

# **SDMS US EPA REGION V -1**

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NEWS CLIPPINGS - LOWER FOX RIVER, WI

1993 - PRESENT



# **Fox Clips**

**July 28 through August 4, 1998**

**Appleton Post-Crescent, GB Press Gazette, GB News Chronicle**

This is a good set of clips -- based on these articles, the tide appears to be turning (in our favor!).

## **Highlights:**

- ✓ the stigma isn't Superfund, it is the dirty river
- ✓ Thompson indicates negotiations may be more fruitful next year
- ✓ future of Appleton Paper's carbonless copy industry in trouble
- ✓ "secret meetings" w/PRPs not going over very well w/public
- ✓ more articles on PCB and health meeting, including interviews
- ✓ WISPERG backs Superfund
- ✓ nice story about Tim Fields; interview w/Tim Fields
- ✓ story about 1940s proponent of the Fox

## **Quotes of the Week:**

"Fox Valley's failure to act is the shame of being a Superfund candidate," Roger Pitt, Appleton Post Crescent"

"We see the EPA-lead Superfund as a measure of last resort. It's not like we need the business,"  
Jim Hahenberg

*Bri*

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## **Routing:**

**Milt Clark (SR-6J)**  
**Shirley Dorsey/Mary Canavan (P-19J)**  
**Pete Felitti (CA-14J)**  
**Jim Hahnenberg (SR-6J)**  
**Elissa Speizman (P-19J)**  
**Dave Ullrich (R-19J)**

cc: Sue Pastor, Mick Hans (articles are in the book)

# **Fox Clips**

**August 4 through August 27, 1998**

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

We are doing OK in this set of clips -- DNR takes a few punches, however.

## **Highlights:**

- √ skepticism that pilot 56/57 can be done without bias
- √ RAP's Science Advisory Committee fights back against misleading FRG comments
- √ Lake Michigan Federation supports S\$ listing in a recent report
- √ comments being accepted on Corp's proposal to close and fill locks
- √ 1 article on NPL availability session (more to come later on these meetings)
- √ lots on the implications of BFI pulling out of the PCB landfill contract
- √ allegations of campaign contributions impacting Gov. Thompson and DNR
- √ research looking into impacts of PCBs on frogs
- √ Lt. Gov. McCallum lashes out at EPA for "wasting money"
- √ allegations of "doublespeak" by Tim Fields (resident editorial in Post-Crescent)

## **Quotes of the Week:**

"EPA: Waiting on Fox like 'Russian Roulette'," Green Bay News Chronicle, Jim Hahnenberg

*Bri*

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## **Routing:**

**Milt Clark (SR-6J)**  
**Shirley Dorsey/Mary Canavan (P-19J)**  
**Roger Grimes (CA-14J)**  
**Jim Hahnenberg (SR-6J)**  
**Brenda Jones (SR-6J)**  
**Toni Lesser (P-19J)**  
**Elissa Speizman (P-19J)**  
**Dave Ullrich (R-19J)**

cc: Sue Pastor, Mick Hans (articles are in the book)

# **Fox Clips - Vol. 3**

**August 28 through September 8, 1998**

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

## **Highlights:**

- ✓ Agreement to sell 23 ½ acres of riverfront to nature preserve - FRG pays
- ✓ Enviro blast SMU 56/56 project - "sweetheart" deal, discharges of toxics, resuspension issues
- ✓ Study shows eagle reproduction impacted by lack of food, not chemicals
- ✓ editorial re: RETEC conflict of interest
- ✓ Chilton County landfill a future possibility for PCB sludge
- ✓ Other toxics being discharged from the Fox
- ✓ Lake Michigan Federation supports Superfund
- ✓ Feds polluters - should help pay clean-up costs
- ✓ Lt. Gov. McCallum lashes out at EPA for "wasting money"
- ✓ allegations of "doublespeak" by Tim Fields (resident editorial in Post-Crescent)

## **Quotes of the Week:**

Nothing notable, though Jim, Bri and Brenda were all quoted.

*Bri*

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## **Routing:**

**Milt Clark (SR-6J)/Brenda Jones (SR-6)**  
**Shirley Dorsey/Mary Canavan (P-19J)**  
**Roger Grimes (CA-14J)**  
**Jim Hahnenberg (SR-6J)**  
**Toni Lesser (P-19J)/Elissa Speizman (P-19J)**  
**Bill Muno (S-6J)**  
**Dave Ullrich (R-19J)**  
**Sue Pastor (P-19J), Mick Hans (P-19J)**

# **Fox Clips - Vol. 4**

**September 15 through October 11, 1998**

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

The Appleton-Post Crescent 80-page special edition is out but not included in the clips. We are trying to get extras if you would like one.

## **Highlights:**

- ✓ PCBs don't leak in landfills; WI design standards high
- ✓ GAO report on S\$; Superfund money, not ideas have run short
- ✓ historical accounts of the rivers history; cultural essays; issues about the locks and dams
- ✓ EPA receives record numbers of comments on the NPL
- ✓ Winnebago County considering accepting PCB waste; Chilton county doesn't want it
- ✓ reports on the LWV clean-up forum
- ✓ "DNR on the Run," from the Madison-based Isthmus

## **Quotes of the Month:**

"Could a drop of water go through a landfill? Sure. But what's the significance of that? At a micro-enough level, your dinner plate leaks." (Kevin Kessler, DNR)

"(PCBs) are not quite like bubblegum, but they really stick to those fine clay particles..." (Brett Hulsey, Sierra Club)

"Together, they adopted the name Fox River Group. 'It's better than being called the Fox River Seven.'" (Dennis Hultgren, FRG)

"Letting the government go with Superfund is like letting your kid have your Mastercard. You have no control over the spending." (John Cappell, President of UPIU Local 469). Groan....

Referring to the NPL listing package, "It is a very complete, comprehensive and scientific evaluation done by people who are highly competent." (Jim Hahnenberg)

*Bri*

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## **Routing:**

**Milt Clark (SR-6J)/Brenda Jones (SR-6)**

**Shirley Dorsey/Mary Canavan (P-19J)**

**Roger Grimes (CA-14J)**

**Jim Hahnenberg (SR-6J)**

**Mick Hans (P-19J)**

**Toni Lesser (P-19J)**

**Bill Muno (S-6J)**

**Sue Pastor (P-19J)**

**Elissa Speizman (P-19J)**

**Dave Ullrich (R-19J)**

# **Fox Clips - Vol. 5**

**October 14 through November 15, 1998**

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

## **Highlights:**

- √ Standard-setting underway to allow spreading of low-level PCBs on agric fields; citizen advisory committee being established
- √ EPA's \$50,000 TAG grant available to community groups
- √ Dredging pilot project delays
- √ Report on DNR's small group discussions with residents
- √ Pros and cons to locals maintaining lock systems
- √ NCR tries push through omnibus bill, removing liability for companies that only *arrange* for recycling to occur; gov and DNR fight it and it dies
- √ Public meetings re: Chilton County landfill; residents opposed to it accepting PCBs
- √ Winnebago County considers taking PCBs
- √ Compliments on the Post-Crescent special insert, including EPA's letter to the editor
- √ Zebra mussel found in Glatfelter power canal; first confirmed presence of mussel in the Fox

## **Quotes of the Month:**

Nothing notable

*Bri*

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## **Routing:**

**Milt Clark (SR-6J)/Brenda Jones (SR-6)**

**Shirley Dorsey/Mary Canavan (P-19J)**

**Roger Grimes (CA-14J)**

**Jim Hahnenberg (SR-6J)**

**Mick Hans (P-19J)**

**Toni Lesser (P-19J)**

**Bill Muno (S-6J)**

**Sue Pastor (P-19J)**

**Elissa Speizman (P-19J)**

**Dave Ullrich (R-19J)**

# **Fox Clips - Vol. 6**

**November 16 to December 3, 1998**

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

## **Highlights:**

- √ Deposit N start-up
- √ Pros and cons to locals maintaining lock systems
- √ Winnebago County approves accepting PCBs from pilot projects
- √ Appleton Papers CEO resigns
- √ Riverside Paper sells of Eco Fibre

## **Quotes of the Month:**

"Superfund does not automatically mean a cleanup of the river. It could mean very large fines....all that money would be taken out of the state and could be used to build boardwalks in the (Florida) Everglades or anything else the EPA has in mind." Bill Fitzpatrick, DNR

[Yes, the DNR press people have already yelled at Bill about that remark.]

*Bri*

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**Routing: (if your name is next to someone's, pls share)**

**Milt Clark (SR-6J)/Brenda Jones (SR-6)**

**Shirley Dorsey/Mary Canavan (R-19J)/Phil Hoffman**

**Roger Grimes (CA-14J)**

**Jim Hahnenberg (SR-6J)**

**Mick Hans (P-19J)/Sue Pastor (P-19J0)**

**Toni Lesser (P-19J)/Elissa Speizman**

**Bill Muno (S-6J)**

**Dave Ullrich (R-19J)**

# **Fox Clips - Vol. 7**

**December, 1998 - January 22, 1999**

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

**Includes several press releases and newsletters.**

## **Highlights:**

- √ - Deposit N closes up for the winter; preliminary dredging results
- √ Paper company reports find no links to PCBs and a sarcastic citizen editorial
- √ Winnebago County backs down on taking PCB sludge
- √ Fox story on top 10 list of stories for 1998
- √ Results of FWS public meeting - report finds PCB damage heavy
- √ Several articles regarding TAG grant
- √ Dave and George shovel sediment - Deposit N kick-off
- √ Fox serves as a great walleye fishery

## **Quotes of the Month:**

*Bri*

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**Routing: (if your name is next to someone's, pls share)**

**Milt Clark (SR-6J)/Brenda Jones (SR-6)**

**Shirley Dorsey/Mary Canavan (R-19J)/Phil Hoffman**

**Roger Grimes (CA-14J)**

**Jim Hahnenberg (SR-6J)**

**Mick Hans (P-19J)/Sue Pastor (P-19J0)**

**Toni Lesser (P-19J)/Elissa Speizman**

**Bill Muno (S-6J)**

**Dave Ullrich (R-19J)**

# **Fox Clips - Vol. 8**

**February 1, 1999 - February 11, 1999**

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

**An interesting and diverse set of clips this month.**

## **Highlights:**

- ✓ Deposit N preliminary results out – with mixed reviews
- ✓ Several articles take a look at the Fox/Crandon Mine repositories and S\$ public comments
- ✓ "The River As We See It" - AP's full page ad
- ✓ The Press Gazette calls for the mills to fork over money to conduct 56/57
- ✓ Wayne Disposal (MI landfill) has had some PCB detections
- ✓ Who's model is best - the government's or the mill's?
- ✓ Paper workers say their voice is ignored
- ✓ Paper worker's union heads to DC

## **Quote of the Month:**

**"Paper Company Report Finds no PCB-Cancer Link" - That's a good one; what's next; PCBs are actually part of a balanced breakfast?", Green Bay resident**

*Bri*

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**Routing: (if your name is next to someone's, pls share)**

**Milt Clark (via mail to Kansas)**

**Brenda Jones (SR-6)**

**Shirley Dorsey/Mary Canavan (R-19J)/Phil Hoffman**

**Roger Grimes (CA-14J)**

**Jim Hahnenberg (SR-6J)**

**Mick Hans (P-19J)/Sue Pastor (P-19J0)**

**Toni Lesser (P-19J)/Elissa Speizman**

**Bill Muno (S-6J)**

**Dave Ullrich (R-19J)**



# **Fox Clips - Vol. 10**

**May 14 - June 7, 1999**

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

I understand the last stack of clips was taxing to even the most dedicated reader. By popular demand, I will "filter" so you can start and *finish* the clips on the train ride home or during your mid-morning cup of coffee. I'll continue to keep the full set of clips in the binders in my cube.

- √ Pulp and Paper Mill violators of the Clean Air Act not routinely fined
- √ Fort James landfill - neighbors are crying NIMBY
- √ Realtors call for an economic study
- √ Glatfelter teams up with Minergy to dispose of sludge
- √ U.S. FWS bird injury report highlights
- √ Hmong not getting fish contamination message

*Bri*

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**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)**

# **Fox Clips - Vol. 11**

**June/July 1999**

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

- √ Reaction to the Remedy Review Board news release
- √ Reaction to "Sensible Solutions..."
- √ Mills donate money to preserve wetlands - part of State/Company agreement
- √ Clean Water Action Council slams DNR re: Sediment Advisory Committee
- √ CWAC slams Fort James proposal
- √ New DNR Director for Green Bay area office
- √ GAO Report reports little of Superfund money goes toward cleanup

*Bri*

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**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)**

*Mick: read & return.*

*Bri*

# **Fox Clips - Vol. 12**

**June 8 - July 16, 1999**

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

- ✓ National Academy of Science is coming to town
- ✓ "Draft Fox Cleanup Plan is Submitted for Secret Review" - now who predicted this headline?
- ✓ "Sensible Solutions" is refuted by Hahnenberg, Jones, Baker
- ✓ SMU 56/57 to begin dredging in August

*Bri*

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**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)**

*Sue, Mike:  
return to Bri for filing.  
B*

Appium Test-Crescent

"We believe that the Fox River is restoring itself." ■ Mark Reimer, Fort James Corp. attorney

# Meeting dredges up contrasts



the.....  
future  
of the  
FOX  
river

By Ed Culhane  
Post-Crescent staff writer

GREEN BAY - The 70 people who attended a public meeting on an industry-funded PCB dredging project in the Fox River heard contrasting views Wednesday from state regulators who are managing the project and the paper companies who are paying for it.

William Fitzpatrick, the Department of Natural Resources engineer leading this project and a second, government-funded dredging project scheduled for this fall at Kimberly, responded crisply

**'We're not out here playing,' DNR official says as paper companies claim there are large gaps in the government's science**

when asked by one audience member why plans for the dredging project were not submitted for independent review by university scientists and other experts associated with earlier river studies.

"This is not an experiment by any means," he said. "We are not out here playing." He added that he prefers to call them pilot projects rather than demonstration projects.

Under a 1997 agreement with the DNR and the state Justice Department, the paper companies, known as the Fox River Group, agreed to provide \$8 million for a dredging project - designed to provide current information, specific to the 39-mile lower Fox River - on the cost and viability of large-scale environ-

Please see RIVER, A-8



**BILL FITZPATRICK**, Wisconsin DNR sediment remediation engineer and project manager for demonstration projects, address the crowd at Wednesday's forum at the Brown County Library.

Post-Crescent photo by Dan Powers

## RIVER: PCB meeting puts state regulators, paper companies at odds over the science

From A-1

mental dredging.

Mark Reimer, an attorney for the Fort James Corp., said the paper companies are cooperating with the DNR, and support the concept of river remediation, but disagree with both state and federal regulators about the extent of the problem and the scope of the proposed cleanup. He said there are large gaps in government science.

In addition to the \$8 million to be spent on dredging, he said, other industry funds were made available to enhance the sophisticated computer models that will predict how quickly dredging, or other remediation technologies, will restore the water to levels of cleanliness safe for fish, wild animals and people.

"We believe these enhancements will demonstrate that the Fox River is restoring itself, and that levels of contamination in fish tissues are declining at a much faster rate, than was presented here today," he said.

Paper company officials have long argued that leaving a significant portion of the contaminated sediments in place, and allowing the river to deposit cleaner sediments on top of them, is a reasonable approach to the problem, given the incredible cost of large-scale dredging, a cost that will likely reach into the hundreds of millions of dollars.

The Fox River Group, made up of P.H. Glatfelter Co., Riverside Paper Corp., Appleton Papers Inc.,



**DON HAYFORD** of Appleton listens intently during Wednesday's meeting.

Fort James Corp., U.S. Paper Mills Corp., Wisconsin Tissue Mills, and NCR Corp., a former owner of Appleton Papers, once discharged tons of the long-lasting chemicals into the river, before PCBs were linked to deformities in wild animals in the early 1970s.

James also told the audience that the willingness of his company to provide not only money, but riverfront land and a vacant building for the treatment of those sediments, testified to the Fox River Group's commitment to the project. Dredging could begin in October.

Fitzpatrick said environmental dredging is a proven technology

that has been successful at many other locations. He showed charts that dramatized massive drops in fish tissue contamination after DNR dredging projects elsewhere.

"This is not rocket science," he said. "It is careful engineering and careful planning."

He said dredging at Sediment Management Unit 56-57, the site of one of the highest concentrations of PCBs, will remove 3 to 4 percent of the PCBs in the entire 39-mile stretch of the lower Fox River.

He said this section of sediment releases 4 pounds of PCBs a year into the Fox River. The chemical is so harmful that its toxicity is measured — depending on where you find it — in parts per million, billion or even trillion.

"When this is done, you will not see that type of exposure," he said.

Fitzpatrick also hinted that dredging may not stop once the demonstration project is completed.

He was asked about reports that Gov. Tommy Thompson is negotiating a cleanup deal with the paper companies.

"There are discussions about increasing the amount of money available on an interim basis, and on expanding the dredging," he said.

Under this scenario, the paper mills could offer additional funds to allow the cleanup to proceed without immediately committing to a plan for the entire river, a cleanup effort that could take 15 to 20 years.

The industry-funded dredging



**CONCERNED FOR THE SAFETY OF HIS FAMILY**, riverfront homeowner Tom Detsart of Green Bay (left) poses a question about river remediation prior to a meeting in Green Bay Wednesday.

project was greeted with skepticism here Wednesday by some individuals who said they didn't trust the corporations.


"I have been fighting for 35 years for the cleanup of this river," said Bob Schmitz of Green Bay. "But I am extremely opposed to this

demonstration project by this group."

Many of the questions from the audience dealt with the technical nature of the cleanup — questions about where the PCBs were most concentrated and on the safety of putting them in landfills.

Fitzpatrick said state-licensed landfills were the best technology known for long-term isolation of contaminated sediments. Other technologies designed to destroy the PCBs have too many problems associated with them to be effective on a project of this scale, he said.

8/23/98

the  
**Silver pen** 

## An easier way to clean the Fox River

**Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:**

One way or another, we need to clean up the Fox. We owe that to the future. How about a solution that will benefit the public and not drain the coffers.

Of all the opinions, there is one common tidbit that all the know-it-alls agree on: PCBs are consumed by the bottom feeding fish. And we dare not consume these PCB-laden fish, or we too shall perish ahead of our time.

So, why not plant about a kabillion carp in the river, along with the PCB-bellied fish already there. Let them eat to their bellies' content, devouring tons of the deadly compounds. We could even go a step further, to make the carp bigger and faster, so they can eat more quicker. Dump tons of corn in the river to fatten 'em up. (Seems the farmers will have a corn surplus this year.)

Now, sit back, relax, take a year or two off from

fishing the Fox while the carp do their thing. Then let the games begin!

For each PCB carp turned in, a \$1 bounty is paid. We'd fill our buckets and our wallets catching carp. Think of all the people who'd gain: bait dealers, boat rentals, tackle shops, weigh-in stations, etc. And the recreation it would create for the fisherman who could catch-and-reward from our *carpel* tunnel harvest of fish. Haul the sickly carp to the landfills. Let nature do it's own house cleaning at a much more nominal cost.

This is the man that caught the fish, that ate the PCBs, that cleaned the Fox, that saved the cash, that helped the farmers, that helped the kids, that flourished the mills, that...

**Clarence Witz,**  
Neenah

P.S.: Just hoping we could add a little humor to the situation.



## Calumet County could be PCB home

Editor, *The Post-Crescent* 8/23/98

The recent story detailing BFI's "surprise" announcement concerning its withdrawing the Sanora landfill for PCB-contaminated dredgings, should be no surprise. I broke the story three months ago telling you exactly where the PCB dredgings will be buried.

The Sanora landfill was just a

diversion to thwart any local opposition to burying PCBs under farmland in Calumet County. The landfill for the PCB dredgings will be and has always been Superior Services Hickory Meadows Landfill in the Town of Chilton, near Hilbert.

So why did BFI withdraw at this particular time? The Chilton Town Board has rejected a lowball tipping fee offer from Superior Services, thus halting construction at the landfill. With BFI withdrawing its landfill, Superior has the next lowest bid, but for their Eau Claire facility. Superior's next move is to offer the DNR a lower PCB disposal rate, if they could use their Calumet County location. Superior claim's the Town Board is holding up construction by not accepting the tipping fee being offered. This is nothing more than a plan to pressure the Town Board into accepting the lowball tipping fee.

What I find very intriguing is that when Superior accepts PCB dredgings at Hickory Meadows, they can possibly increase their profits at this landfill by at least \$5 million per year. And, they are quibbling over a few pennies per

ton tipping fee.

My opposition to this is simple. The PCB problem is not being solved, just multiplied. Everyone is whipped up into such a frenzy, they can't see the truth. The river will never be 100 percent free from PCB contamination, and now we will also have the problem in Calumet County.

Wes Kupeky,  
Chilton



# Eau Claire site will take PCBs

Company's acceptance of state contract solves problem of Fox River contaminant disposal

by Doug Erickson  
Post-Crescent staff writer

8/22/98

Milwaukee-based Superior Services said Friday it intends to accept a state contract to dispose of up to 100,000 tons of PCB-contaminated dried sediment from the lower Fox River and two other sites.

The company will use only its landfill near Eau Claire, not one in Horicon as once proposed, it said.

The development solves a problem for the Department of Natural Resources, which suffered a setback when original low-bidder Browning-Ferris Industries backed out of landfilling the waste two

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weeks ago.

Dredging operations slated for this fall in Kimberly and De Pere

could have been affected had a suitable landfill not been found.

The DNR has notified Superior Services that it is the next lowest bidder, but the contract won't become final until the close of a 30-day public comment period. A public meeting to discuss disposal and transportation plans is set for Sept. 16 in Eau Claire.

Officials with Browning-Ferris Industries were secretive about

their reasons for pulling out, saying only that they "couldn't get comfortable as a corporation with accepting the waste."

Alan Albee of Superior Services said his company has no such qualms.

"We believe our landfills are adequately designed to properly contain the material," said Albee, general manager at Superior Seven

Please see PCBs, BACK PAGE

## PCBs: Eau Claire site accepts contaminated soil from the Fox River

From A-1

Mile Creek Landfill near Eau Claire.

Although Superior Services once said a landfill in Horicon could be used, it now is proposing only the Eau Claire site.

"We have no intent (of using Horicon) unless the DNR directs otherwise," said Scott Cramer, general counsel for the company.

Neighbors near the Horicon landfill have long been fighting an expansion of it that is unrelated to the PCB issue. That opposition didn't come into play with Superior Services' decision, said spokesman Rich Chianelli.

"It was more a question of logistics, a question of the company feeling (Eau Claire) was the best place to put it," he said.

The company has more immediate capacity at its Eau Claire landfill than at Horicon, Chianelli said.

"In order to meet the urgency the state expressed, that was our best option," he said. "The state wants it to happen this year."

The coordinator of the DNR's Fox River cleanup operation downplayed Friday the difficulty the agency faced in finding another landfill.

"It put us back a week or so," said William Fitzpatrick. "We're still in line for this year."

Disposal of the waste could begin as early as October, he said. Superior Services' bid of \$80 per ton is 30 percent higher than that of the low bidder. The higher disposal cost means less sediment will be extracted during the \$7 million dredging project near Green Bay, Fitzpatrick said.

PCBs were widely used in the making of carbonless paper and other products until the U.S. government banned their manufacture in 1977. Seven paper companies have been identified as potentially responsible for paying for the cleanup because they discharged the man-made chemicals into the Fox River. At the time, it was legal to do so.

Under an agreement reached with the state, those seven companies have agreed to pay \$10 million to begin the process of cleaning up the PCBs. Included in that figure is money for the two dredging demonstration projects.

The contract with Superior Services also would include the disposal of PCB sediment from the Sheboygan River Superfund site and the Jordan Creek Pine Creek site in New Holstein.

The DNR and Superior Services will host an open house from 2 to 6 p.m. and a public information meeting from 7 to 9 p.m. Sept. 16 in the Seymour Town Hall, 6500 Tower Drive, Eau Claire. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 will hold two informal meetings Sept. 2 to discuss its proposal to add Wisconsin's Lower Fox River to the Superfund National Priorities List. The meetings are 1 to 4 p.m. at Lawrence University's Harper Music Hall, Appleton, and 6 to 9 p.m. at the Brown County Public Library, Rooms 1 and 2, 515 Pine St. Green Bay. Fox Valley residents are invited to meet one-on-one with EPA representatives who will provide information and answer questions on the listing process and the public comment process. There will not be a formal presentation at these meetings.

# Environmentalists want outside look at Fox cleanup process

By Greg Bump  
Post-Crescent staff writer

A group of six environmental groups Thursday called for a full investigation of Gov. Tommy Thompson's activities regarding the Fox River cleanup, alleging he has been influenced by campaign contributions from the paper industry.

Thompson is beholden to paper industry interests when it comes to determining the course of the Fox River cleanup, Rebecca Katers, executive director of the Clean Water Action Council, said at a press conference Thursday at the Appleton Public Library.

Katers announced that the Natural Resource Accountability Project, an informal network of six environmental groups, is calling for an investigation by state and federal officials, a halt of the state's Natural Resource Damage Assessment and immediate cleanup of the sites that contaminate the Fox River.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed listing the Fox River as a Superfund site due to the presence of polychlorinated biphenyls, synthetic chemicals, now banned, used in the manufacture of carbonless paper.

The seven companies that could be held responsible for the cleanup are called the Fox River Group.

Katers said the governor's reelection campaign received \$155,000 from the paper industry from 1991 to 1997. She stated that another \$2.7 million came from paper industry allies and related interests.

"This is clearly an effort to influence the process. These are business people making these donations. They're not going to make them unless there was something for them in return," Katers said.

Bob Wood, manager of the governor's reelection campaign, called the allegations "ridiculous."

Dennis Hultgren of Appleton Papers, spokesman for the Fox River Group, said Wednesday the amount of money given was not excessive given the size of the paper industry in the state and the fact the money was given over a seven year period.

The group is alleging that Thompson "fixed the game" to favor the paper companies by taking control of the state Department of Natural Resources, thwarting EPA efforts to seek enforcement

actions against polluters, eliminating the state Public Intervenor's Office and brokering a \$10 million "sweetheart deal" between the DNR and paper companies that corrupts the department and limits its ability to protect the public.

Under the \$10 million settlement, the companies were allowed to chose independent consultants to do their own Natural Resource Damage Assessment. Katers said that the consultants chosen by the industry have a long track record of representing polluters.

The report cites financial conflicts of interest among the industry consultants who are working along with the paper companies to develop a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study, which is the first step in the federal Superfund process.

