Valley's growth into a regional center of commerce, where manufacturing, retail and wholesale trade, construction, finance, insurance, real estate and professional sectors thrive. We have all prospered together.

That prosperity could be threatened by a plan currently under preparation by the Wisconsin DNR and USEPA. The first draft of this plan estimates restoration could take 19 years to complete and cost between $175 million and $1.15 billion. Since there will be no funds from Superfund, the responsible parties will bear most of the financial burden for the cleanup. And, subsequently, our entire local economy could be affected through the potential loss of job, investment and business opportunities.

EFFECTIVENESS *AND* EFFICIENCY

Bureaucrats have made it apparent that dredging is their preferred way of dealing with the risk of PCB exposure in the Fox River. Late last year, the WDNR conducted a test project in the Fox River to measure the effectiveness of dredging. Despite around-the-clock dredging, the WDNR reported that only about **4,600 cubic yards** of contaminated soil were removed, including only 97 pounds of PCBs. The acknowledged project costs were approximately **$2.7 million,** or **$587 per cubic yard** of sediment removed and **nearly $28,000 for each pound of PCBs removed.**

Yet, with all this expense and questionable results at hand, the WDNR is returning to Deposit N. The costs become astounding when projected over the **millions of cubic yards** of sediment that would be removed under the bureaucratic dredging plan being considered.

Most government-managed dredging projects have far exceeded initial cost estimates. In Michigan, for example, PCB removal in Manistique Harbor was estimated by the EPA to take two years and cost $6 million. Now, four years later, the dredging continues, with costs exceeding $24 million. What's worse is dredging *increased* surface concentrations of PCBs, exposing fish and wildlife in the harbor to higher PCB levels than before the "cleanup" began. Costs continue to mount and the EPA will not speculate on a completion date.

It is also apparent that part of the problem lies in inefficient government operations. According to the federal General Accounting Office (GAO), nearly 60 percent of the EPA's 1998 Superfund budget *never* went to direct cleanup activities. Instead, bureaucrats spent it on support and administrative expenses.

Data from both government and independent studies indicate that 85 percent of the PCBs in the Fox River are buried under a foot or more of clean sediment, making them unavailable to fish and wildlife. Dredging should be a last resort because other solutions, such as sediment capping, may well be more effective and affordable.

LOCAL SOLUTION IS THE SENSIBLE SOLUTION

cc Baumel

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Manistique Harbor was estimated by the EPA to take two years and affordable.

LOCAL SOLUTION IS THE SENSIBLE SOLUTION

Be a part of the effort to restore the Fox River for those of us who live, work and play here. The last thing northeastern Wisconsin needs is a bureaucratic "solution" from outside governmental entities. If we work together as neighbors and friends, a local solution that makes sense can be achieved. Take action and learn more about sensible solutions for the Fox River. Visit the Fox River Group's Web site at www.foxrivergroup.org. Then call 1-800-440-2320 and request a free information pack. Finally, call your representatives and tell them you want a solution that's developed locally — a sensible one.

APPLETON PAPERS

WORKING TOWARD THE RIGHT SOLUTION

cc Buenzl

BRIEFLY

GREEN BAY

Dredging troubles halt PCB project

Problems with dredging equipment have halted a project to clean PCBs out of the Fox River, a Department of Natural Resources official said Friday.

The hydraulic dredger, which is supposed to cut into river sediment and pump it to the surface, is pumping a lot of water but few solids, said DNR project manager Bob Behrens.

"Because of the thin consistency, we were never able to get the watering operation going well," Behrens said. "It's so thin, and that's causing a lot of problems."

Dredging at a 9-acre site east of the Fort James Corp. plant in Green Bay started Monday, but problems with dredging equipment halted the project, Behrens said.

He said another dredger has been ordered and is expected to arrive this weekend.

The project is expected to resume early next week, Behrens said.

Behrens estimated that the project was a week behind schedule.

Officials are dredging an area believed to have the largest concentration in the lower Fox River, with 4,600 pounds of the polychlorinated biphenyls.

Sunday

Common-sense approach needed to river remediation

9/5/99

the paper report



Thomas Schmidt is president of the Wisconsin Paper Council, a trade association of pulp, paper and allied industries. Schmidt, on the council for 22 years, is a registered lobbyist and has been on many legislative and regulatory advisory committees. To contact him, call 722-1500 or fax 722-7541.

The paper industry is the lifeblood of the Fox River Valley economy.

Environmentally, it's a model corporate citizen by virtue of its cutting-edge programs such as the Pollution Prevention Partnership, the Green Guarantee, and the recently announced Wisconsin Paper Council Environmental Management System.

Simply put, it's a great industry with many talented and wonderful people.

The topic I'm going to address has a tremendous socioeconomic impact on the entire region, an issue touching each man, woman and child in the Valley in one way or another: remediation of the Fox River.

First, some background information on the issue.

PCBs entered the Fox River through wastewater discharges emanating from coating operations and the recycling of paper products. The use of PCBs in making carbonless copy paper was discontinued in 1971 shortly after concerns were expressed and seven years before the federal government banned most applications of PCBs in 1978.

In 1980, Congress passed the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), more commonly known as Superfund.

CERCLA, interestingly, was applied retroactively. Talk about fairness, or lack thereof.

Keep in mind that during this timeframe, state and federal officials were urging the paper industry to produce more paper from recycled fiber. Keep in mind, too, that these wastewater discharges were legal at the time.

Let's put this issue into proper perspective.

How would you like it if the federal government, say the Internal Revenue Service, knocked on your door tomorrow and said: "We know the tax return you filed in 1975 was legal, but the rules have changed. We're going to fine you for your past actions, plus assess interest."?

I don't know about you, but I'd be irate.

Granted, the mills probably have a moral, if not a legal responsibility to assist with remediation of the river. To their credit, they have responded very professionally, very responsibly to this awkward situation.

The remediation process is proceeding slowly with demonstration projects under way near Kimberly (Deposit N) and Green Bay (Deposits 56-57). Unfortunately, the remediation process has been mired in bureaucratic red tape and politics. The results of these demonstration projects, however, should be extremely helpful in developing an appropriate course of action.

Before discussing a possible approach to resolve this issue, let's take a look at some important but sometimes overlooked facts about the Fox River and the remediation process:

■ The Fox River is in the midst of a well-documented natural recovery. PCB levels in fish, sediment and water have dropped significantly during the past two-plus decades.

■ Eighty-five percent of the contaminated sediment is buried under one foot or more of cleaner sediment, effectively isolating the PCBs.

■ Human health and ecological risk assessments show very low risks from PCBs in the Fox River. Statistics show average fish consumption patterns are already within safe levels of exposure.

■ The DNR's proposed cleanup level – 0.25 part per million - compares with a goal of 3 parts per million - 10 ppm for cleanup efforts of this kind in other parts of the country. In reality, the Fox River is already at the level that other Superfund sites have been declared completed and cleaned-up by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Much of the current debate locally focuses on a singular issue - dredging of the PCB-contaminated sediments. This is unfortunate, as "risk reduction" should be the objective of the remediation effort, not dredging for the sake of dredging.

It seems logical that the goal for remediating the Fox River should be twofold:

■ First, reduce the risk of exposure to humans, fish and wildlife and enhance the use and enjoyment of the entire ecosystem.

■ Second, restore the ecosystem in a manner that preserves the economic vitality of local communities and industries.

In other words, we need a balanced approach, a common sense approach.

Back in 1992, a group of paper industry leaders and the late Department of Natural Resources Secretary C.D. "Buzz" Besadny informally agreed on a concept, an approach to remediate the Fox River.

That approach, in essence, called for a risk assessment of each deposit area, an analysis of treatment options for each area, and a priority ranking for the deposit areas.

In some areas, dredging would be the preferred option. In other cases, capping the deposits would be the best approach. And in other instances, it would be preferable to continue the natural recovery process.

This is a balanced approach.

It seemed logical in 1993.

It seems logical today.

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Date: 09/08/1999 8:19 AM
ormal
BCC: David P Allen at 3MS-GBFO
TO: David_P_Allen@FWS.Gov at FWS, Frank_Horvath@FWS.Gov at FWS,
Maureen Katz AT ENRD%JMSENRD%~DOI/SOL_HQ%~ISOL%INCC_INTERIOR-CCM@ios.doi.gov at FWS
Subject: Some FR/GB News Articles
---------- Message Contents

9/4/99 Milwaukee J. & Sentinel 4
1999 WL 21533640

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Saturday, September 4, 1999

News

Equipment problem delays Fox cleanup Dredger pumps more water than sediment, limiting effort to rid river of PCBs

Associated Press

Problems with dredging equipment have halted a project to clean PCBs out of the Fox River, a state Department of Natural Resources official said Friday.

The hydraulic dredger, which is supposed to cut into river sediment and pump it to the surface, is pumping a lot of water but few solids, said DNR project manager Bob Behrens.

"Because of the thin consistency, we were never able to get the watering operation going well," Behrens said. "It's so thin, and that's causing a lot of problems."

Dredging at a 9-acre site east of the Fort James Corp. plant in Green Bay started Monday, but problems with dredging equipment halted the project, Behrens said.

He said another dredger has been ordered and is expected to arrive over the weekend. The project is expected to resume early next week, Behrens said.

Behrens estimated that the project was a week behind schedule.

"I guess all of us involved are nervous if we are going to get done in time or not," Behrens said. "The schedule is to complete this by the end of November, which is pushing the envelope. If we have an early winter, it could be dicey."

Officials are dredging an area believed to contain 4,600 pounds of PCBs, the largest concentration of the industrial chemicals in the lower Fox River.

Area paper mills are blamed for dumping the chemicals into the river after using them to make carbonless paper and other products until they were banned in the 1970s.

Studies have linked PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, to cancer, reproductive problems and poor mental development in children and have said they are hazardous to aquatic life.

A spokesman for the Fox River Group, which is paying $7 million for the demonstration project, said problems with dredging highlight the importance of a pilot project.

"That's the problem with dredging," said Dennis Hultgren, a spokesman for Appleton Papers Inc. "You get situations like this. It's not an exact science. That is why you have a demonstration project -- to see why you have problems and how to resolve them."

Meanwhile, the DNR installed 26 air and water monitors around the site to track any movement of PCBs.

"We've never done a project with this much monitoring before," said Richard Wulk, DNR Northeast Region air management supervisor. "Our speculations are we won't find many PCBs, because the monitor that's been installed for five years has found little."

Environmental monitors will measure resuspension of particles and the impact of dredging on wildlife and the site itself, Behrens said.

Material collected from the air and water is sent to a lab for testing.

The lab results take time and won't be complete for at least a month, Wulk said.

9/4/99 Wis. St. J. 5B
1999 WL 22058923

Wisconsin State Journal
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Saturday, September 4, 1999

Local/Wisconsin

DREDGER PROBLEMS CAUSE DELAY IN PCB REMOVAL

Associated Press

Problems with dredging equipment have halted a project to clean PCBs out of the Fox River, a state Department of Natural Resources official said Friday.

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Environmental monitors will measure resuspension of particles and the impact of dredging on wildlife and the site itself, Behrens said.

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1999 WL 21532862

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
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Wednesday, September 1, 1999

News

PCBs getting into waters off Green Bay, U.S. agency says

Associated Press

PCBs are washing into the bay, hitching rides on contaminated riverbed sediment that is resuspended and carried out on water currents, a federal report says.

The report released Monday by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service was its third in recent months as part of its continuing assessment of the damage sediment does to fish and wildlife in the Fox River system.

The agency's finding that PCBs, polychlorinated biphenyls, move into Green Bay counters data by seven area paper mills, which contend the chemicals are buried under clean riverbed sediment and rendered immobile.

"The PCBs are not staying in one place. They are moving down the river," said David Allen, who is overseeing the assessment for Fish and Wildlife's Green Bay

office.

Those paper companies dumped PCBs into the river while making carbonless paper and other products at mills from 1957 until the government banned the chemicals in the 1970s.

About 63,000 pounds remain in the Fox River. The report says 96% of the PCB pollution in the Fox River and in Green Bay is from paper mill releases.

Studies have linked PCBs to cancer, reproductive problems and poor mental development in children and have found that they are hazardous to aquatic life.

The federal report also says that the paper companies are responsible for PCBs in the lower Fox River, that the river is the dominant source of PCBs moving into Green Bay and that fish and wildlife in that area accumulate PCBs primarily through the food chain.

Green Bay serves as "a very large source of PCBs" in Lake Michigan, the report says.

The federal report gleaned much of its findings from studies of the river by the state Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the early 1990s, Allen said.

The Fish and Wildlife Service studied various measures of PCB activity, including PCB levels documented in fish and bird tissue from the river and the bay and dispersal of PCBs in the bay, Allen said.

"Our conclusions are simple, straightforward and robust," Allen said.

9/1/99 Wis. St. J. 7A
1999 WL 22058510

The Capital Times
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Wednesday, September 1, 1999

Local/State

FEDS: PCBS WASHING INTO GREEN BAY WATERS

A federal report says industrial chemical PCBs are washing into the bay of Green Bay, hitching rides on contaminated riverbed sediment that is resuspended and carried on currents.

The report released this week by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was its third in recent months as part of its

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assessment of the damages that sediments have on fish and wildlife in the Fox
River system.

The agency's finding that PCBs, polychlorinated biphenyls, move into the bay
counters data by seven area paper mills that contends the chemicals are buried
under clean riverbed sediment and are rendered immobile.

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David Allen, who is overseeing the assessment for Fish and Wildlife's Green Bay
office.

Paper companies dumped PCBs into the river while making carbonless paper and
other products at mills from 1957 until the government banned the chemicals in
the 1970s.

About 63,000 pounds remain in the Fox River. Ninety-six percent
of the PCB pollution in the Fox River and Green Bay are due to paper mill
releases, the report said.

Studies have linked PCBs to cancer, reproductive problems and poor mental
development in children and say they are hazardous to aquatic life.

"Intuitively, we knew the fish were traveling to and from these
waters," said Tom Nelson, environmental specialist for the Oneida
Indians. "This report gives us scientific proof."

The federal report also found that the paper companies are responsible for PCBs in the lower Fox River and the river is the
dominant source of PCBs to Green Bay.

"Things are not going well."
Bob Behrens, project manager

9/3/99

Dredging project is snagged

Dredger is pulling water from the Fox River but few solids, and may have to be replaced

By Ed Culhane
Post-Crescent staff writer

the future of the FOX river

GREEN BAY – The biggest environmental dredging project ever attempted on the Fox River, already delayed for several days to allow for equipment testing, has now ground to a stop because the equipment isn't working.

"Things are not going well," said Bob Behrens of the state Department of Natural Resources, project manager at the site called Sediment Management Unit 56-57.

Behrens said the hydraulic dredger, which is designed to cut into chemically contaminated river sediments and suction-pump them to the surface for treatment and disposal, is pumping up a lot of water but few solids.

It might be necessary to ship an entirely new dredger of a different design to the site, Behrens said.

"The contractor is ordering a new dredge," Behrens said. "It's obviously going to take a few days to get here, and take a few days to get installed and connected."

A spokesman for the Fox River Group of paper companies, which insisted on the need for a demonstration project and committed $7 million to fund it, said these troubles highlight an argument industry representatives have made for years.

"That's the problem with dredging ... It's not an exact science. That is why you have a demonstration project. To see why you have problems and how to resolve them."
Dennis Hultgren of Appleton Papers Inc.

"That's the problem with dredging," said Dennis Hultgren of Appleton Papers Inc. "You get situa-

Please see **SNAG**, A-9

SNAG: Equipment test finds it doesn't work

From A-1

tions like this. It's not an exact science. That is why you have a demonstration project. To see why you have problems and how to resolve them."

Hultgren said he wasn't sure whether a new dredger would be needed or if the contractor can modify the dredger on the site, located in the river, just east of the Fort James Corp. paper mill. A treatment facility has been erected on Fort James property nearby.

In addition to making the bankside land available, Fort James designed and built a landfill cell to hold the 80,000 cubic yards of sediment and 3,800 pounds of PCBs to be pulled from the river. PCBs, once used in the manufacture of carbonless paper, have been linked to reproductive problems in fish, birds and mammals and with developmental problems in the children of mothers who ate contaminated fish.

The dredger began operating Monday and two holding tanks were filled with a slurry, a thin, watery mixture of fine material. But the slurry contains far less than the 7.5 percent solids that the treatment system needs to function properly and that are called for in the contract.

With enough solids, the slurry would be pumped into filter presses, which would squeeze water from the sediment, creating a substance like wet sand, which would be mixed with a cement-like binder and then shipped to a specially designed landfill cell owned by the Fort James.

Neither Behrens nor Hultgren could explain why the dredger isn't working properly.

It is not known whether the additional delay will endanger the goal of completing the dredging project before winter weather makes dredging impossible.

"I guess all of us involved are nervous if we are going to get done in time or not," said Behrens. "The schedule is to complete this by the end of November, which is pushing the envelope. If we have an early winter, it could be dicey."

Hultgren said he was optimistic the project will be completed in time.

"I think if they keep going, they'll be able to make it up," he said.

The first pilot dredging project, attempted at Deposit N between Little Chute and Kimberly last fall, had to be halted in early January when the river began to freeze. That project, one-tenth the size of 56-57, had started in late October. The DNR returned to the site Aug. 19 to finish the job.

DNR will carefully monitor PCB levels near Fox dredging

Air and water monitoring will continue after dredging is completed at SMU 56/57

9/3/99

By Melinda Naparalla
The News-Chronicle

The state Department of Natural Resources has taken steps to ensure Green Bay area air and water quality is not harmed while crews dredge PCB-contaminated sediment from the area of the Fox River with the highest concentrations of the harmful chemicals.

Dredging of Sediment Management Unit 56/57 began Monday at the site next to the Fort James Corp. West Side mill, 1919 S. Broadway.

The DNR has installed air and water monitors on and near the site, which is downstream of the De Pere dam and about three miles from the river's mouth, to track any and all movement of PCBs. The monitors are about 18 inches square by about 3 to 4 feet high; each looks like a small hut and rests on a platform.

The DNR installed 26 air monitors beginning at ground zero and radiating out to 1.2 miles away from the site. Six were installed and checked last week, before dredging began, to gather base numbers of PCBs already in the air, said Richard Wulk, DNR Northeast Region air management supervisor.

One air monitor has been running for about five years near the mill, he said.

The water monitoring will work at two levels, said Bob Behrens, DNR project manager. Environmental monitors surround the site and will measure resuspension of particles, the impact dredging has on the insects and other creatures that live in the sediment , and what dredging is doing to the site itself, he said.

Operational monitoring will focus on the concentrations of PCBs and mercury in the sediment, how much is taken out of the river, what is put back in the river, and the amount of contaminants lost to volatilization or evaporation.

"Basically, if we took out 100 pounds of sediment and 95 pounds went to the landfill, we have to figure out where did the rest go," Behrens said.

The air monitors run for a 24-hour period once a week, Wulk said. Air is captured and particles are filtered out of it. Then both the air and the particles are sent to a lab to be analyzed.

All of the monitors will run at the same time for the duration of the project, which should be completed by late November, he said.

The DNR has completed extensive water analysis on the river,



H. Marc Larson / The News-Chronicle

BOATERS CRUISE PAST THE DREDGING SITE on the Fox River near the Fort James west mill on Thursday.

Behrens said. A set of core samples was taken at the site a week prior to dredging to quantify PCB levels, he said. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will survey the surface sediment again after dredging to see if there is a difference.

"We've never done a project with this much monitoring before," Wulk said. "Our speculations are we won't find many PCBs, because the monitor that's been installed for five years has found little."

The demonstration project, funded by the seven paper mills considered responsible for the PCB contamination, will give the DNR an idea of how this process would work on the entire river cleanup, Wulk said.

Four Seasons Environmental, a contractor hired by the responsible paper mills and approved by the DNR, is using a hydraulic dredge to vacuum contaminated sediments out of the river. A suspended silt curtain anchored to the river bed isolates the dredge area from the rest of the river.

Dredged sediments will be pumped through a pipeline to an enclosed on-shore facility for dewatering. The water removed from the sediments will be treated to meet discharge permit standards and then returned to the river, and the dried sediments will be transported to the Fort James landfill near Austin Straubel International Airport for disposal.

Four to six monitors will run for a year after the project is completed to determine if there are differences in the air quality, Wulk said. The lab results take time and Wulk doesn't expect the first numbers for at least a month.

Water monitors are measuring the amount of PCBs suspended in the water near the project itself, Behrens said. Readings are taken every 15 minutes.

PCB monitoring will take place upstream and downstream of SMU 56/57, he said. If concentrations reach high levels, then there are problems in the dredging and adjustments will be made, Behrens said.

The DNR plans to remove about 80,000 cubic yards of PCB-contaminated sediment from the nine-acre site. Crews will operate 24 hours a day to keep the project on schedule.

9/2/99 READERS' COMMENT

End secret deals with Fox River polluters

The Natural Resource Damage Assessment, or NRDA, of the Fox River PCB sediment contamination should be ceased immediately. Further, our tax dollars should cease funding the NRDA, which is a clear duplication of effort and waste of our tax dollars when a major federal assessment has already been under way for more than three years.

More than a year ago, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offered to expand its assessment to include the state's involvement and issues, and even offered to give the state the leadership role. The state, however, rejected the offer. Instead, it insisted for total state control of the Fox River cleanup in hopes of driving the federal agencies away.

Gov. Tommy Thompson has repeatedly objected to the federal government's involvement in this matter, despite the multistate and international impacts of the PCB contamination.

The state has failed to notify its federal partners and, more important, we the people, about this state assessment. The governor is ignoring the clear financial, legal and technical advantages of working cooperatively with federal partners on the matter. These actions are a classic example of government waste and dereliction of public office by ignoring the very people he was elected to serve, not paid to serve.

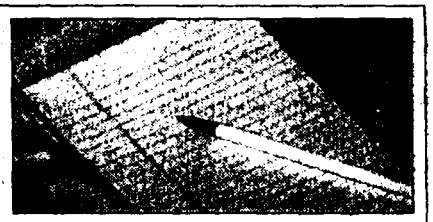
As further insult to the people of Wisconsin, the Fox River polluters, the perpetrators, are the only parties allowed to nominate the consultants to write the state's NRDA. This creates a pro-industry, pro-abuser biased assessment. Further, the governor's Department of Natural Resources will give the industry consultants' opinions legitimacy through endorsement by the Wisconsin state government. This is wrong.

This arrogant and dictatorial decision-making should not be tolerated in a democracy. The Fox River cleanup is too important to be sabotaged by the state and governor's DNR in this manner.

Cease and desist the NRDA project and all other secret deals with the perpetrators of pollution. We the people have a right to know and decide on the direction and course of our own health and safety and how our tax dollars will be spent.

Philip F. Chandelr
Green Bay

Letters to *The Green Bay News-Chronicle* must include the author's name, address and telephone number. Please limit them to 300 words; all are subject to editing. Longer, well-written letters will be considered for publication. Submit comments to the postal address, e-mail address or fax number listed below.



IN OUR VIEW

Case questions EPA credibility

■ Issue:
Indictments of 2 officials

■ Our view:
Agency must be fully investigated to quiet any doubts about conspiracy

Indictment of two U.S. Environmental Protection Agency employees for allegedly falsifying documents in lawsuits involving Wisconsin Indian tribes is no surprise.

It was obvious in 1997 that someone in the EPA used postdated documents to build a case that the Oneida, Menominee and Lac du Flambeau tribes had authority to regulate water-quality standards on their reservations. In May of that year, the EPA gave tribes such authority, called Treatment as a State status.

The state and several counties and municipalities went to federal court to question the EPA decision, arguing that only the state had water-quality authority. Lawyers for the state Department of Justice found computer printouts showing that EPA staffers wrote drafts detailing reasons the Oneidas should be given TAS authority months after the agency ruled for the tribe.