For instance, RETEC, a lead consultant on the project, is a subsidiary of Thermo Remediation, a Thermo Electron company. The report states that Thermo Electron also owns Thermo Fibertek, which owns 12 companies that manufacture paper machine accessories, process equipment, recycled fiber equipment and water management systems for paper companies.

One of those 12 companies is Thermo Wisconsin Inc., a Kaukauna-based facility that specializes in drying technologies and incinerators used in the paper industry, the report states.

Another of the companies, Thermo Fibergen, operates GranTek, a Green Bay plant that acquired paper companies' PCB-contaminated wastewater treatment sludge, dries it and sells it to use as inert ingredients in products such as pesticides, fertilizer and kitty litter.

Fort James, one companies in the Fox River Group, is the main provider of the sludge for GranTek.

DNR Secretary George Meyer said Wednesday his agency "would not have approved anyone for consultation who was not credible."

Meyer also questioned the accuracy of the environmental groups' report.

The Natural Resources Accountability Project consists of the Green Bay-based Clean Water Action Council, Wisconsin's Environmental Decade, Northern Thunder, the Sierra Club's John Muir Chapter, the Northwoods Alliance and the Midwest Sierra Club.

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BOTH SIDES AT TIMES MISREPRESENT FACTS  
of issue, says independent advisory panel

# Group debunks river cleanup myths

8/20/98

Joug Erickson  
Post-Crescent staff writer

Paper industry officials and environmentalists alike mislead the public at times by misrepresenting facts about the Fox River cleanup, say two members of an independent advisory committee.

"There are a variety of misstatements coming from a variety of camps," said Bruce Johnson, a member of the Science and Technical Advisory Committee of the Lower Green Bay and Fox River Remedial Action Plan.

The group was formed in 1986 to ad-

vises the various state and federal agencies charged with national resource management after problems were identified in the lower bay of Green Bay.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed listing the lower Fox River on the Superfund cleanup list due to the presence of polychlorinated biphenyls. PCBs are synthetic chemicals, now outlawed, that were used in the man-



JOHNSON

ufacture of carbonless paper. They have been linked to health defects in animals and humans.

Johnson and fellow committee member Hallett J. Harris, chairman of the Natural and Applied Sciences Department at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, met with the editorial board of *The Post-Crescent* Wednesday to "debunk" what they said are some common myths about

Please see RIVER, A-11

**Coalition blasts Gov. Thompson's objectivity in PCB cleanup; see B-1**



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RIVER

## RIVER: Facts about cleanup often get 'misrepresented'

From A-1

the cleanup.

"If we don't say something at this point, it's almost like we're admitting they're correct," said Harris.

They take issue with some of the statements made in the "Fox River Times," a newsletter that was sent to tens of thousands of residents by the Fox River Group. The group represents the seven companies identified as potentially responsible parties for cleaning up PCBs in the lower Fox River.

The impression is sometimes given by the paper industry that there is so much uncertainty over the value of dredging or other remedial options that it may be better to let the river heal itself through natural attenuation, Johnson said.

"Letting nature take its course is nothing more than those PCBs rolling downstream or downwind and becoming someone else's problem," Johnson said. "That's not acceptable."

Johnson also is executive director of Appleton-based Fox-Wolf Basin 2000, a nonprofit organization that works on watershed issues.

"Industry is using uncertainty as an escape," Harris said. "They're hiding behind it. It's very clear from the group we brought together that people feel the science is good. There is more known about this river and PCBs than probably anywhere in the world."

Dennis Hultgren of Appleton

Papers Inc., the spokesman for the Fox River Group, seemed miffed that Johnson and Harris haven't spoken to him about their concerns.

"That newsletter has been out probably three or four months and we haven't heard a thing from them," he said. "We didn't think we'd misrepresented anything."

As for environmentalists, a group of whom Johnson considers himself a member, they sometimes assert that "nothing has happened" in the past 12 years to clean up the river, Johnson said. In fact, much work — studies, research, assessments, meetings — has been done, he said.

Rebecca Katers, executive director of Clean Water Action Council, agrees that much work has been done, but it hasn't led to a concrete cleanup proposal, she said.

"I'm not saying no research has been done," she said. "There's been a lot of research. But it has been 12 years, and we still don't have a plan for a cleanup."

Johnson and Harris also stressed that PCBs are not the only problem facing the Fox River. The loss of wetland habitat, the invasions of non-native species, and the contamination by heavy metals are among other concerns.

"Say we get a lot of the PCBs out of the system," said Johnson. "We may be able to eat the fish, but because of all the other problems, the fish may not have a place to live."

# THE POST-CRESCENT

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OUR VIEWS 8/20/98

## A voice of reason enters the Fox River debate

Just when you thought you'd heard all the evidence about the PCBs in the Fox River, along comes another voice.

It's a voice that we hope gathers an audience before all is said and done in determining the future of our river.

Members of *The PC* editorial board met Wednesday with Bruce Johnson and Prof. Hallett J. Harris, both members of the Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) of the Lower Green Bay and Fox River Remedial Action Plan. The group has been around for a dozen years, charged with advising state and federal agencies on the plethora of environmental concerns - including toxic sediments - in the river and the waters of Green Bay.

As you can read in Doug Erickson's Page A-1 story, Harris and Johnson both take serious issue with the stances of industry and environmental groups in the effort to determine the course of removing PCBs from the waterway.



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While we're a bit puzzled why it took so long for Johnson and Harris, as well as others on the STAC, to let their voices be heard, we are confident that they have something to add to the debate. They have a more holistic approach to mending the river - not just removing PCBs, but removing other chemicals and metals, and restoring the wetlands and shorelands surrounding the river.

Harris, a longtime member of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay Environmental Sciences faculty, and Johnson, executive director of Fox-Wolf Basin 2000, have spent much of

their adult lives studying the river.

They seem to speak for the river and the people who live near it. They have a long-standing commitment to seeing its rebirth, and they stand as the unbiased voices of reason in a battle between industry, government and environmentalists to plot the river's future.

While it may be a bit late in the game for them to come forth with their feelings, we hope the parties at the negotiating table - in Madison, Washington, Appleton or wherever - will take the time to hear Harris and Johnson out, and come to a conclusion that's good for the Fox River, and therefore, good for the rest of us.

# Coalition says Fox cleanup is tainted

Group report claims Thompson is in pocket of paper companies

By Doug Erickson  
Post-Crescent staff writer

8/20/98

Six environmental groups launched an aggressive broadside against Gov. Tommy Thompson today, claiming he's incapable of leading a responsible cleanup of the lower Fox River because he's in the pocket of the paper industry.

In a 16-page report, the groups attempt to show links between large campaign donations to Thompson and long delays in removing contaminants from the river that were discharged by paper mills.

They also document what they say are conflicts of interest between the paper companies and the technical consultants preparing the overall river cleanup plan for the state Department of Natural Resources.

"Thompson fixed the game to favor the paper industry over the people," said lead report writer

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Please see COALITION, B5

## COALITION: Gov. Thompson blasted in group's report

From B-1

Rebecca Katers of the Green Bay-based Clean Water Action Council. "He's not looking out for the public interest."

Bob Wood, manager of Thompson's re-election campaign, called the allegations "ridiculous."

"No one has shown the kind of leadership that he has to bring the parties together to avoid costly litigation, while at the same time protecting our environment and hundreds of good-paying jobs for Wisconsin families," Wood said.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed listing the lower Fox River on the Superfund cleanup list due to the presence of polychlorinated biphenyls. PCBs are synthetic chemicals, now outlawed, that were used in the manufacture of carbonless paper.

Seven companies, jointly called the Fox River Group, have been identified as potentially responsible parties for the cleanup costs.

According to the environmental groups, Thompson received \$45,029 in campaign contributions from executives, leaders and Political Action Committees of those seven companies 1990-97.

The companies and their donations: Fort Howard Corp. (now Fort James), \$32,335; Wisconsin Tissue Mills, \$4,995; AT&T (owned NCR Corp.), \$4,349; U.S. Paper Mills Corp., \$3,000; Riverside Paper Corp., \$250; Appleton Papers Inc., \$100; and P.H. Glatfelter Co., \$0.

Dennis Hultgren of Appleton Papers, spokesman for the Fox River Group, said he doesn't find the figures excessive given the size of the paper industry in the state.

"I think the six paper companies represent about 10,000 employees just in Wisconsin," he said. "That's not very much money over a period of seven years."

More telling, said Katers, is that Thompson received \$155,000 from the paper industry in general during those years, and another \$2.7 million from paper industry allies and other interests, many of whom oppose cleanup of the Fox River.

"To me, that's a shocking amount of money," she said. "And Thompson's policies seem to follow the money."

The report lists several examples that environmentalists say bolster their case, including Thompson's:

- Elimination in 1995 of the Wisconsin Public Intervenor Office, which was investigating the actions of the state DNR on the cleanup issue, according to Katers.

- Promotion of a \$10 million confidential agreement with the paper companies that "corrupts" the DNR by limiting its ability to protect the public, according to Katers.

- Formation of the Fox River Coalition in 1992 to find voluntary solutions to the cleanup. Katers calls the coalition a "farce," saying it is dominated by paper industry representatives.

Wood denies that campaign contributions have affected Thompson's actions concerning the Fox River.

"They've had absolutely zero impact or influence over the process," he said.

The environmentalists also claim that paper industry consultants have been foisted upon the DNR and are assisting the state in coming up with its cleanup plan even though they have vested interests.

"These consultants have a long history of defending the polluters in court and helping them fight to limit their cleanup costs," Katers said.

DNR Secretary George Meyer said his department "would not have approved anyone for consulting who was not credible."

He called much of the information in the report "inaccurate."

In addition to Clean Water Action Council, the environmental groups are Citizens for a Better Environment, Environmentally Concerned Citizens of the Lakeland Area, Northern Thunder, the Sierra Club and Wisconsin's Environmental Decade.

**Some details missed  
in PCB meeting coverage** 8/18/98

GREEN BAY — I find no fault with the things reported in a July 28 article on a PCB meeting in Kimberly, but I think some salient parts of the meeting were left underreported.

Theo Colburn led us through a long convoluted presentation on the dangers of PCBs, as she sees them. However, I did hear Colburn respond to some questions towards the end of the night that "this is all theory, conjecture, and none of it is proven, and in fact it may never be proven because it would require direct research on human subjects." I salute Colburn for her honesty. I laud her for her moral and scientific integrity.

Also, as reported, we heard from Chris DeRosa who told us about various reports covering studies that highlight the potential toxicity of PCBs to humans. He concluded, "the weight of numerous studies" (a so-called meta-analysis) lead him to the conclude that PCBs are a danger to the people of the Fox River Valley.

What was not reported was DeRosa's meta-analysis testimony done for the Environmental Protection Agency concerning the carcinogenic properties of ETS (environmental tobacco smoke) trial. The hearing held in District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina under Judge William L. Osteen reported out on July 17. On page 64 of that report, the judge rejected DeRosa meta-analysis as tainted.

It was described as "cherry picking among reports," which results in selecting studies that favor the EPA's position but ignores studies that are unfavorable. Not a very favorable report

on DeRosa's scientific objectivity.

Could one conclude, once a cherry picker for the EPA, always a cherry picker? Perhaps DeRosa should be invited back to Wisconsin. Door County is always short of help during the season.

Questionable evidence is a poor basis for making a billion dollar decision. Remember the strong position the EPA took on Alar.

Thomas B. Furman, Green Bay

8/18/98

*the*  
**Silver pen**

# Superfund would have profound impact on Valley

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:

For those of you who are opposed to the EPA and the federal government being involved in the cleanup of the Fox River, please look at the bright side. Look at the positive factors. For the last 28 years of living along the Fox, times have been quiet and little change has occurred. For the next eight to 10 years you will see exciting changes.

We will have more Washington-trained federal officials living in the valley. There will be increased employment of litigation experts, dredge operators, truck drivers, water quality experts, landfill operators and environmental activists. To that large percentage of the local population who depend on fish from the Fox River, there will be no restrictions on the amount of fish you can eat. For those of you who don't mind a little

The Silver Pen is The Post-Crescent's "Letter of the Day." There is no award for it, other than being set aside from the other letters. It recognizes good writing, cogent thought and persuasive argument. The same parameters that apply to all other letters apply to "The Silver Pen" letter.

silt, farm waste, lawn fertilizer, street salt, and city treatment plant outfall you will be able to swim and run your jet skis to your heart's content.

Quality control of the cleanup operation should be no problem. I am sure the EPA and the Corps of Engineers will be able to free up people as soon the Hudson River

cleanup and the Florida Everglades problems have been solved.

Even Greenpeace and the Sierra Club may be able to spare additional experts to monitor progress and stage demonstrations when progress is slow.

Other benefits will include the reduction of health care costs for "The Valley" when the PCBs are gone and for those of you who oppose change, the river will not look greatly different than it does now. Also, costs will not be excessive.

There will be the loss of one or two valley employers, a few paper mill jobs, and the cost to taxpayers will not exceed the equivalent of one congressional special council investigation.

**D.W. Einspahr,**  
Appleton



8/18/98

## Industry will pay to clean its mess

I'm an anti-PCB, pro-Superfund, clean-up-the-river person. I believe there are more of us than those who accept the Fox River the way it is — a toxic waste dump.

Industry has so much power over the public and our politicians that it thought it could get away without cleaning the mess it made. Now the public and environmentalists are putting a lot of pressure on industry to clean it up.

Millions of dollars have been spent already on research to figure out what's wrong with the river and how to clean it up. Hydraulic dredging and thermal treatments — I mean like super-duty, tough work — they're going to pay for, because they destroyed our river and don't want to clean it up.

**Anthony Fasano**  
Green Bay



# DNR test OK'd for PCBs into Fox River

Minute quantities will be discharged to help with a dredging plan

By Ed Culhane  
Post-Crescent staff writer

8/16/98

**LITTLE CHUTE** - There was no public comment at a hearing this past week on a wastewater discharge permit the state Department of Natural Resources is granting itself as part of the Deposit N demonstration dredging project in the Fox River.

As part of that permit, the DNR will allow itself to discharge minute quantities of PCBs back into the river, rather than spend tens of thousands of dollars to reach levels where PCBs could not be detected.

The project is designed to remove the entire deposit from the river bed - 10,000 cubic yards of sediment laced with toxic PCBs and a host of other contaminants, including arsenic, mercury and dioxins - taking the pollutants out of the aquatic environment and its food chain.

The deposit is estimated to contain 414 pounds of PCBs, enough contamination to make millions of fish unsafe to eat regularly.

The project, which is scheduled to begin this fall, also is designed to give those planning a strategy for cleaning up the entire lower Fox River accurate information on the relative advantages and disadvantages of dredging, both economic and environmental.

During dredging at Deposit N, engineers will pump large quantities of water from the river. Squeezing the water out of sediments so they can be transported to a landfill will generate more water. A third source of water will be any rain that falls on the site during the 40-day project.

Water contained in the dredge slurry will be decanted off the top of a settling tank once a polymer has been added to enhance and speed the settling of solids.

All of the water generated at the site will be treated and returned to the river, at an estimated rate of 360,000 gallons per day. The secondary method of treatment, after settling, will be sand filtration. An

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■ POST-CRESCENT, APPLETON-NEENAH-MENASHA, WIS. ■

## PCBs: DNR gets OK for test in Fox River

From B-1

extremely small number of PCBs will escape capture and will be returned to the river.

The DNR wastewater permit allows the DNR to discharge water containing PCBs at concentrations up to 1.2 parts per billion. As a point of comparison, a paper mill on the river (discharging 365 days a year) would not be allowed to exceed 0.03312 parts per billion.

Even these minute quantities would not be allowed except for the fact that the river already contains PCBs, and industries take in those PCBs when they draw water from the river.

But industries divert their contaminated waters for treatment before discharge, so discharges from paper mills and wastewater treatment plants on the river today do not typically contain PCBs in concentrations that can be measured.

In comparing its treatment options at Deposit N, the DNR concluded that in removing 414 pounds of PCBs from the river it would discharge a little more than a tenth of a pound back into the water using sand filtration.

By adding carbon filtration, at a cost of \$45,000 to \$50,000, it would return six one hundredths of a pound.

In other words, the \$50,000 would result in the removal of no more than a tenth of a pound. By comparison, contaminated sediments upstream will cause an estimated 25 pounds of PCBs to flow past the site during the 40-day dredging period.

The same analysis will be applied to the much larger dredging project scheduled for this fall for deposit 56-57 at Green Bay. That

project is being undertaken by the seven paper companies who once discharged the PCBs into the river, under a partial agreement reached with the DNR in January 1997.

At that site, where engineers plan to remove an estimated 50,000 cubic yards of sediment, and 2,700 pounds of PCBs, the additional filtration, costing \$250,000, would capture about a third of a pound of PCBs.

If the money were spent on additional dredging, that would remove an estimated 82 pounds of PCBs.

An analysis of the permit prepared by Duane Schuettel of the DNR's Bureau of Watershed Man-

agement concludes that although the permits allow PCB discharges at rates higher than would be granted other dischargers on the Fox, they still fall within the guidelines of state and federal law and do not require any special waivers.

■ *Technical information the effluent standards in the permit can be obtained by writing Gary Kincaid, DNR Northeast Field Office, 1125 N. Military Road, Green Bay, Wis. 54307-0448 or by phoning Kincaid at 920-448-5136. It is also available on the Internet at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/ww>.*

Please see PCBs, B-6



## **Enough of studies, it's time to clean**

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*: 8/16/78

Various communities have debated a resolution concerned with cleaning the Fox River. I am not surprised that the Superfund is upon us. The industries along the river have taken the position of not meeting with the DNR regarding the studies and research that \$20 million has generated in the past 12 years.

The resolution that was passed by many political bodies asks that

another \$10 million be spent on more research. We don't need to have any more research done, but we do need to field test some of the ideas that were generated from the initial project.

There are many who feel that if we leave the river alone, the Fox will heal itself; however, the level of PCBs found in fish has not diminished when testing was done to determine the safety of eating fish from this body of water. Fish have greater concentrations in them than when they were first studied. This implies that PCBs are not being contained beneath the sediment as many individuals would have us believe. The DNR has stated that it would take the Fox River 130 to 300 years to cleanse itself.

There are others who feel that if we let industry alone that they would do what is right for our river. It has been claimed by the Sierra Club and Clean Water Inc. that Fort James was putting trace levels of PCBs into our river as late as 1990. This was well after it was illegal to dump PCBs in any waterways.

If the Superfund is to be avoided, then we need to see some progress on this serious issue. Let's begin some small field tests based on the \$20 million of research that has already been gathered before we spend \$10 million more just to study this problem further.

**Forrest "Woody" Weber,**  
Menasha

## Local efforts best <sup>8/16/98</sup> in Fox River cleanup

ALLOUEZ — The federal government through the Environmental Protection Agency is now trying to convince local residents that it will clean up the Fox River if we join Superfund.

Our man in Madison, Tommy Thompson, is very much opposed to Superfund and has not been docile in voicing his opinion. It is his thinking that Superfund is another federal program long on red

tape and mountains of paperwork and short on substance.

Who is right? Well after watching these federal agencies operate like the EPA, OSHA and of course the notorious IRS, I tend to side with Thompson. In spite of the strenuous efforts of local environmental groups, it is my hope that we keep the cleanup in state and area hands. Once you accept assistance from the EPA, it runs the show.

Thompson is recognized throughout the country as one of the best state executives, and he has probably seen some real snafus coming out of Washington.

Superfund is another federal boondoggle. A cooperative effort by state and area leaders in conjunction with industry management is the best approach. Let's stay with Thompson.

Louie Blaser, Allouez

# Fox PCB demonstration project to proceed

DNR working to get another landfill on line for dredging

By Ed Culhane  
Post-Crescent staff writer

8/14/98

GREEN BAY - A public meeting will be held Aug. 26 in Green Bay to explain how a demonstration project scheduled to begin this fall will remove contaminated sediment from a nearby portion of the lower Fox River.

The meeting will run from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Brown County Library, 515 Pine St.

A project overview and schedule will be presented.

"Public input and acceptance are important parts of the Lower Fox restoration, so we're encouraging people to come to the meeting,

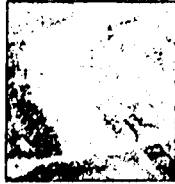
learn more about the removal project, and ask questions," said Bill Fitzpatrick, an engineer with the state Department of Natural Resources.

Completion of the project this fall has been threatened by the 11th-hour withdrawal of the waste handling contractor who originally won the bid to accept PCB-contaminated waste at a state-licensed landfill.

But the meeting will proceed, Fitzpatrick said.

The agency is working to have another landfill on line in time for dredging to begin and end in mild weather.

The project will take place at a 9-acre segment of the river known as Sediment Management Unit 56-57, located downstream of the De Pere Dam about three miles from the river's mouth.



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The deposit contains nearly 3,000 pounds of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), a man-made chemical released by area industries from the 1950s to the 1970s.

PCB concentrations in sediment at this site are among the highest on the river, reaching

levels over 700 parts per million, thousands of times the level considered safe by health experts.

Removing these contaminants will reduce long-term PCB exposure to fish, wildlife and people as well as stemming the movement of

PCBs into Green Bay and Lake Michigan, said Fitzpatrick.

The \$7 million project is being funded by the Fox River Group, a group of seven paper mills that discharged the PCBs, before they were banned, and that could be held responsible for their cleanup.

The project is part of an agreement between the DNR and the companies in January 1997, in which the mills committed \$10 million to sediment demonstration cleanup and ecological restoration projects in the area.

The seven companies are Appleton Papers, Inc., Fort James Corp., NCR Corp., P.H. Glatfelter Co., Riverside Paper Corp., U.S. Paper Mills Corp., and Wisconsin Tissue Mills Inc.

The Fox River Group is conducting the project with Montgomery Watson an engineering

design contracting team hired last summer. Fitzpatrick will oversee the dredging.

Rich Weber of Montgomery Watson will manage the design team.

Contractors plan to use a hydraulic dredge to remove contaminated sediments at SMU 56-57, while isolating the construction area with a silt curtain.

From the dredge, the sediments are sucked into a pipeline which carries them to an on-shore facility where water is separated from the sediment.

The water will be treated to meet discharge permit standards and then returned to the river. The dried sediments will be transported to an approved Wisconsin solid-waste landfill for disposal.

Please see PCBs, B-3

## PCBs: Test project will continue

From B-1

The project managers must seek several permits and approvals from federal, state and local agencies in areas such as dredging, wastewater, air quality and landfill disposal.

Public meetings and public comment periods are a required part of many of these approvals and will offer residents more opportunities to comment, said Fitzpatrick.

The DNR, Fox River Group and Montgomery Watson will distribute a brochure describing the project at local libraries, area businesses and at the meeting.

Advisories warning people to avoid eating contaminated fish from the lower Fox have been in effect along the river since 1976. PCBs from the river and bay also have been linked to reproductive problems in wildlife species living in the area.

PCBs are long-lasting, man-made chemicals once used in electrical equipment and in the manufacture of carbonless papers. The U.S. banned their use in 1977.

PCBs remain widespread throughout the environment, especially in river sediment where fish and aquatic life remain exposed to the chemicals.



## **EPA not reasonable partner in Fox cleanup** 8/11/98

MARINETTE — I have just finished reading the Superfund Q&A with Timothy Fields of the Environmental Protection Agency. The question was asked: "Can the program be streamlined?" The answer revealed two Superfund problems that must be addressed before any reasonable citizen can endorse this process:

1. EPA doubletalk: Fields states that the EPA income from the federal government (the budget) was \$1.46 billion. He further brags that the EPA "enforcement efforts" were leveraged seven times on an enforcement budget of \$141 million. This is a second income to the EPA of \$987 million.

Grade school math says that the EPA income is, therefore, \$1.46 billion plus \$987 million for a sum of \$2.447 billion.

He then states that \$1 billion (72 percent of budget) has been spent on cleanup. However, \$1 billion is only 40.87 percent of the EPA income. The EPA has spent less than 41 percent of its income on cleanup. Should we trust any other figures the EPA comes up with? Think about it.

2. The EPA emphasis on "enforcement." This requires litigation to determine blame. It must be clear here that there is no blame to be determined. The mills were producing legitimate products using legal materials (and, we might note, recycling, which is now the holy grail of environmentalism). They stopped when the PCB hazard was discovered.

The billion-dollar cleanup cost is about equivalent to five new mills. Should that be levied against our industry? Think about that and the mill jobs it will affect.

I would like to see the Fox River cleaned up as much as anyone. There must be citizen, state and federal input. The mills have already indicated their willingness to help. A reasonable plan must be developed, but the EPA is not a reasonable partner in this process.

**Kenneth Exworthy, Marinette**

# PCB dredging suffers setback

By Ed Culhane  
Post-Crescent staff writer

8/11/98

The first two dredging operations ever approved for the PCB-contaminated Fox River have been dealt an unexpected setback.

Browning-Ferris Industries - the waste handling company that offered the lowest bid for the combined projects and that recently agreed to accept 100,000 cubic yards of dredged sediments from these and two other sites - has backed out of the deal.

Officials with the state Department of

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## Low-bid waste company backs out of an agreement to accept PCB-contaminated sediment from the Fox River

Natural Resources were scrambling Monday for a plan that could rescue the dredging projects.

"We are still evaluating our options," said William Fitzpatrick, an environmental toxicologist and the coordinator of the DNR's Fox River cleanup operation. "It looks like we will go to the next lowest bidder."

That bid - by Superior Services - was 30% higher, Fitzpatrick said. It would mean an

increase in landfill and transportation costs from \$62 a ton to \$80 a ton.

But it was the timing that left DNR officials stunned, and that threatens the projects. It is not known whether another landfill can meet public notice and meeting requirements in time for the dredging projects to begin this year.

"It does make it uncertain," said Fitzpatrick. "We've committed that the public comment and information period has to be a minimum of 30 days. It becomes risky be-

Please see **SETBACK**, A-7

## SETBACK: Test dredging operations for PCB removal hurt by BFI's last-minute pullout

From A-1

cause of the weather uncertainties."

The news was also a shock to an executive with the Fox River Group, the seven paper companies that once discharged PCBs into the Fox and are negotiating their cleanup with state and federal regulators.

"That's going to throw their (DNR's) timing off something terrible," said Dennis Hultgren, upon learning of the BFI pullout Monday. "We had banked on that (landfill) for deposit 56-57 (near the Fort James plant in Green Bay). We had all the costs involved, and know how much we could take out, based on the \$62 a ton. Oh, Lord. Well, that alters things a lot."

The lower Fox River has been proposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a federal Superfund site. State officials, including Gov. Tommy Thompson, are trying to negotiate a cleanup plan that could prevent Superfund designation.

The paper mills discharged PCBs - polychlorinated biphenyls - into the river before the chemical, a suspected carcinogen, was outlawed in the 1970s. PCBs are long-lasting, synthetic chemicals used in the manufacture of carbonless paper.

PCBs have been linked to deformities in wildlife, increased risk of cancer in humans and developmental problems in children whose mothers eat contaminated fish.

In a deal worked out with the DNR and the state Justice Department, the seven paper companies have agreed to spend \$7 million this fall on a dredging project downstream of the De Pere dam.

That project is at least five times bigger than the DNR's Kimberly project and is specifically designed to simulate the conditions of large-scale dredging. As landfill costs rise, the amount of material dredged will be reduced.

Officials with BFI were secretive about their reasons for pulling out.

"I can only tell you that due to the uncertainty of future regula-

**"We just couldn't get comfortable as a corporation with accepting the waste."**

**RALPH DACH,  
of BFI, explaining the  
company pullout**

tions regarding monitoring and maintenance of facilities that accept PCB-contaminated waste, we are withdrawing as a potential vendor," said Ralph Dach, an area vice president for BFI's landfill division.

"It was basically just a matter that we just couldn't get comfortable as a corporation with accepting the waste."

Just what had caused comfort levels to change was unclear. BFI submitted a bid for the project just weeks ago.

"The regulations haven't changed from when they bid on it," Hultgren said. "I am kind of stunned. I don't know why they did it, especially at the last minute."

When Dach was asked about the timing, he chose not to comment. Nor would he comment when asked if the company was taking a different position on PCB-contaminated wastes.

Nor could DNR officials shed any light.

"We are not clear on it either," said Bob Grefe, an environmental engineer in the DNR's bureau of waste management. "There is no mechanism for us to compel them to bare their souls."

DNR officials could choose to ship the waste out of state, to a federally approved toxic-waste landfill, but expensive transportation costs could severely hurt a project designed in part to show that dredging is both effective and affordable.

Hultgren said the FRG had already arranged for its own backup plan, a federally licensed landfill near Detroit. But no cost projections have been prepared, he said.

Any landfill contract, local or

otherwise, would have to cover 100,000 tons of dried PCB sediments from the two Fox River sites, from the Jordon Creek-Pine Creek site near New Holstein and from stores of dredged sediments at the Tecumseh Products Superfund site at Sheboygan Falls.

Rich Chianelli of Superior Services said his company was still interested in the project. In its bid, Superior proposed to use a landfill near Eau Claire, or one near Horicon.

Both meet the DNR's standards for municipal waste, which are more stringent than federal standards for hazardous waste. Lined with clay four feet thick and with a 60-mil, plastic-like geomembrane, the landfills are equipped with drainage collection systems and water quality monitoring.

Chianelli said he saw problems with the BFI bid right from the start.

BFI - targeting Fox River sediments for its Sarona landfill in Washburn County in northwest Wisconsin - had proposed to modify its landfill plan, seek regulatory approval and then build the modifications, all for \$2,000.

"Those costs can range from a quarter to a half million," Chianelli said. "We kind of had a feeling they didn't know what they were getting into."

DNR officials also noticed the low-ball figure, but assumed BFI was planning to recover expenses during the life of the project.

A public meeting on the Sarona landfill plan, scheduled for Wednesday, has been canceled.

"This is not going to kill the demonstration projects," said Grefe. "Business is business, and sometimes business partnerships do not work. Dredging projects in the Fox River will almost certainly continue."

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



# EPA fears PCB shift from heavy rains

8/8/98

## Deluge washed over Sheboygan River Superfund site

Ed Culhane  
st-Crescent staff writer

The flooding Sheboygan River at destroyed homes, traumatized people and crippled a city also washed over a federal Superfund site, causing concern that PCBs and other toxic chemicals in the river's sediments may have been released into the environment.

"We are extremely concerned about it," said Steve Padovani of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, project manager for the Sheboygan River. "These kinds of surges or floods can result in erosion and faster flows. There is a lot more energy. It can scoop up sediments with PCBs in them and dis-

tribute them over a wider area, or it can blow them into Lake Michigan."

A state scientist said Friday that the Sheboygan flood should raise an issue for the people living along the Fox River.

"What would happen if we had something like that coming up the

Fox Valley?" asked Robert Paulson, a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources environmental toxicologist.

The Fox River contains larger quantities of contaminants than are found in the Sheboygan River.

According to Paulson, the last serious flood in Sheboygan a few

years ago left contaminants spread across the landscape.

In Sheboygan, the worst of the contaminated deposits that existed upstream - and that would be most susceptible to re-suspension during

Please see EPA, A-5

### ■ Sheboygan's losses in millions: B-2

## EPA: Rains, PCBs bad mix

From A-1

a flood - have already been removed by dredging or have been capped during remediation projects dating back 10 years.

Between 50 percent and 70 percent of the upstream deposits have been removed or capped, said Padovani. While there are still dangerous quantities in upstream deposits, the greatest mass of PCBs lies at the bottom of Sheboygan Harbor, where it is less susceptible to flooding.

"We have a little bit of an edge in that the problem is buried under a lot more sediment," he said.

Padovani said he will ask DNR engineers to assess the environmental damage in the Sheboygan River next week, when the waters have subsided. Although the Sheboygan cleanup is a federal project, the DNR has come to his assistance in the past, he said.

Of primary concern are the conditions of caps placed over contaminated sediments to hold them in place and prevent the chemicals they contain from entering the food chain. About 1,200 square yards of Sheboygan River sediments have been capped.

"We have to check the condition of those deposits that have been armored or capped to see if anything has come loose," Padovani said.

PCBs are long-lasting, synthetic chemicals used in the manufacture of carbonless paper and have been linked to deformities in wildlife, increased risk of cancer in humans and developmental problems in children whose mothers eat contaminated fish.

Beyond any environmental damage, the flood has caused administrative and engineering problems at the Superfund site. Years have been spent locating, testing and measuring deposits, and years more spent on complex risk assessments and feasibility studies.

The flood may have scrambled the picture.

Padovani said this argues for giving project engineers flexibility during remediation, so that work on the river can be quickly modified to reflect actual conditions rather than having it stopped for years of additional study, during which time other floods could come.

He said upstream deposits in the Sheboygan should be remediated as soon as possible.

Beyond that, he said, the flood raises long-term concerns for other pollution sites such as the Fox River.

"We must target these soft sediments for removal because they really are subject to these erosive effects. This is a dramatic example of how the river is changing over time, and how those changes can happen quickly," Padovani said.

Representatives of the Fox River Group - seven companies that will be held liable for all or part of the costs of removing PCB-laden sediments from the lower Fox River - are watching events in Sheboygan.

"The Fox River is really much different than Sheboygan," said Dennis Hultgren, director of Environmental and Public Affairs for Fox River Group member Appleton Papers Inc.

"For one thing, we have 17 locks on the Fox River and it's also a wide river," Hultgren said.

Even so, Hultgren said the Fox River Group is funding models to simulate the impact of a 100-year flood on the sediments of the lower Fox.

The studies will be conducted in the next six months, he said.

"Everyone was always asking what would happen in the event of a 100-year flood, so we set out to study that," Hultgren said.

"We want to find out, does it or doesn't it stir up the sediments?" Hultgren said. "And, if it does, to what extent and where?"

"I'm sure we'll find there are areas where there would be no scouring and we would probably decide to leave those areas alone and let nature take care of things.

"In those areas that do scour, we would focus on those for some type of remediation."

8/8/95

LETTERS

# Paper companies are likely to take a fatal hit from Superfund

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:

One wonders what effect a Superfund designation will have on the future of Appleton Paper's 2,400 employees in light of the profitability problems outlined by Appleton Arjo Wiggin's Chairman Ken Minton. Investment, closure, or divestiture decisions consider all cost issues, including the bottom-line cleanup costs and penalties associated with Superfund designation.

One must conclude that the seven local paper companies all are carefully weighing the financial hit they will be taking if forced into a cleanup effort by the EPA. Superfund status will give the EPA the right to hand these companies a bill for three times the primary cleanup costs.

In addition, they can be sued for damages to the Fox's natural resources. These cost implications could seriously jeopardize the very

future of the Fox Valley's paper industry and the economic fabric of the Valley. A similar battle is being waged between GE and the EPA in Pittsfield, New York, where a 20-mile stretch of the Housatonic River is in danger of Superfund designation. A recent addition of the *Wall Street Journal* highlighted that struggle, noting EPA's "Science Fantasy" PCB risk analysis, which is based on assumptions like a 1-year-old playing on a steep riverbank five days a week, seven months every year, for five years, only wearing swim trunks.

Where is the scientific human evidence linking Fox Valley (or anywhere else) health problems to PCBs? Lacking any such evidence, the EPA continues to pressure the paper companies to expend tremendous sums in Superfund compliance costs, placing at risk the primary base of the Valley economy.

If action is needed, the Fox's

cleanup history clearly demonstrates the Valley's ability and commitment to resolve future PCB problems. EPA Superfund status isn't required to get the job done.

**Robert A. DeBruin,**  
Kaukauna

# Paper industry contributes to anti-Johnson TV spots

By Bob Vitale 8/6/98  
Post-Crescent Washington bureau

WASHINGTON - A business group targeting U.S. Rep. Jay Johnson with \$30,000 in critical TV ads is backed in part by a paper industry trade association with members in the Fox Valley.

A representative of the American Forest & Paper Association said Wednesday, however, that it had no input into the campaign against Johnson, even though it contributes to the ads' sponsor, a political organization called Americans for Job Security.



JOHNSON

"We are a member of the group because we support members of Congress who are pro-business," said M.J. Jameson, the association's spokeswoman. "But we had nothing to do with the ads."

Americans for Job Security, a Washington-based advocacy group with only one other publicly identified member, said it has targeted Johnson because it feels he has

compiled an anti-business record during his first term in Congress. Its ads focus on the Green Bay Democrat's opposition to a 1997

Please see JOHNSON, A-7

# JOHNSON: Paper companies contribute to group behind TV ads blasting lawmaker

From A-1

proposal that would have taxed Indian gaming revenue, claiming everyone else must pay higher taxes as a result of its defeat.

Johnson called on the group to pull the ads Wednesday, calling them misleading because tribes pay millions of dollars in lieu of taxes. He also criticized the group's involvement in the region as uninformed meddling from an outside interest.

"Cease any further meddling in our communities," he wrote in a letter to Americans for Job Security director David Carney. "The people of northeast Wisconsin can make decisions about their elected officials without the aid of outside special interests distorting the truth."

The group does have ties to the region, though.

Spokesman Mike Dubke said more than a dozen business groups are members of Americans for Job Security, although only the paper industry association and the American Insurance Association have chosen to make their involvement known. He declined to name other members or even give a precise number.

The American Forest & Paper Association, in turn, has 550 member companies around the country, including International Paper Co., which has plants in Kaukauna, Menasha and De Pere, and P.H. Glatfelter, which has a plant in Neenah. Listed among the contributors to the group are executives from Wisconsin-based Consolidated Papers Inc., which has a plant in Kimberly.

P.H. Glatfelter spokeswoman Patricia Sweeney said the company was not aware of either the ad or the trade group's involvement in them.

"We're members as our most paper companies in Wisconsin," Sweeney said.

But while the trade association and the business group share common goals, both said Americans for Job Security decided on its own to produce and air TV ads critical of Johnson. Members have no input in such decisions, said Mike Dubke, the Americans for Job Security spokesman.

The group is airing the ads, Dubke said, because "the small businesses in the region are giving their congressman a failing grade."

Americans for Job Security was formed last fall to promote small-business and general business issues, Dubke said. Among its priorities are tax fairness, regulatory and tort reform, and limiting federal powers.

The anti-Johnson ad is meant to address the first issue with an example that hits close to home for northeast Wisconsin residents, he said.

"In places like Las Vegas and Atlantic City, the casinos pay taxes that lessen the property and

"Cease any further meddling in our communities. The people of northeast Wisconsin can make decisions about their elected officials without the aid of outside special interests distorting the truth."

REP. JAY JOHNSON,  
in a letter to the director of  
Americans for Job Security

income tax burden that everybody else pays," an actor says. "But in Green Bay, the casino keeps their winnings, leaving everyone else to pay higher taxes."

The actor goes on to criticize Johnson for accepting campaign contributions from out-of-state political action committees, suggesting they are the reason he opposed the 1997 gaming tax proposal.

Because the ad does not tell people to vote against Johnson in November - it only suggests they call his Green Bay office - it is not regulated by the Federal Election Commission. Such ads are considered "issue advocacy" and are criticized by supporters of campaign finance reform who want sponsors to identify their donors and activities.

Dubke said Americans for Job Security plans to air the ads for three weeks on local television and has purchased enough time so the average viewer will see its message 15 times.

The group plans to spend \$10 million during this year's election season in 15 to 20 congressional races nationwide, he said. In each, it is trying to illustrate its points by using local issues as examples of a candidate's position on business matters.

"This is an issue we thought would resonate with the citizens of Green Bay and Appleton," Dubke said. "This is not an issue that would be understood in Maine or Montana or Texas."

Johnson spokesman Todd Sandman said he doesn't think it's being understood in northeast Wisconsin either. The lawmaker's Green Bay office has received 30 calls since the ad first aired Saturday, he said.

Fifteen callers were critical of Johnson, he said, while 10 were critical of Americans for Job Security. Five called to say they didn't know what to make of the group's message but wanted more information.

## Little Chute enters legal defense pact for Fox River PCB cleanup

LITTLE CHUTE - The Village Board voted unanimously Tuesday to join other Heart of the Valley municipalities in a joint defense agreement over PCB discharges into the Fox River.

The other parties to the agreement are Kaukauna, Darboy,

Kimberly and Combined Locks.

The five municipalities are all members of the Heart of the Valley Metropolitan Sewage District, which may have passed PCBs discharged by paper mills into the river before the nationwide ban on the chemicals in 1977.

Tuesday's vote means the village can now partake in discussions on legal strategy with other municipalities, and share confidential documents.

The municipalities face no legal action now, but could be drawn in if industries are sued.

the  
Silver pen

8/4/98

## Keep the responsible parties responsible for Fox cleanup

**Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:**

As a visiting native son of this area, I am saddened and angered to see that the Fox River cleanup still hasn't begun. I left in 1995 when the DNR was planning to remove Deposit A from Little Lake Butte des Morts. Under the guise of local control, the local politicians are resisting federal efforts, as they don't want the area to have the stigma of being a Superfund site.

Wake up and smell the PCBs. There are over 250,000 pounds of cancer-causing chemicals in the sediment, making swimming in the river unhealthy and the fish toxic. The Fox Valley has a rate for testicular cancer three times the national

average and we wonder why.

Gov. Thompson is constantly heralding responsible citizenship - i.e. no free hand-outs. When I make a mess, I clean it up. When an industry makes a mess, it's their responsibility to clean it up - not the taxpayers. Let's keep the welfare system for corporations in check: taxpayers should not bail out multibillion dollar businesses who made millions in part by polluting our river.

What kind of message are we giving our children if we don't hold people accountable for their actions?

**Dan Kowal,**  
Oshkosh

The Silver Pen is The Post-Crescent's "Letter of the Day." There is no award for it, other than being set aside from the other letters. It recognizes good writing, cogent thought and persuasive argument. The same parameters that apply to all other letters apply to "The Silver Pen" letter.

Roger Pitt, outdoors editor  
920-993-1000, ext. 281  
a mail: PC News@athenet.net

# OUTDOORS

C-10  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 2,  
1998

## Fox Valley's failure to act is the shame of being Superfund candidate

The annual warning about eating fish caught in the Fox River is one of those reports that is good for a Page 1 news story no matter how little new information it contains.

I often chuckle about how we in the news media treat it like a breaking event; a revelation that previously had been unreported. It is the same reaction we have each spring when reports of flooding along the Wolf River are issued.

People living along the Wolf River often wonder what the fuss is about because high water is something they live with and expect each spring. There is no great torrent of water, as most people envision a flood, to wash away homes. Instead it is like a bath tub left with the water running that simply overflows into the lowlands surrounding many of the communities.

Fishermen on the Fox River, too, look

at the hazardous fish advisories each spring in that manner. They are aware of the PCBs in the fish. Big fish are not eating fish for most anglers. Most of the big ones are catch and release or end up on the wall if the walleye is especially big.

Big fish do not taste all that good anyway they reason.

But the PCB issue is no laughing matter and it has been ignored way too long by way too many people.

As stewards of the land and water who enjoy and use both, we outdoors enthusiasts can not ignore it any longer.

The Fox is a source of commerce and of great value for residents of this area but nobody gets the up close view of it that the boaters and fishermen who use it for recreation.

While the experts for hire — like experts on opposing sides in a court trial — offered different opinions about the



ROGER  
PITT

Post-Crescent  
outdoor editor

the next generation.

**We now realize how devastating DDT, which acted in a similar manner, was on our ecology.**

While no new PCBs have been added to the Fox River system in years, they are

impact of PCBs at a forum last week, the chemical compound is generally regarded as not good.

One side says there is little proof of harm that PCBs cause.

The other side is saying PCBs are like DDT as it builds up in the fat of one species and passes up the food chain, wreaking havoc along the way. The greatest danger is how it affects

there from Little Lake Butte des Morts to Green Bay. Many of the paper mills are blamed as the source and stand to bear the cost of the cleanup.

The fact the PCBs have been undisturbed is a good thing and a bad thing. The good thing is that for the most part they are part of the bottom of the river and basically are not suspended in the water.

The bad thing is that they are there and nobody has done anything about it.

That fact has not gone unnoticed and is the reason the Environmental Protection Agency has started the clock ticking on designating the Fox River a Superfund project. This has caused great consternation among the industries and government agencies along the river, all except Brown County where the currents of the Fox will deposit most of the PCBs.

To prevent being designated a Super-

fund disaster area, an acceptable plan to clean up the river must be filed with the EPA.

This will cost a lot of money, but it is going to cost us in one way or another. And that cost could be more than money in many ways if PCBs prove to be as dangerous to the ecology and humans as DDT was.

Many officials decry the stigma of being a Superfund project.

Sorry, but the stigma is there already. It is there because we did nothing to remedy a problem we have known about for more than a decade. We forced the EPA's hand on the issue because we failed to act.

That is the shame of being on the Superfund list. It points to us as not being the stewards of the environment that we should be.

■ You can contact Roger Pitt by e-mail at PCNews@athenet.net

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LETTERS

# We all need to chip in if we want to see a clean Fox River

8/2/98

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**Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:**

The situation with the Fox River is not about technology. We live in a technological age, and we can find a way to remove dirt from water, and chemicals from dirt.

It's not entirely about who's responsible. In a disaster, everyone is made to pay.

It's about money, as it always is. There is no way to slow down a project more than to force someone to do something they don't really want to do. They will fight you every step of the way. And no one really wants to clean up the Fox River.

It's a dirty, time consuming, logistical nightmare. Everyone should be willing to contribute some money to clean up our main resource, the river. That way, everyone can feel good about being a part of the cleanup effort.

Getting everyone involved financially is the only way to turn this thing around — from a looming disaster where everyone is running and hiding their money, and lawyers are the only ones doing any "cleaning up" — to an active and empowering community success story.

Bring in the accountants and start determining what's owed reasonably by the paper companies, and what other organizations can contribute.

We're stuck cleaning up a very large mess years after the fact, and there should be a larger group of people at the table. If we don't want a Superfund designation, then we all have to work and contribute to get it done ourselves.

Let's now see some actual numbers of what each group is willing to contribute, group by group, dollar by dollar. Let's see how much we can contribute as a community, even though we didn't do it (pollute the river). We can contribute man-hours instead of money. This would be a good way to make up community service hours, once some actual work is going on.

**Christopher Bauer,**  
Menasha

## **Time is of essence for Superfund** 8/2/98

**Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:**

There has been an enormous amount of unfounded skepticism surrounding the Superfund with regards to cleaning up the Fox River. It seems that many members of the public are unaware of the fact that every year that polluters and the local government bicker and argue about who should clean PCBs, the pollution spreads farther into Lake Michigan. The local community needs to begin to support the Superfund project in order to provide a timely cleanup operation.

Another reason that our community needs to push for a Superfund cleanup is that with campaigns around the corner, our local government will likely be striving toward a settlement with local polluters in order to make it appear that they are making progress in the community. A settlement with polluters would certainly mean compromising safety regulations for both humans and wildlife.

With all of this in mind it is clear that Superfund is the best route. By simply allowing Superfund the chance to clean up the Fox River, we are all guaranteed a cleanup that will provide us with healthy wildlife and a safe, clean river without raised taxes.

**Nick Van Lanen,**  
De Pere



# Advisories for fish up 5 percent last year

By Bob Vitale

Post-Crescent Washington bureau

WASHINGTON - A total of 2,299 lakes and rivers across the country have some type of warning posted about the fish swimming through them, according to a tally from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The number of fish advisories nationwide increased 5 percent last year, the EPA said, now covering 16.6 percent of the country's lake acres and 8.2 percent of its river miles.

Included in the nationwide totals are advisories posted on each of the Great Lakes and on 358 of Wisconsin's inland lakes, rivers and creeks.

## WASHINGTON NOTEBOOK

Nationwide, the number of advisories issued because of mercury, dioxin and DDT contamination increased, while the number of advisories issued because of PCB contamination went down. Thirty new advisories were issued around the country because of the latter type of pollution, though, EPA said.

Fish advisories include recommendations to anglers on how often fish caught from various waters are safe to eat. Toxins such as mercury or PCBs accumulate in fish as they grow larger and older; some advisories recommend that people simply catch and release fish instead of consuming them.

The EPA now has a site on the Internet that lists all of the advisories nationwide. The site can be reached at [www.epa.gov/ost/fish](http://www.epa.gov/ost/fish).

**Budget-cutters:** Russ Feingold and Herb Kohl are the U.S. Senate's best budget-cutters, according to a national taxpayer group's ranking.

Taxpayers for Common Sense, which calls itself a nonpartisan, independent watchdog group, tracked the votes of members of Congress on dozens of House and Senate proposals to cut government spending, subsidies and tax breaks.

It found Feingold with the Senate's highest ranking, voting frugally on 81 percent of the 32 votes tallied. Kohl's ranking was the Senate's second-best at 78 percent. They were the only senators rated by the group as "taxpayer heroes."

The Senate's average was 41 percent. In the House, it was 40 percent.

~~B-5 Content not relevant.~~  
Please see NOTEBOOK, B-5

LETTERS

7/31/98

# Funny, 'all the parties' at meeting left out taxpayers

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:

I read in a newspaper that Wisconsin's governor said he is meeting with "all the parties" concerning the Fox River and the Superfund issue. Was my invitation lost in the mail? My neighbor's invite must be lost, too. Were any citizens of the Fox Valley invited to the governor's river meeting? Whose river is it anyway? Is it the governor's, the paper industries', or is it ours? Why aren't tax-paying citizens included in Tommy's definition of "all the parties"?

Superfund doesn't present a stigma or an image problem. The stigma comes from the junk dumped into the river, and the image problem comes from all the maneuvering to avoid paying for cleaning it up. Forget about hiring lawyers to fight. Use those funds to do some cleaning. That would improve the image of the river, the industries and the state tremendously.

**Charlotte Arendt,**  
Neenah

7/31/98

### **Open up river talks**

GREEN BAY — Finally! Our governor has announced he will be hosting negotiations regarding Fox River cleanup. After 12 years of sitting down in Madison, Tommy Thompson has realized that there might be something wrong with the "pristine" Fox River.

Now our only problem is that Thompson would not divulge where the meeting would be or who would be attending. He added that everyone will attend who "should be there."

That's funny. If he would want credit for cleaning the river, wouldn't he invite the media and the public? Certainly a governor who truly respects and cares for the people of the state would involve the media and public in important negotiations, and not hide in secret, private places.

However, our governor, who truly deserves the nickname "Toxic Tommy," seems to be doing everything in his power to avoid cleaning the Fox. Of course I might even do the same thing if I was payed \$150,000, which is how much the pulp and paper industry has donated to Toxic Tommy during the past seven years.

The federal Superfund program, which is specifically designed to clean up toxic polluted messes such as the Fox, has been called the "height of Washington arrogance" by Mr. Toxic Thompson. The only arrogance I can see is the hypocrisy and ignorance is floating our way from Madison.

**Kyle Strauss**, Green Bay

# EPA to bury its plans to dredge

U.S. House mandates a nationwide halt until federal assessment results are released

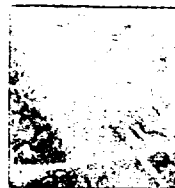
By Bob Vitale

Post-Crescent Washington bureau

WASHINGTON - The Environmental Protection Agency has been directed by the U.S. House to shelve any dredging plans until a federal study determines whether the practice does harm or good.

A fiscal 1999 spending bill approved for the EPA and several other federal departments includes a directive to officials that they hold off on dredging anywhere in the country until the National Academy of Sciences finishes a study due next spring.

Environmentalists say the provision would effectively stop EPA cleanup efforts nationwide until Congress gives its go-ahead. The plan's supporters, however, say they don't really expect EPA to heed the warning but wanted it on the record.



the future of the river

EPA Administrator Carol Browner opposes the idea, which an agency spokeswoman said is being taken "very seriously."

It's unclear whether the provision itself, if kept in the final version of the bill hammered out in a House-Senate conference committee, would prompt a veto from President Clinton, though. EPA's budget for the next fiscal year is part of a bill that also includes spending for the departments of Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development and several other agencies. The entire package is one of 13 spending bills that make up the annual federal budget.

Reps. Tom Petri and Jay Johnson both voted against the bill late Wednesday, but aides said neither did so because of the dredging moratorium.

Johnson opposed the provision because he doesn't like policy matters to be included in spending bills, but spokesman Todd Sandman said the Green Bay Democrat voted against the entire measure because it spent too little on veterans' programs.



## Clock is ticking on Fox River cleanup

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*: 7/30/98

I find it very frustrating that so many people along the Fox River seem to not care about the PCBs in the Fox. Or else they are more worried about their taxes than their children's future environment.

"If you're not outraged, you're not paying attention." This statement holds very true concerning the Fox and its PCB problem. We've given the mills 12 years to clean up the Fox. Still, nothing's been done. Now that Superfund has been proposed and push comes to shove, the paper mills

and Toxic Tommy are trying to work up a negotiation on cleaning the river so they can avoid Superfund.

Can we trust the mills and Toxic Tommy to take care of the Fox when they have to hold meetings in places secret to the public about an issue that concerns everyone? Also, how can a DNR official state that "the federal government lacked the speed and flexibility of state regulators," (Fox Clock Starts, July 10) when it's been 12 years and the state hasn't removed one single PCB from the river. Over this time, an estimated 7,000 pounds of PCBs have flowed into the bay. The state and the mills had their chance, let's not waste any more time and bring Superfund in!