As a result, EPA staffers Marc. M. Radell and Claudia Johnson have been indicted by a federal grand jury. They are charged with obstructing justice, conspiring to obstruct justice and committing perjury in producing the documents and testifying about them.

The documents allegedly contained results of EPA analyses of the effects on non-Indian activities on reservations. The criminal charges follow an investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice. Radell and Johnson face 30 years in prison and fines of up to $1 million.

The papers were used to support EPA's contention that tribes had TAS authority to set water-quality standards.

Radell and Johnson certainly are innocent until proven guilty. But their indictments raise profoundly serious questions about the EPA's honesty and its ability to be thorough and impartial. Such a body blow to the credibility of the nation's top environmental agency makes it more difficult for the EPA to convince anyone it acts for the public.

EPA credibility is of particular significance in Northeastern Wisconsin because the agency may take the lead in forcing a cleanup of PCB pollution in the Fox River.

In addition, as we said in April 1998, the agency's embarrassing behavior deprived state and local governments of a clear-cut court decision on tribal authority. The question was left open when a federal judge let the EPA withdraw its TAS decision after faked documents came to light.

In 1998, the Oneidas and the state agreed to co-regulation of water- and air-quality standards. The agreement accompanied signing of a five-year gaming compact. But TAS may well be back in court since the Oneidas "may reconsider and reapply" for such status after the criminal matter is resolved, General Counsel Francis Skenandore said.

Bad as the EPA situation is, things could get worse. It is one thing if Radell and Johnson acted by themselves. But if some larger conspiracy was involved, the EPA will have earned the full congressional investigation we called for in 1998.

Report: PCBs in river on the move

Despite claims by paper companies, new report shows pollution is migrating to Green Bay and beyond

8/31/99

By Ed Culhane
Post-Crescent staff writer

GREEN BAY - The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service tightened its legal case against the Fox River Group of paper companies Monday, releasing a report that traces 90 percent of the PCB pollution in the Fox River and Green Bay to paper mill releases.



The agency also reported that PCB levels in several important fish species are not declining, as the paper mills have claimed, or are declining very slowly.

"PCB levels in walleyes in 1996 are very similar to PCB levels in walleyes in 1976 and there is an awful lot of data to support this," said Dave Allen, of the Fish & Wildlife Service.

The PCB Release and Pathway Report, now posted on the Internet, is the latest chapter in the agency's ongoing Natural Resources Damage Assessment for the area and has been under way for seven years.

Allen said the report, which is based largely on earlier studies by the state Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, traces the movement of PCBs down the river and into the bay, using what amounts to a chemical fingerprint to identify the source of those PCBs.

It clearly shows, he said, that the

Please see **RIVER**, A-7

RIVER: Some area residents are becoming frustrated

From A-1

vast majority of PCBs near the mouth of the bay and the waters of Lake Michigan came from the Fox River paper mills, not from Lake Michigan and other sources. The movement of PCBs continues, he said.

"The PCBs are not staying in one place," Allen said. "They are moving down the river."

Paper company officials have argued that most PCBs lie safely buried under cleaner sediments. The Fish and Wildlife Service report suggests otherwise.

The report released Friday does not attempt to predict the future movements of PCBs, nor does it suggest cleanup options, issues currently being grappled with by the DNR and EPA.

The Fish and Wildlife Service previously released NRDA reports on the damage caused to wild fish and birds by PCBs and on the effectiveness of fish consumption advisories. A report on economic damages is due out in late October.

Forty people attended the public meeting that accompanied the release of the report, many of them expressing distrust of the paper companies and doubts about the state's ability to effectively tackle the problem.

Several attacked the DNR's performance on the two demonstration dredging projects, both of which are currently under way, the smaller one at Deposit N near Kimberly financed by the state and the larger one in Green Bay, called 56-57, being financed by $9 million in paper company funds.

Jim Hahnenberg of the EPA suggested that judgment of the dredging projects should be withheld until they are complete and the monitoring finished.

> "What I am afraid of is that they are going to throw some chump change at us, and nothing will even be done."
>
> **BILL LANDRIE,**
> **Dykesville resident**

But the cleanup studies have taken years, and some residents of the river communities are growing cynical and weary.

"I'm frustrated by delays and delays and delays," said Bill Landrie of Dykesville. "What I am afraid of is that they (the paper mills) are going to throw some chump change at us, and nothing will even be done."

Tom Nelson, environmental specialist for the Oneida Indian tribe, said the NRDA showed that contaminated fish from the Fox River move up several streams on the reservation. This has been proven by the recovery of tagged fish and by testing for PCB levels.

The Oneida and Menominee tribes are part of a coalition of governments involved in the NRDA and the cleanup.

"They are the same fish," said Nelson. "That is why the Oneida tribe is involved. We always suspected they were the same fish. Now we have the evidence. We are here for a reason."

■ *The Fish & Wildlife Service report can be found online at http://www.fws.gov/r3pao/nrda.*

Federal report says PCBs drift into bay

8/31/99

It refutes claims by computer model

By Susan Campbell
Press-Gazette

A federal report released Monday shows chemical PCBs are washing into the bay of Green Bay, hitching rides on contaminated riverbed sediment that is resuspended and ferried out to the bay on water currents.

The conclusion was one of a half-dozen findings announced by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at a public meeting attended by about 40 people at the Brown County Library on Monday night.

The report, "PCB Pathway Determination for the Lower Fox River/Green Bay," is the third the agency has released this summer as part of its continuing assessment of the damages PCBs have wrought on fish and wildlife in the Fox River system.

The determination that polychlorinated biphenyls are resuspended in the water and from there move into Green Bay runs counter to computer modeling work by seven area paper mills showing that the chemicals are buried under clean riverbed sediment and rendered immobile.

> "All our lines of evidence point in the same directions. Our conclusions are simple, straightforward and robust"
>
> — David Allen, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

The mills, held responsible by federal and state agencies for about 63,000 pounds of PCBs remaining in the river today, have used their model to argue that removing the tainted sediment through dredging would worsen the situation by stirring up now-buried contaminants.

"All our lines of evidence point in the same directions," said David Allen, who is overseeing the assessment from Fish and Wildlife's Green Bay office. "Our conclusions are simple, straightforward and robust."

Other findings:

- The paper companies are responsible for PCBs in the lower Fox River.
- The river is the dominant source of PCBs to Green Bay.
- Green Bay fish and wildlife accumulate PCBs primarily through the food chain.
- Fox River PCBs are transported throughout Green Bay and into Lake Michigan, with Green Bay serving as "a very large source of PCBs" to the lake.
- PCB transport processes are still at work.

The Fish & Wildlife Service gleaned its findings from existing data, much of it from a mass balance study of the river and bay conducted around 1990. Allen said the agency looked at various

Please see **Report, B-2**

Report/Outlines effect on river

■ From B-1

measures of PCB activity, including PCB levels documented in fish and bird tissue from the river and the bay; the dispersal of PCBs in the bay; and the "fingerprint," or structure, of individual PCBs and how they have degraded over time.

The agency used this information to detail how the chemicals — released by mills from 1957-71 through papermaking and recycling — came to contaminate fish and fowl living in and around the waters of the river and Green Bay. The report becomes part of the larger Natural Resource Damage Assessment the agency is preparing, a document that will manifest itself as a monetary claim against the mills for damage caused to the river, its fish and wildlife and the people who use it.

Tom Nelson, environmental specialist for the Oneida Tribe of Indians, said the report contains important information for the tribe as well.

Tissue samples from fish caught last year in Duck, Ashwaubenon and Beaver Dam creeks all showed the same thing, Nelson said: the fish there are contaminated by PCBs from their travels to and from the Fox River.

"Intuitively, we knew the fish were traveling to and from these waters," he said. "This report gives us scientific proof."

Dredging of PCBs near Fort James under way

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dredging of the Fox River began Monday to remove silt contaminated by industrial chemicals.

The dredging is being done at a nine-acre site east of the Fort James Corp.'s West Mill in Green Bay. The project is being paid for by the Fox River Group of paper companies.

The area is believed to contain 4,600 pounds of PCBs, the largest concentration in the lower Fox River.

PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, were widely used in the making of carbonless paper and other products at paper mills along the Fox until the government banned them in the 1970s.

Studies have linked PCBs to cancer, reproductive problems and poor mental development in children and said they are hazardous to aquatic life.

"First, we want to protect wildlife and human health by removing PCBs from the aquatic environment, and second, we want to gather information on the cost-effectiveness of dredging as a cleanup option," said Bob Behrens, project manager for the state Department of Natural Resources.

The $9 million dredging project is designed to remove up to 80,000 cubic yards of sediment.

All of the material that comes from the site is to go to a landfill owned by Fort James on Wisconsin 172 in Brown County, just west of Oneida Bingo & Casino.

Work on the project was to begin Thursday but was delayed until this week while the contractor performed tests on the equipment.

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to save the stadium, [illegible] the newspaper.

8/28/99

GREEN BAY

Dredging of PCBs in Fox is delayed

Dredging of the Fox River to remove PCBs has been postponed until Monday.

The work had been scheduled to start Thursday.

"The landfill had details to be completed, and the contractor had tests to do on equipment. We felt it was better to wait a few days," said Bob Behrens, the state Department of Natural Resource's project manager for the dredging.

The project, to be funded by the Fox River Group of paper companies, is to take place on a 9-acre site just east of the Fort James Corp. facility in Green Bay.

The area is believed to contain 4,600 pounds of polychlorinated biphenyls, Behrens said, the largest concentration in the lower Fox River.

— Staff, wire service reports

Project at 56-57 has been delayed

Dredging Fox River's highest concentration of PCBs scheduled to begin Monday now

8/27/99

By Greg Bump
Post-Crescent staff writer

GREEN BAY – The start of the largest dredging PCB project ever undertaken on the Fox River has been delayed until Monday.

"The landfill had details to be completed, and the contractor had tests to do on equipment. We felt it was better to wait a few days," said Bob Behrens, the Department of Natural Resource's project manager for the dredging, which will be funded by the Fox River Group of paper companies. "We don't want to start up without equipment being tested."

"The landfill had details to be completed, and the contractor had tests to do on equipment. We felt it was better to wait a few days."

BOB BEHRENS, DNR dredging project manager

Dredging is currently under way at Deposit N in Little Chute. The delayed project, dubbed Site Management Unit 56-57, was scheduled to begin Thursday.

The dredging will take place on a nine-acre site just east of the Fort James Corp. facility in Green Bay.

The area is believed to contain 4,600 pounds of PCBs, Behrens said, the largest concentration in the lower Fox River.

"There is a very high concentration of PCBs in this area as far as anyone can tell," said Mark Lindley, manager of external communications for Fort James.

"This is an excellent site that will give us a good indication of what's going on, if dredging can be effective," Lindley said.

The $8 million dredging project is designed to remove up to 80,000 cubic yards of sediment. How many pounds of PCBs will be pulled from the site is yet to be determined, Behrens said.

Crews will work around the

Please see **DREDGING,** BACK PAGE

DREDGING: Will operate on 24-hour basis

From A-1

clock on the project, which Behrens hopes will be finished by Thanksgiving.

"The dredge itself will only operate four to six hours a day, but water treatment equipment will be running continuously," he said.

Lindley said FRG members are eager to get the data as soon as possible.

"We really do want to see what the potential outcomes of dredging are, and we're anxious to work with DNR on this project," he said.

"You would think one could take a look at the data resulting from this project and come to same conclusion, but time and testing will tell."

All the material that comes from the site will go to a landfill owned by Fort James on State 172 in Brown County, just west of the Oneida Casino.

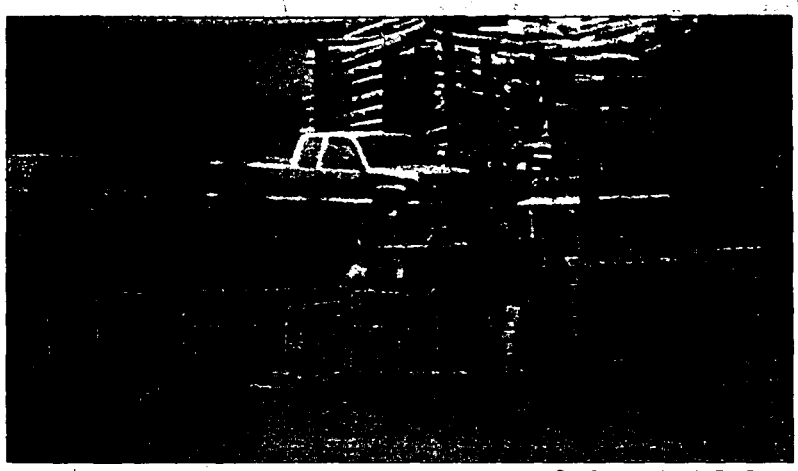
A segregated cell, surrounded by a thick six-layer liner, will hold the waste.

Fort James has offered the use of the landfill at no cost.

The project will involve suctioning sediment from the river bed and pumping it onto Fort James property, where water will be mechanically removed from it.

The water will be treated and filtered before returning to the river.

The remaining sediment will be mixed with a concretelike binder and then trucked to the landfill. None of the sediment taken from the site will be put back in the river.



Post-Crescent photo by Dan Powers

WHILE DREDGING at Unit 56-57 has been delayed until Monday, the project at Deposit N in Little Chute is continuing as planned.

Done as part of the Govt Perf. & Results Act

EPA lets residents sound off on Fox cleanup options

By Stephanie Kuenn
Press-Gazette

The Environmental Protection Agency received mixed reviews from local residents on its community outreach for the Fox River cleanup site during a focus group session Wednesday.

Florida-based TAPP Information is conducting focus groups on community involvement and outreach at 19 EPA cleanup sites across the country, including the Fox River. Two sessions took place Tuesday in Appleton, two were held in Green Bay Wednesday and two more are scheduled for today.

The state Department of Natural Resources in February released cleanup options, and the EPA has said it would designate the river and the southern part of the bay of Green Bay a Superfund cleanup site if the state and seven area paper mills cannot agree on a cleanup plan for an estimated 63,000 pounds of polychlorinated biphenyls in the sediment bed.

The cleanup options' costs range from $150 million to $728 million.

Nine area residents, including government officials and environmentalists, participated in the session. Most said they were concerned about numerous issues.

Vicky Harris, a former DNR employee who now works for the University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute, thinks an unbiased scientific study would help clear up confusion.

"I think what we need to do is bring experts together and present their unbiased opinions — not recommendations — and then let the public draw their own conclusions," Harris said. "It seems to me that kind of public outreach is needed."

Bob Schmitz of Green Bay said he had nothing but good experiences with the EPA, but worries about what he calls "propaganda" from the seven paper mills.

"We poor peasants don't have the money to spend on propaganda the (paper mills) have," Schmitz said. "The EPA has a tough job trying to combat this sort of thing and I think they've done a hell of a job on it."

Participants highlighted the need to get the community more involved in the cleanup process.

"What I'm afraid of, in the end, is a decision is going to be made in a judge's office or a back room of the governor's building," Harris said. "A place where public input isn't involved."

Muriel Crowley, a Winnebago County supervisor, shared Harris' concerns.

"Most people know this is a problem," Crowley said. "I feel like it may not get done by public opinion, and that scares me."

Appleton Papers expansion is a strong sign for the future

We were quite pleased Wednesday to report Appleton Papers' further investment in the Fox Cities, a $25 million expansion of its Combined Locks mill.

The expansion – at the expense of a similar operation in Newton Falls, N.Y. – will allow the Locks mill to produce coated free-sheet paper, the glossy paper that is used for many high-end printing applications. It augments a $180 million expansion of the Locks mill, which helped Appleton Papers' parent company, Arjo Wiggins Appleton, enter the coated-sheet market in the first place.

What this turn of events says about the commitment of Appleton Papers – in light of the uncertainty of the company's financial culpability for PCB cleanup in the Fox River – to this area is important, and sends a strong signal to other international businesses that are based here.

It says that this is a great area for Appleton Papers to conduct business, to employ people, to continue its international standing as an industry leader.

It says that while Appleton Papers has done well in its past here in the Fox Valley, it intends to do even better in the future.

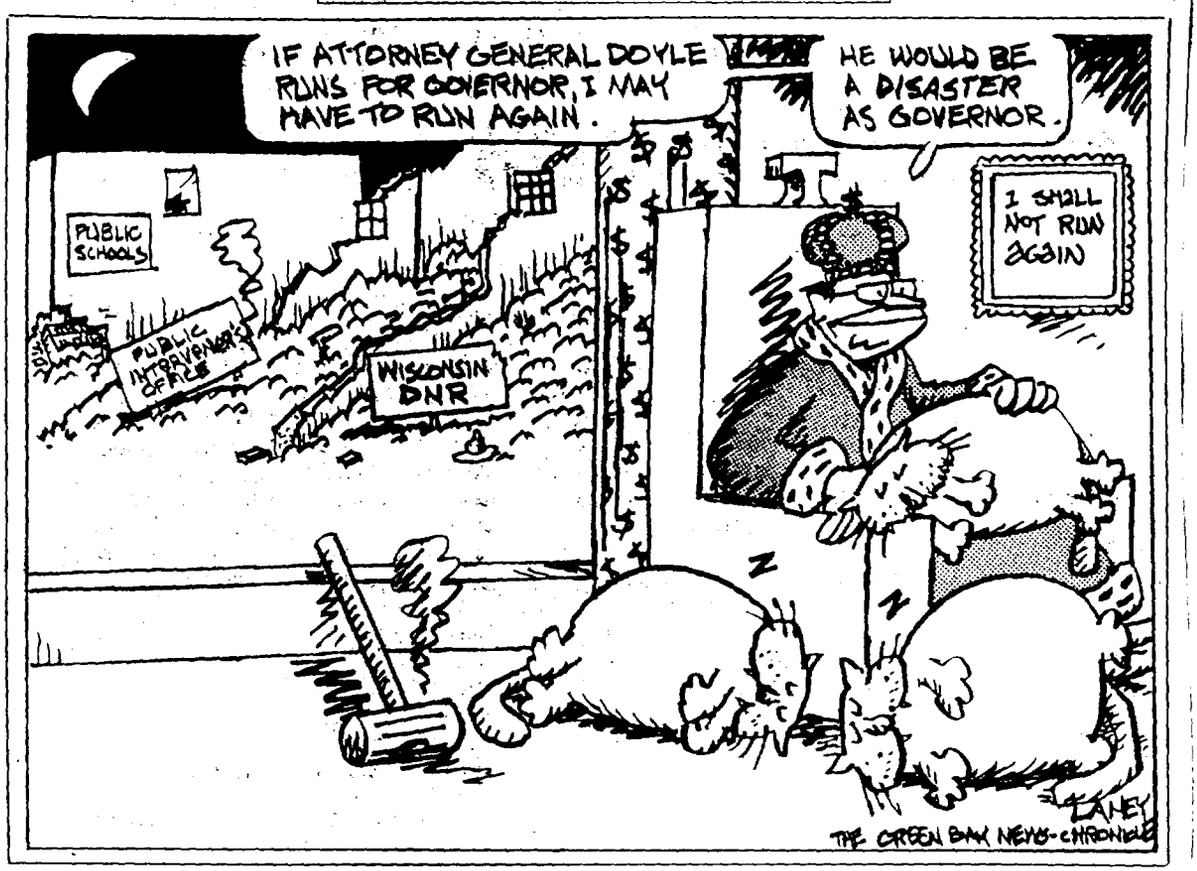
It says, we hope, that the company is deeply committed to the people of the Fox Valley. Over the past year or so, there has been concern – spoken and unspoken – that the PCB cleanup of the river could cost the company too much for it to continue business here. Wednesday's news seems to fly in the face of those concerns.

While no additional jobs are expected to come from this investment, any time a major employer sinks that much money into a business, it is a sign that they aren't going anywhere soon.

That's good news for all of us.

Post-Crescent editorial 8/19/99

LYLE LAHEY'S VIEWPOINT



Philip F. Chaudoir

Predicts 'secret deals' in Fox River cleanup

8/25/97

DE PERE — The latest deal between Gov. Tommy Thompson's DNR and Fort James Corp. makes the case for Fox River Superfund designation all the stronger. Whoever thought the pilot project would become a vehicle for the governor to bargain away a corporation's liability for environmental damages? The state has botched the job.

The Kimberly project was started but not completed. The latest $2 million from Fort James will still leave site 56-57, the most contaminated on the river, 37,000 cubic yards short of completion. The kicker is that Fort James is released of all future liability from the site, forever.

This deal has the stench of political patronage and smells just like the January 1997 sweetheart deal between the governor and the seven Fox River Group polluters. Then and now, John Q. Public was left on the outside looking in as Thompson gave away another piece of Wisconsin's natural resource capital. The millions that paper manufacturers stuffed into Thompson's reelection campaigns have come home to roost.

Like a poacher who waits until nobody is looking before shooting, the secret deals are a willful and systematic way to block public oversight and steal from the public domain.

The pilot project was a concession to the Fox River Group to begin with. Data from dredging dozens of similar, EPA-completed sites already existed. The Fox River Group had to have it their way and had to have their own data. Seems unless there's a federal subsidy in it, the polluters want nothing to do with Uncle Sam. They despise regulation and the pilot project is just another ruse in their game of delay, delay, delay.

The EPA has the most experience and is best-qualified to completely, comprehensively and openly, with a capital "O," manage the detoxification of the Fox. It's clear that without Superfund, the alternative will be a series of secret deals between a governor, who has no use for the environment unless cornered, and the Fox River Group polluters who fully expect a return on their campaign investments.

Will the toxic legacy of Tommy Thompson remain with Northeastern Wisconsin for decades to come?

Stephen Abitz

DNR resigned to zebra mussels in Lake Winnebago

8/24/99

By Alex Hummel
For The Post-Crescent

OSHKOSH – It almost sounds like the plot to a 1950s science fiction movie, ala "Invaders from Mars" or "War of the Worlds."

Hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of foreign creatures invade the area. Their mysterious threat resides hidden below ground, in orbit or, in this case, beneath the still, black surfaces of native waters. People are helpless to stop their propagation. Even scientists can't halt their spread.

In the case of zebra mussels in the Lake Winnebago system, it's nonfiction, and it's a storyline we're just going to have to live with, said Department of Natural Resources Winnebago System biologist Art Techlow.

Like uninvited cousins "just dropping in," the ecologically meddlesome mollusks are here to stay. After DNR confirmation Friday of a burgeoning population of zebra mussels within Lake Winnebago and the Neenah channel, Techlow and local DNR officials are now left watching.

"It's very hard to control them," Techlow said. "In fact, you'll never get rid of them.

"This year there were confirmed sightings from every part of the lake," he said.

Look to anything jutting out into the water, Techlow said. Accompanying Friday's announcement of the mussels' early stage "infestation," Techlow advised boat or dock owners to keep an eye out for the d-shaped, striped shell critters.

"What would be interesting is if people on Lake Butte des Morts, Lake Winneconne or Lake Poygan see them. I would be interested in hearing that."

Also of concern, Techlow said, is the threat of PCB contamination rising through the food chain. Zebra mussels could reside in the underwater sediments that harbor PCBs in the lower Fox River. However distant that concern, it may pose a threat that trickles up to fish and other animals that feed on the mussels, a process called "biomagnification," Techlow said.

> "It's very hard to control (zebra mussels). In fact, you'll never get rid of them."
>
> **ART TECHLOW, Department of Natural Resources Winnebago System biologist**

"You can speculate all you want with what's going to happen in the Winnebago System," Techlow said. "But we're not going to know until we see it."

Techlow said boaters and fishermen should do their own part to empty all water out of watercraft, making sure bait and live wells don't transplant any stowaway mussel larvae, called veligers.