**Alisa Swifka,**  
Green Bay

## Scientists seem unclear about Fox

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*: 7/30/98

After having attended the Kimberly public meeting on PCBs and health, I felt your headlines of July 28 gave a one-sided view of what was presented at this meeting.

The following are the things I felt were learned from the "experts" at the public presentation: "Restoring the Lower Fox River: Perspectives on PCBs and the Public and Ecological Health"

1. After exhaustive study, the EPA has not been able to come to any firm conclusion regarding PCBs in the environment and their

health effects.

2. Scientists cannot directly translate the information from the laboratory studies of the effects of PCBs on animals to their effects on humans.

3. When it comes to health risks from dangerous chemicals, those of PCBs are minimal, compared to alcohol and tobacco.

4. Some scientists believe that the chemicals in the environment known as "dioxins" are more dangerous than PCBs. The dredging of the Fox River will not eliminate them because we are putting more into the environment every day.

**Bob Hackinson,**  
Appleton

7/30/98

# Long-dirty Fox

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:

I am writing in response to the articles and letters to the editor that have been written in regard to the Fox River becoming a Superfund site. It seems that many people believe that if the Fox River is named a Superfund site, that there will be a stigma attached with it.

In Mr. Wurster's July 15 letter, he says that something of this magnitude should rely on facts and not theories, opinions or emotions. The fact of the matter is, the Fox River was polluted, with hundreds of thousands of pounds of PCBs still contaminating the bottom of the Fox River. Aquatic plants and the animals that feed off of them are still being contaminated and in turn, the fish are not safe for human consumption. Do we really think that there is not a stigma attached to the Fox River already?

For over 20 years, the state of Wisconsin and the paper companies that make up the Fox River Group have been given the opportunity to clean the Fox River. The Environmental Protection Agency is not satisfied with the results. Many of the anti-Superfund groups claim that too much money will be wasted on litigation with the EPA. If these groups had put their money into cleaning the river in the first place, there would be no need for an expensive lawsuit.

I agree with Mr. Wurster that more research must be done to discover the best way to clean the Fox River. We need to know more about how the resurfacing of PCBs will affect aquatic life and public health. There is one thing I know for certain. I trust the EPA and the DNR to produce better scientific evidence than the Fox River Group, which has an economic interest in the results of the research.

**Stuart Riley,**  
Stevens Point

## River already has a stigma

LETTERS

R VIEWS

# Future of carbonless paper gets re-evaluated

Parent of Appleton Papers examines the long-term prospects of its key operation

By Arlen Boardman  
Post-Crescent business editor

7/30/98

Appleton Papers' parent corporation is examining Appleton Papers' future because of concern about the prospects for carbonless and thermal papers' long-term profitability worldwide, European market analysts were told Wednesday.

Ken Minton, chairman of London-based Arjo Wiggins Appleton, made special mention of AWA's re-evaluation of carbonless and thermal operations in Europe and North America.

AWA is constantly looking at its operations to find the best way to grow shareholder value, he told analysts.

"In this context, the board (of directors) is pursuing the various strategic options available to it, which would maximize the value of the group's worldwide carbonless and thermal business," he said.

Minton's comments come on the heels of Appleton Papers' first-half sales slump. At constant currency exchange rates, its six-month sales were down 2.6 percent and its profits down 19 percent, after years of consistently high profitability.

In contrast, European carbonless and thermal operations have done poorly in recent years, including a small loss in the first half of 1998.

Minton's statement has caught the attention of Appleton Papers' management. Richard Curwen, chief executive officer of Appleton Papers, informed employees of the statement Wednesday.

Said William Van Den Brandt,

Please see PAPER, BACK PAGE

## PAPER: Future of carbonless is re-evaluated

From A-1

corporate communications manager. "I think what's making this noteworthy at all is that they mention carbonless and thermal."

Does it mean Appleton Papers will be sold? "That is an option, but it's one of several options," he said.

Others might be Appleton Papers acquiring another company, creation of a joint venture or no change at all, he said, and it's unclear what weight to give each option.

The Minton statement offers no timetable on when the reassessment of the business might be reported on.

Van Den Brandt said AWA is always studying its business to look for ways to improve shareholder value, but in light of its mention of carbonless and thermal, "they may be looking at that more intently."

Appleton Papers, with several North American operations, is the world's leader in carbonless paper sales and a major producer of thermal papers. Carbonless is considered a mature product line, with limited long-term prospects because of technology changes, but its sales remain strong and represent more than 90 percent of Appleton Papers' revenues.

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Its carbonless sales fell 7 percent in the first six months vs. a year earlier, and thermal sales were up slightly amid eroding prices.

Appleton Papers has recognized the declining long-term prospects for its major product.

In 1995 it entered the coated free-sheet business as a hedge against the day when carbonless sales will have declined significantly. Its coated free-sheet business is growing but is a small part of total sales.

Said AWA's report: "In the developing North American (Appleton Papers) coated papers business, volumes increased by 12.2 percent and average prices were stronger..."

It said that although Appleton Papers is aiming for the new business to be at break-even by year's end, "further significant losses were incurred in the first half (of

1998)."

Minton is taking the long view on carbonless and thermal papers and what they will contribute to future profits.

In the short term, the AWA report said: "Carbonless and thermal papers' performance was affected by a decline in carbonless volumes, lower selling prices in thermal and the rebuilding of three paper machines."

It said volumes and average prices were improving, and a break-even 1998 was expected.

The AWA report said European carbonless and thermal problems stemmed significantly in recent years from an uncompetitive cost base and a fragmented market structure.

AWA's six-month turnovers (sales) were 1,675.6 million pounds (\$2.75 billion), of which Appleton Papers generated about 24 percent, or just more than 400 million pounds (\$656 million).

Appleton Papers employs 4,300 in North America, including 2,400 in the Fox Cities. It has been owned by AWA since 1990, when B.A.T. Industries of the United Kingdom spun off it and Wiggins Teape of the U.K., and the spun-off companies merged with Arjo of France.

# Comment period opens on listing of Fox

By Bob Vitale

Post-Crescent Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is now accepting comments from the public on its proposal to list the Fox River as a federal Superfund site.

The agency gave formal notice of its plan in Tuesday's Federal Register, a move that starts a 60-day comment period and a more thorough review of the river's PCB pollution.

Comments may be sent before Sept. 23 to:

Docket coordinator, Headquarters  
U.S. EPA  
CERCLA Docket Office  
(Mail Code 5201G)  
401 M St. SW  
Washington, D.C. 20460

The agency requests that people send an original and three copies of the comments they wish to submit. It says all

comments will be considered by those who make the Fox River Superfund decision.

That decision should come in about a year, although the EPA official who runs the Superfund program has said he could delay final action indefinitely if seven companies, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the federal agency come to a voluntary agreement on river cleanup.

Please see LISTING, BACK PAGE

## LISTING: Public can comment

From A-1

In addition to mailing comments, people can submit them by electronic mail to [superfund.docket@epa.gov](mailto:superfund.docket@epa.gov).

Comments sent by express mail should be sent to:

Docket coordinator, Headquarters: U.S. EPA; CERCLA Docket Office; 1235 Jefferson Davis Highway; Crystal Gateway No. 1, First Floor; Arlington, Va., 22202.

The EPA will hold meetings to explain the National Priorities List process and answer questions during the comment period. Meeting dates and locations will be announced soon. There will also be meetings on other lower Fox River

issues.

Detailed information on the proposed listing and other lower Fox River cleanup issues is available for review at the Appleton Public Library, 225 N. Oneida St.; Brown County Library, 515 Pine St., Green Bay; Kaukauna Public Library, 111 Main Ave.; Oshkosh Public Library, 106 Washington Ave.; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Reading Room, 1015 Challenger Court, Green Bay; and U.S. EPA's Chicago Records Center, 77 W. Jackson Blvd.

Lower Fox River information is also posted on the EPA Region 5's Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/region5/foxriver>.

the  
future  
of the  
river



## **Thompson blew his chance at Fox cleanup**

**Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:**

It must be an election year. Governor for Life Thompson has for-

**Time is up, Tommy.**

**You had your chance and blew it.** 7/28/98

gotten his motorcycle for the moment, and decided he's serious about cleaning up the Fox River. He's been utterly useless for 12 years, but now he means business.

Thompson protested EPA's Superfund proposal as "the height of Washington arrogance," because the federal government, after years of waiting, has said it is ready to do the cleanup and would like public comment on their proposal. Perhaps Thompson doesn't realize that while the state has wasted 12 years playing footsie with the paper industry, public health has suffered from river pollution. At least the feds understand what's at stake.

Thompson says the state can do the cleanup "faster and cheaper." But what does this mean? Are we going to get a cut-rate, sloppy cleanup that only pleases the paper industry? Heaven help us. The paper industry has given big bucks to Tommy's re-election campaigns.

Thompson said also "the state can do a better and more efficient job of cleaning the river without a Superfund designation." Theoretically, this is true, but where is Thompson's proof? The only action we've seen has been the result of pressure from the federal government. Time is up, Tommy. You had your chance and blew it.

**Robert Schmitz,**  
Green Bay

# Winnebago tempers Superfund stance

County Board to vote  
on resolution tonight

By Ed Lowe

Post-Crescent staff writer

OSHKOSH - The Winnebago County Board's Legislative Committee, which last month passed a resolution attacking the proposed Superfund designation for the Lower Fox River, revisited the issue Monday, but with less venom than before.

With representatives of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the state Department of Natural Resources in attendance, the committee tempered its stance, passing a proposal urging the EPA to take a wait-and-see approach while a pair of river-dredging demonstration projects are completed and analyzed.

The vote followed the EPA's announcement proposing to add the 39-mile stretch of river to the National Priorities List after what it said was more than a decade of posturing by state authorities and the seven companies that will be held liable for all or part of a massive river cleanup effort.

The county board will address the resolution tonight.

EPA geologist James Hahnenberg said the agency intends to

have the seven companies - known collectively as the Fox River Group - pay for whatever cleanup program is authorized.

However, he said, an EPA-ordered cleanup of the river will take each company's financial status into account to ensure that no company will be forced out of business by the cost.

This came as little comfort to the three paper company representatives in attendance. Of the three only Dennis Hultgren, director of environmental and public affairs for Appleton Papers Inc., voiced his displeasure, blasting an EPA-approved dredging project in Manistique, Mich.

"If that's a success, I'd like to see what a failure looks like," Hultgren said. "We believe that project could have been done a lot cheaper."

That aside, the committee meeting was peaceful.

"The companies have not come up with an acceptable proposal," Hahnenberg said afterward. "We see the EPA-led Superfund as a measure of last resort. It's not like we need the business."

The companies in the Fox River Group are P.H. Glatfelter Co., Riverside Paper Corp., Appleton Papers Inc., Fort James Corp., U.S. Paper Mills Corp., Wisconsin Tissue Mills, and NCR Corp., a for-

'We cannot find people in the world who do not have PCBs in their bodies'

# Experts debate harm of PCBs

the future  
of the  
river



Winnebago County committee  
tempers stance on Superfund:  
For a story, please see B-2

By Ed Culhane  
Post-Crescent staff writer

**KIMBERLY** - The toxicity of Fox River PCBs is not felt by the fish, bird, animal or human who first consumes them, a panel of eminent scientists said at a public meeting here Monday.

The effect is on their offspring.

PCBs and other persistent organic pollutants (POPS) have now spread throughout the world. Moving

## Some scientists claim PCBs are playing havoc with the Valley's future

around in rivers and lakes, released into the sky and blown by air currents across oceans and continents, they have infected an entire planet.

"We cannot find people in the world who do not have PCBs in their bodies," said Theo Colborn, senior

scientist for the World Wildlife Fund and author of the best-selling book, "Our Stolen Future."

Colborn's message was that generations of children, especially the children of the urban poor, may never realize their full potential, and may suffer significant harm, if current levels of contamination are allowed to continue.

Two scientists representing the

Please see RIVER, A-7



**DR. THEO COLBORN** talks about the health risks associated with PCBs for humans and animals Monday night at Liberty Hall in Kimberly.

Post-Crescent photo  
by Kristyne Wertz-Griff

At EPA they're all just honey

# RIVER: PCBs playing havoc with future of the planet

From A-1

Fox River Group, the seven paper companies who once discharged PCBs into the Fox River, challenged some of the studies referred to by Colborn and characterized the growing body of scientific and medical thought surrounding the endocrine-disrupting properties of these chemicals as being inconclusive.

"These are all based on hypothetical concerns based on animals given high doses of PCBs," said Dr. John Whysner, head of the risk assessment program for the American Health Foundation.

Whysner said current levels of PCBs in the Fox River do not threaten human health. He suggested that while continuing research into PCBs is called for, the current level of knowledge is too subtle to support large expenditures of public money. Such money would be better spent, he said, educating pregnant women about the dangers of alcohol and others about the cancer risks posed by cigarettes.

Emily Green of the Sierra Club, responding during the public question period, said she could decide not to smoke or drink during pregnancy. But she was not given a choice, she said, about carrying PCBs in her body.

Whysner said studies of General Electric employees exposed to large amounts of PCBs have uncovered no increase in the incidence of cancer.

Colborn said she wouldn't expect that.

"I am asking GE not to look at the plant workers," she said. "Go and study their children."

Christopher Borgert, president of the consulting firm Applied Pharmacology and Toxicology, said Colborn's assertions, and those of other scientists working in the field of endocrine disruption, are contradicted by some studies.

"These theories are built upon hypothesis," he said.

Colborn responded that a growing body of scientific evidence supports the conclusion that PCBs damage wildlife, disrupt the normal development of human fetuses, compromise the immune system of animals and humans and increase the risk of cancer in humans.

"I am afraid people who represent special interests are always going to tell us this is always just a hypothesis," Colborn said.

She said that unless scientists are allowed to test harmful chemicals on human subjects, something that will never happen, the theories will always be hypothesis. The question, she said, is whether public pol-



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DE ROSA

icy will protect future generations of human children.

Panel member Chris De Rosa, director of toxicology for the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry, said that as more studies are being completed, there is a convergence of results that support the theory of endocrine disruption being advanced by Colborn and others.

He said those studies referred to by Borgert failed to comply with rigorous scientific standards. He said that three separate studies, all of physically healthy children of healthy mothers, have now shown a link between PCB-contaminated mothers and children with reduced learning potential.

Colborn said the connection between certain PCBs, which act like dioxins, and threats to human health took years to discover because the damage is passed from one generation to the next.

Chemicals that might not harm a healthy adult, she said, can cause devastating results when they come in contact with a developing embryo.

During critical stages in embryonic development, certain PCBs (the ones that exist in the river) act like dioxins, moving through the body like hormones. Those hormones are the body's messengers, Colborn said, and there are cells throughout the body geared to receive messages from one type of hormone or another.

But PCBs can step in and take the place of the hormone, she said, causing the message to be blocked, partially blocked or changed.

And so the chicks of cormorants and other birds that eat PCB-contaminated fish are born with twisted beaks, or with other deformities, or they never make it out of the egg. In humans, the children of mothers who regularly ate PCBs in fish are born with smaller body weight, smaller head size and reduced learning potential.

Colborn said there are a million more times the quantity of PCBs in the body than of these free and natural hormones.

"The odds are against the natural hormones in cases like this," she said. "The other chemicals will get to the receptor first."

LETTERS

Post-Crescent (?)  
week of July 27

# You don't see effect of PCBs here because no one has studied it.

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:

This letter is in response to Charles Banker's letter to the editor, "PCBs do not yet pose a physical or financial threat," (July 10). I would like to point out some flaws in his letter which only serve to confuse the issue. His comment that, "After all, prior to the 1970s, we all drank the PCB-laden water of the river and there doesn't seem to be any evidence of harm to our health from that consumption" is an irresponsible claim for two reasons.

First, I would ask Mr. Banker to please show me the studies of the Fox River and the studies of the general population along its shores which state this conclusion. I doubt if he can because no such comprehensive study has been undertaken. As the

common saying goes, ignorance is no excuse. It is quite obvious that there won't be any evidence of harm if no one has looked for it or attempted to make the correlation.

It is true that no studies linking PCB contamination to human health problems have been done specifically on the people along the Fox River. However, studies have been done elsewhere.

Wisconsin is a special place, but I am sorry to inform you that we do not have a special version of PCBs in our river. Wisconsin is a special place, but I am sorry to inform you that we do not have a special version of PCBs in our river. PCBs are the same and have the same effects all over the world. I can give you references to studies published in prominent, peer-review scientific journals which document the adverse effects of PCBs and other chlorine-based chemical pollution

— on wildlife and on human beings.

Secondly, PCBs in drinking water are not the main route of human exposure. PCBs are fat-soluble, not water-soluble, and therefore build up in the fatty tissues of the animals that we eat and bioaccumulate in the food chain. That is the reason we have fish advisories and not drinking water advisories.

Sarah Welch,  
Appleton

**Wisconsin is a special place, but I am sorry to inform you that we do not have a special version of PCBs in our river.**

# THE POST-CRESCENT

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Week of 7/27/98

## OUR VIEWS

### Don't take the credit at the 11th hour, governor

**G**ov. Thompson tells us that he's brought many of the parties together to discuss the cleanup of the Fox River.

That's a good thing.

It's wonderful for our state's CEO to do what he can to facilitate the negotiations between the numerous federal agencies, the state Department of Natural Resources, and the seven paper companies known as the Fox River Group. The river needs to be ridden of PCBs, but the groups differ substantially as to the method and the cost of the cleanup.

Perhaps, in the governor's office in Madison, they can make some headway on the issues.

For almost the past year or so, we have pleaded with the parties involved to please, please, please come to the table with some willingness to negotiate. Time is wasting, and the price isn't getting any cheaper.

And now, Thompson has used his considerable clout to get them to do just that.

Yes, that's a good thing.

But did we mention that this is an election year? And did you know that Gov. Thompson has been in office for 12 years? And where you wondering - as we were - where this sudden burst of enthusiasm for the Fox River has been for the past dozen years?

That PCBs are hazardous to public health is not a new fact. That PCBs are strewn about the 39 miles of the lower Fox is not a new fact. The fish advisories have been issued for years.

The fact is, if the players at the table in Madison - including Gov. Thompson - were so concerned about the quality of the water in the Fox River, this problem could have been solved long ago, perhaps at a cost far less than it will cost today.

And it should have.

But no, it took the spectre of federal intervention to get things moving, not the goading of the governor.

Yes, we're pleased that at least some talks are under way, and the faster they come to a conclusion, the better. Godspeed to them all. But there's precious little credit for any of the parties to claim in starting these talks in the 11th hour.

At the end of the day, they all have to look in the mirror and ask themselves why it wasn't handled years ago.



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# THE POST-CRESCENT

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'We cannot find people in the world who do not have PCBs in their bodies'

# Experts debate harm of PCBs



Winnebago County committee  
takes chance on Superfund  
For a story, please see B-2

By Ed Culhane  
Post-Crescent staff writer

**KIMBERLY** - The toxicity of Fox River PCBs is not felt by the fish, bird, animal or human who first consumes them, a panel of eminent scientists said at a public meeting here Monday.

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### Some scientists claim PCBs are playing havoc with the Valley's future

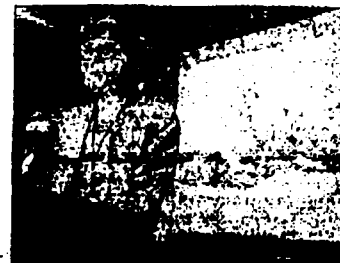
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**DR. THEO COLBORN** talks about the health risks associated with PCBs for humans and animals Monday night at Liberty Hall in Kimberly.

Post-Crescent photo  
by Kristyna Wierschke

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At EPA A they're all just honey



## RIVER: PCBs playing havoc with future of the planet

From A-1

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"The odds are against the natural hormones in cases like this," she said. "The other chemicals will get to the receptor first."

## Fox cleanup talks encouraging, but they should be held in public

**T**hat long-stalled talks leading to cleanup of the Fox River are once more under way is encouraging. That they continue to be secret is disappointing.

Talks on how best to remove an estimated 70,000 pounds of toxic polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) left in 39 miles of the Fox by paper recyclers prior to the 1970s broke off last November.

On July 9, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency took the first step toward making the river a federal Superfund site. That would allow EPA to clean up the Fox and bill river users, primarily seven paper mills, for the cost.

The mills, Gov. Tommy Thompson and most riverbank local governments oppose the Superfund designation. They say local settlement and cleanup will be better than U.S. intervention that is likely to be slow, costly and laden with unnecessary litigation. The EPA says it won't label the river a Superfund site if it soon sees positive steps toward a local settlement.

The meetings Thompson called Wednesday in Madison could pro-

duce that kind of action. DNR Secretary George Meyer said, "It was a very good meeting and clearly the issues were advanced."

We hope so. But we don't like taking Meyer's word for it. We would much rather be able to report who said what at open sessions and let the public decide if progress is being made and, if it isn't, where the problem is.

Obviously, the mills, state and federal agencies and Indian tribes privy to the discussions prefer secret talks.

But the river is public, not private, property. What has been done to the river and what will happen to it is as important a public issue as any in Northeastern Wisconsin.

The governor and tribal leaders such as Oneida's Debbie Doxtator, who attended Wednesday's meeting, are elected officials. Staff members of the DNR, EPA and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are public employees. Some of the mills are corporations whose stock is traded publicly.

We hope the talks produce progress that will lead to a local cleanup of the Fox. But public issues must be discussed in public.

# Interim deal won't stave off Superfund

Parties encouraged at progress of Fox River cleanup talks, but a final solution remains down the road

By Doug Erickson  
Post-Crescent staff writer

7/25/98

A possible interim deal among the parties involved in the Fox River cleanup would be a step forward but not the ultimate settlement needed to avoid a Superfund declaration, officials with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said Friday.

A final settlement, if one could be agreed upon, likely would not come until after the state Department of Natural Resources and the EPA conclude a remedial investigation and feasibility study, said Bri Bill, an EPA spokeswoman.



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That study, called an RI/FS, will look at all possible cleanup options and include the EPA's preferred remedy.

It is not expected to be finalized until at least December.

"It's very difficult for parties to negotiate a comprehensive settlement when remedies can range from no action to hundreds of millions of dollars," said Bill. "Until we have a proposed remedy, it's very difficult to pin down a dollar amount."

Gov. Tommy Thompson met with state, federal, tribal and paper mill industry officials Thursday. The EPA was represented at that meeting by David Ullrich, acting administrator for Region 5.

# RIVER: An interim deal won't settle long-term negotiations

From A-1

Afterward, George Meyer, secretary of the state Department of Natural Resources, said an interim deal could be announced in the next two weeks, raising hopes that the parties are nearing agreement on major issues.



the.....  
future  
of the  
FOX  
river

EPA spokesman Mick Hans said the meeting was a good sign but that a final settlement does not look imminent.

"Most likely, a major comprehensive agreement would follow the RI/FS," he said. "But that's not to say there aren't many, many points to agree upon in the interim."

State officials have been tight-lipped as to what an interim deal might cover. Hypothetically, it could identify PCB hot spots in addition to the two dredging demonstration projects that need cleaning up in the Fox River, Hans said.

"There are other spots that everyone agrees are hot spots, that everyone agrees need some attention," he said. "There's no reason they can't agree on some of that right away."

Also, an interim deal could address what percent of the cleanup each paper mill is responsible for, Bill said.

An interim deal would not delay the established Superfund time line, she said.

"The idea of some interim work would just be to keep the parties talking and moving forward on a

cleanup," Bill said.

The EPA has proposed placing the Fox River on the Superfund list because of the presence of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The manmade chemicals are suspected carcinogens discharged into the river by paper mills in the 1950s through the 1970s.

Seven companies, known collectively as the Fox River Group, have been identified as potentially responsible parties.

The EPA plans to publish its intent Monday of adding the Fox to the Superfund list, Bill said. That would initiate a 60-day period for public comment. It usually takes at least six months to two years for a site to formally be declared a Superfund site, Bill said.

The EPA repeatedly has said it will consider a negotiated settlement with the Fox River Group that would eliminate the need for a Superfund listing.

Both Hans and Bill said they are encouraged by Thursday's meeting.

"Maybe there weren't any giant decisions made, but it was good to get the ball rolling again," Bill said.

On a related river cleanup issue, the EPA announced Thursday that a study shows PCBs in New York's Hudson River are apparently leaching into the water, not becoming harmlessly imbedded in the silt on the bottom.

The Hudson River, along with the Housatonic River in Massachusetts, is the subject of cleanup issues similar to the Fox River's.

Hans said it is too early to speculate how that study could affect the Fox River cleanup.

"All three rivers have very site-specific issues, but there obviously are some common issues," Hans said. "Certainly, if something is happening in one of the three rivers, we'll be trying to learn from what everyone else is learning."

**GOOD MEETING:** I attended Tuesday's public informational meeting regarding the Fox River Superfund project and found it very informative. I encourage others to attend such meetings. In keeping an open mind, I would like to hear the other side of the story. Does anyone know when the Fox River Group paper mills are having their open forum to explain their course of action?

7/25/98

Margaret Klose,  
Appleton

7/25/98

# Comment period starts Monday on Superfund

By Bob Vitale  
Post-Crescent Washington bureau

WASHINGTON - The clock starts ticking Monday on the Environmental Protection Agency's review of the Fox River as a potential Superfund site.

The agency will officially make its proposal to take greater control of river cleanup in Monday's Federal Register, a formality that sets into motion a 60-day public-comment period and a six-month agency review.

The Fox River is one of 14 sites around the country EPA is putting under consideration for the Superfund program's National Priorities list. It's easily the largest. Others include a dump in New Jersey, a refinery in Illinois and industrial sites in California, Louisiana and New York.



the .....  
future  
of the  
FOX  
river

responsible for decades of PCB discharges into the river.

A Superfund listing would allow EPA to come up with cleanup plans on its own and force companies to pick up the cost. Officials at the agency have vowed, however,

More than two weeks ago, the agency informed state officials and northeast Wisconsin's members of Congress that it would take the action as a way to speed up long-delayed talks on voluntary cleanup with the seven area companies

that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources would continue to play the lead role in efforts.

State officials and environmentalists have said privately that they think the agency is taking its action as a way to add pressure for a voluntary plan.

The listing in Monday's Federal Register, the government's daily log of activities and plans, is not a final action. EPA will take up to a year to make its decision whether actually to add the Fox to the Superfund list, and the program's top official has said he could put it on hold indefinitely if talks with the companies progress.

To comment on the proposed Superfund site write: Docket Coordinator; U.S. EPA Headquarters CERCLA Docket Office; Mail Code 5201G; 401 M St. SW; Washington, D.C. 20460

## River PCBs already are being stirred

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*: 6/25/88

Lately I have become aware of the many testimonies arguing against the designation of the Fox River as a Superfund site. These testimonies claim that Superfund could make the river worse by calling for the removal of PCBs which may become "stirred up" and resuspended in the river as a result. It is believed that the PCBs should be left undisturbed in the river buried under what is thought to be "clean sediment".