"In the long run we'll see how it plays out from an environmental standpoint," he said. "I would guess, based on what I have read and heard from other people, probably next year or the year after, I think we'll be seeing a whole lot of zebra mussels."

■ *Alex Hummel writes for Thomson Wisconsin Newspapers/The Oshkosh Northwestern.*

READERS' COMMENT

Secret deals imperil Fox

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Who ever thought the pilot project would become a vehicle for the governor to bargain away a corporation's liability for environmental damages?

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The Environmental Protection Agency has the most experience and is best qualified to completely, comprehensively and *openly* manage the detoxification of the Fox. It's clear that without Superfund the alternative will be a series of secret deals between a governor who has no use for the environment unless cornered and the Fox River Group polluters who fully expect a return on their campaign investments.

Will the toxic legacy of Thompson remain with Northeast Wisconsin for decades to come?

8/24/99

Stephen Abitz
Rockland

chron.com | The Green Bay News-Chronicle

Zebra mussels detected in Fox River, Lake Winnebago

ASSOCIATED PRESS 6/22/99

OSHKOSH — Adult zebra mussels, the tiny mollusks that clog water intakes, cover boats and can drive out native species, have been detected in Lake Winnebago and the lower Fox River, the state said.

The state Department of Natural Resources issued a notice about the destructive, fingernail-size mussels that have caused problems in the Great Lakes by gobbling up microscopic plants and animals.

Concentrations of the pesky mussels are highest in the northern part of Lake Winnebago, DNR Water Quality Specialist Scott Szymanski said.

"We are seeing the very early stages of an infestation in the lake," Szymanski said, adding the population appears to be reproducing.

Although the mussels' eating habits actually clarify bodies of water, they also hog the food that sustains larger game fish.

Last October, a zebra mussel was discovered near the P.H. Glatfelter Co. paper mill in Neenah. In November, a Radtke Contractors Inc. work crew pulled another off a navigational buoy in Lake Winnebago.

After Friday's announcement, Neenah Water Works Superintendent Beck Hiliker and Oshkosh Superintendent of Utilities Tom Konrad are keeping their eyes open for the D-shaped, striped-shelled critters, notorious for clogging water intake pipes that extend into bodies of water.

"We've got some concrete blocks out now," Konrad said. "We'll be monitoring those to see if zebra mussels attach to them."

Konrad said the blocks, which were used to no avail a few years ago to spot zebra mussels, are in Lake Winnebago off of the point in Menominee Park.

Hiliker said that next week a dive team will inspect water intake pipes jutting out into the northern part of Lake Winnebago. He said the pipes were dive for an inspection, but he has warned the team to look for young zebra mussels.

"It's been a waiting game and now they are finally here I guess," Hiliker said.

[illegible] a DNR biologist, said he expected more zebra mussel reports when lake property owners bring in their piers this fall.

greater concern for child issues, ever spare time she has besides city street.

8/23/99

PCB dredging projects set to begin at mill-funded test sites

GREEN BAY (AP) – Area paper mills will learn the value of dredging contaminated sediment from the polluted Fox River when one of two pilot cleanup projects resumes Thursday.

Seven area paper mills, held responsible for polluting the river with industrial chemical PCBs, paid $9 million for two pilot dredging projects.

This week's dredging, postponed last fall because of cold weather, will be focused on the area outside the West Mill of the Fort James Corp., considered the river's most heavily contaminated area.

The projects are designed to help clean up the river and gather information on the effectiveness of dredging.

PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, were widely used in the making of carbonless paper and other products at paper mills along the Fox until the government banned the chemicals in the 1970s.

Studies have linked PCBs to cancer, reproductive problems and poor mental development in children and said they are hazardous to aquatic life.

Work resumed Friday on a state Department of Natural Resources dredging site near Little Chute.

The other industry-backed pilot project, at a 9-acre segment of the river near De Pere, is scheduled to be cleaned up later this month.

That cleanup originally called for removal of 80,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediments. But rising costs forced officials to cut estimates nearly in half.

A recent contribution by Fort James allowed the project to move ahead as originally planned, the DNR said.

A contractor will use a hydraulic dredge to "vacuum" contaminated sediments out of the river in both projects. The sediments will be dried and taken to a Fort Jam landfill for disposal.

Over the next three month about 80,000 cubic yards of sed ment will be dredged from 120,000 cubic-yard area in the riv outside the West Mill.

About 4,000 pounds of PCB with concentrations as high as 70 parts per million, are expected t be removed from the river durin the pilot project.

VITALS

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Merits of dredging put to test

Demonstration project to begin this week at Fort James

By Susan Campbell
Press-Gazette

Removal of the most heavily contaminated sediment in the Fox River is scheduled to begin this week outside Fort James Corp.'s West Mill.

The dredging work, expected to start Thursday, is for a pilot project paid for by seven area paper mills held responsible for the river's widespread pollution from chemical PCBs.

About 80,000 cubic yards of sediment will be dredged from a 120,000 cubic-yard hot spot in the river during the next three months. The removal targets an estimated 4,000 pounds of polychlorinated biphenyls, with concentrations as high as 700 parts per million, the highest known in the river.

The project will entail four hours of hydraulic dredging a day and operation of a press-style dewatering machine 24 hours a day. Tainted sediment dredged from the site will be compressed, dried and trucked to a Fort James landfill north of Austin Straubel Airport.

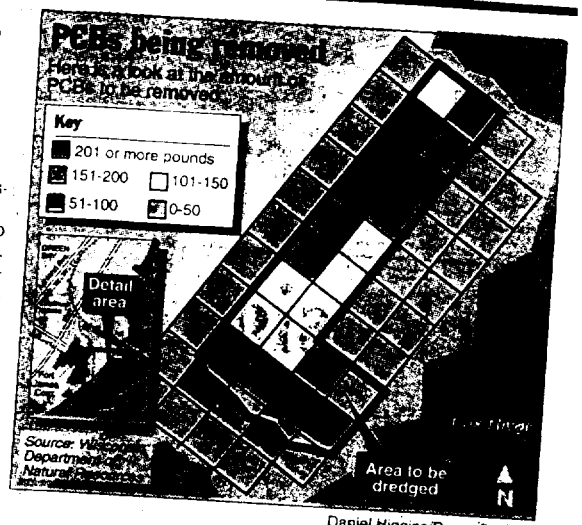
■ **Pilot program near Kimberly resumes, B-1**

Troy Streckenbach, co-owner of Hullo's on the Fox — a restaurant featuring a sprawling deck and bar just across the river from Fort James — said he watched workers set up for the project last week and isn't worried about the dredging disturbing customers.

"We're certainly excited to see it taking place," he said. "Anything that will help promote the use of the river, whether it's on land or on the water, is a step forward for Green Bay."

Bob Behrens, project manager for the state Department of Natural Resources, said neither the dredging nor the truck traffic should

Please see **Project, A-2**



Daniel Higgins/Press-Gazette

Project/Mills say dredging stirs up PCBs

■ From A-1

be disruptive because the site is in an industrial area of Green Bay's west side.

Trucks traveling to and from the landfill, located behind Oneida Bingo and Casino, will be sealed and washed as they leave the dredge site so contaminated soil won't blow or spill out during transit.

"They're taking a hazardous waste approach to this," said Behrens, who estimated the trucks would make 10 trips per day.

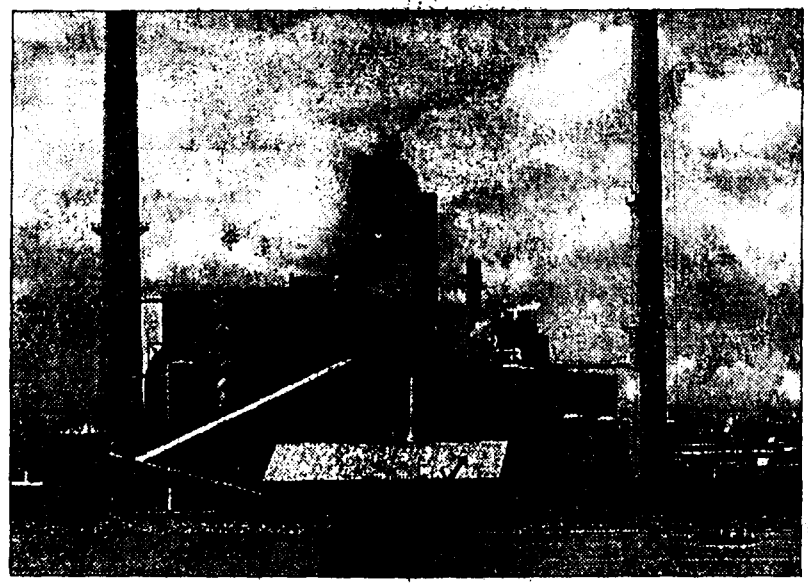
Dredging studied

The mills pushed for the $9 million project to study the efficacy of dredging. Although environmental dredging has succeeded at a number of contaminated sites around the country, the mills say no other project has approached the magnitude of a Fox River cleanup.

About 63,000 pounds of PCBs lie along the 39-mile lower Fox River, 86 percent of them having made their way into the last seven-mile stretch of river between the De Pere dam and the entrance to the bay of Green Bay. State and federal studies have determined the chemicals wash into the bay at a rate of about 600 pounds a year.

But the mills say dredging would only worsen the problem, stirring up PCBs that they contend are safely buried under clean sediment.

Sensible Solutions for the Fox River, a publication released by the mills in June, termed dredging "an option of last resort" and argued the contaminants should be left "entombed" in the riverbed.



Patrick Ferron/Press-Gazette

Workers last week prepared for a pilot dredging project to remove PCBs from the Fox River outside Fort James Corp.'s West Mill. The dredging is expected to start Thursday and is being paid for by seven area paper mills held responsible for the river's pollution from PCBs.

The publication argues for leaving the river to largely heal itself, saying it has made great strides in ridding itself of PCBs.

Indeed, since 1971 — when paper mills ceased discharging PCBs to the river in the process of making and recycling carbonless copy paper — government studies show that an estimated 530,000 pounds of the chemical have left the river, much of it volatilizing off the water's surface, cycling through fish and wildlife, or washing into the bay and Lake Michigan.

Citing the health risks posed by eating PCB-tainted fish from the river, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has said much of the contamination must be removed and may name the site a Superfund priority cleanup site unless the DNR and the mills show they are serious about cleaning the river.

'Not a cleanup'

The dredging project is expected to reduce PCB levels within the project site to 1 ppm, said Bob Paulson, an environmental toxicologist with the DNR. That number represents a lower standard than the two cleanup levels suggested earlier this year for the whole river cleanup — levels of .25 ppm or an average of .25 ppm, both proposed in the DNR's preliminary cleanup studies.

The DNR last month signed an agreement with Fort James that the company would not have to fund more cleanup work at the site if it paid another $2 million to increase the project scope to its current size. Despite the agreement, the project leaves behind 40,000 cubic yards of tainted sediment, though the remaining PCB levels at the project site will be below 100 ppm.

Dave Lee, mill manager at P.H. Glatfelter in Neenah — one of the targeted mills — stressed that the work outside Fort James is not intended as a cleanup.

"Some people tend to view that as a cleanup project. It's important to remember it is a demonstration project," he said. "Its purpose is to learn what is happening with real-world dredging."

With so much focus on dredging's effectiveness, the DNR is spending big dollars on monitoring the project, expecting to show hydraulic dredging doesn't kick up high levels of PCBs as the mills suggest.

The mills, meanwhile, are being criticized by outside experts for failing to establish clear goals for their monitoring of the project.

In a July 12 letter to the DNR, a technical subcommittee of the Green Bay Remedial Action Plan predicted an unscientific outcome to the monitoring results based on the mills' plans.

"It is difficult to assess the ability of a monitoring plan to answer questions that are not clearly stated from the outset," the committee wrote, "The data will be interpreted in any manner that one wishes, even if there are insufficient data to make any conclusions."

Report: PCBs are still cycling through the Fox River and bay

PCB levels in large fish are not declining, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

8/31/99

By Melinda Naparalla
The News-Chronicle

The latest report from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service focusing on the pathways of polychlorinated biphenyls confirms that seven area paper mills are responsible for the PCBs in the Fox River and the bay.

"PCBs have and continue to move from the river to Green Bay," said David Allen, Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) manager with the service.

The pathway report, released Monday at a public meeting at the Brown County Central Library, 515 Pine St., is part of the NRDA, a series of documents that will list all facets of damage the PCBs have caused.

One of the conclusions of the report was paper companies were the dominant source of PCBs in the river, Allen said.

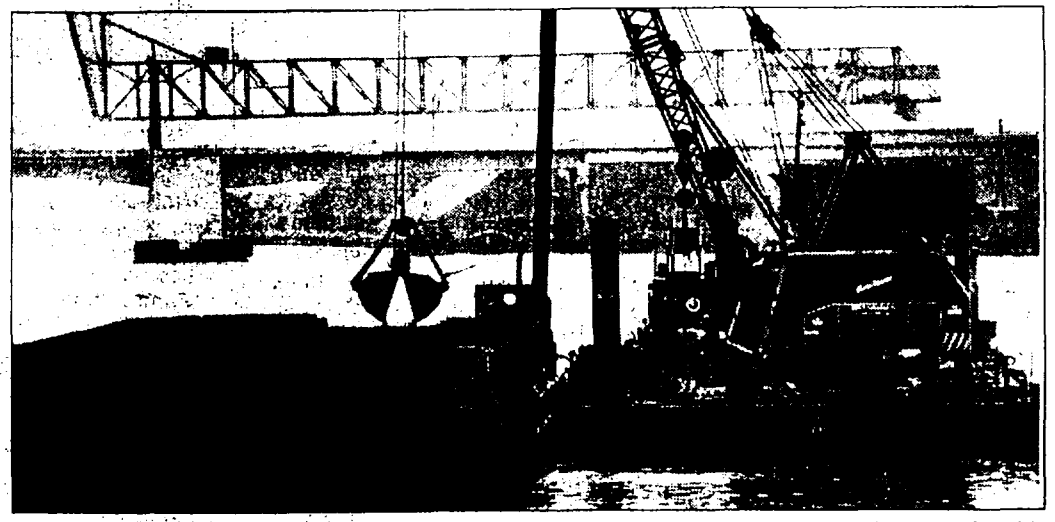
The PCBs are still moving in the ecosystem and the river is responsible for more than 90 percent of the PCBs in Green Bay.

Fish and wildlife are still being affected by the contamination through their diets.

The Fish and Wildlife Service is concerned with cleaning up and restoring the river, but it also wants to stop the chain, Allen said.

"Concentrations of PCBs in fish are not declining or are declining very slowly," he said.

Fish lower in the food chain do show some decline in PCB levels, but larger fish show little change in two decades, he said.



File photo / The News-Chronicle

DREDGING OF THE FOX RIVER, such as this in downtown Green Bay, has shown polychlorinated biphenyls. A new study confirms seven area paper mills are responsible for the PCBs in the Fox River and the bay.

"That concerns us because those are the trophy fish, such as walleye and brown trout," Allen said. "That means the transport pathways are still at work."

The PCB levels measured in walleye in 1996 are very similar to the concentrations in the fish in 1976, Allen said.

"The patterns in the Fox River and inner and outer Green Bay are consistent with the theory of the Fox River being the primary source of PCBs," Allen said.

Currents in Green Bay, in turn, are moving PCBs into Lake Michigan.

James Hahnenberg, project manager with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, said a final cleanup decision is expected in about a year.

Tom Nelson, environmental specialist for the Oneida Tribe of Indians, said the reservation is being affected by the contamination of the Fox because streams on the reservation feed the Fox River.

"The same fish in the Fox River and Green Bay are also in the reservation and they are contaminated," he said.

Something needs to be done, said Bill Laundrie, 25, of Dyckesville. He said he is becoming frustrated because the process is taking so long. His father worked at a paper mill so he's sympathetic to them, but he said "it's high time we do right by the Earth."

8/25/99

COMMENTARY

A vital Fox River requires all kinds of input

By Bruce Johnson / Guest Commentator

As their recent commentary shows, the leaders of the Clean Water Action Council lack a clear understanding of Fox-Wolf Basin 2000 — an independent group that differs from the council in style and strategy but shares the same chief goal: clean water.

Despite their misunderstandings about us, we sincerely believe the council is a group of dedicated, hard-working people, and we applaud their diligence. But let's set the record straight: Fox-Wolf Basin 2000 exists to achieve — and sustain — high-quality water resources. Period. That's why we come to work every day.

How do we differ? Some environmental groups, the council among them, concentrate on highly visible political action, on litigation and on regulation. When it comes to making this basin better, we don't view lawsuits and rule books as the "most effective, proven tools for environmental cleanup" in our arsenal, as the council recently asserted.

Make no mistake. Those tools are sometimes important, even essential. But too often lawyers stay busy while rivers stay filthy and rule books gather dust. Building consensus and relying upon a community-based approach are far more effective tools. And they divert far fewer scarce resources away from direct investments in water quality.

In short, Fox-Wolf Basin 2000 is a watershed alliance - a coalition of organizations and individuals who live, work, study and play in the watershed and care deeply and passionately about its well-being.

As such, we're cut from the same cloth as groups like the Nanticoke Watershed Alliance, which has blended diverse voices — including foresters, business owners, government agencies, land trusts, farmers, scholars and fishermen — into a team studying Delaware–Maryland wetlands and working on environmentally friendly rural design standards. And the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, which is coordinating information-gathering meetings and public forums and facilitating policy debates on issues related to the bay's restoration. And New Mexico's Upper Gila Watershed Alliance, which is helping local citizen groups to monitor the health of their rivers and streams.

Among our own activities and accomplishments, to list a few:

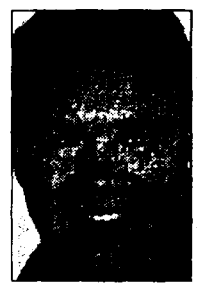
➤ Working with both point sources (such as paper mills and treatment plants) and nonpoint sources (such as farmers and construction crews) of pollution on a new concept called "watershed-based trading" that enforces compliance with the Clean Water Act while pursuing the most cost-effective way for all sources to cut pollution levels.

➤ Using and refining state-of-the-art computer modeling techniques to understand and predict how water pollution works — and what methods will best combat it.

➤ Bringing broad groups of citizens together, representing every spectrum of a community, to define local watershed problems and develop ways to make lasting improvements.

➤ Facilitating the exchange of vital water quality monitoring and research data among representatives of government, industry, academe and other interested stakeholders through our research workshops.

As a watershed alliance, we have no problem with including industry — even Fox River polluters — in community efforts to improve water quality. It seems both apt and just that polluters should pay.



"As a watershed alliance, we have no problem with including industry — even Fox River polluters — in community efforts to improve water quality. It seems both apt and just that polluters should pay."

Bruce Johnson
Fox-Wolf Basin 2000

And we agree with Clean Water Action Council's implication that polluters include the Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District, with its industrial and commercial customers and more than 100,000 Greater Green Bay residents. Fox-Wolf Basin 2000 has long said that we all are polluters, we all share blame for this basin's water-quality problems, and we all need to work in partnership to bring about a real and lasting cleanup.

Partners we are; puppets we are not, despite the council's claims. The circumstances of both our founding and our funding are described in detail on our Web site (see below).

Yes, we have two paper company employees serving on our board. But our board also includes nine resource managers, six businesspeople, five elected officials, three environmental groups, two planners, two tourism professionals, two treatment plant representatives and a member from the Oneida Tribe of Indians. And the door remains open for anyone wishing to participate.

Fox-Wolf Basin 2000 believes, as does the council, that the issues surrounding PCBs in the lower Fox River and potential Superfund designation are incredibly important. No whisper campaign exists, as the council claims, to revoke its award of a Superfund Technical Assistance Grant.

We have no desire to divert either the council or ourselves from the core of our missions of improving water quality, and we regret their belief that our "presence and acceptance as representatives of the environmental community" should not be tolerated.

We face serious and pervasive challenges in the stewardship of our natural resources. Every one of us is responsible for the problems we face, and it will take us all to find ways to preserve and sustain our quality of life.

We are grateful for the attention anyone gives these issues — for the worst response would be to ignore them. We each have important parts to play, and Fox-Wolf Basin 2000 looks forward to its role as an alliance that pursues consensus among the diverse perspectives that enrich our community.

Johnson is executive director of Fox-Wolf Basin 2000, a group dedicated to the preservation of the water quality of the Fox and Wolf rivers. Write to him at 103 W. College Ave., Appleton, WI 54911, or visit www.fwb2k.org.

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...about water that is ... Milwaukee on Sept. 20.

Environmentalists: Warnings show Great Lakes in danger from pollution

Environmental groups say the Great Lakes region is at "extreme risk"

8/19/99

By Leigh Ann Wagner
The News-Chronicle

An updated listing of fish and wildlife advisories released by the Environmental Protection Agency has environmental groups worried about pollution in the Great Lakes, which make up the world's largest source of fresh water.

The EPA listing shows Great Lakes states have the vast majority of the nation's fish advisories, and they also have the largest number of new advisories.

The advisory update proves the lakes are contaminated with high levels of toxic chemicals, said Eric Uram, a spokesman for the Midwest office of the Sierra Club.

Industrial-based chemicals such as PCBs, mercury, DDT, chlordane and dioxins pollute the river and Lake Michigan, said Becky Katers, executive director of the area Clean Water Action Council.

The chemicals are proven to cause birth defects and learning disabilities in children and neurological disorders, increased cancer risk and kidney dysfunction. Fish and wildlife are also threatened, Katers said.

"Those chemicals have been focused on for several years," Katers said. "The concern is growing now that the reports show the tremendous health effects. People are being adversely effected by chemicals in our environment that they can't see, taste or smell."



Katers

Katers said the contamination is especially severe in the Fox River area because of the high concentration of paper mills and industry along the river. There are 24 paper mills and five major treatment plants along 39 miles of river, she said.

The contamination effects Lake Michigan because it is an outlet for Green Bay, which is fed by the Fox River. Because the lake has no outlet of its own, the pollutants keep accumulating, she said.

The rapidly increasing population in the area further complicates the problem, Katers said.

There are more demands and increases in production which offset any benefits that have come with advances in pollution control, she said.

"The paper mills and other industries need to go back up the pipe and focus on pollution prevention, not just how to deal with the pollution that comes at the end of the pipe," Katers said.

Both Uram and Katers said industries should alter some of their chemical processes to prevent pollution.

Katers said there are alternatives to the paper industry's use of chlorine, such as less toxic hydrogen peroxide or oxidation.

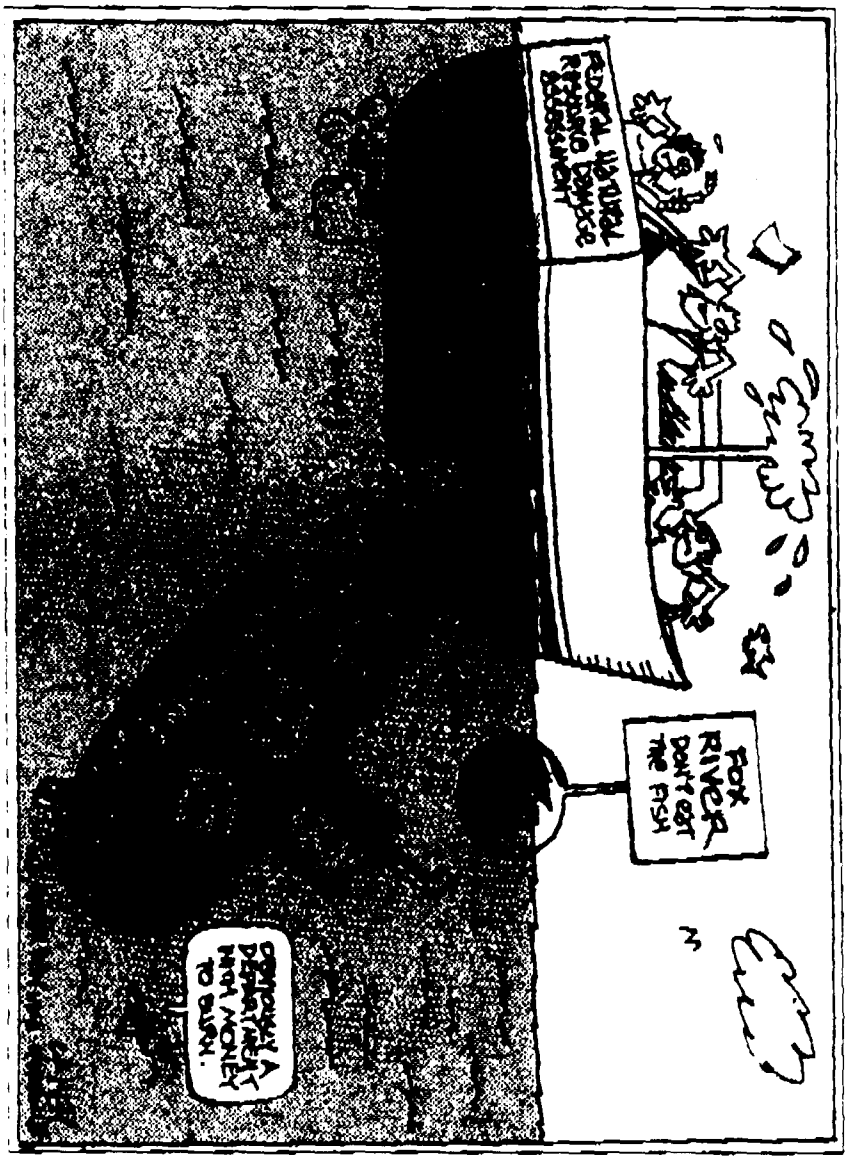
Uram said the incineration of industrial waste should also be stopped because it is a major contributor the release of chemicals in the air and then water.

"The companies need to do some bookkeeping to see where the problem is coming from and then work to eliminate the problem," Uram said.

Because motor vehicles also contribute largely to the release of chemicals, people can help by using mass transit, biking or walking to destinations whenever possible, Katers said.


AND TOMMY THOMPSON IS AND ALWAYS HAS BEEN YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNOR!
THE FIRST SLIDE, PLEASE.
CRANDON MINE
WRONG SLIDE!
SUPERFUND
WRONG SLIDE!
ILLINOIS WASTE TO CHEAP WISCONSIN LONDFILLS
WRONG SLIDE!
PUBLIC INTERVENOR
ANOTHER WRONG SLIDE!
HEY - ISN'T THAT NEW GUY ON THE DNR BOARD ONE OF YOUR ANTI-CONSERVATION CRONIES?
WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT SLIDE OF ME SETTING ALL THAT PUBLIC LAND ASIDE?
ZAHEY
THE BROWN COUNTY CHRONICLE

LYLE LANEY'S VIEWPOINT



Dredging near Kimberly starts again

DNR chief defends decision to begin pilot program last fall

By Susan Campbell
Press-Gazette

Dredging has resumed on a smaller Fox River pilot project near Kimberly that began last fall and ended abruptly when December cold forced workers ashore.

With only 40 percent of the PCB-tainted sediment captured, the state Department of Natural Resources — which headed the project — returned Thursday to finish the job.

Bill Fitzpatrick, project manager for the DNR, said the initial work removed about 5,000 pounds of contaminated sediment and about 100 pounds of polychlorinated biphenyls.

"It was just a matter of getting through all those tough social issues. We had to address all of those, and at the same time, we had to deal with the cleanup contractor."

8/22/99

— Bill Fitzpatrick, DNR project manager

The return visit targets 5,000 pounds of sediment containing 50-60 pounds of PCBs.

The project should finish in late September within its $4.5 million budget, Fitzpatrick said.

The DNR spent nearly $2.7 million last fall and expects to spend another $1.53 million this year.

The agency has been criticized for publicly committing to launch the first PCB removal from the river in 1998, then rushing to fulfill that promise even when circumstances pushed the start date into October.

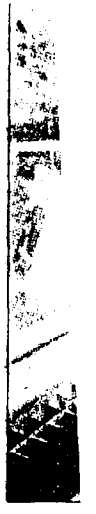
But Fitzpatrick said the state was backed into a corner when two landfills backed out of accepting the contaminated soil, and the dredging contractor's meter was running.

"It was just a matter of getting through all those tough social issues," he said. "We had to address all of those, and at the same time, we had to deal with the cleanup contractor. They had their equipment there, and we would have had to pay even if we sent them home then."

Water quality monitoring results from the DNR and other technical experts showed little, if any, resuspension of PCBs in the water resulting from the dredging, according to agency officials.

"We had six monitoring stations, and our best (result) was downstream of the dredge," Fitzpatrick said. "The results have been excellent.

"In the words of Inter Lake Papers, whose intake pipe was right next to the site, they 'couldn't even tell we were in the river.'"



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1999.

Dredging project sold us up the river

Editor, *The Post-Crescent:*

The latest deal between Tommy Thompson's DNR and Fort James makes the case for Fox River Superfund designation all the stronger. Who ever thought the pilot project would become a vehicle for the governor to bargain away a corporation's liability for environmental damages?

The state has botched the job. The Kimberly project was started but not completed. The latest $2 million from Fort James will still leave site 56/57 the most contaminated on the river. The kicker is that Fort James is released of all future liability from the site.

This deal has the stench of political patronage and smells just like the January '97 sweetheart deal between the governor and the seven Fox River Group polluters. Then and now, John Q. Public was left on the outside looking in as Thompson gave away another piece of Wisconsin's natural resource capital. The millions paper manufacturers stuffed into Thompson's re-election campaigns have come home to roost.

8/22/99

The pilot project was a concession to the FRG to begin with. Data from dredging dozens of similar EPA completed sites already existed. The FRG had to have it their way, had to have their own data. Seems unless there's a federal subsidy in it, the polluters want nothing to do with Uncle Sam. They despise regulation and the pilot project is just another ruse in their game of delay.

EPA has the most experience and is best qualified to completely, comprehensively and openly manage the detoxification of the Fox. It's clear that without Superfund, the alternative will be a series of secret deals between a governor, who has no use for the environment unless cornered, and the FRG polluters who fully expect a return on their campaign investments. Will the toxic legacy of Tommy Thompson remain with northeast Wisconsin for decades to come?

Stephen Abitz,
De Pere

8/20/99

GREEN BAY

Presentation on Fox River rescheduled

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service has rescheduled the Natural Resource Damage Assessment PCB Release and Pathway Report meeting to 7 p.m. Aug. 30 at the Brown County Public Library, 515 Pine St.

The meeting will discuss how PCBs move from paper mills into the ecosystem and their impact on the Fox River, Green Bay and parts of Lake Michigan.

DNR dredging of PCBs resumes

8/20/99

By Ed Culhane
Post-Crescent staff writer

About half of the Fox River project near Kimberly was completed before it was halted by winter last year

LITTLE CHUTE – Dredging of PCB-contaminated Fox River sediments resumed Thursday here as engineers and contractors with the state Department of Natural Resources return to finish the job winter weather interrupted in January.

The DNR said 4,200 cubic yards of sediment were removed from the area labeled Deposit N before severe weather and thickening river ice forced a halt to operations during the first week of January. The DNR said 100 pounds of the chemical PCB were removed from the river during a month and a half of round the clock operations.

Another 4,500 cubic yards of sediment and an estimated 50 to 60 pounds of PCBs remain in the Deposit N chemical hot spot, which lies off the south bank of the river, just upstream of the InterLake paper mill in Kimberly.

Equipment for processing the dredged sediment has been set up on the same fenced-in site on the Little Chute side of the river that was previously used for dredging. It is located just west of the Cedars Dam and Lock.

A public observation deck remains available for those interested in watching the operation.

Deposit N was composed of two discreet lobes. DNR project manager Bill Fitzpatrick said the dredging that ran from Oct. 20 through early January removed all but a small portion of the west lobe.

"Our work centered on the lobe with the highest concentrations of PCBs, up to 170 parts per million, contained in the most difficult material to process and the sediment most susceptible to erosion," Fitzpatrick said.

Very little of that lobe remains, Fitzpatrick said, saying the residue will be picked up with a few cleanup passes of the suction-style dredger.

"We had divers go down and take a look at the bottom," he said.

"We have a very good idea of where we have to do a little more vacuuming," said Fitzpatrick.

Please see **FOX,** B-3

FOX: Work is resumed on PCB removal

From B-1

The east lobe contains more sand than silt and will be easier to handle, Fitzpatrick said. Because there is no race against winter this time around, dredging will proceed only during daylight hours, Fitzpatrick said, and workers will probably get Sundays off.

The project should be completed by late September or early October.

Fitzpatrick said the DNR has already spent $2.7 million on Deposit N. He estimated the final cost will be $4.4 million. Of the total, $500,000 came from a federal grant and another $200,000 came from the now defunct Fox River Coalition, a partnership of the DNR, several paper mills, area municipalities and a collection of civic and conservation groups.

The bulk of the cost is being born by the state.

Although the worst of the deposit has already been removed, it is worth going back for the rest, Fitzpatrick said. The state already invested money in studying and preparing the site and there are contract obligations that must be met.

"These are not separate projects, the east and west lobe," Fitzpatrick said. "It is very cost effective to back in rather than try to settle all the charges without doing more work. We are finishing the work that we started."

Environmentalists had criticized the DNR for starting the work so late in the season and for leaving the job unfinished. Others have raised concerns about the high cost of the project. While it will remove 150 pounds of PCBs from the river, an estimated 60,000 pounds of chemicals remain in the 39-mile stretch from Menasha to Green Bay, most of them in sediments the river deposited in the 7-mile stretch below the De Pere dam.

Fitzpatrick said other dredging work in the Fox River will not cost nearly as much, per cubic yard removed. Deposit N was a pioneering project, he said, with high start-up costs, layers of duplication built in for testing and safety.

In any future dredging, Fitzpatrick said, the same start up costs will be spread out over a much larger area and time. An example is the industry-funded dredging project set to begin at Sediment Management Unit 56-57 in Green Bay, a project many times larger than Deposit N, aimed at removing more than 70,000 cubic yards of sediment and 4,000 pounds of PCBs.

"In fact, 56-57 benefited greatly from the work we did," Fitzpatrick said. "We are already reaping the rewards of the investment in Deposit N."

PCBs are industrial solvents that cause birth defects and other reproductive problems in fish, birds and mammals. They are suspected of causing developmental problems in the children of mothers who eat contaminated fish. Government health scientists consider PCBs a probable human carcinogen.

Prior to the start of dredging in October, Deposit contained 75 percent of the PCBs found in the Fox River between Appleton and Kaukauna. PCB concentrations average 45 parts per million, one of the highest concentrations in this stretch of the river.

Water will be squeezed from the dredged sediments at the Little Chute site, filtered and returned to the river. Sediments containing more than 50 ppm PCBs will be shipped to a hazardous waste landfill in Michigan. Less contaminated sediments will be buried at the Sunnyview Landfill in Winnebago County.

DNR crews return to deposit near Kimberly

The state vows to finish what it started last year 8/20/99

By Melinda Naparalla
The News-Chronicle

The state Department of Natural Resources returned to Deposit N near Kimberly Thursday to complete the removal of PCB-contaminated sediment.

Work began on the site in November but was forced to stop at the end of December because of the weather. At the time, it was questionable whether the project would be resumed.

Last year, 4,200 yards of sediment was removed, and 4,500 more yards are expected to be removed.

"We had to evaluate the work and how much money we had spent," said Bill Fitzpatrick, DNR project manager. "A decision was made about a month ago to go back."

Last year, the most contaminated areas of the three-acre spot were removed, he said.

"The worst part was on the west side, and we wanted to remove the lose, fluffy material that had high concentrations," Fitzpatrick said. "Those were the materials that were the most susceptible to moving with the currents."

The sediment that remains is on the east side of Deposit N is heavier and easier to deal with, so the process should go faster, he said.

"We're going to be digging to bedrock," Fitzpatrick said.

"We plan on getting everything we can. This is a very significant part of the PCBs in the middle of the river."

The Kimberly cleanup is not being paid for as part of the $10-million arrangement the DNR made with the seven "potentially responsible" paper companies. Instead, it is being funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, as well as money from the paper group's Fox River Coalition and the DNR.

The total project will cost about $4.4 million, which includes last year's work, he said.

"We spent a little more because of last year, but we're still on budget," Fitzpatrick said.

The project is expected to be completed by the end of September or early October. It will use a hydraulic dredge to remove the sediment, which will be dewatered, and the treated water will be returned to the river.

The remaining waste will be shipped to a landfill in Winnebago County.

To ensure the project was being done correctly, monitors were installed in the river. One of the paper mills downstream of the site also monitored the water.

"You couldn't tell the difference from where we were working and upstream," Fitzpatrick said. "We're confident we can do the work without harm to the river or the community."

Work is expected to begin next week on the river's other demonstration site near the Fort James S. Broadway Street plant.

Fox cleanup starts soon

The DNR is set to tackle the most toxic PCB site in the Fox River, beginning next week

By Melinda Naparalla
The News-Chronicle

Cleanup of the most heavily contaminated area of the Fox River should begin next week, according to the state Department of Natural Resources.

Key to the cleanup effort is the construction of a new landfill cell to receive the contaminated dredgings and, according to a DNR spokesman, that project is under way at the existing Fort James landfill near Austin Straubel Airport.

Bob Behrens, DNR project manager, said the dredging contractor is moving his equipment near sediment management unit 56/57, the site in the river with the highest concentrations of polychlorinated biphenyls.

The contaminated site is downstream from the Fort James West Mill, 1919 S. Broadway.

"Hopefully we'll begin dredging next week," he said.

Unit 56/57 and another PCB-laden area near Kimberly are demonstration cleanup sites funded through an agreement between seven paper mills and the DNR. The mills have acknowledged they are "potentially responsible" for an unspecified

Please see FOX, Page 4

FOX: Process separates water from solid matter

FROM PAGE 1

portion of the PCB contamination in the river.

Engineering reports already made public call for hydraulic dredging of the pollutants, a method that will separate the water from the solid particles. The solid particles will be transported to the landfill, and the water will be treated and returned to the river.

The DNR also will return to the Kimberly site by the end of this month, said George Boronow, DNR basin supervisor of the Lower Fox River.

In a presentation to the Retired Men's Club Tuesday morning, Boronow explained how PCBs were dumped into the river, why PCBs are a concern and the process the DNR is using to remove them.

"This is a very large, complicated problem," Boronow told about 160 men present at the meeting. "It's close to a lot of us here."

The problem began in the 1950s when paper companies began using PCBs in the manufacture of carbonless paper. The use of PCBs stopped in the 1970s partially because of the federal Clean Water Act of 1973, Boronow said. About 800,000 pounds of PCBs were dumped into the river during this time, he said.

Although 63,000 pounds of PCBs remain, the river is still cleaner than it used to be, he said. Thirty years ago, carp were coming to the surface gulping air, and the fish caught most frequently were bullheads, but that is changing, he said.

PCBs pose a health risk to humans and wildlife because they have been known to cause reproductive, developmental and neurological problems, Boronow said.

The DNR's main concern is removing PCBs before they are redeposited in Green Bay or Lake Michigan. On average, 620 pounds of PCBs move into the Bay every year.

"If it moves into Green Bay, it's gone," Boronow said. "We want to be able to address it while it's in the river."

Cleanup choices include leaving the PCBs in the river, keeping them contained within the river by capping them in place, or removal.

Removal is probably the route the DNR will take, he said. The cleanup proposal is at least a seven-y[illegible] process, and then it will be at l[illegible] 10 years after that before fish advisories would be removed, Boronow added.

Estimates for reducing or eliminating PCBs along the entire 39-mile stretch of the lower Fox range from $150 million to $750 million.

News

Critics question PCB standards for Fox, Sheboygan rivers EPA rules for Sheboygan are 4 times more lenient than the state's for Fox

08/10/1999 The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel State Page 2 (Copyright 1999)

Federal government standards for removing industrial chemicals from the Sheboygan River are weaker than the state's anti-pollution plan for northeastern Wisconsin's Fox River, critics say.

The different guidelines for the two rivers for dredging contaminated silt have attracted questions from environmental organizations and the state Department of Natural Resources.

"We are very concerned that (the Sheboygan) project not be done in a way that is inconsistent with the Fox River," DNR Secretary George Meyer said. "We want to make sure is it something explainable in terms of the level of cleanup."

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 's comments on its cleanup standards for the Sheboygan are puzzling to Rebecca Katers of the Clean Water Action Council, which urged the EPA to help clean the Fox.

"One thing that jumped out at me at Sheboygan is the EPA 's admission in their own materials that they weren't fully protecting human health," Katers said.

The EPA wants the Fox River from Lake Winnebago downstream to Green Bay cleansed of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), chemicals that are found in river silt and are believed to cause cancer.

Plans include dredging sediment in the Fox and the Sheboygan, which also has silt tainted with PCBs.

The EPA proposes to reduce PCB levels to 1 part per million in the Sheboygan River. The DNR proposes a cleanup level of 0.25 ppm for the Fox, four times more stringent.

Cameron Davis, executive director of the Lake Michigan Federation, said the Sheboygan River would still have contaminated fish that would be unhealthy to eat.

"The proposed cleanup does not take enough PCBs from the river sediment to protect women, children and the Hmong community," whose members catch carp and catfish in the Sheboygan, Davis said.

Tom Short, EPA project manager for the Sheboygan, said different cleanup targets can be expected for various rivers because of different flows, fish populations and fishing patterns.

"What may be appropriate at Sheboygan may end up being a different number for the Fox," Short said. "We think (the Sheboygan plan) is protective of human health.

"It is certainly not the most protective level," he said. "It's a balancing criteria."

"What we are saying to the EPA is that they need to get their act together on how you make decisions on cleanup levels," said Bruce Baker, the DNR agent in charge of the Fox cleanup. "We ought to be able to say to the people of Sheboygan that we are providing the same level of protection for you."

The DNR says contamination of sediments, floodplain soils and ground water should be reduced to levels considered safe for fish, birds, animals and humans.

PCBs, now outlawed, were once dumped in the Fox by paper mills. The main source of PCBs in the Sheboygan River came from an engine and transmission factory about 14 miles upstream from Lake Michigan.

Tecumseh Products Co., which has the factory at Sheboygan Falls, has suggested an $18 million cleanup of the river, while the EPA dredging plan could cost $65 million.

"We believe the EPA proposal goes well beyond what is necessary or appropriate to protect human health and the environment and in fact may create additional risks," Tecumseh spokesman Kerry DeKeyser said.

The 39-mile lower Fox is estimated to be the source of more than 70% of the PCBs polluting Lake Michigan. The Sheboygan contributes about 5%.

THE POST-CRESCENT
PCB
Sun 08-Aug-1999

PCBs in the river: How clean is clean enough?

By Ed Culhane
Post-Crescent staff writer



Thomson News Services photo by Gark C. Klein
The EPA proposes to reduce PCB levels to 1 part per million in the Sheboygan River, a fourth as stringent as the plan for the Fox River.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency plan for cleaning up the PCB-polluted Sheboygan River falls far short of cleanup standards proposed for the Fox River and sets a disturbing precedent, both state officials and environmentalists say.

"The proposed cleanup does not take enough PCBs from the river sediment to protect women, children and the Hmong community in Sheboygan," said Cameron Davis, executive director of the Lake Michigan Federation, which received a federal grant to explain cleanup proposals to the public. Davis said the EPA failed to account for smaller body sizes of women and children in computing the risk from eating contaminated fish and failed to account for the numbers of highly contaminated carp and catfish eaten by Hmong fishermen and their families.

The plan also worried members of the Clean Water Action Council, which has lobbied for EPA involvement in the Fox River cleanup.

"One thing that jumped out at me at Sheboygan is the EPA's admission in their own materials that they weren't fully protecting human health," said Re-becca Katers of the nonprofit Clean Wa-ter Action Council. State officials are also calling on the EPA to refine the plan so that greater amounts of PCBs would be removed from the river. The DNR said contamination levels in the sediments, floodplain soils and groundwater should be reduced to levels considered safe for fish, birds, animals and people.

A key difference between the EPA plan for the Sheboygan and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources plan for the Fox is the target cleanup level for contaminated sediments. The EPA proposes to reduce PCB levels to 1 part per million (ppm) in the Sheboygan. The DNR is proposing a cleanup level of 0.25 ppm for the Fox, four times more stringent.

"We are very concerned that that project (Sheboygan) not be done in a way that is inconsistent with the Fox River," said George Meyer, secretary of the state Department of Natural Resources. "We want to make sure is it something explainable in terms of the level of cleanup."

The primary source of PCBs in the Sheboygan was the Tecumseh Products Co., which has an engine and transmission plant at Sheboygan Falls, 14 miles from the mouth of the river.

Company officials, who had proposed an $18 million cleanup of the river, believe the EPA's $65 million plan calls for too much dredging.

"We believe the EPA proposal goes well beyond what is necessary or appropriate to protect human health and the environment and in face may create additional risks," said Kerry DeKeyser, environmental manager of Tecumseh's engine and transmission group.

Like the Fox River, the Sheboygan is a steady source of industrial PCBs flowing into Lake Michigan, only on a smaller scale. While the 39-mile lower Fox is estimated to be the source of more than 70% of the PCBs polluting Lake Michigan, the Sheboygan contributes about 5%.

PCBs have been linked to reproductive problems in fish-eating birds and mammals. They are suspected human carcinogens and are believed by government health officials to be responsible for developmental problems in children whose mothers regularly eat PCB-contaminated fish.

In 1986, the EPA placed the lower Sheboygan River on the Superfund list of the nation's most badly polluted sites.

The remedial investigation was completed by Tecumseh in 1990, and during that year and the next the EPA asked the company to remove 4,000 cubic yards of the most heavily contaminated sediments from the upstream reach of the river closest to the plant. These were stored in containment facilities at the company's Sheboygan Falls plant.

Another 1,200 cubic yards of sediment were capped in the river, covered with a non-porous fabric and weighted down with rocks and sand.

Tecumseh completed the Sheboygan River RIFS in 1998, arguing that the remaining PCBs should be left in the river. The company's position, similar to the position taken by the Fox River Group of paper companies, is that contaminated sediments are being covered by cleaner sediments and that it is safer to leave them in the river than to dredge them out.

The EPA rejected Tecumseh's first RIFS. A second RIFS was released by the company in May, recommending that 7,500 yards of contaminated sediments, located in discreet upstream deposits, be dredged from the river, at a cost of $18 million. This would remove 68% of the PCBs remaining in the upper reach of the river.

The company recommended no dredging for the middle section of the river or for the harbor in Sheboygan where most of the river's PCBs lay buried.

The EPA accepted that RIFS and then modified it, calling on the company to dredge 18,200 cubic yards of sediment upstream, which would remove 93% of the remaining PCBs upstream.

The EPA concurred no dredging is currently required in the middle stretch of the river.

For the lower river and harbor, the EPA is recommending that 100,000 cubic

yards of sediment be removed by dredging down to a "safe navigational depth" of 10 to 12 feet. This would be accomplished by dredging to 14 feet and then covering the contaminated sediments that this dredging would expose with 2 feet of clean sediment.

DeKeyser said this makes no sense, since there is no longer commercial shipping in the harbor and the contaminated sediments are already buried.

"Why go in there and cut through 4 feet of clean sediment, remove that, try and go down through areas of contamination, backfill that and call it a day?" said DeKeyser. "I don't know what you would be accomplishing for $31 million."