However, many of these testimonies are incomplete. PCBs in the Fox River are not buried under layers of "clean sediment." Rather, they are exposed to the water and flow freely with the river current, affecting fish, ducks, and even humans.

Many oppose removal of PCBs and the designation of the Fox as a Superfund site because it would entail possible resuspension of PCBs when the sediment is removed.

However, many are not aware that when a large rainstorm hits the area, PCBs lying in the river mud are resuspended in the wake naturally. Removal of PCBs by dredging would also stir up some sediment but the effects would be minimal and temporary.

If the PCBs are not removed and Superfund is rejected, then the PCB problem will remain, affecting fish, wildlife and possibly humans. In the long run it is better to remove the PCBs and deal with the temporary impact before they reach Green Bay where they will be nearly impossible to retrieve.

Katie Buyze,  
Green Bay

State environmental

# THE POST-CRESCENT

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## OUR VIEWS

6/24/98

### It's your duty to let your voice be heard on Fox cleanup

**W**hatever happened to an informed and participatory citizenry? Whatever happened to the deep concern of Fox Citizens about the Fox River?

It's hard to say where that feeling went. This newspaper still receives letters and occasional "It's Your Call" phone submissions on the subject of Fox River cleanup, and we were under the impression that this was a hot topic in the living rooms and restaurants and offices of the area.

But on Monday night, only 18 people spoke at an Outagamie County public hearing on the subject. More than half of them were from outside the county.

"It always bothers me when people come from beyond our borders and tell us what to do," said County Board Chairman Marvin Fox.

That bothers us, too, Mr. Fox, but the lack of participation by people within our borders — our neighbors — is considerably more bothersome to us. That says that people either didn't know or didn't care enough about the future of their area to attend the meeting and let their voices be heard.

Perhaps if a DNR meeting on deer-hunting rules had been piggybacked onto Monday's meeting, we would have seen a larger, more passionate crowd.

We know, we know. That's a bit snide. But not only is the lack of public participation a disappointing development, but it shows how far we have to come to teach each other about the PCB problem in the Fox. It is a very serious problem, and the financial and environmental aspects will shape this area's growth for many years to come.

The choice for citizens is very simple: You can either be part of the cleanup solution, or you can ignore the process of finding a cleanup solution and complain about what others had the courage to do.

1/24/98

The choice for citizens is very simple: You can either be part of the cleanup solution, or you can ignore the process of finding a cleanup solution and complain about what others had the courage to do.

In our opinion, the most important issue in this debate is the public's health, and that hinges on the health of the Fox River, which annually contributes 70 percent of the PCBs to Green Bay and Lake Michigan. This is not just a Fox River Valley issue; it is a regional issue.

Determining the method of cleanup - dredging, capping and doing nothing seem to be the most likely choices - is the most contentious part of the debate. Each has a financial and environmental price.

Also, the potential intervention of the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund project has many civic and business leaders worried about the residual effect, while some environmentalists suggest that Superfund is a must, if we are truly concerned about the river's health.

The decision will be made relatively soon, and the opportunities for public input are dwindling. If you failed to see our notice of Monday's meeting, we promise to do a better job of making them easier to find.

But then we urge you to take advantage of the opportunity to listen and speak.

Be a part of the future of the Fox River Valley. It's your home.

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# Outagamie County supervisors delay vote on Superfund

By Judy Williams  
Post-Crescent staff writer

6/24/98

Opinion was split among Outagamie County Board supervisors Tuesday on whether to act immediately on a resolution opposing federal involvement in the Fox River cleanup effort or to hold off until the next board meeting.

In the end, the board decided to wait until a July meeting to deliberate the issue.

Some supervisors wanted to pass the resolution immediately opposing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's designation of the Fox River as a Superfund Priority Site because of high concentrations of polychlorinated biphenyls, suspected carcinogens.

"My whole concern is the economy of the Fox Cities," said Supv. Alan Schmidt, who conceded that what the board does probably would not affect the federal agency's decision whether to declare the river a Superfund site. "But I think it's important that we tell the federal government what we want."

Please see **SUPERFUND** B-3

## SUPERFUND: Board decides to wait until July for decision

From B-1

PCBs are man-made, long-lasting chemicals used in the manufacture of some kinds of paper. PCBs are thought to cause deformities in some wildlife and cancer in some humans.

Some supervisors argued for taking time to get more facts before deciding.

Supv. Mark McAndrews said the board should duplicate its actions when supervisors opposed the Crandon mine.

"We took a long time on that," said McAndrews. "We heard all sides of the story before making a decision."

Several supervisors said they had been disappointed in the low turnout at Monday's public hearing, where they wanted to get Outagamie County residents' opinions about EPA involvement in the cleanup effort.

Particularly disappointing, they said, was the absence of anyone from any of the seven paper companies implicated in creating the pollution.

At Tuesday's board meeting, Dennis Hultgren, representing Appleton Papers Inc., one of the seven, did speak before the board sent the resolution back to committee.

Hultgren told the board that the paper companies are working on remediating the PCB problem in the river and had spent much money on the effort.

"The companies are going to step forward and do something about this," he said.

He chastised the EPA for having a history of wasting money. About 60% of the funds the EPA spends go into litigation costs, he said.

Hultgren urged the board to act on the resolution Tuesday. "July will be too late," he said.

Appleton Papers' 2,400 employees are concerned about their jobs if the EPA comes in and forces the

companies to spend enormous amounts of money on the clean-up, Hultgren said.

"We don't mind federal oversight, but we can handle the problem here," he said.

Hultgren's appearance convinced Supv. Clifford Sanderfoot that he was ready to vote on the proposed resolution.

"I felt as though we didn't have the facts," he said of Monday's public hearing and the absence of paper company representatives. "I felt the paper companies didn't have their say. Now I feel they had at least part of their say."

Supv. Lloyd Kloehn argued for delay, saying the public hearing was not very informative about the issue.

"We didn't get the facts last night. We got opinions," he said. "Last night we got exactly nothing."

Outagamie County Executive James Schuette said he was disappointed that no paper company representatives had been at the public hearing to answer questions, but he also was "somewhat disappointed by the attendance of the board."

Fifteen supervisors skipped the public hearing, he said, even though the vote to hold it had been unanimous.

Several supervisors wanted to wait with a decision because *The Post-Crescent* had reported the board would consider the resolution at the July 14 meeting and, they said, that's when people expect it and may attend to comment.

Board Chairman Marvin Fox said the published date was an apparent misunderstanding between him and a reporter.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 1998

## AREA NEWS IN BRIEF

FROM POST-CRESCENT SERVICES

### WASHINGTON

#### House approves funds for repair of Fox locks

The House of Representatives late Monday approved the \$1 million U.S. Rep. Jay Johnson, D-Green Bay, helped secure for immediate repair of the three Fox River locks that are still operational.

The House approval was an expected but necessary step in getting the money appropriated. The vote was 405 to 4.

The measure, part of the Energy and Water Appropriations Act for fiscal year 1999, now needs to be reconciled with the Senate version of the bill and signed by President Clinton.

The money would be used next year for maintenance on the three locks while the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and state continue negotiations to transfer the ownership of 17 locks to the state.

# Swimming with PCBs



Post-Crescent photos by Dan Powers

**WILLIAM PRESCOTT**, left, and Jose Pica, both of Milwaukee, bait their lines for catching fish in the Fox River in De Pere while a press conference goes on behind them warning of the dangers of PCBs in fish taken from the river. Above, The Sierra Club is posting 50-100 signs along the river, alerting fishermen to the health advisory.

## Fish advisories not catching public attention

By Nathan Orme  
Post-Crescent staff writer

6/23/98

DE PERE — Eric Uram, director of the Sierra Club's Clean Water Safe Fish project, issued a warning to Fox Valley seafood lovers Monday: Eating too many fish from the Fox River could be hazardous to your health.

As Uram uttered these words, Al Timmerman of Green Bay sat 50 yards behind him, fishing pole in hand.

"There's a lot of those warnings," Timmerman said. "That don't mean a lot."

That's not what the groups supporting the warnings are saying. Uram was in Voyageur Park on behalf of the Sierra Club, the Wisconsin Sportfishing Council, the Brown County Health Department and others to let people know about the effects river pol-

lution is having on the fish and people who eat them.

He began posting big, bright yellow warning signs in the park and he said he will post 50-100 such signs in parks with public fishing access. The signs show a picture of a fish flanked by a fork and knife posing the question, "Is Your Catch Safe?"

According to data released by Wisconsin Division of Health and the state Department of Natural Resources, there are fish from the river that are safe in small amounts and some that should not be eaten at all. Fish in the Fox River have been exposed to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) dumped as waste into the water and there has been an advisory against eating the fish since 1976.

Bluegill, rock bass or yellow perch of any size, for example, are safe to eat once a

month, according to the state.

Walleye and sheepshead, on the other hand, are safe once a month if they are smaller than 10 inches, but should not be eaten if they are longer than 13 inches.

Size is a factor, Uram said, because pollutants that get into fish typically reside in the fatty tissue. The larger and the older the fish, the more fatty tissue.

Part of the reason it is difficult to warn people of the dangers, Uram said, is that there is no way to isolate these pollutants as the root cause of any medical problems. What they do have, he said, is "weighted evidence" that link them to learning disabilities, affecting IQ by about six points and making it more difficult to read.

"We know what the health risks are,"

Please see FISH, B-5

# REGIONAL

INSIDE THIS SECTION  
Gang crackdown... B-2  
Jail designs..... B-3  
School budget..... B-4

## Former minister vows to reform

By Andy Thompson  
Post-Crescent staff writer

Timothy I. Mutterer - a former Appleton minister who abused his children, including regular beatings with spoons and leather belts - vowed Monday to improve his parenting skills.

"I take responsibility for my actions and I apologize for my actions," Mutterer, 38, told Outagamie County Circuit Judge Dennis Laebke. "I am sincere in saying that I am sorry and I will make the changes that are necessary."

Laebke placed Mutterer on 10 years' probation and imposed a six-month jail term as a condition of probation. The judge stayed all but

the first 30 days of the jail term. If Mutterer does not violate the terms of his supervision, the remainder of the six-month sentence will be indefinitely stayed.

Mutterer, who said he is working two jobs, was granted work-release privileges. But Laebke stressed that if Mutterer commits any violation, he will automatically serve the entire six months without work-release.

If Mutterer's probation is revoked, he would be subject to the maximum penalties on all three charges, Laebke said.

"You are on very thin ice," Laebke told Mutterer.

The judge also ordered Mutterer to undergo counseling as a condi-

**"I take responsibility for my actions and I apologize for my actions."**

**TIMOTHY MUTTERER, sentenced for child abuse**

type of probation. Mutterer, a former minister at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Appleton, was found guilty in May of two counts of causing bodily harm to a child and one count of causing great bodily harm to a child.

The latter charge was filed in Winnebago County but was consolidated with the Outagamie County charges. The charges carried a combined maximum of 15 years in prison.

Authorities alleged that Mutterer regularly beat his children. The incidents came to light in January and occurred at Mutterer's residence on Cambridge Drive in Appleton.

The Winnebago County charge stemmed from an incident in February 1996 while the family was living on Chain Drive in Appleton.

Mutterer was accused in that case of breaking the arm of his 5-

year-old son by pushing him off of a television stand.

"It is quite obvious that you went beyond what is considered reasonable and normal" in disciplining the children, Laebke told Mutterer.

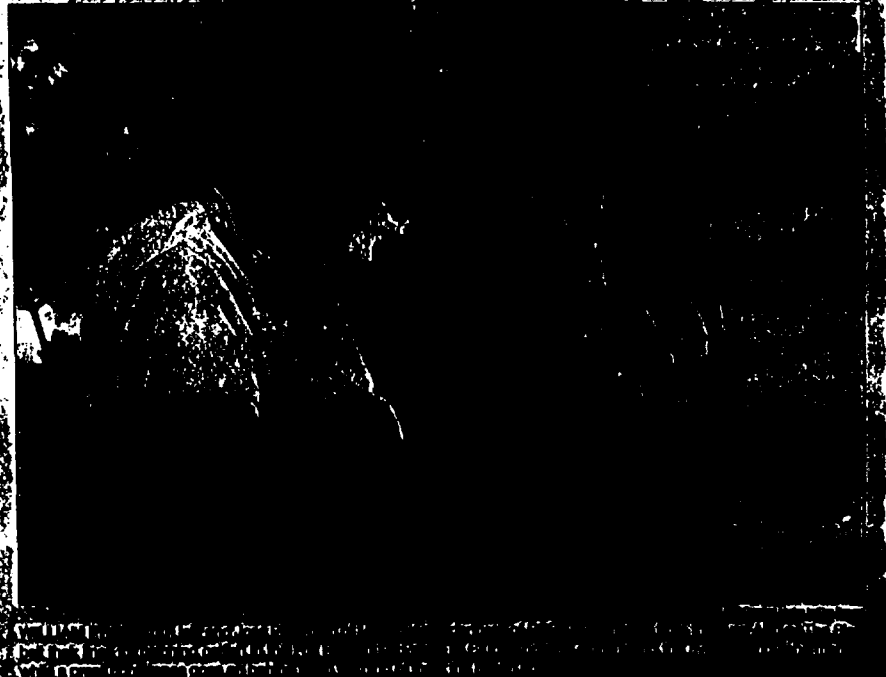
The judge said Mutterer appears to be willing to accept that he needs assistance so all of his children can eventually be returned to his home.

"I hope that you are successful for the benefit of your children," said Laebke.

Dist. Atty. Vince Biakupio recommended probation for Mutterer, along with an unspecified term in

Photo see MINISTER, B-3

## Swimming with DOBs



### Bishop victories not causing public attention

## Teen dies, two hurt in crash

By Don Williams  
Post-Crescent staff writer

**ACHTONVILLE, A 17-year-old was killed and two others were injured in a three-car pile-up Sunday morning on Highway 160 near the intersection of Highway 160 and Highway 160.**

The crash occurred at approximately 7:30 a.m. on Sunday. The victim, a 17-year-old male, was pronounced dead at the scene. Two other individuals were injured and transported to a local hospital.

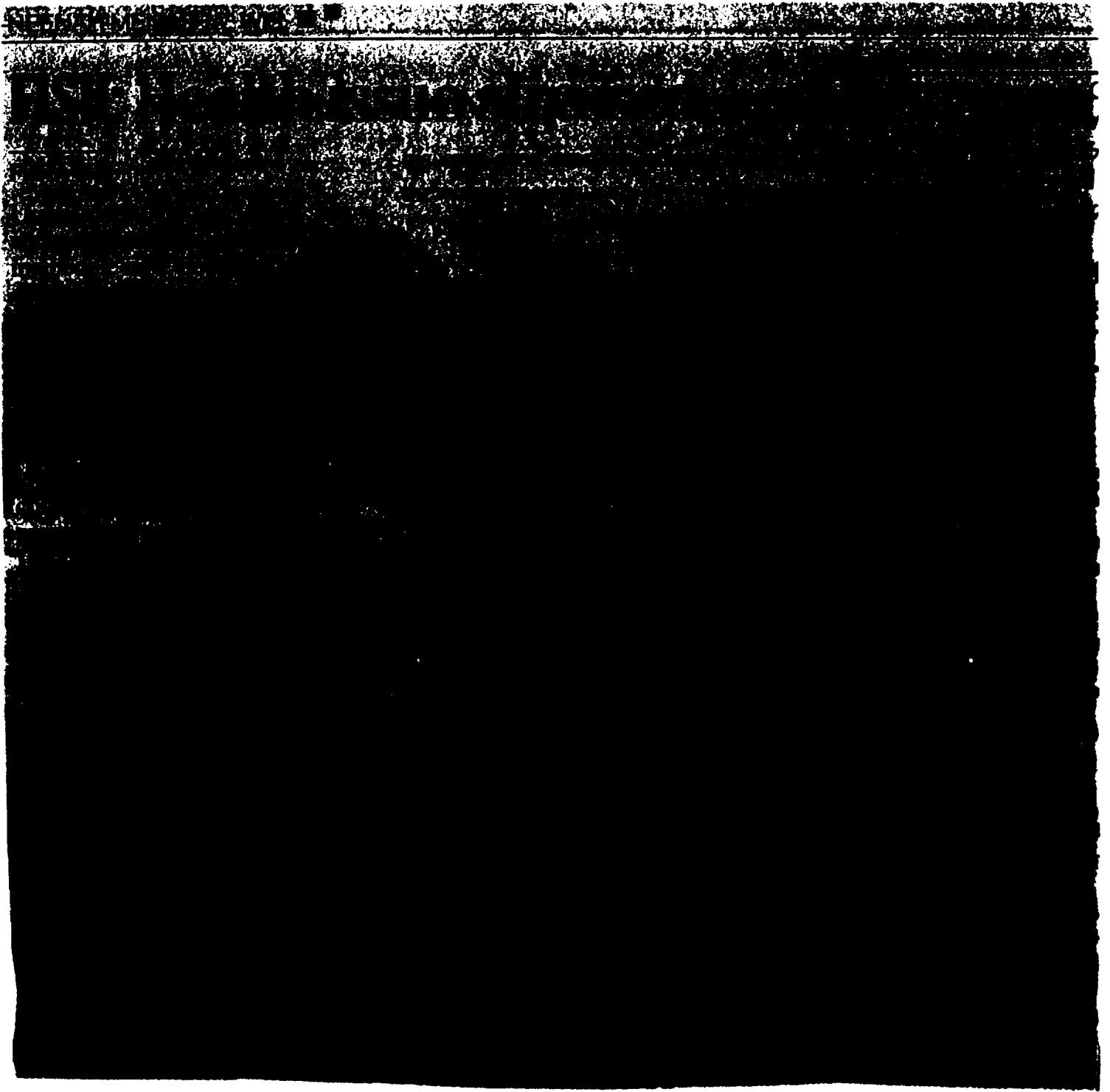
The cause of the crash is still under investigation. Police are looking for witnesses and reviewing surveillance footage from the area.

## Richmond plan is still preliminary

Richmond officials are still in the preliminary stages of planning for a new development project. The plan involves a large-scale construction project in the downtown area.

City officials are currently reviewing various options and consulting with stakeholders. The project is expected to create significant economic activity and provide new housing and commercial space.

Further details will be announced as the planning process progresses.



## RIVER: Parties meet with Thompspon

From A-1

panies about this proposal and says progress was made.

"There will be additional discussions in the coming days that the parties hope will lead to an agreement," the statement concluded. Thompson told a reporter dates for further meetings were not set.

The statement said his discussion of moving ahead with cleanup while negotiating an agreement included representatives of the state Department of Natural Resources, Menominee and Oneida tribes, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Thompson called the discussions in response to the EPA's recent declaration of intent to place the river on the Superfund list.

The EPA is holding seven companies known as the Fox River Group responsible for the discharge of PCBs — polychlorinated biphenyls — into the river before the chemical, a suspected carcinogen, was outlawed in the 1970s. PCBs are long-lasting, synthetic chemicals used in the manufacture of carbonless paper.

The announcement of a possible Superfund designation for the 39 miles of the Lower Fox prompted a flood of official objections from Fox Valley governmental bodies, the state, paper industry and others who argue that Superfund designation could be economically devastating while delaying cleanup.

The closed-door discussions apparently were held in two separate areas of the governor's office suite, in Thompson's personal office and the large Executive Conference Room nearby.

It appeared the paper mill officials may have been in the governor's office and the other parties in the conference room.

Lt. Gov. Scott McCallum also was present. He described the state and federal agencies and tribal representatives as being on one side of the issue and the seven paper companies the EPA is holding responsible for the PCB contamination on the other.

One paper company executive refused a reporter's request for comment, saying only that the governor would have a statement.

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

P-C 7/24/98

## Thompson: Groundwork laid for Fox River cleanup

### Governor convenes parties to discuss a resolution to the river's PCB pollution

By Cliff Miller

Post-Crescent Staff Writer

MADISON — Gov. Tommy Thompson was upbeat but tight-lipped after meeting more than 90 minutes Thursday with federal, state and tribal officials and paper mill representatives to discuss the Fox River cleanup in the aftermath of federal moves to declare the river a Superfund site.



the future of the river

Thompson told *The Post-Crescent* the discussions were "positive — better than positive," as he gestured upward with a thumb. The discussions "did more than lay the groundwork" for a solution to the complex and controversial issues.

"We made better progress than I thought (possible)," he said.

He declined to go into detail. He issued a printed statement saying he met with federal, state and tribal officials "to discuss how best to keep cleanup on the Fox River moving forward while a comprehensive settlement is negotiated."

The statement added, "The governor has spoken with the com-

Please see RIVER, BACK PAGE

## on the waterfront

What to look for if you're in the market for shoreline property  
please see **MONEY** | page C-1



## dodgerdrafts

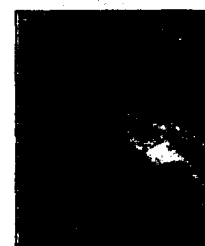
The NBA is buzzing with trade talk as lottery teams look to wheel and deal  
please see **SPORTS** | page D-1



# THE POST-CRESCENT

TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 1998

Wisconsin's Best Newspaper



the.....  
future  
of the  
**FOX**  
river

Is your catch  
safe? Please  
see B-1

# Superfund draws little interest

By Judy Williams  
Post-Crescent staff writer

The turnout for Outagamie County's public hearing Monday on Fox River cleanup was disappointingly small.

On top of that, half of the 18 people who testified were not even from the county.

"It always bothers me when people come from beyond our borders and tell us what to do," said County Board Chairman Marvin Fox.

Board members had scheduled the hearing to learn whether county residents favor or oppose involvement of the U.S.

As Fox River cleanup decision looms, only half of a disappointing crowd at Outagamie County gathering are even from the county

Environmental Protection Agency in a Fox River cleanup effort.

They learned that environmental groups turn out in force but few other citizens are motivated to turn out at all.

The board is considering whether to pass a resolution opposing the designation of the river as a Superfund Priority Site, which would give the EPA authority to direct the effort to remove polychlorinated biphenyls from the sediment on the bottom of the river.

PCBs are long-lasting, man-made chemicals used in electrical equipment and the manufacture of carbonless paper. They have been linked to deformities in wild animals and increased risks of cancer in humans.

Half of the people testifying at Mon-

Please see **CLEANUP**, BACK PAGE



**LAURIE STERNHAGEN**, Outagamie County Board supervisor, asks a question at Monday's meeting about the PCB cleanup process.

Post-Crescent photo by Sharon Cekada

# CLEANUP: Superfund issue draws little interest in Outagamie

From A-1

day's hearing identified a connection with one of two environmental groups, the Clean Water Action Council, based in Green Bay, and Great Lakes United, a 180-group coalition dedicated to restoring the ecosystem of the Great Lakes.

One person came from as far away as Ontario, Canada, and another from Buffalo, N.Y. All favored EPA involvement as the best solution for getting the PCB contamination out of the river.

Several residents not identified with environmental groups also told the board they want the EPA involved because they think nothing will get done if it is left up to the paper companies to clean up the mess.

"It seems like nothing happens unless somebody blinks, or unless we have a new party at the table, or unless the PCBs magically disappear, and I don't think that's going to happen," said Sharon Doerkof of Appleton.

The Fox River PCB issue "smacks to me a little bit like campaign financing," with a lot of money being thrown at it and slick videos being produced, said Tom Kees of Neenah.

Kees called the board's resolution flawed. "Let's get the process



Post-Crescent photo by Sharon Cakada

## APPLETON BUSINESSMAN

Russ Hanson speaks Monday in favor of a resolution opposing designation of the Fox River as a Superfund site.

started," he urged. "We all know there's going to be litigation anyway."

James Parker, Appleton, called the EPA "a lousy choice" but said the other choice — leaving it up to the paper companies — is worse.

"You're faced with the choice of two undesirable choices," he said.

Several residents spoke against the Fox River being designated as a Superfund site.

Appleton businessman Russ Hanson was one of them. He acknowledges there is a water problem but said if the EPA comes into the area, the economic and educational impacts would be disastrous.

"We need to approach this with a certain amount of rationality. We need to approach this with a certain amount of urgency," said Hanson. "But the last thing we need is to bring new technology here that's never been tried before."

Don Churchill, Appleton, also wants the solution kept in the hands of local governments and companies, and he asked the board to hold off on making a decision on the resolution.

Thom Ciske, vice president of government affairs for the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce and Industry, also opposes EPA involvement, but he asked the board not to delay formally opposing Superfund designation for the river.

"If you prolong this, if you continue to wait, the Environmental Protection Agency will take this out of your hands, and that I find frightening," he said. "It's important to be on record one way or

another."

Curt Andersen, president of the Clean Water Action Council, accused the paper companies of lying when they claim to have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on getting the cleanup effort started. The money has been spent only on public relations efforts, he said.

"Don't think those paper companies didn't know this stuff is dangerous?" said Andersen. "They knew it in the '30s."

Rebecca Katers, Clean Water Action Council executive director, said EPA involvement should be viewed as "a blessing," not "a negative."

Katers asked the board not to rush to pass a negative resolution, saying the EPA sets aside a 60-day comment period before officially designating Superfund sites. She urged more public discussion before making a decision.

Fox said he had hoped more local residents would attend the meeting and share their opinions.

Fox also had expected some representatives from the seven companies being implicated in the river pollution to come to testify. None did.

The resolution is expected to be on the County Board's agenda July 14.



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## **No time to lose with Superfund status**

**Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:**

Those who are trying to stop the Fox River from getting Superfund status are only "muddying up the waters." No joking intended because this has very serious consequences if the PCBs are not dealt with, in the correct way.