The DNR would like an explanation as well. In its plans for the Fox River, any areas dredged would be entirely cleaned of highly contaminated sediments. To remove all contaminated sediments from the Sheboygan harbor would cost $341 million, according to the second RIFS.

The DNR has not yet formally commented on the EPA's Sheboygan plan, but in remarks read into the record at a public hearing, the DNR said the cost estimates for dredging in the Sheboygan plan are too high. Recent experience has shown that far greater amounts of sediment could be removed for the same $65 million, the DNR said.

The EPA's project manager for the Sheboygan, Tom Short, said that different cleanup targets can be expected for different rivers because different flows, fish populations and fishing patterns are involved.

"What may be appropriate at Sheboygan may end up being a different number for the Fox," Short said. "The chain of uptake (pollution entering the food chain) is going to be different. We think (the Sheboygan plan) is protective of human health."

Short agreed with environmentalists that the EPA plan falls short of protecting all organisms in the river from any observable level of harm.

"It is certainly not the most protective level," he said. "It's a balancing criteria."

It is distinctions like this that worry DNR officials.

Bruce Baker, the DNR administrator in charge of the Fox cleanup, said the EPA's plan for the Sheboygan raises concerns on several levels, one of which is the method by which the decision was reached.

"What we are seeing on the Sheboygan River is a tendency to make a decision that is not driven by an assessment of risk," Baker said. "What we are saying to the EPA is that they need to get their act together on how you make decisions on cleanup levels.

"We ought to be able to say to the people of Sheboygan that we are providing the same level of protection for you."

Top of Page

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FOX RIVER CLEANUP

Agency upset with plan to assess damage to fox

By Susan Campbell
Press-Gazette

Published on August 4, 1999

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The release triggered an angry response from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which has been compiling an assessment of how much it will cost to restore fish and wildlife along the river and reimburse the public for losses related to PCB contamination. That information is part of a Natural Resource Damage Assessment that ultimately will be filed as a claim against seven paper mills held responsible for discharging PCBs to the river.

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But Allen said the last thing Fish and Wildlife wants to do is undermine the cleanup to gain more money for habitat and other restoration projects that ultimately could be recontaminated if the river cleanup is inadequate.

"Before making it into a contest between the agencies, the mills and everyone else over what percentage should go to cleanup vs. the NRDA, shouldn't we first find out how much is the cleanup going to cost? And what are the damages? We're maybe six months away from having real answers to both of those questions," he said.

The release of the plan is the third time this year the DNR's federal partners - Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and two Indian tribes - have criticized the agency for making public information key to the

cleanup without adequate review time for the partners.

Other instances included the DNR's agreement a week ago with Fort James Corp., one of the seven mills, to pay $2 million more to expand a pilot dredging project in exchange for being freed from further cleanup responsibility at the site. In February, the agencies complained when the DNR released a series of cleanup studies without more than a week's notice.

Allen said it's especially frustrating in the aftermath of a 1997 Intergovernmental Partnership Agreement in which the governments pledged to cooperate on a cleanup plan for the river.

"It's almost as if we hadn't just gone through that. It's almost like we're back to two years ago," he said. "I can't understand what's going on. . . there are a lot of people who are at the end of their rope."

Baker said his staff has been communicating with Fish and Wildlife about its plans for the damage assessment, and that agency was given "adequate time" to review the cleanup studies. As for the suite of cleanup studies released earlier this year, he said the information had been given to the various agencies earlier but apparently didn't filter down to everyone.

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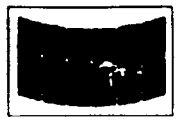
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From IJC website - nothing specific to the Fox

Sediment Priority Action Committee
Great Lakes Water Quality Board
International Joint Commission



International Joint Commission
Commission mixte internationale

August, 1999

SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM RECOVERY

Background

Contaminated sediment is an ongoing source of contamination to lakes and rivers, and contributes to many forms of environmental degradation. From 1985-1989 over 15 million m^3 were dredged for more efficient navigation through rivers and harbors of the Great Lakes; 51% of this material had to be placed in confined disposal facilities due to high contaminant levels.

From an environmental cleanup point of view, there are currently few ecologically-based decision-making tools available for pinpointing the most effective contaminated sediment management strategies, and often decisions become overwhelmed by regulatory complexity. Sediment contaminants still represent a major factor limiting our ability to reach a healthy, sustainable environment and economy.

Management of Contaminated Sediment Considers Restoration of Beneficial Uses

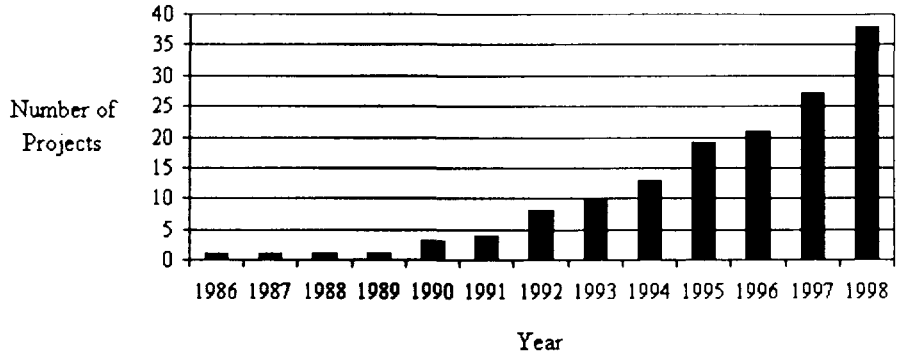
All 42 Areas of Concern in the Great Lakes basin have contaminants in sediment that exceed chemical guidelines, but their effects on the ecosystem are only partially quantified. However, there are clear linkages to restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption, fish tumors or other deformities, loss of fish and wildlife habitat, degraded natural communities, and other ecosystem effects identified in Annex 2 of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

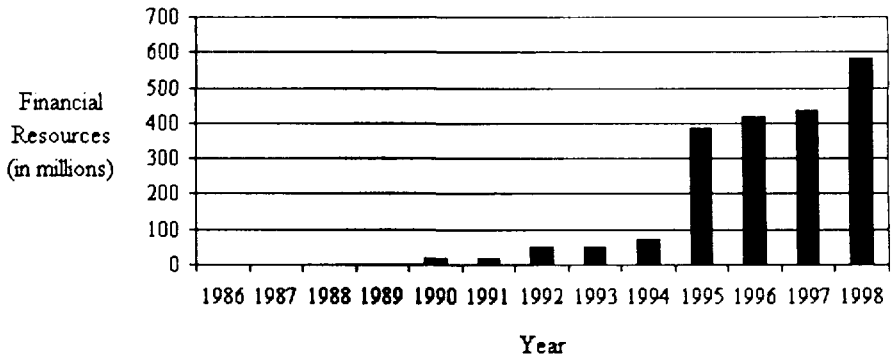
In most Areas of Concern, the sediment problem has not been quantitatively coupled to ecological impairments. Therefore, deciding on volumes of sediment to be cleaned up, why, and what ecological improve-ments can be expected over time has been challenging. It is important not only to know the existing degree of ecological harm associated with sediment contaminants, but also the circumstances under which those relationships and threats might change, making contaminants more bioavailable or detrimental under different environmental conditions. The ability to forecast the expected degree of recovery and the ecological improvements from sediment cleanup must be demonstrated.

A better understanding of the relationships between contaminated sediment and environmental quality would provide stronger justification for a particular sediment management strategy. It would help in making management decisions among the following options: source control and natural recovery; removal and containment; removal and treatment; *in situ* capping, and *in situ* treatment. If relationships between contaminated sediment and beneficial uses were better understood, more compelling cases could be made to fund sediment cleanup. Better public support for sediment management decisions would result, and more corporate involvement could be expected.

Greater Emphasis Must be Placed on Monitoring the Ecological Effectiveness of Sediment Cleanup

From 1986-1999, over $580 million have been allocated for 38 remediation projects in 19 Areas of Concern. In addition, the rate of increase has accelerated in recent years as shown in the two figures.





Unfortunately, of these projects, few have produced information on ecological effectiveness gained by monitoring the recovery of environmental quality after a cleanup has taken place. Measuring ecological effectiveness of sediment cleanup is also important where a new environmental technology has been tested, in order to improve innovative approaches. Benefits of effective sediment management have been demonstrated in Collingwood Harbour, Waukegan Harbor, and Black River, where monitoring continued once sediment remediation was completed.

Collingwood Harbour

In Collingwood Harbour, Ontario, approximately 8,000 m^3 of contaminated sediment were removed using an innovative dredging technology. This was the first true application of a biologically-based decision that defined the extent of sediment cleanup. Toxic levels of metals have now been eliminated. Additional post-project monitoring is underway.

An important lesson learned was that communicating clearly the environmental consequences of sediment contaminants to the local Public Advisory Committee and community was necessary. This helped reach multi-stakeholder consensus on the need for sediment remediation to achieve PAC goals. Cleaning up sediment in a partnership helped industry from having to "go it alone" in the future. The broad-based partnership benefitted all funding partners. The cleanup contributed to removing the stigma of an Area of Concern for the community, and is believed to have positively affected property values.

Waukegan Harbor

In Waukegan Harbor, Illinois, a 1989 U.S. EPA Superfund Consent Decree resulted in the removal and treatment or disposal of approximately 453,600 kg (1 million pounds) of PCBs in 38,254 m^3 of sediment

and soil at a cost of more than $49 million (U.S.) for the entire site remediation. By monitoring the effectiveness of sediment removal, Illinois EPA was able to measure a significant decline in PCB levels in fish as a direct result of the cleanup. As a consequence, the harbor fish advisory has been removed. Property values have increased due to the cleanup.

The Remedial Action Plan (RAP) process helped Illinois EPA look beyond traditional water programs to focus on restoring beneficial uses. Team building within the Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group helped secure funds for remediation costs from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers when Illinois EPA had none. Good facilitation helped elicit private sector contributions also. Communication tools such as kiosks, a home page, and a video were effective in delivering the message that use restoration requires partnerships.

Black River

A 1985 Consent Decree resulted in the removal of approximately 38,000 m^3 of PAH contaminated sediment from the Black River, Ohio at a cost of $1.5 million (U.S.). As a result of this sediment remediation project, PAH levels in sediment have declined substantially and cancerous liver tumors have now been eliminated in the resident brown bullhead population.

Sediment Management is Incremental and Integrated

In cases where sediment remediation was undertaken as a result of regulatory action, the projects were designed to remove the worst masses of contaminants to reduce environmental risks. These projects were very effective in meeting the regulatory requirements, and are consistent with the step-wise incremental approach to management of contaminated sediment called for by the Great Lakes Water Quality Board. After remediation of the worst sites, an integrated evaluation of all sources, including sediment, must be undertaken to determine whether or not further remediation is required and to ensure that remediation is sustainable.

Much more effort should be placed on forecasting and measuring the extent and pace of ecological recovery. This will help in future efforts to make decisions on the most appropriate sediment management strategy, thereby advancing restoration of beneficial uses in Areas of Concern.

The International Joint Commission (IJC)

The IJC is a binational organization established under the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty. The Treaty recognizes that each country may be affected by the others actions in shared lake and river systems along the boundary. The IJC was created to assist governments in preventing and resolving disputes in use of these resources. Under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the IJC was assigned responsibilities to assist the governments in meeting their commitments under the Agreement and to assess progress by the govern-ments in restoring and maintaining the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the waters of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem.

The Sediment Priority Action Committee (SedPAC)

In recognition of the scope of the contaminated sediment problem and the limited progress in addressing it, the IJC identified contaminated sediment as a program priority and assigned this priority to the Great Lakes Water Quality Board (WQB). SedPAC was formed to review the contaminated sediment problem and provide advice to the Board, and in turn the IJC, on means to overcome obstacles to sediment remediation.

For More Information

Additional information, contact persons, and SedPAC publications can be obtained from the IJC web page: www.ijc.org or by calling: (519) 257-6702 or faxing: 257-6740

Fox Clips - Vol. 13

June 16 - August 4, 1999

Appleton Post-Crescent, GB Press Gazette, GB News Chronicle, Miscellaneous

- √ EPA goes to the Remedy Review Board
- √ PCB disposal issues being debatted in State legislature
- √ National Academies comes to the Fox Valley
- √ Rebecca Katers goes after "Sensible Solutions"
- √ National Academies calls for more research on the link of hormone disruptors and health
- √ FWS upset with release of DNR NRDA plan
- √ News Release (DNR) - Lower Fox River NRDA Plan Available for Review

FYI – The Green Bay Press Gazette has a web page devoted to the Fox River archiving the newspaper's articles about the Fox. We will be linking this page to our EPA Lower Fox web page.

http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/welcome/pgextra/seriesstories/seriesstories.html

Bri

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Shirley Dorsey/Mary Canavan (R-19J)/Phil Hoffman
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Bill Muno (S-6J)
Frank Lyons/Dave Ullrich (R-19J)

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Panel: PCB's linked to reproductive problems

Pesticides also can harm unborn

By Susan Campbell
Press-Gazette

Published on August 4, 1999

PCBs, DDT and other chemicals in the environment that mimic hormones are linked with reproductive and developmental problems in people and wildlife, but more research is needed on the subject, a national review panel said Tuesday.

The National Research Council, an arm of the National Academies, was called on to review the scientific literature to date on the effects such chemicals have on the reproductive, developmental, neurological and immunological systems of people and wildlife.

The 16-member scientific panel was commissioned by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Interior Department and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The panel reported that a class of chemical compounds known as hormone disrupters are interfering with human and animal health. The sources of exposure can come from eating tainted food - such as some Great Lakes fish, which carry high levels of PCBs in their fat -or from commercial products such as cleaners, pesticides and food additives.

Among other findings, the researchers reported that babies exposed in the womb to PCBs, pesticides and other pollutants can cause lower birth weights, lower IQs, memory deficits and delayed neuromuscular development.

Yet the panel reports that just how the agents operate on the body's systems is not well-understood and notes that the majority of evidence is based on studies of wildlife and laboratory animals.

To gain more insight, it recommends that new studies be conducted by following groups of at-risk subjects from conception through adulthood.

"Determining the risk to humans from contact with these chemicals in the environment is difficult because ordinary exposure to these agents has not been routinely monitored," said committee chairman Ernst Knobil, a professor at the University of Texas in Houston. "Determining what these exposures actually are is therefore of primary importance."

Addressing a particularly contentious issue, the panel reported no conclusive evidence to date that hormone disrupters contribute to breast cancer or low sperm counts, as some have speculated. One researcher on the panel said the earlier studies

were inconclusive.

"The absence of information cannot be taken as evidence there is absence of harm," said Frederick S. vom Saal, a professor at the University of Missouri.

In Green Bay, where PCB contamination in the Fox River is extensive enough to warrant a proposal to make it a federal Superfund priority cleanup site, some had hoped the panel's report would offer guidance on what to do about PCBs in the environment.

"That's where the debate seems to lie these days. Yes, we need to know more about it, but what do we do in the meantime?" said John Kennedy, who chairs a scientific subcommittee of Green Bay's Remedial Action Plan committee.

"That's what you see locally with the RAP committee. We still admit there could be lots more data to look at, but we're getting the picture that the cautious and hopefully wise person would say this is serious - and that we should err on the side of caution," he said.

Rebecca Katers of the Clean Water Action Council agreed.

"That's the most frustrating part of scientists. They don't like to touch on the real world, and to make policy decisions on what do we do with this information now that we have it."

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"Before making it into a contest between the agencies, the mills and everyone else over what percentage should go to cleanup

One-third of PCBs will be left

Fort James cleanup concerns group

7/28/99

By Susan Campbell
Press-Gazette

The agreement by Fort James Corp. Tuesday to pay an additional $2 million for a pilot dredging project outside its West Mill paves the way for the largest PCB removal from the Fox River to da

, it will leave as much as one-third of the contamination behind at a site recognized as the most highly-contaminated hot spot on the river.

Rebecca Katers, executive director of the Clean Water Action Council, said that's the fault of an agreement reached in January 1997 between the state Department of Natural Resources and the seven Fox River paper mills deemed responsible for contamination from polychlorinated biphenyls.

Katers said the DNR has been backed into a corner on the project's scope since the mills agreed in that earlier accord to spend $7 million on a pilot dredging project outside the Fort James mill. She and other environmentalists have argued loudly since then that the size of the project should have been based on science rather than mon

Tuesday's agreement added insult to injury, she said, when the DNR agreed to free Fort James from future cleanup responsibility at that site.

The agreement was made in exchange for additional dollars that will pay for a safer project that would remove enough tainted sediment so that the dredging doesn't leave a worse problem behind.

"Just because they were locked into that bad agreement two years ago, they've been put in this weak position of having this cap on the money available," Katers said. "And now they've had to make another bad agreement just to get a larger portion of the hot spot out."

The additional money means the mills will remove 80,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment from the site — as was originally proposed — rather than a scaled-down, 45,000-cubic-yard removal the DNR described earlier this month in light of higher than anticipated project costs. DNR officials say the smaller project would have been unsafe because the dredging could have exposed and left behind sediment bearing high PCB concentrations.

Katers objects further to the fact that the DNR negotiated the agreement with Fort James in the wake of public hearings on the project. "How can they suddenly change the ground rules? They always told us this was just a demonstration, it was just a pilot — it didn't mean

Please see **PCBs, B-2**

PCBs/80,000 cubic yards to be removed

From B-1

hat they weren't ever going to go back for the rest," she said. "It wasn't supposed to mean any of those things."

DNR Secretary George Meyer said removing 80,000 cubic yards of tainted riverbed from the site would reduce PCB concentrations there to an average of .25 parts per million. That concentration would meet one of two targeted "safe" cleanup levels the DNR identified in preliminary cleanup studies released earlier this year.

"This was always the planned level of cleanup and this would meet the criteria that we've proposed — that we're looking at in terms of our Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study," Meyer said. "We're not proposing they clean up every site, every molecule."



Meyer
This amount of cleanup planned

Meanwhile, the DNR also announced Tuesday it will resume work in August at a hot spot near Kimberly. The agency started the project last fall and was forced by cold weather to stop work in December with less than 40 percent of the contamination removed. The DNR has since been assessing whether it should return to finish the job.

BRIEFLY

REGION

Registration open for Superfund workshops

It's not too late to register for two workshops scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday instructing the public on the federal Superfund process.

The workshops, [illegible] U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, [illegible] sponsors of Superfund sites generating significant community interest, will cover general topics about the Superfund statute and process.

Questions to be addressed include how a contaminated site is ranked on the Superfund National Priorities List, what criteria the EPA uses in evaluating cleanup options, how citizens can get involved and who's responsible for paying for cleanups.

EPA staff leading the workshops will be different from those working on current efforts to address PCB contamination in the Fox River. The information presented will be general, rather than specific to the Fox River cleanup.

The workshops will be held at the Paper Valley Hotel, 333 W. College Ave. Times will be 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, and 8 a.m. to noon Wednesday.

Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. To register, call EPA community relations consultant Demaree Hopkins at (610) 701-7344.

able excuses include.

APPLETON 7/23/99

Superfund workshops still have available seats

Seats remain available in two of three "Introduction to Superfund" workshops being sponsored next week by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The workshops, both in Appleton, are free. Enrollment is limited to 25 in each.

The workshops are scheduled for 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tuesday and 8 a.m. to noon Wednesday at the Park Plaza Paper Valley Hotel. To register, call Demaree Hopkins of Roy F. Weston Inc. at 610-701-7344.

The workshops, mixing lecture and interactive exercises, are designed to walk participants through the Superfund environmental cleanup process.

They are designed for any interested person. The information applies to any cleanup involving Superfund and will not specifically address the Fox River cleanup.

The shorter workshop includes the same information but has fewer exercises.

vs. the NRDA, shouldn't we first find out how much is the cleanup going to cost? And what are the damages? We're maybe six months away from having real answers to both of those questions," he said.

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Fort James funds dredging site

$2 million deal with DNR restores Fox River project to full scope

BY SUSAN CAMPBELL
PRESS-GAZETTE

The scope of a pilot dredging project outside Fort James Corp.'s West Mill will live up to its original billing, following an agreement announced Tuesday between the paper mill and the state.

In the accord reached with the state Department of Natural Resources on Monday night, Fort James agreed to pay an additional $2 million to remove up to 80,000 cubic yards of PCB-tainted sediment from the Fox River.

■ Opponents concerned by what's left behind, B-1

The money is above and beyond the $7 million allocated for the project in 1997 by Fort James and six other paper mills held responsible for the river's contamination from polychlorinated biphenyls.

A DNR representative had said earlier this month the project would have to be scaled back to 45,000 cubic yards because project costs were rising. But DNR Secretary George Meyer acknowledged Tuesday that a cutback of that size would have made the project unsafe because the dredging could have exposed and left behind sediment with high PCB concentrations.

Also included in the agreement is a provision freeing Fort James from responsibility for any further PCB removal from the site, Meyer said. The company still would be responsible for its portion of the full river cleanup involving the seven targeted paper mills.

The DNR has estimated 120,000 cubic yards of PCB-tainted sediment lies outside Fort James. It is the largest hot spot with the highest-known PCB concentrations on the river, reaching up to 700 parts per million.

"They made this offer and we agreed with it," Meyer said of the mills. "I think they understand that if it's not fully cleaned up now, the expense of coming back later would make this a much more costly project."

Fort James spokesman Mark Lindley said the larger project is important if, as the mills hope, it is to yield information about a larger river cleanup. "It's such an important project because it will tell us if dredging will work," he said.

But Rebecca Katers of the Green Bay-based Clean Water Action Council was angered to learn the DNR released Fort James from future responsibility at the site.

"That's been one of our concerns all along — that they would only take out part of that, and that's the worst hot spot on the river."

Our mission
"The *Press-Gazette* strives, as it has since 1915, to be the primary provider of information in Northeastern Wisconsin, keeping the welfare and development of the Greater Green Bay area at heart. It is our responsibility to provide a forum for free and open expression of diverse opinions while maintaining the public trust necessary to serve our readers, advertisers, employees and stockholders."

IN OUR VIEW

If dredging works, don't stop

Dredging a PCB-tainted Fox River hot spot offshore from the Fort James Corp.'s West Mill in Green Bay offers an opportunity.

The project was designed to show how effective hydraulic dredging might be and to estimate what an extensive cleanup could cost.

The PCBs — polychlorinated biphenyls — were discharged from the 1950s to the 1970s by seven paper mills handling carbonless paper. The mills agreed in 1997 to spend $7 million of a $10 million "down payment" on cleanup for the pilot. Total cost of cleanup could run to hundreds of millions of dollars.

It was distressing to learn as the project got under way with preparation of a staging area that rising costs will slash its scope. But if accurate monitoring shows good results, why not expand the project?

If hot-spot work is effective, the mills will have a golden opportunity to step forward and show their environmental commitment by increasing the amount pledged for the pilot to treat all of the Fort James sediment.

■ Issue:
PCB cleanup of Fox River

■ Our view:
Remove all of the tainted sediment at the Fort James hot spot

When the state Department of Natural Resources and mills selected the hot spot, it was expected that up to 80,000 cubic yards of sediment would be removed. Now, because of higher costs, the projected amount is 45,000 cubic yards. That would remove about 3,000 pounds of the estimated 63,000 pounds of PCBs in the river.

But if dredging works, why not do the entire Fort James site while equipment is in place? Why remove part of the sediment now and come back later for the rest?

As everyone who has followed the story knows, the pace of work leading to a cleanup has been slow and bumpy.

Mills and environmentalists have disagreed on the effectiveness of hydraulic dredging, which is supposed to remove sediment without redistributing PCBs.

The DNR and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have been butting heads over whether the cleanup should be a state or a federal project.

Bob Behrens, DNR project manager, says about $1.5 million of the $7 million for the Fort James pilot project will go to PCB monitoring and lab analysis.

While that is more than expected, Behrens says it makes sense to spend what is needed on careful assessing.

He's right. Good science is essential and can't be hurried. Still, let's be prepared if sound, early results show that the pilot project is working. If it is, a decision by the mills to handle all sediment at the Fort James site would:

■ Cleanse the worst known hot spot on the river. Remember, the Fort James site was selected because of the high concentration of PCBs.

■ Let the mills demonstrate that they are not frozen in an adversarial role.

If DNR monitoring shows that dredging and treatment work, let's seize the opportunity to rid the Fox of one of its worst concentrations of PCBs.

Green Bay
Press-Gazette

★ FRIDAY, JULY 16, 1999 SERVING AN ALL-AMERICA CITY www.greenbaypressgazette.com 50 CENTS

SUPER SUMMER READER

Children's writer makes science fun

Nationally acclaimed author Seymour Simon will make a signing appearance next month in De Pere. **D-1**

INSIDE



Little Leaguers hit big time

Teams are compet-

National group to observe work on Fox PCBs

Science group's review could affect other cleanups

By Susan Campbell
Press-Gazette

A National Academies panel evaluating cleanup methods for PCB-tainted sediment plans to hold public sessions in Green Bay this fall.

The visit is significant because Congress has charged the National Academies, formerly the National Academy of Sciences, with recommending a framework for determining how cleanup of polychlorinated biphenyl is handled.

The panel of 15 scientists is tentatively scheduled to visit the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay on Monday, Sept. 27 and Tuesday, Sept. 28.

"The committee thought it would be good to go out and hear from people in various communities — and the Fox River struck the committee as a very good place to go," said Roberta Wedge, project director for the National Research Council, the operating arm of the National Academies.

Wedge said the Fox River Valley is attractive because of widespread interest in the river — recently proposed as a federal Superfund priority cleanup site — and because it is a work in progress.

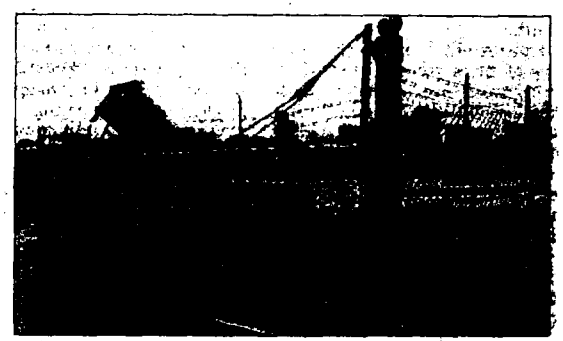
"No final decisions have been made in that area," she said. "The committee is interested in finding out how decisions are being made, what information is being factored into them, and how the public feels about them."

The panel has been ordered to review all remediation technologies available for PCB cleanups, and to recommend a standardized framework for how communities should go about choosing which technology to use.

But some environmentalists, though pleased to see the panel come to Green Bay, are leery of the National Academies' study because of how it came about.

Their concern stems from the fact that Congress or-

Please see **PCBs, A-2**



Kari Wesely/Press-Gazette

A pilot dredging project of the Fox River will take place on this property on the west side of the river north of Fort James Corp. in Green Bay.

homes, a post office and a Dutch-
an church hear a country cross-

tian quality," with little patience
for witches and such.

holds that your car will roll up
hill, pushed by Civil War ghosts.

drawn to the cemetery by *The Blair Witch Project*, a documer
horror film based in Burkittsville that opens nationally this mont

PCBs/GE says dredging could stir up contaminants

■ From A-1

dered the study in response to General Electric Co.'s request that the efficacy of dredging be studied. GE, which faces a multi-million-dollar PCB cleanup of New York's Hudson River, has argued that dredging would worsen the problem by stirring up contaminants buried under clean sediment. The company sought to have the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which designated the Hudson a Superfund site in 1983 and is pushing for a cleanup there, barred from PCB-dredging projects nationwide until the National Academies' review is finished next year.

GE's protests against dredging have been echoed in the Fox River Valley by seven paper mills held responsible for an estimated 63,000 pounds of PCBs in the Fox River. In February, dredging emerged as the most cost-effective cleanup method in preliminary studies by the state Department of Natural Resources.

Concern about local impact

Although Wedge said the panel is reviewing all available methods — including dredging, capping, source control and leaving PCBs undisturbed in sediment — Emily Green of the Sierra Club's Madison office said that because of the GE connection, "There's kind of an implicit focus on dredging.

"The bottom line is the panel's recommendation could have a very significant effect on both the fate of the Fox River and on sediment cleanups nationally," she said. "They will essentially, through their recommendations to Congress, dictate how EPA addresses contaminated sediment."

Green also is concerned about the makeup of the panel. Two panelists, John Giesy and W. Frank Bohlen, are involved with the Fox River cleanup.

The seven mills hired Giesy, a zoology professor in Michigan State University's College of Natural Science, to work on an ecological risk assessment of the Fox River's PCBs. He also is on a National Academies' panel that is assessing the ability of PCBs and other chemicals to affect hormones. Bohlen, an oceanography professor at the University of Connecticut, was hired jointly by the mills and the DNR to serve as an "explainer" in the mills' review of a state model used to map movement of sediment in the Fox River and Green Bay.

> "The bottom line is the panel's recommendation could have a very significant effect on both the fate of the Fox River and on sediment cleanups nationally."
>
> — Emily Green, Sierra Club, Madison office

Scientific focus stressed

Wedge said the panel will focus on science, not politics. Giesy and Bohlen were both questioned about their involvement with the Fox River, Green said.

"It's hard to get experts at any time in an area who are not familiar with one or the other of the parties," Wedge said. "So that did not exclude them.

"The reason we are comin
the Fox River is not to say
what's going on with the
River is good or bad. That will
be the goal. (But) the scient
certainly can inform the proc
of what needs to be done to
good science."

Several Fox River mill repre
tatives said they support
study.

"We welcome the Natio
Academy of Sciences' charg
take a look at remediation opti
— dredging included," s
lawyer Mark Reimer, represe
ing Fort James Corp., one of
targeted mills.

"We fully expect the NAS
take a look at dredging as an in
pendent, scientific body with
any preconceived notions one
or the other."

PCBs remain key part of state budget

By Cliff Miller 7/14/99
Post-Crescent Madison bureau

Amendment would protect local governments against lawsuits related to disposal of contaminated sludge

MADISON – Fox Valley legislators breathed easier after the Assembly-Senate conference committee rewriting the 1999-2001 budget bill voted this week to include a procedure for approving disposal of PCB-contaminated river sludge in landfills.

State Reps. Dean Kaufert, R-Neenah, and Gregg Underheim, R-Oshkosh, sponsored the "indemnification agreements" amendment to protect local governments against lawsuits if they follow state and/or local safety plans for burying PCB wastes dredged from the Fox River or other Lake Michigan tributaries in approved cleanup projects.

The amendment is among several proposed by Valley Republican representatives and included in the Assembly version of the budget. Its sponsors now are watching to see whether their proposals survive the latest round of budget revisions.

At this stage an eight-member conference committee of legislative leaders is trying to write a final budget bill for the two houses to pass and send to Gov. Tommy Thompson.

Kaufert described the PCB amendment as protection for local governments and taxpayers against costly lawsuits. "But the bottom line is that it will pave the way for the cleanup of these contaminated sites,"

Please see **BUDGET,** BACK PAGE

the future of the FOX river

BUDGET: Making slow progress

From A-1

he said.

The now long-banned PCBs were deposited in the lower Fox River as a paper recycling byproduct. Regarded as a cause of cancer in humans and deformities in wildlife, PCBs are the object of controversial efforts to have them removed from the waterway.

The state Department of Natural Resources would have to approve agreements for PCB disposal, and the governor and attorney general would have to join the DNR secretary and local governing bodies in approving each agreement.

The budget bill – written by the committee of four Senate majority Democrats and four Assembly majority Republicans – needs to pass both houses without amendment to be sent to the governor's desk. The ban on amendments would protect items approved by the conference committee to remain in the bill and unchanged.

The committee is making extremely slow progress in ironing out more than 500 disagreements between Senate and Assembly versions of the $41 billion budget. Monday's session was only the third since July 2 resulting in agreements on individual provisions.

Other items of special interest in the Valley that the committee has approved include:

■ Authorization for the state to pay a $2,087 claim by Winnebago County for the cost of reprinting 1988 election ballots. The county won its case against the Elections Board and legislation is necessary to appropriate the money.

The board erroneously approved 1988 election ballots with candidates for president and other offices on the same ballot when the law requires separate presidential ballots. State Rep. Carol Owens, R-Oshkosh, offered the amendment.

■ An amendment by state Rep. Jean Hundertmark, R-Clintonville, to add a circuit judge in Waupaca County.

Kaufert said two amendments he had a hand in attaching to the budget during Assembly Republican Caucus action have yet to be acted on by the conferees. They are a technical amendment on funding to convert the Mile Bridge across Little Lake Butte des Morts from a railroad trestle to a recreational trail bridge and $100,000 to pay half the cost of downtown Menasha pedestrian mall development, with the city paying an equal amount.

all traffic during the repairs.

GREEN BAY 7/12/99

Second forum set regarding Fox River

Kevin Quinn, assistant professor of economics at St. Norbert College, is scheduled to host the second of three Fox River Forums beginning at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Environmental Education Center, 990 Bay Beach Road.

Quinn plans to discuss the economic impact of the cleanup of the PCB-contaminated river, which is expected to cost millions of dollars.

The forum is part of a research project by St. Norbert senior Nicholas Haig, an intern at the center, to provide information to the public about issues related to the cleanup.

Dredging project cut back

7/11/99

Costs for monitoring PCBs are increasing

By Susan Campbell
Press-Gazette

The amount of PCB-tainted sediment to be dredged from the hot spot outside Fort James Corp.'s West Mill is dropping as the project costs rise.

Projections in April that 70,000 to 80,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment would be removed from the site have been scaled back.

The latest projections are that about 45,000 cubic yards of the site's more than 100,000 cubic yards of tainted sediment will be removed. That would eliminate about 3,000 of the estimated 63,000 pounds of PCBs left in the riverbed today.

Bob Behrens, project manager for the state Department of Natural Resources, said the change largely reflects the fact that more money will be spent on monitoring for PCBs than expected.

Behrens said the monitoring, together with laboratory analysis and other related expenses, will cost at least $1.5 million of the $7 million budgeted for the pilot project.

The project is being financed by seven paper mills held responsible for discharging polychlorinated biphenyls to the river from the 1950s to the 1970s. The money comes from a 1997 agreement between the mills and the DNR, in which the paper companies agreed that $7 million of a $10 million "down payment" on the river cleanup would go toward the pilot dredging project.

The mills, facing hundreds of millions of dollars in cleanup costs for the river, sought out the pilot project

Please see **Dredging, B-2**

PCB hot spot

Paper mills and the state Department of Natural Resources plan to remove PCB-laced sediments to learn more about dredging on the Fox River.



Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources — Press-Gazette



d/Press-Gazette

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Dredging/Groups have doubts

■ From B-1

to test hydraulic dredging in contaminant cleanups. Arguing that dredging stirs up PCBs that have been buried in sediment, the mills say leaving the chemicals in the riverbed is safer.

On the other side, the DNR and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency say hydraulic dredging is a proven, safe technology for cleaning chemical contamination from waterways. And dredging figured prominently in a variety of possible cleanup scenarios outlined by the DNR in February.

That means monitoring data showing PCB levels in river sediment before, during and after dredging will be the most important — and likely contentious — results to come out of the project.

Knowing that, Behrens said the DNR believes it's worth it to spend big dollars on monitoring.

"We want to make sure it's done right so that the data provides some meaningful results and we don't end up arguing about, 'Yes, it did cause problems,' or, 'No, it didn't,'" he said.

> "We want to make sure it's done right so that the data provides some meaningful results and we don't end up arguing about, 'Yes, it did cause problems,' or, 'No, it didn't.'"
>
> — Bob Behrens, project manager, DNR

The DNR has worked with the seven mills, known as the Fox River Group, on details of just how the monitoring will be carried out.

A contractor will conduct the monitoring on behalf of both parties, Behrens said. The mills will choose the contractor, but the DNR must agree to the selection.

Meanwhile, environmentalists who criticized the earlier, larger project scope as too small, are even more frustrated by the new proposal.

Rebecca Katers of the Green Bay-based Clean Water Action Council has long argued that removing only part of the contamination runs the risk of exposing high concentrations of PCBs that now are buried.

Katers asked how the project could be scaled back so dramatically after DNR and mill officials took comments on the larger project at several public hearings. She also questioned whether the mills later would be required to remove the rest of the hot spot.

If not, "This effectively limits their liability to less than half of the worst hot spot on the river," Katers said.

But Behrens said the DNR is confident the project can be carried out safely.

"We are concerned, but we think we can do that in such a manner that it's not going to cause increased exposure or contamination problems," he said.

"There are areas right now where there are high concentration levels that are exposed on the surface ... so we feel it's more important to get those hot spots out of there," Behrens said.

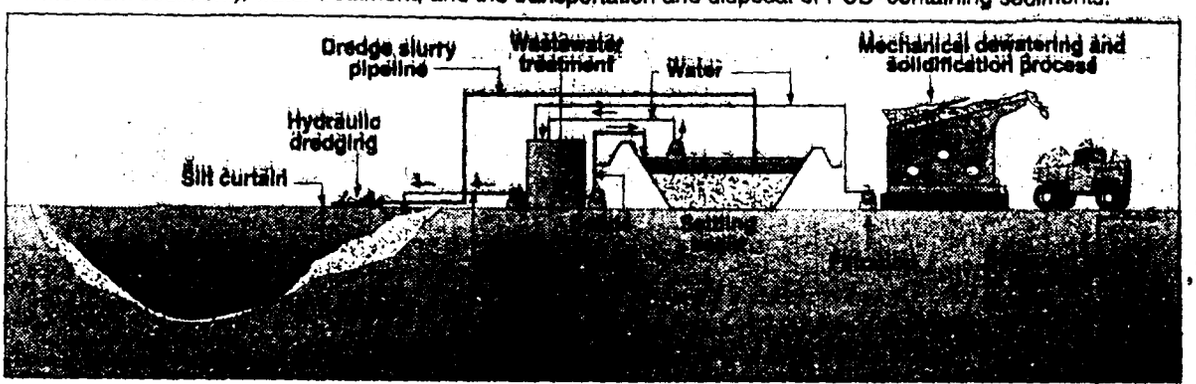
"It may mean there will be some areas that are going to be exposed, but we believe that overall we'll end up with an improved situation," he said.

...negotiations

7/11/99

Sediment removal process

Key project elements will include hydraulic dredging of contaminated sediment, on-shore dewatering (removing water from sediment), water treatment, and the transportation and disposal of PCB-containing sediments.



Bob Yahcey/Press-Gazette

Fox River pilot dredging project to begin this week

By Susan Campbell
Press-Gazette

Preparations for a pilot dredging project on the Fox River's most contaminated stretch are scheduled to begin Monday outside Fort James Corp.'s West Mill.

Engineers will clear the former Shell Oil property by the mill and build a staging area for equipment that will be used to dredge river contaminants, said Bob Behrens, project manager for the state Department of Natural Resources.

At the same time, preparatory work has begun on a new landfill that will be used to store the PCB-tainted sediment once it is dredged from the river.

The landfill, located on the same property as Fort James' sludge lagoons behind the Oneida Bingo & Casino in Ashwaubenon, is scheduled for completion in late August — weather permitting.

Behrens said the actual river dredging cannot begin until the landfill has been completed.

If all goes smoothly, dredging will begin in late August and conclude by Thanksgiving, before the weather gets too cold and forces the project to end.

Cold weather in December forced the shutdown of the first, smaller pilot dredging project near Kimberly, with only about 40 percent of that PCB deposit removed. The DNR still is debating whether to return to the site and remove more of it.

That project — which had targeted removing 12,000 cubic yards of tainted sediment — ran into problems because the DNR had trouble finding a landfill that would accept the PCBs. As a result, contractors started dredging much later in the season than originally planned.

Dredging/Cleanup have doubl...

Press Depot

Officials challenging river group perspective

Paper companies' elaborate document, which purports that PCBs do not present a health risk, has environmental officials questioning the facts and figures

By Ed Culhane
Post-Crescent staff writer

7/12/99

the future for the Fox River

The paper companies of the Fox River Group – fighting against time to derail a costly mandate for the large-scale dredging of contaminated sediments – are again taking their case to the public.

The companies have released a richly illustrated, 90-page document called "Sensible Solutions for the Fox River," available at local libraries, and they have posted the entire document – with dozens of full-color photographs, charts and tables – on the Internet.

"We developed Sensible Solutions to promote community dialogue about restoration measures that make the most sense for the river and the people living in the Fox River Valley communities," said Mark Lindley, director of communications for the Fort James Corp.

Please see **SOLUTIONS,** BACK PAGE

SOLUTIONS: Fox River Group publication drawing criticism

From A-1

The other members of the Fox River Group are Appleton Papers Inc., P.H. Glatfelter, Wisconsin Tissue, Riverside Papers Co., U.S. Paper Mills and NCR Corp., a former owner of Appleton Papers.

State and federal regulators said they were impressed with the look of the document but found no solutions in it, sensible or otherwise.

"I don't see anything in reading this that I would characterize as new," said Bruce Baker, a top official with the state Department of Natural Resources.

Jim Hahnenberg, monitoring the development of a DNR-led cleanup plan for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, challenged several of the premises in the document.

"The things I noticed that were new were actually wrong," Hahnenberg said.

Company executives are clearly hoping for better reviews from the public. Within a few months, the DNR will be releasing a recommended plan to clean the Fox River and the federal government has just begun an internal peer review of such a plan for formal release early in 2000.

It is likely that these plans will rely heavily on hydraulic or environmental dredging as a means of removing the contaminants from the river, a process that could cost the paper companies and the international corporations that own them anywhere from $260 million to $730 million.

"We only have a small time frame to work with," said Dennis Hultgren, an executive with Appleton Papers and the leader of the FRG's science committee.

The Sensible Solutions document does not offer a specific plan, or range of plans, for cleaning up a 39-mile stretch of the lower Fox River, which is contaminated with an estimated 30 tons of PCBs, industrial chemicals that are suspected by government health scientists of being human carcinogens and that have been linked with birth defects in wild animals and developmental problems in humans.

Instead, the companies are offering what they call "guiding principles" for river restoration.

"This is a document that we hope should help the community come together ... to have a dialogue that will lead to balanced, cost-effective solutions," said Hultgren. "What we don't want to say is 'Here is a Fox River Group solution.'"

The principles restate Fox River Group positions that the river is doing a good job of cleaning itself, that clean sediment is overlaying contaminated sediment, that high-water storms will not disturb these buried sediments, that PCBs in the river do not present a significant health risk to humans, that dredging could do more harm to the river than good and that other environmental issues – such as the loss of grasslands and wetlands to development and the damage done by phosphorous-laden runoff from agricultural fields and urban landscapes – should be addressed as part of the plan.

Government officials were quick to respond to the companies' claim on page one of Sensible Solutions that PCBs in the Fox "pose little or no risk to people and wildlife."

"We disagree with that statement wholeheartedly," said Brenda Jones, an EPA biologist. "Our risk assessments show there are impacts to both people and wildlife over time. We did conservative evaluations. From a human health perspective, yes, the biggest risk is from ingestion of fish, but from an ecological perspective, the critters are exposed where they live, and in a variety of different ways. Fish ingestion is not the only route."

To back their argument about PCB risks, the companies' point to the PCB standard adopted by the Food and Drug Administration for the commercial sale of fish, which is set at fish tissue concentrations of 2 parts per million. Most fish in the Fox River have concentrations at less than half this level.

The companies conclude that sport anglers on the Fox could eat their catches with little risk.

"Such low risks are not surprising since fillets of sport fish caught in the Fox River, like walleye and perch, contain such low levels of PCBs that the FDA would deem them safe to sell in grocery stores," the FRG document said on page 58.

EPA regulators called foul.

"It's not true that they are below the risk," said Hahnenberg.

"What you find in the marketplace – because all the (commercial) fish have very low if even measurable concentrations of PCBs – are average concentrations that are 20 times lower than 2 ppm, so one stray fish of 2 ppm does not affect a (human) population's exposure," said Hahnenberg. "With these local sport fish, pretty much all the fish have high concentrations. That's why the fish advisory numbers are lower. The FDA agrees with the EPA evaluations and approach."

The EPA also challenged the companies' statement in the document that high water flows would do little to scour PCBs from the bottom of the river. In Sensible Solutions, the companies say a 100-year flood was recorded in June 1990 that had no discernible effect on PCB levels.

"It didn't happen," said Hahnenberg.

The companies relied on measurements of water flows at the mouth of the river, but these were caused by a seiche effect, with winds pushing lake water into the mouth of the river, water that bellies in and then flows out. To measure a flood, Hahnenberg said, you have to check gauges up river.

Upriver gauges monitored by the U.S. Geological Survey showed no unusual activity in June 1990, with the highest flows at one upriver gauge occurring on June 24, 1990, at 15,500 cubic feet per second, far below the levels set for a 100-year flood and even less than the 17,000 cfs that would be recorded in a five-year flood.

"That conclusion (by the companies) is not correct," Hahnenberg said. "That's a case where they have their facts wrong. That's the most polite way to say it."

This dispute lies at the heart of the debate about the Fox River. The EPA and DNR, relying on two decades of study, have described ongoing forces of deposition and erosion that are constantly mixing sediments, freeing some chemicals that were buried and burying others that had been exposed, at different times and at different rates in different parts of the river.

"You have all these things happening," Hahnenberg said. "It isn't a good sound bite because nature isn't that simple. It is not all erosional or depositional. It's a mixture. If it were true that it were only being buried, you should have a surface layer that is totally clean with PCBs not detected at all, and we don't see that."

It is this process that causes the continual release of PCBs into the environment and that will threaten human and animal health for more than a century if nothing is done, government scientists argue.

The Fox River Group companies see the river differently and devote a great deal of space in Sensible Solutions on this point.

"How can they say it's not depositional when it is?" said Hultgren. "Eighty seven percent of the PCBs are in the last seven miles. That's where the river widens and deepens and it tends to settle in there."

■ *Sensible Solutions can be downloaded from the Fox River Group Web site at www.foxrivergroup.org. The EPA's on-line perspective is at www.epa.gov/region5/foxriver. The DNR Web page, www.dnr.state.wi.us, has a Fox River section under "environmental protections." A more complete listing of related sites can be accessed through the Appleton Public Library site at www.apl.org.*

BRIEFLY

GREEN BAY

Public forum set on Fox cleanup

The second of three public forums in Green Bay on the proposed Fox River contaminant cleanup is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Wednesday and will focus on the economic impact on the community.

The meeting, hosted by the Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District at its Environmental Education Center, is for residents who would be affected by proposals to remove PCB contamination in the Fox River.

Kevin Cohen, professor of economics at St. Norbert College, will discuss various valuation techniques and the financial difficulties related to such a major project.

On Wednesday, Aug. 11, Chris Borick is scheduled to discuss the political feasibility of the various cleanup alternatives.

The Environmental Education Center is at 90 Bay Beach Road, one-half mile west of Bay Beach Park.

Revised fiscal estimate downsizes PCB removal project

The amount of material to be dredged is sliced by up to 30,000 cubic yards

7/13/90

By Melinda Naparalla
The News-Chronicle

Although dredging of PCB-contaminated sediment from the Fox River near Fort James Corp. won't begin until late August, preparations for the project begin this week.

The original plan called for $7 million of the $10 million committed by the Fox River Group to the state Department of Natural Resources to be designated for dredging, but new estimates show the amount of material to be dredged must be reduced to meet the budget.