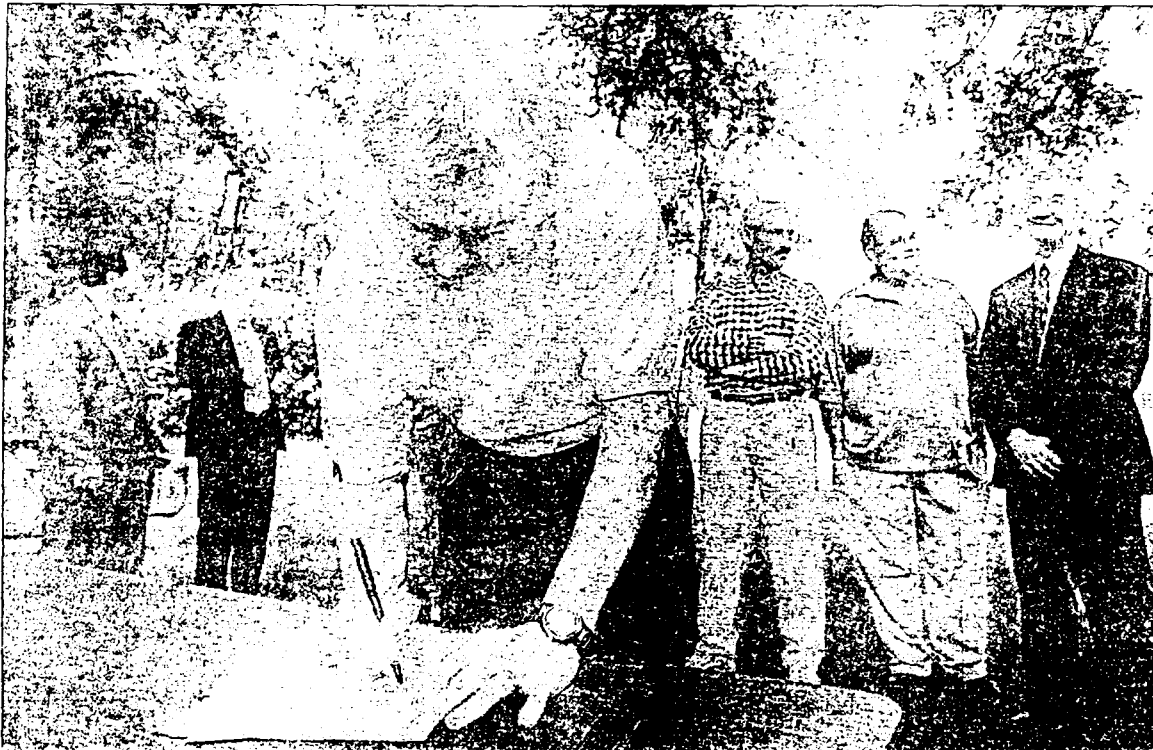
If the DNR and EPA agree that it's best to leave the PCBs where they are, I can live with that judgment more than the judgment of companies that caused the problem in the first place.

The only question that the Outagamie County Board and Fox Cities should be asking is "Will you help?" with the expertise and the funding.

Just remember, PCBs are getting in the fish and the food chain now, so let's get the waters cleaned up as soon as possible.

7/23/88

**John Baum,**  
Town of Center



Post-Crescent photo by Thomas E. Wita

**LITTLE CHUTE** President John Rooyakers signs his name to the anti-Superfund resolution Wednesday during a ceremony held at Riverside Park in Kaukauna. Behind him are leaders of other Fox Valley cities.

# NINE SIGN

## Leaders of Fox Valley communities resolve to get matters moving on the river cleanup

By Pete Bach  
Post-Crescent staff writer

7/23/98

**KAUKAUNA** - So the Fox River needs a cleanup.

But how clean is clean?

To more than one community leader, such basic considerations are a major point of contention in the debate raging over PCB removal.

"How do you get them out? How do you clean them up? How clean is clean? Once that question is answered then you can start attaching price tags to it," said Appleton Mayor Timo-

thy Hanna.

Hanna and others fielded questions following the signing Wednesday of a joint resolution aimed at getting state and federal regulatory agencies to settle their differences with the seven industries held responsible for the discharge of toxic polychlorinated biphenyls.

The measure, signed by nine local government entities, calls for proceeding expeditiously with two dredging demonstration projects and doing so without resorting to designation of the 39-mile stretch of river from

Neenah to Green Bay as a Superfund site.

Hanna said the federal Environmental Protection Agency should spearhead either a mediation or negotiating effort between parties.

Two weeks ago, EPA took the first formal step toward designating the stretch as a Superfund site, but the time period for public comment is only starting. A negotiated strategy for voluntary cleanup could avert Superfund status, which communities see as a litigious and counterproductive solution.

Bolstering Hanna's views was Neenah Mayor Kenneth Harwood, who alluded to a major economic problem.

"You have unlimited resources to remove the sludge. Eventually that money comes out of our economy," he said. "Regardless of how you word this, the bottom line is those seven primary responsible parties are employers in our communities and that money comes out of our pockets. We need to know how much is coming out so we can plan for the future."

## House has yet to vote on EPA dredging ban

By Bob Vitale  
Post-Crescent Washington bureau

**WASHINGTON** - The U.S. House has delayed consideration of a plan to stop federal dredging efforts around the country.

Lawmakers were to take up the proposed moratorium late last week but instead took up a spending bill for the Department of Interior. This week, they have continued debating that bill, as well as proposals for cam-

paign finance reform, class-action lawsuit rules and most-favored-nation trade status for China.

The temporary ban on dredging, pushed by Rep. Gerald Solomon, R-N.Y., is contained in a bill to fund the Environmental Protection Agency and several other federal agencies through fiscal 1999. It will go before lawmakers after the other issues.

It calls on EPA to undertake no dredging efforts - being

considered to remove PCBs from the Hudson River in Solomon's part of New York state - until the National Academy of Sciences completes a study on the merits and drawbacks of the practice.

The study is scheduled to be completed by April 1999, but environmentalists argue that lawmakers will be able to stop dredging for as long as they want because Congress must analyze the results before EPA can move forward.

EPA officials have said they're not sure how the plan would affect other contaminated waters. Dredging has long been considered an option for getting PCBs out of the Fox River, even though cleanup still could be years away.

The federal agency has just proposed listing the Fox as a national Superfund site, a move that would give it greater control over when and how the river is cleaned, however.

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# THE POST-CRESCENT

THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1998

Wisconsin's Best Newspaper

## Thompson calls river meeting

the .....  
future  
for the  
FOX  
river



### inside today

● U.S. House delays consideration of plans to stop federal dredging efforts around the country: **see B-1**

● Signing ceremony for Fox River resolution: **see B-1**

By Judy Williams  
Post-Crescent staff writer

Gov. Tommy Thompson said he is meeting today with "all the parties" involved in the controversy surrounding the Fox River cleanup and potential designation as a Superfund site.

During an appearance in Appleton Wednesday, Thompson said he is meeting with "lots" of parties, but would not identify who they were or which organizations they represent.

He confirmed that some of the participants would be the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Fox River

**Governor says he is meeting with key parties involved in the controversial Fox River cleanup, but won't divulge where the summit is taking place**

Group, a consortium of seven paper companies the EPA is holding responsible for costs of cleaning up polychlorinated biphenyls that are in the river's sediment.

Thompson said the meeting was arranged at his initiative and he would be personally involved in the negotiations.

When asked if he was confident an agreement could be reached with the paper companies that would protect the river

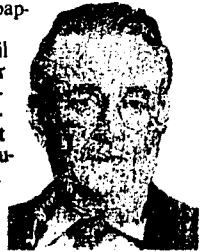
from being declared a Superfund site, the governor said he wouldn't know until after today's negotiating session.

Thompson also would not divulge where the meeting is taking place because, "If I told you, you'd probably show up," he told reporters.

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are long-lasting, man-made chemicals used in electrical equipment and in the manufac-

ture of carbonless papers.

PCBs cling to soil particles in the river and are slowly released into the aquatic environment where they accumulate in fish and move up the food chain. They have been linked to deformities in wild animals, increased risk of cancer in humans and developmental problems in the children of mothers who eat contaminated fish.



GOV. THOMPSON

## Monday night meeting to focus on effects of PCBs

A public meeting on the health risks posed by PCBs in the Fox River will feature Theo Colborn, senior scientist with the World Wildlife Fund and author of the best-selling book, "Our Stolen Future."

The meeting - scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday at Liberty Hall in Kimberly - is sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which has proposed the

Fox River for the nation's Superfund list. Other sponsors include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Menominee and Oneida Indian nations.

Colborn's book raises concerns about the health effects of manmade chemicals to an alarming level, arguing that certain synthetics, called endocrine disrupters, may be interfering with the hormones that control and

regulate growth, health and behavior in wildlife and humans.

Colborn argues that dioxins, PCBs and other persistent environmental contaminants lead to birth defects, problems of sexual development, breast cancer, prostate cancer, and mental problems like attention deficit disorder and reduced IQ.

Supporters, including Vice President Al Gore, have com-

pared Colborn's book to Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring" which led to bans on pesticides in the 1970s. Critics have called it "hypothesis disguised as fact."

Other speakers are Chris De Rosa, director of toxicology for the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and Donald Tillitt, an environmental researcher with the U.S. Geological Survey.

1/23/88

## More meetings ahead on Fox River cleanup plan

**W**e are encouraged, but not overwhelmed by the turnout of interested citizens at Tuesday's Fox River cleanup meeting at Lawrence University.

Approximately 150 people showed up to question representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency, the state Department of Natural Resources and Remediation Technology about various aspects of the proposed removal of PCBs from the bed of the Fox. Remediation Technology is a consultant hired by the DNR, and paid by the EPA, to assess the matter.

**the .....  
future  
for the  
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If you missed Tuesday's meeting, a forum to discuss public health matters with regard to Fox River cleanup will be held next Monday, 7 p.m., at Liberty Hall, 800 Eisenhower Drive, Kimberly. A series of speakers, representing different views and expertise, will discuss current scientific perspectives on human health and ecological effects associated with PCB exposure.

We encourage your attendance and your participation.

# CLEANUP: Superfund issue draws little interest in Outagamie

From A-1

day's hearing identified a connection with one of two environmental groups, the Clean Water Action Council, based in Green Bay, and Great Lakes United, a 180-group coalition dedicated to restoring the ecosystem of the Great Lakes.

One person came from as far away as Ontario, Canada, and another from Buffalo, N.Y. All favored EPA involvement as the best solution for getting the PCB contamination out of the river.

Several residents not identified with environmental groups also told the board they want the EPA involved because they think nothing will get done if it is left up to the paper companies to clean up the mess.

"It seems like nothing happens unless somebody blinks, or unless we have a new party at the table, or unless the PCBs magically disappear, and I don't think that's going to happen," said Sharon Doerkof of Appleton.

The Fox River PCB issue "smacks to me a little bit like campaign financing," with a lot of money being thrown at it and slick videos being produced, said Tom Kees of Neenah.

Kees called the board's resolution flawed. "Let's get the process



Post-Crescent photo by Sharon Cekade

## APPLETON BUSINESSMAN

Russ Hanson speaks Monday in favor of a resolution opposing designation of the Fox River as a Superfund site.

started," he urged. "We all know there's going to be litigation anyway."

James Parker, Appleton, called the EPA "a lousy choice" but said the other choice — leaving it up to the paper companies — is worse.

"You're faced with the choice of two undesirable choices," he said.

Several residents spoke against the Fox River being designated as a Superfund site.

Appleton businessman Russ Hanson was one of them. He acknowledges there is a water problem but said if the EPA comes into the area, the economic and educational impacts would be disastrous.

"We need to approach this with a certain amount of rationality. We need to approach this with a certain amount of urgency," said Hanson. "But the last thing we need is to bring new technology here that's never been tried before."

Don Churchill, Appleton, also wants the solution kept in the hands of local governments and companies, and he asked the board to hold off on making a decision on the resolution.

Thom Ciske, vice president of government affairs for the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce and Industry, also opposes EPA involvement, but he asked the board not to delay formally opposing Superfund designation for the river.

"If you prolong this, if you continue to wait, the Environmental Protection Agency will take this out of your hands, and that I find frightening," he said. "It's important to be on record one way or

another."

Curt Andersen, president of the Clean Water Action Council, accused the paper companies of lying when they claim to have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on getting the cleanup effort started. The money has been spent only on public relations efforts, he said.

"Don't think those paper companies didn't know this stuff is dangerous?" said Andersen. "They knew it in the '30s."

Rebecca Katers, Clean Water Action Council executive director, said EPA involvement should be viewed as "a blessing," not "a negative."

Katers asked the board not to rush to pass a negative resolution, saying the EPA sets aside a 60-day comment period before officially designating Superfund sites. She urged more public discussion before making a decision.

Fox said he had hoped more local residents would attend the meeting and share their opinions.

Fox also had expected some representatives from the seven companies being implicated in the river pollution to come to testify. None did.

The resolution is expected to be on the County Board's agenda July 14.

Eric Uram at the Sierra Club in Madison.

Dear Eric,

The following is in response to your June 18 letter in *The Post-Crescent*.

■ You mention that "Fish in some areas of the Fox River are so polluted with PCBs that, if eaten regularly, increase a person's lifetime cancer risk to more than 1-in-100."

■ I would like to quote from the American Cancer Society. "Lifetime Risk refers to the probability that an individual, over the course of a lifetime, will develop cancer or die from it. In the U.S., men have a 1-in-2 lifetime risk of developing cancer, and for women the risk is 1-in-3."\*

If the American Cancer Society or the Sierra Club can be believed, an additional risk of 1-in-100 would not seem significant, or are you saying that eating fish from the Fox River reduces ones lifetime risk to 1-in-100?

Your letter from the Sierra Club

to *The Post-Crescent* could have been more believable if references had been included for your "statements of fact."

\*American Cancer Society-Cancer Facts and Figures 1998:Basic Cancer Facts:

<http://www.cancer.org/statistics/cff98/basicfacts.html>

**Bob Hackinson,**  
Appleton

## **PCB risk doesn't seem too alarming**

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:

The following is an open letter to

6/22/98

# THE POST-CRESCENT

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 1998

Wisconsin's Best Newspaper

50¢

## River cleanup questions swirl



the future  
of the  
FOX  
river

### Answers sought as panel of scientists fields a barrage of questions for more than three hours

By Ed Culhane  
Post-Crescent staff writer

A panel of five government scientists and regulators faced 150 area residents Tuesday, offered a detailed update on the proposed Fox River cleanup, and then withstood a withering barrage of questions that lasted for hours.

Three and a half hours into the meeting, the moderator said the room at Lawrence University would have to be vacated, but as equipment was packed away, individuals approached the speakers with still more questions.

One dramatic moment in a meeting that sometimes delved at length into complex technical and legal issues came when environmental scientist Tim Thompson of Remediation Technology Inc. described the relative health risks posed to people, fish and animals by the more than 300 manmade chemicals that have been found in the river.

Just downstream of Little Lake Butte des Morts lie concentrations of arsenic 30 times greater than what is known to have adverse effects on wildlife, he said.

Please see **FORUM**, BACK PAGE



Post-Crescent photo by Mike De Stal

**MITCHELL MARICQUE** asks a question at Tuesday night's forum at Lawrence University.

### Residents, government leaders sign pact in support of cooperative cleanup effort

By Pete Bach  
Post-Crescent staff writer

**KAUKAUNA** - A group of Fox Valley leaders were to sign a joint resolution today aimed at keeping the Fox River PCB cleanup effort from drowning in politics and bureaucratic red tape.

Leaders of communities and wastewater treatment plants from Neenah to Green Bay were to gather on the bank of the Fox River at Riverside Park in Kaukauna at 2 p.m. to sign a pact calling for coop-

eration by state and federal regulators, communities and the seven paper companies accused of discharging the dreaded polychlorinated biphenyls into the river for many years before they were banned.

"This is our chance to speak with one voice," said Appleton Mayor Timothy Hanna.

The signing ceremony comes just two weeks after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency declared intentions to place the Fox

Please see **PACT**, BACK PAGE

• **Superfund clock:** Problems with other sites delay posting of EPA's new Superfund candidates: **B-3**

• **Superfund resolution:** Grand Chute Town Board and Heart of the Valley Sewerage Commission join list of those passing river resolution: **B-3**



## FORUM: Panel fields queries on details of river cleanup

From A-1

showing a bar chart.

The pesticide DDE can be found in concentrations 50 times those known to cause harm. Mercury can be found in amounts far above those considered safe.

Then Thompson showed a new chart, with the scale adjusted to allow for the risk of PCBs to be compared. The PCB column towered above the rest.

"The risk (both to the environment and to human health) from PCBs," Thompson said, "is 100 to 1,000 times greater than the significant risk posed by pesticides and metals."

PCBs are long-lasting, synthetic chemicals used in the manufacture of carbonless paper.

PCBs have been linked to deformities in wildlife, increased risk of cancer in humans and developmental problems in children whose mothers eat contaminated fish.

The Environmental Protection Agency is holding seven companies known as the Fox River Group responsible for the cleanup. The companies are P.H. Glatfelter Co., Riverside Paper Corp., Appleton Papers Inc., Fort James Corp., U.S. Paper Mills Corp., Wisconsin Tissue Mills, and NCR Corp., a former owner of Appleton Papers.

The paper mills discharged PCBs into the river from the 1950s to the 1970s, when the chemical was outlawed.

Remediation Technologies (RETEC) has been hired by the state Department of Natural Resources to conduct the risk assessment and feasibility study that has been mandated, and paid

for, by the EPA.

Paul Putzier of RETEC said his firm has taken 10 years of studies on the Fox River and examined the information in them to assess its validity.

Most of the information is good, he said, and there is little need to gather more.

"We have 100,000 data points in the analytical data base," he said, "and we expect the total to reach 135,000."

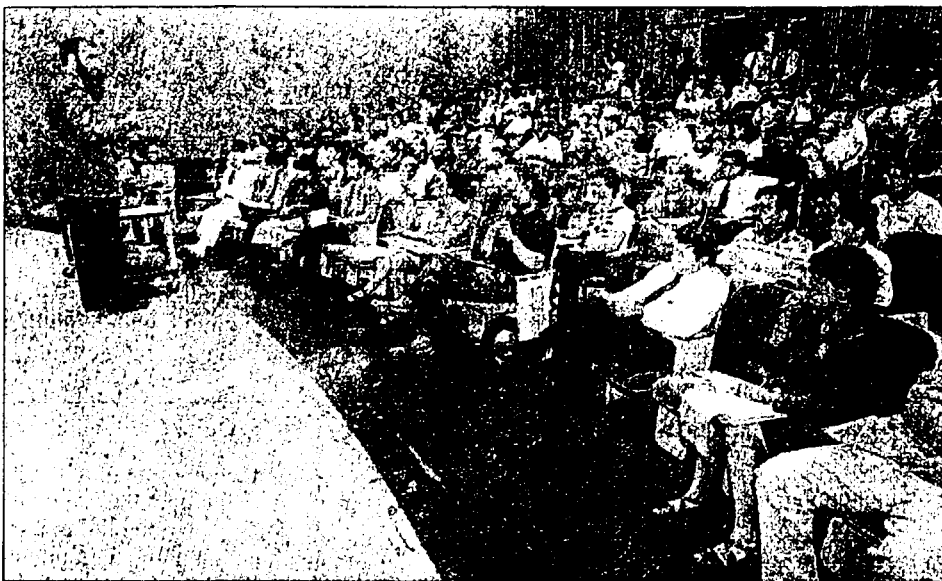
When a woman asked what a "data point" was, she was told it represented the results of a biological sample or a sediment test, as the concentrations of PCB in a single fish on the day it was tested. She was told to think of it as a "numerical correlation of something."

"It's as clear as mud," she shot back. "Thank you very much. You tried."

Audience members wanted to know why health studies haven't been conducted on people in the Fox Valley (they will be, according to a health official); why studies haven't been conducted on the amount of fish eaten by various kinds of fishermen on the Fox River; and why the government wasn't surveying the river for historic artifacts like sunken ships.

Others raised concerns about the effect the cleanup will have on taxes and on the future risks posed by PCBs that are to be buried in a Wisconsin landfill, a concern dealt with by Jim Hahnenberg of the EPA, who said a landfill provided a manageable way of isolating PCBs from the environment.

"Would you rather have your landfill with a river running through it?" he said, a reference to



Post-Crescent photo by Mike De Stel

**RETEC PROJECT MANAGER** Paul Putzier speaks to the crowd Tuesday about the potential Fox River Cleanup. The public meeting took place in Lawrence University's Harper Hall.

the option of leaving the PCBs in the river.

Bob Hackinson of Appleton challenged the EPA to offer more conclusive studies that link PCBs to problems with human health. Tom Erdman, academic curator of the Richter Museum of Natural History in Green Bay, ridiculed the government's logic in planning a demonstration dredging project downstream of the De Pere dam that would take only a portion of the sediment at that site out of the river, leaving the majority behind.

Bob Paulson of the DNR said the dredging would remove the highest concentration of PCBs in that area.

"We don't look at it as a demon-

stration project," Paulson said. "We look at it as the beginning of active remediation."

A few speakers attacked the premise of the cleanup, saying the benefit of fish that are safe to eat does not justify the immense cost of the cleanup.

"I just feel the cost is prohibitive to the economy and the paper industry," said David Tummet of Appleton, who added that he wouldn't be bothered by a ban on fishing in the river.

Most speakers in the audience voiced support for a cleaner environment.

"I do care about what happens to this river and to the people downstream," said Penny Schaeber,

who lambasted the paper companies for not being vocally present at the meeting. "It's our public resource, our public use and we need to get it fixed."

Paulson was challenged to describe what means the DNR used to gather public input on cleanup goals being set for the Fox River.

"The public has spoken, through the Clean Water Act and other laws," Paulson said. "On a good day in the Fox River, we are 1,500 times above our clean water standards. On a bad day (with turbid water) we are up to 50,000 times our clean water standards."

"That tells me the public does want a cleanup."

## PARCEL: New town hall in the works

From A-1

high cost, unsuitable soil and other factors ruled out those options.

"Price had a lot to do with it," he said.

Marsden said the issue was pushed to the forefront and placed on an amended agenda for Tuesday's board meeting after the owners of the land imposed a tight timeline for the town to make a decision.

"We met with the property owners last week. They wanted a commitment and an answer from us," he said.

Marsden said waiting for the next town board meeting would have delayed a decision for three weeks.

"The property owners didn't want to wait that long," he said.

Marsden said he expects the town to close the deal by the end of October.

"We've got soil studies and several other things to be done," he said.

Marsden said the site offers reasonably good access to major roads.

"I'm going to push like the devil to get ramps on 41 and A," he said.

Marsden said discussions on how to use the land will be part of the town's annual meeting next spring.

"We will talk about all town services. Obviously, we would put our town garage out there and a salt storage shed," he said.

Marsden noted a recent study concluded the town's municipal building on Highview Drive housing the police and fire departments

**DNR: Resolution urges a cooperative effort on removing PCBs from river**

assessment and feasibility study that has been mandated, and paid

language with a river running through it?" he said, a reference to

"We don't look at it as a demon-

to this river and to the people downstream," said Penny Schaeber,

want a cleanup."

## PACT: Resolution urges a cooperative effort on removing PCBs from river

From A-1

River on the federal government's National Priorities List, the first step toward its designation as a Superfund site.

### EATERY: Plans for restaurant evaporate

From A-1

said, "Unforeseen circumstances influenced this.... My position on canceling this development will not change."

The terse letter thanked city officials for their support and invited them to call him for further information. However, a press release sent to media Tuesday said Masters will not accept phone calls or inquiries regarding the reasons

A concerted local effort built around good-faith negotiations could avert the imposition of Superfund status, EPA officials said.

The joint resolution calls on the EPA, state Department of Natural Resources and seven companies accused of polluting the river to "vigorously pursue negotiations to agree on a PCB cleanup that will address environmental and health concerns in a cost-effective manner while protecting the local economy."

The measure said efforts should be made to avoid Superfund status at all costs because of protracted and highly expensive litigation that listing could bring about, among other reasons.

"We're not opposing Superfund," said Kaukauna Mayor John Lambie. "We're saying all sides should get together and talk and get

this thing moving and get something done."

Lambie said the Fox River Group, the name used for the collective efforts of the seven companies involved, should be allowed to finish two planned demonstration projects for which they contributed \$10 million, including work on Deposit N in Kimberly.

The communities have pooled their resources and retained the same Madison law firm for a joint defense.

Kimberly, Little Chute, Combined Locks and Kaukauna participated in the pact via the Heart of the Valley Sewerage Commission.

In addition to Appleton and Kaukauna, other signatories are the cities of Neenah, Menasha and De Pere; Village of Wrightstown; Town of Grand Chute; Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District; and Heart of the Valley, Grand Chute-

Menasha West and Green Bay Metropolitan sewerage commissions.

Communities took the step in response to court rulings and a Wisconsin law that makes local municipalities potentially liable for contaminants that pass through their treatment facilities, knowingly or not.

The City of Green Bay Advisory Committee has yet to come out

with a recommendation for the full Green Bay Council.

"Clearly, the resolution gives us a strong position as a community," said Neenah Mayor Kenneth Harwood. "It's not anti-EPA, anti-Superfund. It's pro-working together. We really need to focus on bringing all the parties to the table and moving forward. We need to do that very soon."

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# Grand Chute, Heart of the Valley OK anti-Superfund resolution

By Doug Erickson  
Post-Crescent staff writer

7/22/98

**KAUKAUNA** - The Heart of the Valley Metropolitan Sewerage District joined numerous other governmental bodies Tuesday in seeking a Fox River cleanup solution that stops short of federal involvement.

Commissioners approved a resolution that says a Superfund listing by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency "should be avoided if at all possible."

The Grand Chute Town Board approved the same resolution Tuesday on a 5-0 vote.

Consideration of the resolution has been tabled at a previous town meeting.

Supervisors moved to consider the resolution at the urging of Town Administrator Mark Rohloff, who told them of the City of Appleton's plan for a large-scale press conference where all municipalities would

sign the resolution today.

All four of the municipalities served by the sewerage district -



the.....  
future  
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Combined Locks, Kaukauna, Kimberly and Little Chute - have approved the same resolution independently.

The EPA has proposed listing - the lower Fox River as a Superfund site because of the presence of PCBs, suspected carcinogens discharged by paper mills until the 1970s when the chemical was banned. The EPA has said a

listing can be avoided if the seven companies they hold responsible reach a viable cleanup settlement with the state.

Before the 5-0 vote Tuesday, sewerage commissioners debated exactly what the wording of the resolution means.

"I think all we're doing with this is saying that we think (Superfund designation) is the wrong approach," said President Judd Vanden Heuvel.

However, "I don't think we're necessarily saying Superfund is out," he said.

Commissioner Mark Kjorlie said he reads the resolution as being anti-Superfund and leaving little wiggle room.

"I think the resolution does very clearly take the side of not wanting Superfund designation," he said. "I don't see it as let's wait and see."

Post-Crescent staff writer Steve Wideman contributed to this report.

Other sites... delay of EPA designation



# IT'S YOUR CALL

YOUR CHANCE TO VOICE A BRIEF OPINION OF ANY SUBJECT GREAT OR SMALL  
PHONE: 920-734-5678

**HE'S NOT BUYING IT:** The gays can't fault us homophobic for being naive about homosexual animals. After all, we're just not into that sort of thing. On countless occasions over the years, I've seen dairy cows mount other dairy cows and thought nothing of it. I figured that was just something they did when they were not chewing their cud or they just hop up there to see what's happening in the herd. Now the gay bar bunch and the bath house boys are telling us those are lesbian milk cows getting it on. I'm still not ready to buy into that hogwash. It's probably the everyday sexual fantasy of the gay bar bunch and the bath house boys.