The plan was to remove 80,000 cubic yards from the river bottom near the company's West Side paper mill, 1919 S. Broadway, said Bob Behrens, DNR project manager. Now only 45,000 to 50,000 cubic yards of the 110,000-cubic-yard deposit can be removed for that price.

Increasing costs included more monitoring, Behrens said. At least $1.5 million of the $7 million will be used for monitoring.

Environmental groups fear the proposed dredging may cause the river more problems than it will solve.

"We were already concerned that weren't going to get enough out, and now they are taking out less," said Rebecca Katers, executive director of Green Bay-based Fox River Action Council. "By simply going in there and mucking around, they are going to cause greater disturbance, and allow the PCBs to migrate downstream."

The group plans to request public hearings and with that part of the process complete, the project has been altered financially, she said.

The project is planned for the most contaminated spot in the river, where PCB concentrations range up to 700 parts per million.

Katers said the Fox River Group, a coalition of seven paper mills being held responsible for the contamination, should be required to give more money rather than scale the project back.

This week a contractor is preparing the site north of the Fort James mill, Behrens said. Crews will level the former Shell Oil property, where dredgings will be pumped into holding cells and dewatered.

The excess water will be treated and returned to the river while the dried sediment will be transported to a special area under construction at the Fort James landfill near Austin Straubel International Airport.

"We will be removing slightly less than half the material at the site, but we hope to get two-thirds of the PCBs," Behrens said.

The schedule calls for the dredging to begin in late August and be completed mid-November, he said.

River's work yard also may serve as playground



DEE GEURTS-BENGTSON

For many years the Fox River was viewed only as a local resource to be utilized by business and industry. As a result, not much attention was paid to the river. For too long, we turned our back on trying to take advantage of the wonderful recreational lure of water to residents, businesses, and tourists. Let's face it, there is something magical about water, about having people live, work, and play near bodies of water. The Fox River is clearly one of our visitor industry's unique competitive advantages.

Well, the long-awaited redevelopment of downtown Green Bay's riverfront has begun, and it is slowly but surely being transformed into a mecca of shopping, trendy bars, upscale restaurants, entertainment, and expanded business activity. The banks of the Fox River are becoming not only a work yard, but also a playground.

A revitalized riverfront and downtown will have more people looking at the Green Bay area as a tourist destination, and enhance the overall economic well-being of Brown County. When a city improves the quality of life for its residents, it creates an environment that is also attractive to tourism. For instance, in 1998, visitors generated some $295 million in revenue for the Green Bay area. If we give tourists another reason to come, like a revitalized downtown and riverfront, that $295 million will grow, and give us even more tourism dollars for the area.

The Fox River is coming back as an important economic and social benefit. Current and future improvements to the riverfront's entertainment offerings include:

An expanded convention center, just blocks away from the riverfront, is on the way. Hotels, restaurants, retailing, and tourism are all expected to get a boost from the KI Convention Center.

The KI Convention Center fits in neatly with downtown Green Bay's redevelopment and provides a huge boost for riverfront development in the Green Bay area. It underscores the power of vision and affirms the farsighted leadership of those in the community who dared to dream.

Located on the west bank of the Fox River, the Neville Public Museum is one of the Green Bay area's most popular attractions. The museum collects, preserves, and presents the rich history of Northeast Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. It offers a full range of exhibitions and activities for every age level and interest.

For true boat lovers the Foxy Lady is the answer. Located on the east bank of the Fox River, this 70-foot, two-deck cruiser can accommodate 100. It offers dinner, lunch, and moonlight cruises. Several sightseeing cruises are available that will keep you on the water for hours at a time. The evening tours attract visitors who want to see downtown Green Bay at night. The daytime tours are for people interested in seeing the river at work. Finding a place to eat lunch or dinner after a sightseeing cruise on the Foxy Lady is no problem. Riverside and downtown restaurants range from fast food restaurants in Port Plaza Mall, to upscale fare at many restaurants on Washington Street on the east side of the river and Broadway on the west side.

If you have driven downtown at night during the past nine months, you will immediately notice the stunning look of our bridges. Thanks to a financial gift from Fort James Corp., the Mason (Tilleman), Walnut, and Nitschke bridges are lit up for all to see, sending a warm glow onto the waters of the Fox River and the streets below.

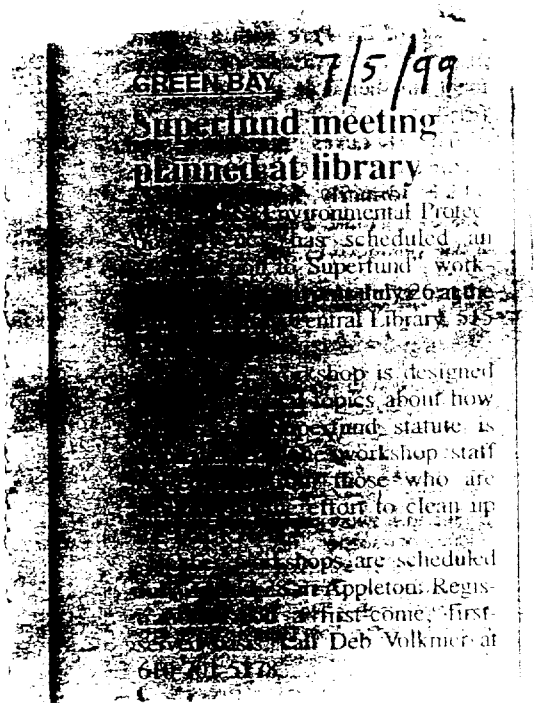
Cruise lines have shown interest in making Green Bay a port-of-call. Picture hundreds of cruise passengers disembarking in downtown Green Bay to walk downtown, shop at Port Plaza, dine at nearby restaurants, and visit area attractions. Tourists who get off cruise ships and have nothing to do but sightsee and spend money.

Community events centered around and along the river are also popular attractions. Hundreds of thousands of people converge on downtown and the river during our annual Celebrate Americafest and Shopko Fireworks held each Fourth of July. Plus, there is Artstreet, Oktoberfest, and a new event this year, On Broadway, Inc.'s International Fest. All attract local residents as well as tourists.

More is needed to make what many consider our area's greatest natural resource more attractive for tourism and for use by residents. However, Green Bay's riverfront is still changing out of its work clothes. We need to give it time. The party along the river has just started.

Dee Geurts-Bengtson is vice president of the Green Bay Area Visitor and Convention Bureau. Her tourism column runs monthly in Money. Write her in care of Richard Ryman, Press-Gazette, P.O. Box 19430, Green Bay, WI, 54307-9430.

Decorative Plaques



GREEN BAY 7/5/99

Superfund meeting planned at library

...Environmental Protec...
...has scheduled an...
...Superfund work...
...July 26 at the...
...Central Library, 515...

...shop is designed...
...pics about how...
...fund statute is...
...workshop staff...
...those who are...
...effort to clean up...

...shops are scheduled...
...Appleton. Regis-...
...first-come, first-...
...Deb Volkmer at...



EPA gives Fox cleanup recommendation

Agency: Plan 'approximates' DNR's work

By Susan Campbell
Press-Gazette

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency submitted a preliminary cleanup recommendation for the Fox River to its national Remedy Review Board Wednesday.

The recommendation is not available for public review, the agency said, but said the cost range for the plan "approximates the work previously developed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources."

The DNR in February released proposed cleanup options that ranged in cost from $150 million to $728 million, with a 30 percent margin of error.

"The material submitted to the review board is not, by any means, a final EPA plan for the Fox River, nor does it mean the Fox will be designated as an official Superfund site," EPA Regional Administrator Francis Lyons said in a statement.

"However, for the purposes of an internal review, the material submitted to the Remedy Review Board does include a plausible cleanup plan for consideration."

The review board process serves as an internal peer review for all proposed cleanups of more than $30 million. Composed of senior Superfund managers and technical experts from EPA headquarters and regional offices, the board meets regularly to review major projects for technical feasibility, cost-effectiveness, and consistency with EPA policy and other national Superfund sites.

The board will meet in late July to discuss current proposals, including the preliminary Fox cleanup plan, and will provide EPA Region 5 and its inter-governmental partners with advisory recommendations by early September. Those partners include the DNR, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Oneida and Menominee Indian tribes.

Comments will be discussed by the partners and considered for the proposed cleanup plan, which will be presented to the public in early 2000 in conjunction with a 60-day comment period and public meetings.

The DNR's proposed cleanup options, which could be used in combination, included mechanical or hydraulic dredging; disposal in a landfill or confined disposal facility; dewatering before disposal; off-site or on-site treatment such as heat destruction; and capping contaminants.

The EPA has said it will designate the Fox River and part of the southern bay of Green Bay a Superfund priority site if the state and seven area paper mills cannot agree on a cleanup plan for an estimated 63,000 pounds of polychlorinated biphenyls in the sediment bed.

In a report two weeks ago, the paper mills questioned the efficacy of dredging and argued that the river is doing a good job of healing itself.

An estimated 95 percent of the PCBs are located along the seven-mile stretch between the De Pere dam and bay of Green Bay, and 600 pounds a year are said to be moving into the bay.

7/26/99

LETTERS

Let's hold the Fox River Group accountable

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:

The "Sensible Solutions" report, compiled by the Fox River Group of area paper companies (posted on the Internet at www.foxrivergroup.org) presents the caring corporate view that a clean-up operation on the Fox River to reduce carcinogenic PCB levels is not in the best interest of the community.

PCBs, short for polychlorinated biphenyls, are cancer-causing agents that have amassed in the sediment along the Fox River, 200,000 pounds of which were dumped there from 1954 to 1994 by the very same companies that now provide us "Sensible Solutions."

By eating PCB-contaminated fish, people accumulate these compounds in their tissues. Population groups who consume the most fish along the river – minorities, Native Americans, and low-income families – are those at greatest risk from the effects of PCBs. In five independent studies, children who's mothers ate PCB contaminated fish while pregnant were three times more likely to have low IQ test scores and twice as likely to fall behind peers in reading comprehension. In addition, PCBs have caused cancer in laboratory mammals.

The Fox River Group of paper companies is willing to implement low-cost pseudo-remedies such as controlling non-native species and improving access to the river, but these actions are more red herrings than plausible solutions.

The FRG wants local residents' consent to turn a blind eye and rely on nature to seal off the contaminated sediment: a questionably effective deposition process requiring 50 to 100 years.

Wisconsin paper companies netted more than $6.3 billion in 1995. Yet instead of using a minuscule portion of these profits for the good of the community, they suggest minorities and newborns pay the price for them. These corporate polluters must be held accountable for the health hazard they have created.

Peter Barwis,
Stevens Point

Where was the

COLUMNIST'S PERSPECTIVE

PCBs take a back seat to home life



Curt Andersen

For The Green Bay News-Chronicle

I am right up to here (I indicate my nostrils) with writing about PCBs in the Fox River.

There is an old saying that goes, "If you pet a dog, you will have a job for life." It is evident that writing about a lack of any serious cleanup of the Fox River will be a lifetime job, with the paper industry talking the talk, but morally unable to walk the walk.

What I'll do at times will be to give practical advice about things you can do to help the environment (without having to live in a cave, as some of the more hare-brained conservatives would like you to believe.)

My lot went from a sand pile to a cool oasis for the animals and me.

To start, let's talk about siting a new home on a lot, where there are options that can save money and help the environment.

Three things should be taken into account when siting a home: sun, prevailing winds and the lay of the land.

With the lay of the land, you may be able to tuck your home into the base of a hill to avoid those nasty winter winds, which can crank up your fuel bills.

If there are mature trees on the lot, take advantage of them as another form of wind block. If not, plant trees or have some moved with a tree spade, which, though it may seem expensive by the hour, can give you a serious head start on getting shade for your yard and home, increasing the value of your property and helping to cool your home.

Plant coniferous trees to the north and west of your home to block the winter wind. Plant deciduous trees on the east and south sides. A large oak, maple or locust will keep your house cooler and reduce the need for air conditioning until we have pizza-oven weather.

In the winter, with the leaves gone, warm sunshine will bathe your home with bright light, helping to keep away the gloomies and possibly reduce your heat bill.

You should never plant coniferous trees next to your driveway on the east side. In the winter, any trace of snow on the driveway will begin to melt as the sun rises over the top of the trees, only to quickly freeze, thanks to the short day.

This process happens over and over until you have a small glacier on your driveway that can cause you to skid off into the snowbank. It can also cause problems with your concrete. Try to keep the trees at least 40 feet from the driveway. They grow faster than you think.

I really hate mowing grass, so it took no serious arm-twisting to convince me that letting the yard go wild was a good idea. Lawns require constant maintenance to stay green and bland looking. Wildflowers thrive in any soil, so there was my answer.

We have black-eyed Susans, tufted vetch, daisies, blazing stars, fleabane, wild raspberries and blackberries, and many other plants.

It is a true joy to walk through them as they change through the seasons. Best of all, they require no watering, no toxic lawn chemicals and no mowing. They provide habitat for butterflies, birds and small mammals.

We have seen more than 70 varieties of wild birds here, including bald eagles, sharp-shinned hawks, indigo buntings, bluebirds and vireos. My lot went from a sand pile to a cool oasis for the animals and me.

Little things that you do can make a world of difference in your life and on your planet.

Andersen, whose column appears here each Wednesday, is a lifelong resident of the Green Bay area and a small-business owner. He served in the Navy during the Vietnam era. He teaches part time at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College and is president of the Clean Water Action Council. Write to him via e-mail at chronicle@itol.com.

Fort James makes up project funding shortfall

A dredging project can move ahead as planned later this summer 7/28/99

The News-Chronicle

The state Department of Natural Resources announced Tuesday that Fort James Corp. has pledged an additional $2 million to ensure that a pilot Fox River dredging project near its West Side mill, 1919 S. Broadway, can proceed as originally planned.

The plan calls for removal of enough PCB-contaminated sediments to fill a landfill with a capacity of 80,000 cubic yards, but rising costs had forced project managers to cut estimates nearly in half.

"Any curtailment of the project would mean less data available to us; data that we need to chart the course for the remediation of the Fox River," said Dan Platkowski, senior vice president of manufacturing for Fort James.

The project is scheduled to take place later this summer at a 9-acre segment of the river known as Sediment Management Unit 56/57, where some of the river's highest concentrations of PCBs are located.

Fort James is part of the Fox River Group, a coalition of paper mills potentially responsible for contamination of the river with PCBs, long-lasting manmade chemicals that were released legally by area industries from the 1950s through the 1970s before their use was banned because of health concerns.

Overall funding of the pilot project now totals $9 million, with the first $7 million coming from the Fox River Group as part of a January 1997 agreement with the DNR.

BRIEFLY
IN YOUR AREA

News Chronicle staff

GREEN BAY

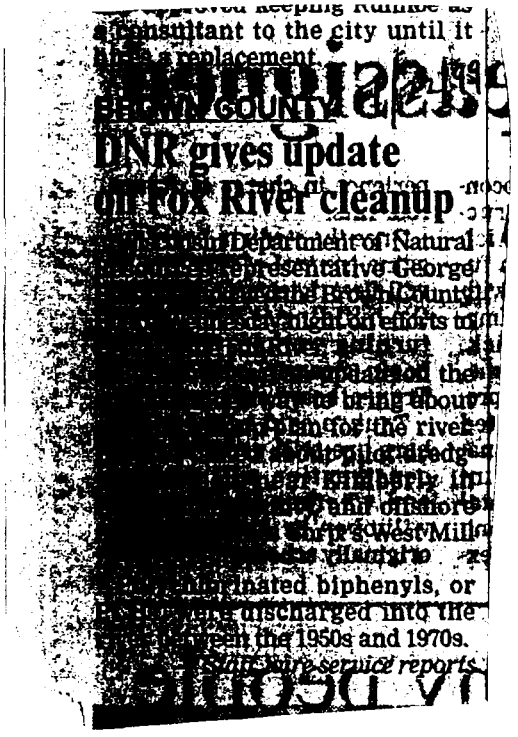
PCB release meeting postponed to Aug. 30

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has rescheduled a meeting for Aug. 30 regarding its PCB release and pathway report.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. at the Brown County Library, 515 Pine St. It was originally scheduled for Aug. 5, but new information was obtained and delayed the release of the report, which will detail the impact of PCBs on the natural resources of the Fox River, the bay and Lake Michigan.

The report is part of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment of the river done by the service and the Oneida and Menominee tribes.

To receive a copy of the report, call Joe Monfils at 465-7408 for an appointment. The report can also be found at the service's Web site, http://www.fws.gov/r3pao/nrda/. For more information, call David Allen at 465-7407.



consultant to the city until it
a replacement.

BROWN COUNTY

DNR gives update on Fox River cleanup

Department of Natural
representative George
Brown County
efforts to
bring about
for the river
primarily in
and offshore
West Mill
chlorinated biphenyls, or
discharged into the
in the 1950s and 1970s.

State wire service reports

THE GREEN BAY NEWS-CHRONICLE 7/22/99 LOCAL

DNR seeks local cooperation to avoid Superfund handling

Supervisors want the DNR to ensure responsible parties will pay for cleanup

By Melinda Naparalla
The News-Chronicle

Brown County supervisors' questions centered on health concerns and costs Wednesday when a representative of the state Department of Natural Resources gave the County Board an update on Fox River cleanup plans.

George Boronow, natural resources basin supervisor for the DNR, explained the health risks posed to humans and wildlife if PCB-contaminated sediment is left in the river.

The DNR completed a test dredging at a site near Kimberly last year and plans to return to the site this summer, he said. Next month, the department plans to begin dredging the area with the highest concentrations of PCBs in the river, near the Fort James Corp. West Side mill, 1919 S. Broadway.

Original plans called for the removal of 80,000 cubic yards of the 110,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment at the site, but Boronow said for financial reasons the amount was scaled back to 45,000 to 50,000 cubic yards. Fort James has offered to dispose of the sediment in its landfill near Austin Straubel International Airport.

Sup. Kathy Johnson questioned the decision to use that location.

"Do you feel extremely comfortable with residences being so close to the landfill? Do you know it can't get in the air?" she asked.

"We feel extremely comfortable with that," Boronow said. "We will monitor it."

Boronow reviewed the different alternatives, from doing nothing to putting the sediment in a landfill to incineration, which destroys the PCBs. If nothing was done, the health threat could linger for at least 100 years. If the sediment is removed and put in a landfill, fish and waterfowl advisories on the river and bay could be removed within 10 to 12 years, he said.

Incineration is the most expensive method and it releases dioxins, which are more dangerous than PCBs, and mercury, Boronow said. Landfilling is in the middle range of cost, he added.

After Boronow explained the negative effects on fish and waterfowl including poor development, lower survival rates and hormonal imbalances, Sup. Guy Zima asked if studies had been done on humans.

Boronow said while studies had been done, it was more difficult to be accurate with humans because there is no proof of where they picked up the PCBs. The studies did show similar problems in humans though he said.

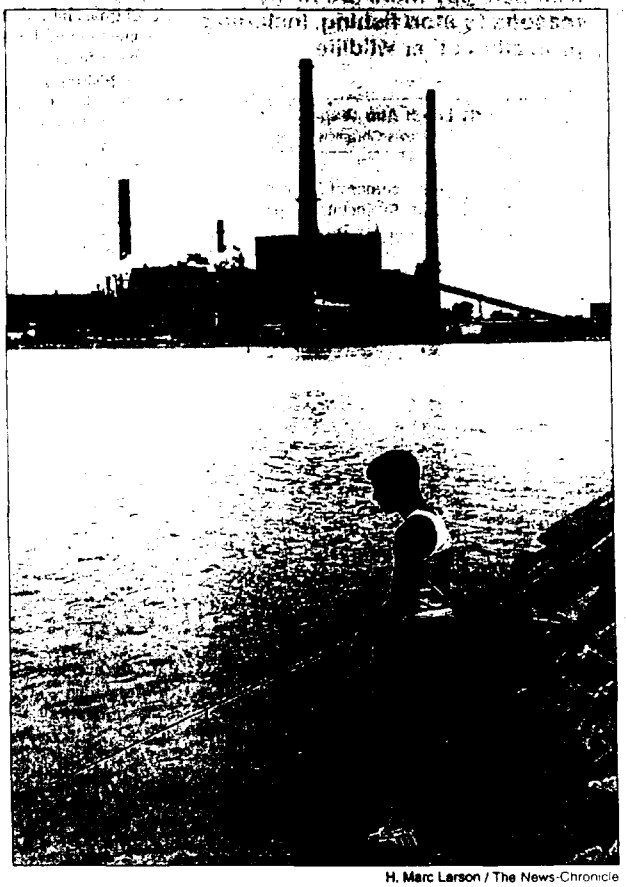
The river has been nominated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for inclusion on the National Priorities list for Superfund cleanup, but Boronow said the DNR would rather see the project completed by voluntary actions of the seven paper mills responsible for PCB discharges, with the DNR as the lead agency.

The potentially responsible mills committed $10 million to the DNR with $7 million of it designated for the test dredgings.

Sup. Pat Collins asked how the DNR would ensure the size of the cleanup won't be dictated by what the mills agree to commit.

It's a long way from the final bill, Boronow said, and the DNR is counting on cooperation from the paper companies. He added the EPA would stay out of the process as long as significant progress was being made.

"We don't want to get into a lot of litigation," he said.

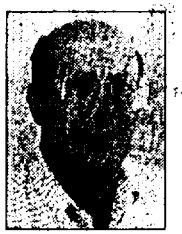


H. Marc Larson / The News-Chronicle

THE FORT JAMES-WEST MILL serves as a backdrop for Pat Hoffman as he fishes on the east bank of the Fox River on Wednesday.

COLUMNIST'S PERSPECTIVE

Hoping for a better world just doesn't cut it



Curt Andersen

For The Green Bay News-Chronicle

One of the qualities that makes the human species unique is our ability to hope. We always seem to believe we can rise to greater heights. Indeed, I believe it is hope that has gotten us to where we are. No matter how bad things are, a healthy person must have hope that things will get better, given time.

Like a two-edged sword, however, hope also allows us to wallow in incomprehensible slow-wittedness, almost as if we believe time itself will be the cure for hard times of one sort or another. Let me illustrate.

You have to get off your backside and get involved in stopping bad stuff and starting good stuff.

Consider the Native Americans. There they were, living just as they had for thousands of years. Then the white man arrived, laden with diseases for which the Indians had no defenses, weapons that killed on a much greater scale than they ever imagined and, worst of all, a mind-bending greed for all the land.

The Indians likely hoped beyond all else that the white man would just go away or be kind and let them alone. We know they resisted the white juggernaut ferociously many times, but the white man just kept on coming.

Consider Africans. These people were living just as they had for thousands of years when the white man's commerce interfered and dragged them into slavery. They resisted and escaped their chains many times but were subjugated for hundreds of years, ironically in "the land of the free."

Hoping their masters would free them proved to be a pipe dream for most as the master's profits overcame his morals.

Consider the Jews. These people have been used as scapegoats for bad governments for thousands of years, whether by the pharaoh, the czar or the fuhrer. They, too, fought back many times, but their hopes died over and over in the desert, on the steppes and in the death camps.

Each of these is an extreme example of hope undelivered, unless you take the extremely long view.

Hoping isn't enough. You have to get off your backside and get involved in stopping bad stuff and starting good stuff. You can't wait for your neighbor to do it for you. With any luck, getting off your backside might shame your neighbor into getting off his, and then the old proverb "many hands makes light work" applies.

We here in Wisconsin are being assaulted daily with toxic substances from various sources like paper mills, incinerators, power plants and lawn chemicals. Nearly every week, scientists find new evidence linking various chemicals with cancer, learning disabilities, reproductive problems, autoimmune disease and so on.

We know some of our legislators take money from the very companies that dump these chemicals into our rivers, into our air and onto our land. This money is disguised as "campaign donations," and then, *just by coincidence*, they write legislation that allows the continued dumping of toxic gunk.

Shame on those legislators. Our Wisconsin government has now become a "kakistocracy": government by the worst men in the state.

Are you going to wait until your kids have cancer to ask, "What could I have done to prevent this?"

Wishin' and hopin' and dreamin' is not enough.

Andersen, whose column appears here each Wednesday, is a lifelong resident of the Green Bay area and a small-business owner. He served in the Navy during the Vietnam era. He teaches part time at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College and is president of the Clean Water Action Council. Write to him via e-mail at chronicle@itol.com.

News

Fort James to chip in more for cleanup test Paper company hopes for more solid results before full-scale PCB project

08/01/1999 The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Early Page 2 (Copyright 1999)

A paper company will pitch in an extra $2 million to help complete as planned a pilot cleanup project on the polluted Fox River, the state Department of Natural Resources said.

Fort James Corp. is a member of the Fox River Group, which is made up of seven paper mills identified as sources of pollution in the river that stretches through northeastern Wisconsin.

The company is providing extra funds to ensure that a pilot project -- one of two on the river -- will be carried out without severe cutbacks, the DNR said. The projects are designed to help clean up the river and gather information on the effectiveness of dredging.

Sediments in the river are contaminated with the industrial chemical PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, used in making carbonless paper before they were banned in the 1970s.

The project is at a 9-acre segment of the river near De Pere.

"This project was designed to provide us with important information about the potential impact of dredging on the Fox River," added Dan Platkowski, a senior vice president for Fort James. "Any curtailment of the project would mean less data available to us -- data that we need to chart the course for the remediation of the river."

The Fox River Group wants the DNR to wait until research is completed on the De Pere site before choosing a cleanup plan for a 39-mile stretch of the Fox, which flows into Lake Michigan's Green Bay.

A draft cleanup study by the DNR outlined six cleanup options ranging from a $728.3 million all-dredging solution to a $154.5 million strategy that would combine dredging and capping contaminated sites with sand or rock.

The Clean Water Action Council of Northeastern Wisconsin has favored having the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency place the 39-mile river section on its Superfund cleanup list, a move opposed by the state and the companies as unnecessarily expensive.

The project near De Pere originally called for removal of 80,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediments. However, rising costs forced officials to cut estimates nearly in half, the DNR said. Because of Fort James' contribution, the project now can move ahead as originally planned, the DNR said.

Plans are to prepare the site for cleanup by late August. Then a contractor will use a hydraulic dredge to "vacuum" contaminated sediments out of the river. The sediments will be dried and taken to a Fort James landfill for disposal.

But state environmental groups say the polluted material should be cleaned first.

Overall funding for the pilot project totals $9 million, with the initial $7 million coming from the Fox River Group, as part of an agreement reached between the state and the companies. The group has hired contractors to carry out the project, the DNR said.

In other news, the DNR recently decided to resume dredging PCB-contaminated sediments at the other cleanup site in late August. That project was shut down last fall because of cold weather, the DNR said.

Author: jgoldfarb@ios.doi.gov at FWS
Date: 08/02/1999 9:03 AM
Normal
To: David P Allen at 3MS-GBFO, Frank Horvath at 3MS-FA,
maureek_katz_at_enrd@ios.doi.gov at FWS
Subject: Fox River News Article
---------- Message Contents

FYI ... -- Joan

Wisconsin State Journal
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Wednesday, July 28, 1999

Local/Wisconsin

FIRM ADDS $2 MILLION TO FOX RIVER CLEANUP

A paper company has announced it will pitch in an extra $2 million so that a pilot cleanup project on the polluted Fox River can be completed as planned, the state said Tuesday.

Fort James Corp. is a member of the Fox River Group, made up of seven paper mills identified as sources of pollution in the river that stretches through northeastern Wisconsin.

The company is providing extra money to ensure that a pilot project - one of two on the river - will be carried out as planned, without severe cutbacks, the state Department of Natural Resources said in a news release Tuesday.

Sediments in the river are contaminated with the industrial chemical PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls. PCBs were widely used in the making of carbonless paper and other products at paper mills along the Fox until the government banned the chemicals in 1977.

Studies have linked PCBs to cancer, reproductive problems and poor mental development in children and said they are hazardous to aquatic life.

A draft cleanup study by the DNR outlined six cleanup options ranging from a $728.3 million all-dredging solution to a $154.5 million strategy that would combine dredging and capping

contaminated sites with
sand or rock.

guest column BY REBECCA KATERS

SCIENCE, PR AND PCBS

Honesty is the solution to cleaning up the Fox River, yet area industries seem more intent on saturating the media with misleading messages, claiming "Science is the Solution."

Appleton Papers has spent well over $100,000 on several full-page advertisements in newspapers in Oshkosh, Appleton and Green Bay and on glossy brochures, bumper stickers, toll-free hotlines, and eager, friendly lobbyists. The Fox River Group (which represents seven companies responsible for polluting the Fox River) also spends huge sums organizing media events.

This isn't the first time the corporations have substituted form for substance. In 1986, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources created committees for developing a Remedial Action Plan to clean the Fox River and Green Bay. They were heavily influenced by the corporations and failed to produce a cleanup, but the process produced good media coverage and gave the impression that a cleanup was under way.

In 1992, the DNR formed the "Fox Coalition" with 14 industry representatives and several local officials. They tried to find a "cooperative, voluntary approach" to river cleanup. For six years, the industries on the coalition and local officials dragged their feet, called for more studies, and failed to develop even an outline of a cleanup plan.

The only real money the corporations donated was more than $200,000 to hire a public relations firm to tell the public what a great job they were doing. Much of the coalition's time was spent trying to locate government grants (our tax dollars) to pay for the cleanup.

Now that the state's weakness has been exposed, and the federal government is breathing down their necks with Superfund, the corporations have launched a media blitz, claiming "Science is the Solution." Yet $25 million has already been spent studying the Fox River. It's one of the most studied bodies of water in the world. PCBs have also been intensively studied by international experts for decades, and are well-known health risks. And locally, our wildlife is an indicator of our own risks, as animals suffer from deformities, tumors, thyroid abnormalities, immune system problems and reproductive failures.

Appleton Papers makes several false claims in its advertisements. First, it claims PCBs are safely buried in the sediments, and that a 100-year flood in 1990 did not cause movement of PCBs into Green Bay. But scientists spent more than $13 million on the "Green Bay Mass Balance Study" documenting and computerizing the average movement of 600 pounds of PCBs down the river each year. Storms are an undisputed factor. The PCBs are *not* safely buried. They're moving and we need to catch them before they all get to the bay. Up to 70 percent of the PCBs in all of Lake Michigan are coming from our Fox River.

Furthermore, the deeper PCBs will remain toxic for centuries, and many are piled up behind locks and dams. What happens in 100 to 200 years when a dam gives way? What happens when dams need repair and replacement? Who will pay the cost of dealing with PCB-contaminated sediments in the future if we don't require the corporations to clean up their mess now?

It's understandable that the paper companies would like to escape this liability, but taxpayers should see that a complete cleanup is a good investment against future taxpayer costs.

Appleton Papers claims the cleanup should only meet the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's standard for fish consumption, which is 2 parts per million (ppm). But the FDA warned 20 years ago that this standard should never be applied to a local PCB hotspot where heavy fish eaters face a consistently higher average PCB level.

Recently, after more than eight years of study and negotiation, the Great Lakes states agreed on a new "Protocol for a Uniform Great Lakes Sport Fish Consumption Advisory," which set a standard of .05 ppm PCBs in fish. But this number was a political compromise (as so many standards are) which still allows a 1-in-10,000 cancer risk. And it doesn't protect low-income subsistence fishers, or those eating fattier fish like carp.

The DNR's proposed river cleanup standard of 1.5 ppm PCBs in fish falls short of achieving even the compromised .05 ppm standard. It's ludicrous for the corporations to attack this weak cleanup number as "unrealistic" or too strong. If anything, local anglers should be outraged that the DNR's plan will still leave our public river and bay too contaminated for unlimited fish and duck consumption.

The reality is that many fishers and their families have been eating PCB-laced fish for 40 years and at levels much higher than these. They could already be experiencing health problems, though nobody has bothered to look. It could be another 15 or 20 years before the cleanup standard is met. In the meantime, does Appleton Papers intend to compensate these anglers for their reduced fishing opportunities or increased medical bills?

It's important to keep in mind that local fish actually contain hundreds of other toxic chemicals along with the PCBs — such as dioxins, furans, mercury, arsenic and cadmium.

The health effects of all these chemicals acting together inside our bodies is unknown and unaccounted for in the fish advisories, which means the true health risks of local fish eating are actually higher. The good news is that sediment cleanup should reduce the levels of all these contaminants in fish.

Appleton Papers hails "natural recovery processes" as a river cleanup solution. Yet "natural recovery" means dispersal and dilution, spreading their Fox River pollution into Lake Michigan and beyond.

A little known fact from the Mass Balance Study is that about 4,000 pounds of PCBs also evaporate (volatilize) into the air off the surface of the Fox River and Green Bay each year and blow over the rest of the Great Lakes, contributing significantly to PCB fish-eating warnings in Lake Superior and elsewhere. And when airborne PCBs hit cold arctic air, they settle out and threaten the health of Eskimos, other northern people, and wildlife who depend on high-fat fish and seal meat 365 days of the year. Already, health experts warn that the entire Eskimo culture is threatened by toxic chemicals from outside, and the toxins are still accumulating.

While it's true that our local PCBs will "go away" from the Fox River after a century or two, it would be irresponsible to simply shift our contamination to other areas.

Appleton Papers supports capping PCB hotspots in the river, and says "capping does not destroy the ecology." Yet if the river bottom is filled or covered with something foreign, the ecology is altered to an unnatural condition. Worse yet, capping often doesn't work, and has failed to contain PCBs in the Sheboygan River.

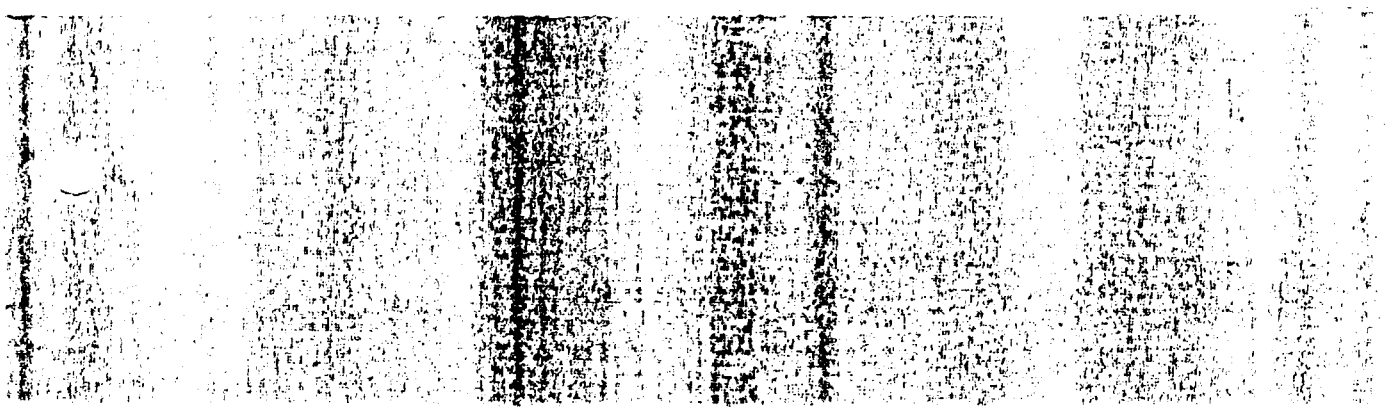
The alternative, hydraulic (vacuum) dredging, does disturb the river's natural bottom, but would leave behind a natural, deeper surface.

Capping creates shallower, unnatural surfaces, with the risk of PCB leakage and ultimate failure as erosion wears the cap away over the coming centuries.

The Fox River Group diverts our attention and attracts goodwill with donations to nature centers and to local universities for wildlife research, but these relatively small donations are not a substitute for the higher-cost river cleanup. Diversions don't protect us from PCB contamination.

After nearly 30 years of awareness of the Fox River PCB problem, Appleton Papers' excuses are wearing awfully thin. Our health is threatened. Public relations campaigns aren't enough.

Katers is executive director of the Clean Water Action Council, a nonprofit group based in Green Bay. CWAC can be reached at 920-437-7304 or via e-mail at cleanwater@cwac.net.



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Normal
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Subject: Recent News Articles
---------- Message Contents

FYI --

A couple of news articles from the past few weeks regarding Fox River/Green Bay
activities.

-- Joan

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
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Wednesday, June 16, 1999
News

DNR finds a home for toxic river sludge Fort James site can take part in PCB
cleanup; critics oppose plan

TOM VANDEN BROOK
Journal Sentinel staff

Fort James Corp. has received approval to dump toxic sludge dredged from the Fox
River in its landfill west of Green Bay, officials said Tuesday. State and
federal approval allows Fort James to design a part of its existing landfill to
accept the polluted sludge, said Len Polczinski, waste team supervisor for the
state Department of Natural Resources' northeast region.

State and Fort James officials called the approval a key step toward
demonstrating the effectiveness of dredging to clean the most polluted parts of
the river. An environmental group, however, criticized the proposed cleanup as a
project "designed to fail."

Plans call for dredging about 70,000 cubic yards of sediment contaminated with
polychlorinated biphenyls, a class of chemicals suspected of causing cancer,
from the river near the Fort James plant. Once water is squeezed from the

sludge, an estimated 30,000 cubic yards -- the equivalent of 2,000 dump-truck loads -- would be stored in the landfill. The PCBs would be dumped in a specially designed 3.3-acre "cell" of Fort James' existing 293-acre landfill, said Mark Lindley, a company spokesman. The landfill will have impervious liners and a system to collect any PCBs that leach from the sediment.

PCBs bind tightly to soil, making them unlikely to escape from a well-designed landfill, officials have said. Nonetheless, finding a site to accept the pollutants in Wisconsin has proved difficult. PCBs were widely used in the production and recycling of carbonless paper until their production was banned in the 1970s by the federal government. They are considered a probable carcinogen in humans. Colorless and odorless, the toxins also have been linked to lower IQ scores and immune system defects. Fish, wildlife and the water from the Fox River contain 10 to 800 times the level deemed safe.

"Finding a landfill for them has been a sticking point," Lindley said. "This will allow the project to go forward." Lindley estimated that the dredging could begin later this summer and continue into the fall. Under a 1997 agreement, the $8 million, project will be managed by the DNR and funded by seven paper companies, including Fort James, deemed by officials to be potentially responsible for the pollution.

"It's a demonstration project to show to local people that this 0,1,14040,>can be done safely," Polczinski said. "In addition, everything taken out means that much less available to contaminate fish." Pollution in the Fox River is such that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is poised to declare the 39-mile stretch of the river and a portion of Green Bay a Superfund site. That status would empower the agency to order a cleanup and bill the paper companies deemed responsible for the pollution -- a project that could cost more than $1 billion.

The state and the paper companies are resisting the Superfund designation, saying a negotiated settlement would be cheaper and more effective than the federal program. The state says it could cost as much as $720 million and take seven to 10 years to accomplish.

But Rebecca Katers, executive director of an environmental activist group, the

Clean Water Action Council of Northeastern Wisconsin, said the demonstration project is "designed to fail." She predicted that the dredging will stir up clouds of contaminated sediments and leave others exposed to river currents, providing the paper companies with evidence that removing the PCBs is more harmful that allowing them to stay in the river.

"They're planning to dig a hole in the middle of the most polluted part of the river," Katers said. "What it will do is demonstrate a mess." She said her group favors Superfund designation and more comprehensive cleanup efforts. "We want it done right," Katers said. "That's the simple message.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
Copyright 1999
Wednesday, June 16, 1999
News

Environmentalists criticize Fox sludge panel
Too few outsiders at table, group says;
DNR contends body isn't making policy

MEG JONES

Journal Sentinel staff

An environmental group is criticizing the makeup of a new state committee created to discuss the cleanup of contaminated sediment in the Fox River because there are no public interest groups on the panel.

The Contaminated Sediment Advisory Committee, which met for the first time last week in Madison, comprises industry officials and representatives of companies that have contributed to polluting the Fox River, said Rebecca Katers, executive director of the Clean Water Action Council of Northeastern Wisconsin. "This is not how our government should be operating. They should be balanced in their representation on their committees. They didn't even try to balance this committee," Katers said Tuesday.

Representatives on the 23-member committee include two paper companies identified as potentially being responsible for PCB-tainted contamination of the Fox River, Fort James Corp. and P.H. Glatfelter Corp. Also on the committee are representatives of Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce,

Wisconsin Public Service and Northern States Power, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Natural Resources. The committee does not include any Indian tribal representatives, farmers, homeowners affected by sediment disposal options, or environmental or conservation groups, Katers said.

But an official with the DNR, which appointed committee members, defended the makeup of the group. The committee is a forum for those with an interest in cleaning up contaminated sediment, said Mark Giesfeldt, director of the DNR's Bureau for Remediation and Redevelopment. "This is not to change decisions on any site. It's an opportunity for people who have been involved in sediment issues for some time to come together and talk about it openly," he said. Giesfeldt said environmental groups are welcome, but Katers said her organization has no intention of joining.

"At this point, we don't want to (join) because it is so much a biased committee, we would simply be token members," Katers said.

Giesfeldt disagreed. "It's unfortunate that she views it this way," he said. "She also had the impression that we're writing (sediment cleanup) rules. No, we're not writing rules."

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Monday, June 21, 1999
Vol. 242, No. 24

NEWS SITE

FOX RIVER CLEANUP'S NEXT STEP

STATE AND FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL agencies have waded slowly into a plan to clean up one of the most contaminated rivers in the Great Lakes region, but now the pace may be accelerating. A second pilot project will be conducted this summer to remove polychlorinated biphenyls from the Lower Fox River in eastern Wisconsin after last year's initial effort.

"This is one of the worst [PCB] sites around," says James Hahnenberg, project manager in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Chicago regional headquarters. "We know we're losing hundreds of pounds [of

PCB-laced soil] into
Green Bay" annually. The Lower Fox, a 39-mile stretch of river that drains
northeasterly into Lake Michigan, was primarily contaminated by paper mill
discharges beginning in the late 1950s. While most discharges ceased in the
early the 1970s, now-banned PCBs persist in river sediments. The U.S. Fish and
Wildlife Service, as part of a natural resource damage assessment, released a
report in May that confirms Fox River PCBs are still causing injuries to birds
in the region.

The Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources also has completed a study evaluating
several cleanup techniques, including dredging and land disposal used on the two
pilot projects. Project manager Ed Lynch says final design could be under way in
2000. Boston-based Thermoretec Inc. is lead consultant on the study, which could
lead to a 10-year cleanup program costing from $100 million to $700 million,
says Lynch. The Milwaukee office of Montgomery Watson is leading the 70,000-cu
yd dredging project scheduled for Green Bay this summer.

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Subject: The latest news...
---------- Message Contents

(sorry if you get this twice)

In today's Oshkosh Northwestern: 7/1/99

EPA makes preliminary Fox River proposal.
BY KARL EBERT
OF THE NORTHWESTERN

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency on Wednesday moved one step closer
to recommending a cleanup plan for the Lower Fox River.

The EPA's Chicago Superfund office delivered a preliminary recommendation

for cleaning up Fox River PCB contamination into the hands of its Remedy
Review Board, an in-house body that does internal peer reviews for all
proposed cleanups costing more than $30 million.

Composed of senior Superfund managers and EPA technical staff, the board
meets regularly to review proposed projects for feasibility, cost-effectiveness and consistency with EPA Superfund cleanup policy. The
board will meet next month.

For now, the contents of the proposal are being closely guarded by the
agency.

EPA staff will say only that it closely mirrors work currently being done by
the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

The DNR is now working on revisions to a remedial investigation/feasibility
study, that lays out the extent of PCB contamination in the river, the risks
it poses and cleanup alternatives.

The study includes cleanup options ranging from a $728.3 million
all-dredging solution to a $154.5 million strategy that combines dredging
and capping contaminated sites with sand or rock.

"This is an extension of our internal, informal discussions, and we're not
making it public because we don't want people to misconstrue that anything
we're talking about is a final proposal, because we are not to that point
yet," said James Hahnenberg, the EPA's Superfund project manager for the Fox
River.

A cleanup proposal is expected to be released early next year, followed by a
60-day public comment period.

The Fox River Group of paper companies, seven companies identified as
sources of the contamination, and the Clean Water Action Council, recipients
of an EPA technical assistance grant, will be invited to comment and present
their own proposals.

But those groups also won't be allowed to see the EPA's preliminary plan for
the river.

→ Dennis Hultgren, a spokesman for Appleton Papers, said the Fox River Group
has not yet received details from EPA about how to comment, or to what

issues the group should address its comments.

"We don't have a whole lot of time to work out what kind of comments we're going to submit," he said.

However, Hultgren said the EPA's announcement that its recommendations won't come out until next year is good news for the paper companies because it will allow them to submit data from a test dredging project scheduled to start near DePere in August.

The three-month pilot project is expected to provide additional information about the safety and effectiveness of dredging along the 39-mile stretch of the Fox River targeted for cleanup. The paper industry has long been critical of dredging as a risky and expensive cleanup approach.

→ Hahnenberg said the DNR study and the EPA's proposal are traveling on separate, but roughly parallel tracks.

Still, he said, technical issues and the question of to what extent Green Bay should be included in the state study that need to be hammered out before the agencies efforts can come together in a comprehensive plan.

If that doesn't happen, or if the paper companies don't agree with the proposed cleanup, the Fox would likely be listed as a Superfund site.

"We're hopeful that down the road we'd converge on the same kind of plan," he said. "I'm sure we will because we really don't have any fundamental disagreements with the state. When we do make a proposal, we expect it will be done jointly with the state."

Karl Ebert may be reached at (920) 426-6688.

NEWS RELEASE

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921
Phone: 608/267-7404 TDD: 608/267-6897

FOR RELEASE: August 4, 1999
CONTACT: Bruce Baker – (608) 266-1902

SUBJECT: **Lower Fox River Natural Resource Damage Assessment Plan available for review**

MADISON, Wis. – The state is asking people to review and comment on a plan for the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) of the Lower Fox River. An NRDA identifies and quantifies potential injuries to natural resources and determines actions and costs to restore contaminated sites. The parties responsible for contamination and injuries must pay for the losses and help restore the natural resources through funding or direct action. A plan ensures that the NRDA is performed in a thorough and systematic manner at a reasonable cost.

The NRDA is one mechanism to restore natural resources (fish, wildlife, land, water, etc.) that have been injured by hazardous substances. Injuries may include death or destruction of natural resources and may also include the loss of resource availability to the public, which can occur when fish and wildlife become too contaminated to eat safely.

Under Wisconsin's Constitution and laws, the state has jurisdiction and serves as trustee over natural resources within its borders (state-lead resources). As the authorized trustee, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will assess damages, resulting from polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination of the Lower Fox River system.

The NRDA is being funded by the Fox River Group of paper companies (comprised of Appleton Papers, Inc., Fort James Corporation, NCR Corporation, P.H. Glatfelter Company, Riverside Paper Corporation, U.S. Paper Mills Corporation, and Wisconsin Tissue Mills, Inc.) through a 1997 agreement with the State of

Wisconsin.

The NRDA plan is available for public review at libraries from Oshkosh to Door County. The plan will also be posted on the DNR website at http://www.dnr.state.wi.us within the next couple weeks. Written comments will be accepted until September 7, 1999 and may be sent to Mr. Greg Hill, Wisconsin DNR, WT/2, 101 S. Webster Street, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921.

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