**James Murray,**  
Appleton

**KILLER CAT:** For residents in the area of Commercial, Spring and State streets, there's been a white and tan cat on the loose for about a month. It's killing things. I'm going to trap it, alive or dead. Please keep your cat tied up.

**Mitchell Gibbon,**  
Appleton

**GOD HAS TIME:** Several weeks ago, you printed a call from a woman who was in great pain over family difficulties. She told us all God is too busy for the unimportant things. I am concerned



GENERAL 'STONEWALL' CLINTON AND HIS TRUSTY STEED, RENO.

that no one responded to this call. I'm more concerned that someone may have been influenced by her statement. I am very sure God loves each of us so much that even the trivial things in our lives are important. God is never too busy.

**Ruth Elmer,**  
New London

**LET RIVER BE:** Regarding the Fox River Superfund, let's throw money at it and see if it gets better. Isn't the river cleaner than 15 years ago? Mother Nature probably will clean up our mess better than we ever could. Every year, she buries the contaminated soil deeper with the erosion from the river banks. Let's not stir up the river bottom and the bring the PCBs back into today's circle of life.

**Bill Feldkamp,**  
Kaukauna

**USE TURN LIGHTS:** Why can't people from Little Chute learn to use their signal lights? I've almost gotten into a few accidents because older people make wide

turns and they don't let you know until afterward.

**H. Getsfried,**  
Little Chute

**STICK TO SPORTS:** Chuck Carlson needs to write about sports, not about tolerance. In his own words (in Saturday's column about Reggie White), one side will never see the point of the other and there's no reason either has to. And there's even less of a reason why I have to read his views on the subject. It's time Carlson got back to sports.

**Tom Zellmer,**  
Nee Nah

**NO TOLERANCE:** This has to do with the column Chuck Carlson wrote about Reggie White, where he says he should keep the Packers out of his crusade. Carlson speaks of tolerance. He states, "So, for White and his horde of myopic followers, maybe the time has come to simply live with it and move on. It's called tolerance. Perhaps you've heard about it." He talks about other people being

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Post - Crescent 7/21/98  
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**Mathi Wiesmann,**  
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## Maybe the Fox isn't safe for any of us

Editor, *The Post-Crescent:*

I am thoroughly confused.  
For the past decade and more, I have read about and watched the steady improvement of the Fox River. Now I learn that this beautiful river is underlaid with cancer causing PCBs. And because Mother Nature cannot solve this problem, or so we are told, we must solve it ourselves.

The solution is to dredge the river - Little Lake Butte des Morts as well, since this is also a part of the Fox River - dry the sediment, then truck the stuff to Sarona, where it will be made harmless.

Why is this sediment harmless in Sarona, but deadly here?

The difference is that in the Valley the PCBs get into the food chain; in Sarona they do not because the runoff from the sediment can be easily treated in the local wastewater plant.

So we are told. Apparently, this sediment cannot be safely treated here.

Should we now call this river "The Beautiful Fox" or should we call it "The Deadly Fox?"

I don't really know, but for certain we should not drink its water; we should not eat fish that come from it; we should not swim in it; we should not eat ducks or deer that drink it.

It may not even be safe to breathe the air above it!

For safety's sake, and before it's too late, it might be good for all of us to move out of here.

If we don't, one way or the other, it's going to get us.

**Giles Clark,**  
Menasha

■ Letters must be signed and include a telephone number where the writer can be reached during the day. Names will be withheld only if sufficient reason is given. Letters should be limited to 300 words. They will be condensed if necessary for clarity or brevity. Mail your letter to:

**Letters**  
**The Post-Crescent**  
**P. O. Box 59**  
**Appleton, WI 54912**  
or e-mail it to:  
**PCNews@Athenet.net**

Post Crescent 7/21/98

# Superfund is kid's play for EPA

By Bob Vitale

7/19/98  
Post-Crescent Washington bureau

WASHINGTON - The Environmental Protection Agency - the ones whose vocabulary includes talk of PRPs taking responsibility for PCBs at APCs considered for the NPL - is finally speaking a language we can all understand.

Of course, it's in communications aimed at children.

The agency's site on the World Wide Web - [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov) - includes a section called "Superfund for Kids!" that just might help an adult or two figure things out as well.

Here's how the EPA looks at its Superfund program, the one it's currently considering bringing the Fox River into as a way to speed cleanup of PCBs discharged by area paper companies until the 1970s:

## WASHINGTON. NOTEBOOK

"What happens when you make a big mess?" it asks kids. "You have to clean it up, right?"

"Sometimes adults make big messes in the environment that need to be cleaned up too. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (which is called EPA for short) has set up the Superfund program to make sure that these messes in the environment get cleaned up.

"EPA works with the people that made the messes and the people that live near these sites to make sure the cleanup goes smoothly and quickly. When the Superfund program is finished working with everyone, the messes are cleaned up and the people, the animals and the environment are safe and healthy once again."

The site also includes stories, word scrambles, pictures to print out and color and the "ABCs of Superfund." "Q," by the way, stands for "quickly," as in "pollution needs to be cleaned up quickly."

"D," though, doesn't stand for decades, the time span critics say will elapse before cleanup if the EPA actually follows through on its proposed Superfund listing for the Fox.

**Mean test:** Who wouldn't be a little short-tempered after 29 years in Congress?

A Washingtonian magazine survey of lawmakers and their staffs has confirmed Rep. Dave Obey's reputation as one of the most prickly members of the House of Representatives.

The Wausau Democrat came in third place in a vote for the hottest tempers on Capitol Hill as part of

Please see WASHINGTON, B-6

(B-6 content - irrelevant)

vote.

7/19/98 L  
**Thompson 'blew' chance**

**GREEN BAY** — It must be an election year. Governor for Life Thompson has forgotten his motorcycle for the moment and decided he's serious about cleaning up the Fox River. He's been utterly useless for 12 years, but now he means business.

Thompson protested EPA's Superfund proposal as "the height of Washington arrogance," because the federal government, after years of waiting, has said it is ready to do the cleanup and would like public comment on their proposal. Perhaps Thompson doesn't realize that while the state has wasted 12 years playing footsie with the paper industry, public health has suffered from river pollution. As least the feds seem to understand what's at stake. An added bonus is that the feds will hold public hearings and take public comments, which Tommy's DNR has never done.

Thompson says the state can do the clean up "faster and cheaper." But again, what does this mean? Are we going to get a cut-rate, sloppy clean up that only pleases the paper industry? Heaven help us. The paper industry has given big bucks to Tommy's re-election campaigns.

Thompson said also "the state can do a better and more efficient job of cleaning the river without a Superfund designation." Theoretically, of course, this is true, but where is Thompson's proof? The only action we've seen has been the result of pressure from the federal government.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had delayed their legal actions for a year and a half, giving the state even more time to find solutions, to no avail. The Superfund proposal also gives more time, but the truth is that serious negotiations stopped last November. So Thompson's claim that he can achieve a voluntary settlement anytime soon seems weak at best.

Time is up, Tommy. You had your chance and blew it. Please get out of the way and stop objecting to Superfund.

**Robert Schmitz**, Green Bay



7/17/98

**People's**

**Can't trust Thompson**

GREEN BAY — Local leaders claim they want local control of Fox River cleanup, so they're trying to block Superfund and allow decisions to be made by one man in Madison who controls the Department of Natural Resources.

This one man and his partner have received more than \$150,000 in donations from the pulp and paper industry for re-election campaigns between 1990 and 1997. He's also gotten \$645,000 from lawyers and lobbyists, and \$325,000 from insurance representatives who are eager to avoid environmental liabilities. Does this man represent the people of the Fox River Valley, or the polluters? Examine his record. He's had 12 years to clean up the river, and hasn't even started. Prior to this year, he hasn't seemed interested.

Local officials have rushed to pass anti-Superfund resolutions, claiming they support a "local solution." But what's local about it? The resolutions call for a "negotiated settlement" between this Madison man and industry, but the settlement is completely undefined. The resolutions set no boundaries for cost, cleanup methods, disposal sites, health standards, schedules, etc.

Even worse, no public input is required, so local citizens are shut out of the debate. The resolutions are a "blank check" for the man from Madison to do what he wants, regardless of local citizen concerns. Even local elected officials are shut out of the negotiations.

Last year, the man from Madison approved a surprise deal and binding contracts with the paper industry, settling for less than 1 percent of river cleanup costs and giving corporations unusual control over so-called "cleanup demonstrations." He made this sneaky deal without consulting local governments, local citizens, legislators, Congress members, the tribes, or any agencies of the federal government. Is this who we want making all the decisions?

Now the man from Madison claims he can do the job cheaper and quicker than the federal government. Alarm bells should be ringing in every city hall and county board in the Valley. The last thing we need is a slap-dash, half-baked cleanup job designed to save the corporations money.

We need the federal Superfund, which guarantees true local involvement in the planning and decision-making. Gov. Tommy Thompson can't be trusted.

**Rebecca L. Katers, Green Bay**

**Heat is on Thompson 7/17/98**

ALGOMA — Tommy Thompson has had 12 years to start cleanup of the Fox River; to restore a beautiful river for safe use by Wisconsin people. He has yet to begin.

Rather than bite the corporate hands that feed him campaign funds, he stalled the EPA (and Wisconsin people) for a decade, saying he would work out a plan with the paper mills.

Finally the EPA has had enough and threatens to invoke the Superfund and make the mills who poisoned the river pay for its cleanup. Now Tommy finds himself in a bind.

A little conflict of interest here? Which has priority? A clean river for Wisconsin? Or the interests of the corporations who feed him money? Now the heat is on.

After 12 years of inaction, within 72 hours of EPA's threat, Tommy's politically appointed chiefs of the DNR announce they have found places where the poisonous wastes can be dumped. Amazing! And Tommy suddenly has time to talk about it.

Call off the Feds? Not quite yet. Let's see some action . . . some contract proposals from the mills. Will Tommy stall until after elections, then reverse direction?

This kind of bad faith on Tommy's part brings discredit to him and lowers respect for the office of governor. Wisconsin people deserve honest leadership that puts Wisconsin interests first; not Tommy's "pay for privilege" policy at our expense.

Tommy's been in office too long. Vote him out in November.

**James M. Smith, Algoma**

**Still waiting on cleanup**

GREEN BAY — In the '40s, my parents said we could no longer swim in the bay because it was polluted. In the '70s, Earth Day organizers zeroed in on the pollution in the Fox, pinpointing the paper mills as the main polluters and the message came back to us students at Green Bay University campus as "What do you want,

**Forum**

jobs or swimming?" The problem has been studied now for over 50 years while the water continues to get more polluted.

If a Superfund designation scares the paper mills enough to take some real action, it's a good thing. However, we have yet to hear from any official of any paper mill on any kind of step they could take to alleviate the problem. Is this just another smoke-blowing attempt to procrastinate yet another 50 years?

PCBs were not the problem in 1971 but now are the most serious problem and we have adequate warning of the problems it causes. Public utility companies were mandated in the early '80s to eliminate PCBs in their transformers because of the danger to the public. PCBs, in addition to the published danger to children, are cancer-causing agents and cause a real threat to all of us. Let's wake up and smell the coffee and insist that the industries on the Fox take this problem seriously and that they do more than designate "holding or deposit sites" so they can keep polluting. We're waiting!

**Betty Fierros, Green Bay**

# Score one for Superfund

## In a heated meeting, Brown County supervisors criticize paper industry and lend support for EPA

By Doug Erickson  
Post-Crescent staff writer

GREEN BAY — In a rare win for environmentalists, Brown County supervisors decisively rejected an anti-Superfund resolution Wednesday, apparently becoming the first governmental body along the Fox River to buck the wishes of the paper industry.

The tone of the meeting was unusual in its harshness, with one supervisor saying the paper mills have lied to

the public and another tussling verbally with a paper industry lobbyist.

The 18-5 vote was viewed by many as tacit support for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or at least acknowledgment that the threat of federal involvement is needed to jump-start the cleanup time line.

Supv. Patrick Collins, who supports federal involvement, told his colleagues not to underestimate the impact of their vote.

Please see **BROWN**, BACK PAGE

## Today's House vote could put any EPA dredging efforts along the Fox River on hold indefinitely

By Bob Vitale  
Post-Crescent Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — A plan to block the Environmental Protection Agency from dredging polluted waters is scheduled to go before the U.S. House today as part of a bill that includes the EPA's budget for fiscal 1999.

If approved, potential efforts by the agency to remove PCB-contaminated sediments from the Fox River, or any other, would be put on hold until a

study on the scientific merits of dredging is completed by the National Academy of Sciences and analyzed by Congress and others.

Environmentalists say that's tantamount to stopping the practice altogether. Although the study is supposed to be completed by next April, the congressional analysis to follow has no timetable or definition.

"Congress still doesn't get it," said Phil Clapp, president of the National

Please see **VOTE**, BACK PAGE

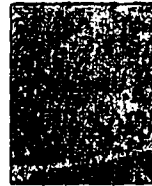


Inside today's P-C



Halat is on the mark

Forest Junction's Greg



the .....  
future  
for the  
**FOX**  
river

## BROWN: County backs EPA

Frq A-1

He urged them to be "the one intelligent body that says, 'Wait a minute, here. Let's not be railroaded on this project and vote against our own best interests.'"

He said an animated video produced by the paper mills that purports to show the negative effects of river dredging is a "complete misrepresentation" of the facts.

"It was a bald-faced lie that they put forth to the people of Brown County and the Fox River," Collins said.

The rejected resolution was almost identical to the one approved 32-6 the night before by the Outagamie County Board.

Both resolutions claim that if the EPA lists the lower Fox River as a Superfund cleanup site, the result would be "stigma, expensive bureaucracy, litigation and negative impacts on tourism."

The EPA has proposed the listing because of the presence in the river of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), manmade chemicals that are suspected carcinogens.

Industries discharged them into the river from the mid-1950s through the 1970s. Seven corporations have been identified as potentially responsible parties for the cleanup.

Supv. Guy Zima scoffed at the language of the resolution, questioning why Superfund designation would be a stigma.

"Are our elected officials so debted to campaign contributors that they have to mouth such nonsense?" he said.

The real stigma is from the pollution already in the river, Zima

said.

He asked pointed questions of Dan Theno, a lobbyist for Fort James Corp., one of the paper mills facing cleanup costs.

Theno, who prefaced his remarks by noting that Fort James is Brown County's largest employer and taxpayer, said Superfund is "a mistake" because it has a history of "litigation, delays and confusion."

At the time the pollution occurred, it was not illegal and there was no violation of environmental law, Theno said. A cleanup could take "\$3 billion out of the local economy," he said.

Zima then asked him the value of Fort James' capital assets.

"You're kind of saying it's going to break your back, so I'd kind of like to know what you're worth," Zima said.

Theno said he didn't know. Pressed further, he told Zima to call him to talk about it.

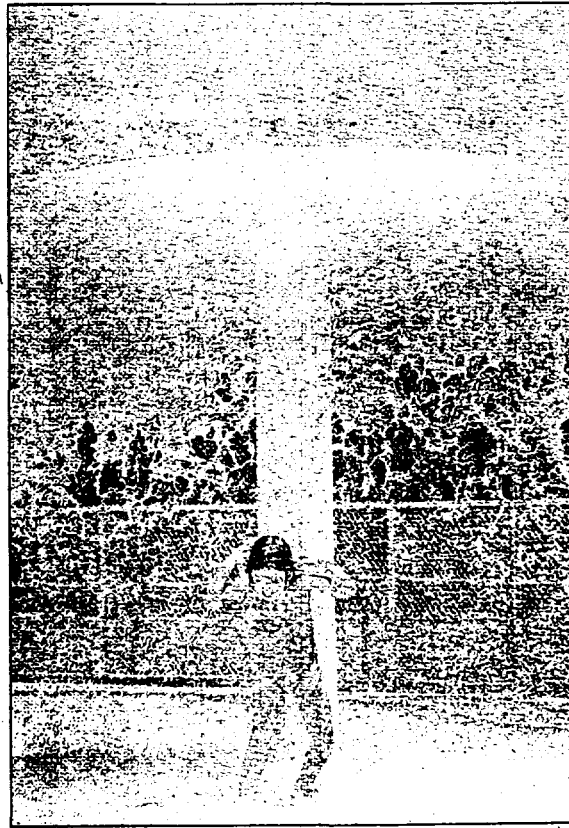
"This is one-sided bull - is what it is," Zima said.

Supv. Patrick Schillinger, manager of government affairs for the Green Bay Chamber of Commerce, led those opposed to federal involvement. The river needs to be cleaned up, he said, but Superfund designation will only delay the project and cost taxpayers more.

Brown County Executive Nancy Nusbaum blasted the EPA after the vote, calling it "not a responsible" agency.

Rebecca Katers, executive director of the Green Bay-based Clean Water Action Council, said that, to her knowledge, Wednesday's vote was the first time a government body outright rejected the anti-Superfund resolution.

## Cool mushroom



AP photo by Brent Grishier

**MOLLY SCHLUETER** of cools off Wednesday under a water fountain in a New Ulm, Minn., kiddie pool. This week's high temperatures and humidity have kept pools and lakes throughout the area busy.

## VOTE: House could suspend dredging for EPA Superfunds

From A-1

Environmental Trust, who called the provision "egregious back-door maneuvering."

"Rather than the frontal assault on environmental and public health laws that they mounted in 1995, members of Congress are now trying stealth attacks with these riders to hide them from the public."

The plan is one of several riders - the term for policy directives added onto spending legislation - that environmentalists and EPA officials oppose. Its main supporter, Rep. Gerald Solomon, R-N.Y.,

says more study is needed, however, on whether dredging does more good or harm.

In Solomon's region of upstate New York, the EPA is currently battling with General Electric Corp. over plans to clean the Hudson River, which has been listed as a national Superfund site since the 1980s. EPA Administrator Carol Browner said last week that the agency will not hesitate to remove PCBs through dredging if it finds that as the best course of action.

Dredging opponents say the practice often makes pollution worse by stirring up contaminated sediments that have settled to a river's bottom. It's also an extremely costly cleanup method, partly because sediment removed from a river must be stored safely.

"It's the most extreme course of action," said Solomon spokesman Mike Power. "It's obviously important to have all the scientific work done. The numbers need to be in. We need to have some independent analysis done before we go ahead with these things."

Although the rider is intended to delay dredging on the Hudson, it is written broadly enough to stop similar actions anywhere by the EPA.

The agency last week proposed adding the Fox River to its Superfund list, and although cleanup could still be years off even if it decides to make the listing final, dredging would be a likely option for the river's PCB problem.

In a letter last week to Gov. Tommy Thompson, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Secre-

tary George Meyer and the state's congressional delegation, acting Assistant EPA Administrator Timothy Fields said agency officials have yet to determine how Solomon's plan would apply to the Fox River and other contaminated sites.

Spokesmen for Reps. Jay Johnson and Tom Petri, whose districts include the 39-mile stretch of river contaminated with PCBs, said the lawmakers have yet to study the proposal.

In the past, though, Petri has expressed skepticism about dredging as an effective cleanup option.

Aides to Johnson said the Green Bay Democrat has generally opposed any type of rider because he doesn't think policy directives should be added to spending bills.

## ed for stability

"This is an incredibly stable  
and Done Blanken-

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OUR VIEWS

7/16/98

## The Superfund dilemma: Where's the stigma here?

**W**hile the Environmental Protection Agency's 60-day public comment period for Fox River cleanup hasn't yet officially begun, there certainly has been — and will be — ample opportunity to let your voice be heard.

The actual public comment period commences after the EPA officially releases its proposal to consider the Fox River as a Superfund site. EPA announced last week that it will propose just that, but the formality actually begins the comment period.

In any event, now is the time to turn off the TV, get out of the living room and be heard. The next opportunity will be next Tuesday, from 6:30-9 p.m., in Lawrence University's Harper Hall, 420 E. College Ave, in a meeting co-sponsored by the EPA, the Wisconsin DNR, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Menominee Nation and the Oneida Nation.



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future  
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river

But it is also a time to listen, and frankly, the ability — and the willingness — to listen is something that seems to be in precious short supply. Listening to all sides of this potentially messy dilemma is necessary for all concerned to create an informed opinion on the issue.

That means listening with an open mind to what the EPA has to say about the Superfund process, which is being treated in these parts like an unwanted, unloved cousin at a family reunion.

For example, we keep hearing from local officials, in the public and private sectors, about the "stigma" of Superfund, but we're not quite sure what or why this is. Where's the stigma in wanting a clean Fox River?

What is the problem with a governmental agency wanting to do its work? We're more used to criticizing agencies that can't do their job, or those that do them with little efficiency.

Where is the problem in letting the EPA clean up a mess that local industry created? Few local leaders seem to hold the same standards of accountability to the paper companies which admittedly — and legally, at the time — dumped the PCBs in the Fox.

What is the drawback in seeking a prompt, efficient, orderly removal of PCBs from the bottom of the Fox River? It's only the health of the area's namesake, the river that binds our communities together, that's at stake here. It's only the health of the aquatic life, and the humans who live in the area, that hangs in the balance.

Why is it assumed that dredging the PCBs out of the riverbed is the worst solution? The paper companies want us to believe this, but the paper companies also want to let the river heal itself. A DNR spokesman told *The PC's* editorial board on Wednesday that such a "cure" could take 200 years; others have suggested it would take at least 130 years. Can we — should we — wait that long? Is dredging a worse solution than that?

We have not stated our position for or against a Superfund listing for the Fox River. That's because we haven't formed a position on it. We're fairly sure we don't have enough information from all sides.

We have heard enough, however, to know that this can be a horribly confusing matter, and we've heard enough to know that a quick, rushed judgment would not benefit the Fox River Valley.

We're still listening. We urge you to do the same.

LETTERS

# Follow Thompson's money trail on river

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:

Local leaders claim they want local control of Fox River cleanup, so they're trying to block Superfund and allow cleanup decisions to be made by one man in Madison who controls DNR.

This one man and his partner have received more than \$150,000 in "donations" from the pulp and paper industry, for re-election campaigns between 1990 and 1997. He's also gotten \$645,000 from lawyers and lobbyists, and \$325,000 from insurance representatives who are anxious to avoid environmental liabilities. Does this man represent the people of the Fox River Valley, or the polluters? He's had 12 years to clean up the river, and hasn't even started. Prior to this year, he hasn't seemed interested.

Local officials have rushed to pass anti-Superfund resolutions, claiming they support a "local solution." But what's local about it? The resolutions call for a "negotiated settlement" between this Madison man and industry, but the settlement is completely undefined.

The resolutions set no boundaries for cost, cleanup methods, disposal sites, health standards, schedules, etc. Even worse, no public input is required, so local citizens are shut out of the debate.

Last year, the man from Madison approved a surprise deal and binding contracts with the paper industry, settling for less than 1% of river cleanup costs and giving corporations unusual control over so-called "cleanup demonstrations." He made this sneaky deal without consulting local governments or citizens.

Now the man from Madison claims he can do the job cheaper and quicker than the federal government. Alarm bells should be ringing in every city hall and county board in the



Valley. The last thing we need is a slap-dash, half-baked cleanup job designed to save the corporations' money.

We need the federal Superfund, which guarantees true local involvement in the planning and decision-making. Gov. Thompson can't be trusted.

**Rebecca L. Katers,**  
Green Bay

■ *Rebecca L. Katers is executive director of the Clean Water Action Council, based in Green Bay.*

## Failure of vouchers escaped notice

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:

**He's had 12 years to clean up the river, and hasn't even started. Prior to this year, he hasn't seemed interested.**

It seems that some people have missed hearing some important information, even though it has appeared in *The Post-Crescent* and elsewhere. That information was on the results of the voucher-maintained schools in the Milwaukee area.

Evidently there was little, if any, improvement, shown by these tests. In considerable testing of both public and private schools, it has been found that there is very

7/15/98

LETTERS

# It's folly to think we can clean the Fox River

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:

I am becoming more convinced that the best thing to do with the Fox River is leave it alone.

Until at least one person, group or commission can come up with a sustainable package of truths foretelling the total impact of cleaning up the Fox, how can throwing millions upon millions of dollars at the effort be justified? Everything advocated to date has been unable to withstand the test of acute counter-argument, which tells us the issue is being driven by theories, opinions, suspicions and emotions. Shouldn't decisions of this magnitude insist on facts?

It is easy to say, "We have to get the PCBs out." But isn't that an impossibility? We can get some out, but what about the rest?

Little Lake Butte des Morts is an expansive body of water. The Fox, Appleton to Green Bay, is 30 miles long. And we're going to clean all that up?

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The river has been  
doing some  
self-cleaning.  
It needs time.

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There are those who think the Fox can be made into a pristine river. Time out! Have we forgotten what feeds the Fox? For all practical purposes it is Lake Winnebago, that huge body of water that was already of such poor quality back in Native American times that they gave it a name meaning "stinky waters." To this day we experience its insect hatches, algae blooms, fish die-offs and smells.

We have lived with the Fox the way it is for decades. And yet during that time this region saw growth, prosperity and quality of life develop that is envied widely.

With the pollution restrictions

that now exist the river has been doing some self-cleaning. It needs time.

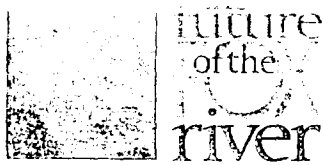
Meanwhile it might not hurt us to be guided by the words: "Change the things you can, accept the things you can't, and be wise enough to know the difference."

Cy Wurster,  
Appleton

holes. It's...

**IT WON'T GET DONE:** If the United States government gets involved in the cleanup of the Fox River, absolutely nothing will get done. They were going to straighten out the sweatshops, and they have not done a thing. Sweatshops are still operating, paying 50 cents to \$1.50 an hour being common. Make the people who put the PCBs in the water clean it up.

Gordon Johnson Sr.,  
Neenah



"WE DON'T NEED THEM"

# Board votes against EPA Superfund

Supervisors fear the stigma that would be attached to the Fox Valley if so designated by the agency

7/15/98

By Judy Williams  
Post-Crescent staff writer

The Outagamie County Board left no uncertainty about where it stands on the issue of the federal government coming in to clean up the Fox River, even though the board's opinion probably will carry little sway with the feds.

"We don't need them," said Supv. Alan Schmidt.

Shortly after, the board voted 32-6 in favor of a resolution opposing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's potential designation of the Fox River as a Superfund Priority Site.

Last week, the EPA formally proposed that the Fox River be considered for Superfund designation because of the polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, contained in the river bottom sediment. It will be six months to a year before that is done, if officials carry through with it.

Before the Outagamie County Board acted on the resolution at Tuesday's board meeting, Jim Hahnenberg, EPA remedial project



Post-Crescent photo by Mike De Sta

**SUPV. LLOYD KLOEHN** says he opposes "the stigma of Superfund put on the Fox River."

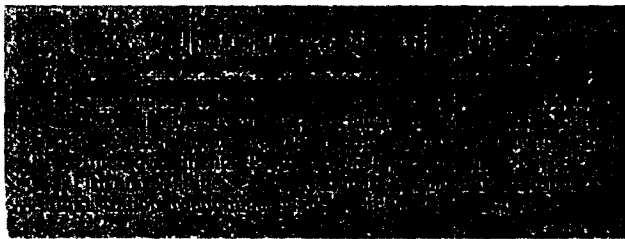
manager, acknowledged that Superfund is controversial and "is kind of a measure of last resort."

"We would like to have a settlement with the Fox River Group," said Hahnenberg. "If we have agreement, it will not be listed."

The Fox River Group is composed of seven companies that officials say are responsible for dumping PCBs into the river from the 1950s until 1971, when dumping was banned.

Hahnenberg downplayed criti-

Please see RIVER, BACK PAGE



## THE BACK PAGE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 1998

### RIVER: Outagamie County Board says no to Superfund

From A-1

cism of Superfund as causing costly litigation and taking too long to accomplish results. "Very few actually go to court," he said. "Most have been settled."

Schmidt said his concerns center on the stigma attached to being put on the Superfund list and the money that would be spent on litigation rather than the cleanup effort.

When pressed by Supv. Michael Thomas for a cost estimate for the Fox River project, Hahnenberg said it is too early in the process to make any "real statements" about anticipated costs.

Supv. Lloyd Kloehn also opposed "the stigma of Superfund put on the Fox River."

Kloehn, whose district includes parts of Little Chute and Kaukauna, said he doubts companies will come to the Fox Valley to build new factories with Superfund hanging

over their heads.

Supv. Adam Watkins was one of six supervisors opposing the resolution, which he said demonstrates a "paranoia that Superfund is this evil thing that other people are trying to do. Let the EPA show what it can do," he urged.

Supv. Lauren Mai called for compromise. "Working together, this is how things are done," he said. "Let's give industry a chance. Superfund? If nothing gets done, they'll be back."

Opinion was split among the dozen people who commented before the board's vote.

"If our river is polluted enough to be listed as a Superfund site, it should be listed as a Superfund site," said Penny Bernard Schaper, Appleton.

Linda Ganzel, Seymour, opposed Superfund designation and urged that all options be looked at before the EPA takes over

"because of the enormous costs." Supv. Bob Spahn opposed Superfund listing but conceded that some good has come from the threat of being placed on the list.

"One thing these sessions have done is served as a wake-up call to not only the paper industry, but to all the other companies that are polluting our rivers in Wisconsin," he said.

Supv. Pat Stevens suggested forming a tri-county committee with one elected official and one citizen each from Outagamie, Brown and Winnebago counties and a Clean Water Action Council member to monitor the river cleanup effort. If progress is not made, "We can then ask for Superfund action," she said.

No action was taken on Stevens' suggestion.

Hahnenberg said the EPA will be "going well beyond the minimum" in providing for public input during a 60-day comment period.

the  
**Silver pen** 

Appleton Post-Crescent  
7-14-98

## Superfund seems a billion-dollar roll of the dice

**Editor, The Post-Crescent:**

I believe that Superfund designation for the Fox River should be opposed at this time. Superfund designation would mean an irrevocable commitment to massive dredging. No other treatment is seriously being considered.

Dredging will not restore the Fox River to a pristine stream. Dredging the lower Fox will not remove algae from Lake Winnebago. After 15 years and several billion dollars, the river will still be the drainage ditch for a basin holding a half-million people, their automobiles, their industries and their dairy farms. The principle difference would be suspicious-looking mud piles nearby.

Prudence demands that fish advisories, especially for women of childbearing age, remain in place for many years after dredging is complete.

If dredging were delayed 15 years, some 10%

### About the Silver Pen

The Silver Pen is The Post-Crescent's "Letter of the Month" award. There is no award for it, other than being set aside from the other letters. It recognizes good writing, cogent thought and persuasive argument. The same parameters that apply to all other letters apply to "The Silver Pen" letter.

of the 45 tons of PCBs now in Fox sediments might be flushed into Green Bay, no more than what would be expected to escape from the dredging operation. In 15 years, human health and wildlife studies might indicate dredging is unnecessary. Or an accelerated in-place bio-remediation method might be developed.

PCBs owe their bad reputation primarily to lab rats. Just how toxic they are to humans is not known. Consider breast cancer, a well-studied disease. In 1993, a study of 58 cases and matched controls seemed to indicate a connection between PCBs and breast cancer. But much larger studies reported in 1994 and 1997 showed no connection (New England Journal of Medicine, Oct. 30, 1997, pages 1303-4). Nowadays breast cancer is not usually listed as one of the possible effects of PCB exposure. But this was not always so.

It is impossible not to sympathize with the desire to dispense with the nuisance of fish advisories. If it were a matter of millions and a sure fix, I would say, go for it. But billions for an uncertain outcome?

**Don Hayford,**  
Appleton



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CONG. JOHNSON GREEN BAY --- WASHINGTON

88-7-12-98

# Local Fox cleanup still best

**W**e oppose efforts by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to designate the PCB-contaminated Fox River as a Superfund site.

But there still is an opportunity for the cleanup of 39 miles of the river to remain in the hands of the paper mills and state Department of Natural Resources.

They must seize the opportunity given them by the EPA to develop a final plan to rid the river of dangerous concentrations of polychlorinated biphenyls, a former byproduct of the papermaking process.

That, we hope, will shortcircuit the formal listing of the river on the National Priorities List.

Paper mill executives repeatedly have told the community they are committed to cleaning up the river. Now is the time for that commitment to take shape, including dredging demonstration projects

planned for this fall.

That must occur because a Superfund listing would be a mistake.

We understand the concern of environmentalists and others who want the Fox River cleaned up and are frustrated by delays.

We, too, want the cleanup of pollutants to proceed as expeditiously as possible. But the best way to accomplish that is through continued cooperative efforts involving the mills and the DNR, not through the cumbersome, costly,

often ineffectual Superfund process.

Designating the Fox as a Superfund site is not the panacea that some think it is. If so, we'd be in favor of it. A U.S. General Accounting Office report cited by Gov. Tommy Thompson provides ample proof of the problems with Superfund.

The report showed that less than

45 percent of the \$1.4 billion spent on Superfund sites in 1986 actually was spent cleaning the sites. The majority of money is spent on administration costs, legal expenses and EPA employee salaries and travel.

If there is a positive development coming out of the preliminary Superfund designation, it's the public comment period that is allowed. We think the deluge of comments sure to follow will make it clear to the EPA, the DNR, the mills and politicians that the Fox River is a natural treasure that needs our help. The river, directly or indirectly, touches the lives of nearly everyone who lives and works in the Fox River Valley.

"The EPA has offered a road map to the paper companies and the state on how to avoid a Superfund designation," said U.S. Sen. Herb Kohl.

The paper companies and state must follow that road map. And when they do, the EPA must recognize a local solution is best and halt the federal Superfund process.

**Issue:**  
Superfund designation  
**Our view:**  
Paper mills, DNR must develop final cleanup plan to address PCB contamination

# EPA, DNR get forum to explain Superfund

## Outagamie board sets informational session

By Judy Williams

Post-Crescent staff writer

7/12/98

When the Outagamie County Board listened to testimony about the Fox River cleanup last month, one element was missing: the government agencies charged with protecting the environment.

Now, as the board prepares to act on a proposed resolution stating opposition to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's possible designation of the river as a Superfund Priority Site, the board will hear from EPA and state Department of Natural Resources experts.

The informational session is scheduled for 5 p.m. Tuesday in the County Board meeting room in the county administration building, 410 S. Walnut St.

Attendance at the session is voluntary for county supervisors, said Sherri McNamara, legislative aide and program analyst. The meeting is open to the public, but only for listening, not comments or a question-and-answer period, McNamara said.

A public hearing was held on the proposed resolution June 22. Many supervisors were disappointed with the small turnout at the hearing and the domination by environmental groups.

"We hear from the two extremes instead of objective information and an explanation of what the law is and what the EPA does," said Gene Lillge, county executive coordinator.

The presentations will be made by Jim Hahenberg of the EPA's Chicago regional office and Bruce Baker of the DNR.

Baker and Hahenberg recently gave presentations to the Brown County Executive Committee, which subsequently voted not to recommend that the Brown County Board approve the resolution opposing the EPA's involvement.

Most of the wording in the Outagamie County resolution came from Brown County Executive Nancy Nusbaum following a meeting of Nusbaum, Outagamie County Executive James Schuette and Winnebago County Executive Jane VanDeHey because they wanted to present a united front, Lillge said.

"It's not anti-EPA, as such. It's just saying let the demonstration projects and the information gained from them go through, and saying all the parties should come up with a plan," he said. The resolution sets a Jan. 1, 2000, deadline for federal, state and local parties to "work toward developing a cost-effective, expedient sediment remediation strategy."

That's more than adequate time to come up with a plan, Lillge said. "We didn't want time to become the issue," he said.

Post-Crescent

## State, federal and Indian officials to answer questions

Officials from the state and federal government environmental agencies and two Wisconsin tribes are hosting a public meeting July 21 at Lawrence University in Appleton to answer questions on the cleanup of contaminated sediment in the lower Fox River and Green Bay.

The meeting is scheduled 6:30-9 p.m. in Harper Hall at LU's Music Drama Center, 420 E. College Ave. The meeting will focus on the status of cleanup studies that are under way, called the remedial investigation, feasibility study and risk assessment (RI/FS/RA) and the possible proposal to add the lower Fox River to the federal Superfund list of cleanup sites. An overview of restoration activities and opportunities for public input will also be presented.

Staff from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and state Department of Natural Resources will discuss the process used in developing the RI/FS/RA, present the study timeline, and answer questions.

The draft reports are expected to be completed this fall at which time

**HEARING: Views to be aired**

From B-1

However, the county resolution opposes any EPA "proposal to consider or decision to in fact include the Fox River on the National Priorities List as a Superfund site at this time."

That's where the counties' resolution differs from one passed by several area municipalities and sewerage districts, according to Brian Casey, assistant to Appleton Mayor Timothy Hanna.

The resolution passed by the Appleton Common Council focuses on encouraging all the parties to get together and come up with a solution, not on telling the EPA to stay away, Casey said.

"We're not calling this anti-Superfund. We're saying there is a way to avoid it," he said.

The city resolution states that Superfund "should be avoided if at all possible because of protracted and highly expensive litigation that listing would trigger" and because it would harm the region's economy.

The county resolution also states that Superfund listing would create costly litigation and would have an adverse effect on tourism.

tributary sediment where fish and aquatic life remain exposed to the chemicals.

PCBs pose a health risk to both wildlife and people who consume fish from the river. Fish advisories warning people to avoid eating contaminated fish from the lower Fox River have been in effect since 1976. PCBs from the river and bay also have been linked to reproductive problems in wildlife species living in the area.

between the 1950s and '70s as a byproduct of paper de-inking and carbonless paper manufacturing and recycling. They remain widespread throughout the environment, especially in Great Lakes

7/12/98

Amy Pelishek, news editor  
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B-1 SUNDAY, JULY 12, 1998

# REGIONAL

Ramp rage ..... B-2  
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Obituaries ..... B-4

## 'Paddle' focuses attention on past - and future - of the Fox

By Ed Culhane  
Post-Crescent staff writer

Gideon Hoekstra of Menasha, who is 3, was sitting in the front of a canoe with his father, Greg, working the paddle behind him. Up ahead, the river canal seemed to end at a high, solid wall.

But a crack had appeared in the wall, and now two large doors were swinging open, pushing aside tons

of water, making way for 13 canoes, a kayak, two long "north canoes" carrying state and local dignitaries, and one motor boat staffed with two uniformed conservation wardens.

"What's that?" Gideon said, far more impressed with doors that open on a river than the fact he was surrounded by mayors, state legislators, officials with the state Department of Natural Resources

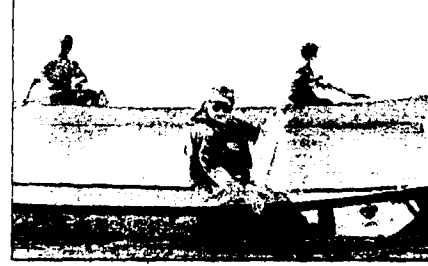
and assorted regular folk in private canoes.

"That's the lock," his father told him. "The lock is a boat elevator. It's going to let us down so we can go into the lake."

Gideon was taking his place in the state's Sesquicentennial Paddle Through Time, a celebration, in the year of the state's 150th birthday, of the Fox River's storied role in the area's history.

The lock in the government canal at Menasha, and 16 others between here and De Pere, were built more than 100 years ago to create a river of commerce between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River.

Now most of them are inoperative, and none of them are necessary for commerce, and their future has long been the subject of



Please see PADDLE, B-5

**APPLETON MAYOR TIM HANNA** joined other elected officials, DNR employees and representatives of conservation groups Saturday for a "Paddle Through Time" on the Fox River.

Post-Crescent photo by Sharon Celsae

## PADDLE: Past, future of the Fox River brought into focus

From B-1

DNR's top officials, including Secretary George Meyer's executive assistant, Stan Druckemiller, and regional director Bill Selbig.

While in the Menasha lock, we learned that Gov. Tommy Thompson's plane, Bucky Badger, had touched down. The flotilla picked him up at Fritse Park, and from that point forward it was difficult for the two-person canoes to keep up with the long boats.

The governor is a competitive man. Having already run that morning in a 5-kilometer road race in Cambridge, he was determined to be in the first boat to arrive at Lutz Park in Appleton.

"When I got in, we tied the way," he told a reporter at the park.

Asked about his thoughts on the river, he referred to the state-federal dispute on how best to clean up the contaminated sediments that threatened to put the Fox River on Superfund list of the nation's worst polluted areas.

"I just wish the EPA would let us get the thing done by ourselves," Thompson said. "We need to clean it up and we will."

But mostly it was a time for photo opportunities, and folks took turns having their pictures taken with the state's longest serving chief executive.

Stoll had higher ambitions for the trip.

"I was thrilled with the turnout at Jefferson Park, and the fact that there were people along the waterway waving to us," she said. "It was one of the best turnouts and receptions we had. It was very encouraging."

"I think it showed today - with all the people that came out - that it isn't just rich boaters who want the system put back together. Really the river is for everyone, and I think that came out real strong."

political controversy. Many area residents would like to see them restored, opening the full stretch of the Fox River through the Fox Cities to recreational boat traffic.

They dream of a day when industrial contaminants will be removed from the river's sediments, making the fish safe to eat. They dream of a time when the Fox Cities once again embrace the waterway that made this area wealthy, by developing the river corridor with parks and campgrounds and restaurants and museums and shops, all inviting people to come to the river and enjoy its still spectacular beauty.

Linda Stoll of Menasha, a member of the Fox-Wisconsin Rivers Heritage Corridor committee and one of the organizers of this month-long paddle from Prairie du Chien to Green Bay, sees this historical celebration as a way of casting a light on that possible future.

Not everyone shares this vision. As the canoes made their way through the canal, their passengers were greeted by a large, roughly scrawled sign on white cardboard, fastened to a breakwall. "Keep the Locks Closed," it read. Some believe the locks would be nothing more than a publicly financed gift to a handful of wealthy boat owners.

Saturday's segment of the Paddle Through Time began at Jefferson Park in Menasha under a perfect summer sky, with dozens of area residents on hand for the send off.

Canoeists included Appleton Mayor Timothy Hanna, taking Little Chute Village Administrator Tom Lebak for his first canoe ride; Menasha Mayor Joe Laux; Republican state Reps. Al Ott of Forest Junction and Dean Kaufert of Neenah, and a handful of the

OF HIS CREATING, THERE HAVE

# THE POST-CRESCENT

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## OUR VIEWS

7/12/95

### Time to get moving before the sands run out

**Y**es, the ticking is getting much louder in the Fox Valley. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency brought the witching hour much closer last Thursday when it said that it will seek to place the Fox River - the lifeblood of our home - on a list of the nation's biggest environmental hazards.

The EPA's next step would be to declare the PCB-contaminated Fox River a Superfund site, in the process guaranteeing the federal government a leading role in determining what avenues would be used to clean our waterway.

If there is one thing Wisconsin and Wisconsinites find distasteful, it is having someone else tell us what to do.

But the simple fact is somebody out there better wake up pretty quick and find a solution or our next bedmate will be the bureaucracy that is our federal government.



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There does seem to be an out, though, because the EPA (which hasn't always done itself big favors in establishing credibility) seems to be telling the Fox community that if we can get together and come up with a solution, it will bow out.

The first thing that should be done is for the Fox River Group - the seven industries being held responsible for the PCB discharge into our river - and the state Department of Natural Resources to end their eight-month

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of the  
**FOX**  
river

It is unfathomable that these two groups - both of which claim they want to find a solution to our PCB dilemma - haven't found a way to get together for a discussion since last September.

- must put the pressure on those doing the testing and analysis to move with punctilious speed to make accurate findings available as soon as humanly possible.

is for the FOX River Group - the seven industries being held responsible for the PCB discharge into our river - and the state Department of Natural Resources to end their eight-month slumber and start talking to each other again.

If there is no agreement on reopening talks by the end of this week, there is no question but that Gov. Tommy Thompson should throw his substantial political weight around and force these two groups, his state agency and a group of his strongest supporters in his continuous runs for the governorship, to restart talks that never should have been interrupted.

It is unfathomable that these two groups - both of which claim they want to find a solution to our PCB dilemma - haven't found a way to get together over coffee and doughnuts for a discussion since last September, even as the polluted waters of the Fox have roiled in controversy.

A hot topic of these talks should be how quickly two proposed demonstration dredging projects can take place. The answer should be sometime before we turn another page on the calendar.

EPA's statement explaining its action Thursday said that available results from the dredging testings would be integrated into the agency's risk assessment and feasibility study, which is due in September.

Conjecture is that if the test dredging is done in August, results will be ready by early 1999. Add it up. That's too late.

Someone - and the finger seems to point directly at the Fox River Group, which is funding these dredging demos

which is funding these dragging demos - must put the pressure on those doing the testing and analysis to move with punctilious speed to make accurate findings available as soon as humanly possible.

And while all that data is being studied, dissected and analyzed, the state DNR and our own FRG should work hard to initialize plans for the needed cleanup and the funding of this massive undertaking.

One of the keys here will be coming up with something of an accurate estimate of the cost of this cleanup. There have been many figures tossed about that are frightening. The DNR has used \$600 million as a possible cost, while the Fox River Group has predicted that removal of 80 percent of the contaminants will cost as much as \$3 billion.

A 500 percent difference, especially when you are talking about hundreds of millions and billions, is an awfully large disagreement and it doesn't seem to be asking too much for the concerned parties to put their cards on the table with each other and explain how they reached these figures. Who knows, they might just come up with something they can both agree upon.

But even if these two high-powered groups can sit down and start to talk things out, that won't be enough.

The municipalities that make up the Fox Valley community must have those they have placed in positions of leadership to forcefully come forth with ideas and proposals. They should also probably start pondering what will happen if these local governments get pulled into the settlement fray and are required to contribute some staggering amount to the cleanup cookie jar. After all, it was with the blessing of the communities that the paper companies sent these pollutants - many times through drainage systems run by municipalities - into the Fox.

If some culpability is found on their part, who knows how much it will cost and where that money will come from. It seems apparent that insurance policies better be checked quickly and carefully, expenditures should be studied and perhaps even a Fox River cleanup sales tax over a period of years should be looked at.

And then there are the rest of us. Those who have enjoyed life in the Fox Valley, much of it made possible because of the existence of the paper companies.

What exactly do we want to happen and how do we think it should be paid for?

There are many questions. But the biggest question is who should come up with answers. It will be either us or them. Right now, the window is open for us to make this decision.

Let's do it and do it right.



river

# Computers pave way for Fox cleanup

Surprising details on  
contamination have  
been produced by  
DNR technology

By Ed Culhane  
Post-Crescent staff writer

7/12/98

At the center of the debate on how best to remove dangerous chemicals from the Fox River lies some of the most sophisticated computer technology in the world.

That technology is now yielding some surprising results, including the recent revelation that industry discharged far more chemicals than originally thought.

The state Department of Natural Resources is now estimating that six paper mills along the river discharged between 420,000 and 825,000 pounds of PCBs into the Fox in the period beginning in 1954 and ending in the mid-1970s.

**It's high time  
for parties  
involved in  
the PCB  
cleanup to  
start talking.**

**IEWS: D-4**

Previous estimates, based on analysis of river sediments, had put the total at 250,000 pounds.

Where those chemicals are today has yet to be determined. Some have washed downstream and into the waters of Green Bay and Lake Michigan, but it is also likely that larger concentrations of chemicals exist in the river than previously thought.

This could explain why scientists preparing for two demonstration dredging projects scheduled for later this summer found PCBs in some sediments in dangerously high concentrations of 100 parts per million, much higher than was thought to exist in those areas.

PCBs and other contaminants

# CLEANUP: Computers doing advance work

From A-1

exist in different concentrations in different locations in different kinds of sediment throughout a 39-mile stretch of the Fox River, an environment which is in constant flux as stream flows vary, temperatures change and water levels rise and fall.

The business of determining the best cleanup plan and its cost has taken years of research and has compelled the state Department of Natural Resources to develop state-of-the-art computer models that incorporate both stream hydrology and molecular biology.

"This is not a simple task," said Bruce Baker, deputy administrator of the state Department of Natural Resources.

Created by internationally recognized scientists and computer engineers, at the cost of millions of dollars, these models are being used to predict how chemicals and sediments will move over time, and how changes in stream flows will affect those movements.

Much of the money came from industry, with significant contributions from federal grants.

Computer technology will also predict the results of various cleanup options, from doing nothing at all to a massive and incredibly expensive attempt to remove millions of cubic yards of sediment from the river bottom.

Combined with other complex computer models, they will predict the amount of time and effort it will take before fish in the Fox River and Lake Michigan are once again safe to eat.

Those computer predictions, Baker said, will ultimately determine whether industry chooses to negotiate a cleanup settlement or take its chances in court, a top state official said.

"It is really going to come down at some point to what is the cleanup option and what does it cost," Baker said. "That is going to drive whether there are lawsuits or negotiations."

Baker said officials representing

result that might not have been anticipated by industry officials.

Among the conclusions:

■ More than 98 percent of the PCBs discharged by the end of 1971 were due to the production of carbonless paper and the de-inking of paper scraps that resulted from that production.

And this:

■ "Five facilities accounted for over 98% of the PCBs discharged into the river. These include PH Glatfelter and the associated Arrowhead landfill, Fort James-Green Bay West, Appleton Papers-Locks Mill, Appleton Papers-Coating Mill, and the Wisconsin Tissue Co. Discharges from all remaining mills under any set of assumptions never exceeded 2 percent of the total."

Those companies identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as being among those responsible for the pollution, but whose discharges fall within the 2 percent total, are Riverside Paper

Corp. and U.S. Paper Mills Corp.

Baker said a final draft of the sediment modeling study will be available within weeks. The EPA's risk assessment and feasibility study on the proposed river cleanup - a massive undertaking that is expected to take more than 20 years and cost hundreds of millions of dollars - is being conducted by the DNR and is expected to be released by December.



drive whether there are lawsuits or negotiations."

Baker said officials representing the seven industries expected to pay for the cleanup were concerned about the effectiveness of the technology and demanded a study to determine if they work.

This was possible, Baker said, because the computer models can be told to look back in time as well as forward.

Because the agency has physically characterized the state of contaminants and sediments in the river over time - and possesses accurate, historical information on stream flows - the computer's picture of the past could then be compared to what is already known.

A recent study, designed to determine how effective these computer models are, has convinced both state and federal officials that the DNR's computer models do work. That study is still being reviewed by industry, Baker said.

"We are absolutely convinced that we don't have to make any changes to the model," Baker said. "If the model was in serious trouble, there would be people criticizing it openly by now. The fact that you don't hear much about it is an indication that things are not all goofed up."

Industry also depended on the study to determine among themselves the relative amounts of chemicals discharged by each of the industries.

This was a tricky problem for industry, because it required each company to release proprietary information that could be used by other companies for a competitive advantage.

"We were the only ones in a position to gather that information, since some of that information they would be unwilling to share with each other," Baker said.

While the specific, proprietary information was kept confidential, the results of the study were contained in a public document, a

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7/12/98

## LETTERS

## Industries polluted; industries should pay

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:

Cheers to Rebecca Katers, director of the Clean Water Action Council, who battled for cleaning up the Fox River. One person can light a fire to awaken the slumbering many. It has been said, "A turtle moves forward only by sticking its neck out."

Environmentalists want action in a significant cleanup. The DNR, the paper industry, the Chamber of Commerce seem to practice the smooth language of evasion. No one is truly facing the dilemma.

The culprit from paper mills is chlorine, which helps to create dioxin, one of the most toxic chemicals ever made. Our historic Fox River waters have been sickened by poisonous effluent. "The influence of our affluence is showing in our effluent" was a phrase of a committee on water studies in Madison that I attended.

Jacques Cousteau said not long ago, "Our wastes should not be dumped out of sight in the rivers and sea. They come back to us on our dinner tables in the fish we eat. We live in a water-dependent ecosystem."

The paper industry is not unlike the tobacco industry in that both are polluters, both cause health problems.

The taxpayers should not be saddled with the cost of cleanup of a river that is poisoning all life. The corporations who caused the destruction should be responsible for cleanup.

Let's not wait until we are obliged to ask the paper industry, as Golda Meier asked Anwar Sadat, "What took you so long?"

Let us opt for clean rivers and clean air to make a healthier America.

Lilas Lipske,  
Appleton

## Big words can prove daunting with PCBs

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*: 7/12/98

Being an informed citizen is not always easy. "polychlorinated biphenyls" is a big word, and one that raises more questions than answers.

As a high school chemistry teacher, I see the anxiety that big, complicated chemical names can have on students, and I have a hunch that it is also the reason for the low turnout at the public hearing held recently.

Even I stayed away, hoping that the "experts" would show up and give the board some good advice. I did not feel qualified (even with a background in chemistry) to tell the county board what to do.

PCBs are believed to cause everything from thin-shelled eagle eggs to cancer in humans. Who am I to voice my opinion on the best way to clean up tons of it? When it comes to making the big decision, I suffer chemistry anxiety just like my students.

What I know is that I care about the Fox River, and I want it to be cleaner for my grandchildren than it was and is for me. Does that mean we need the EPA? Good question.

One thing I would like the board to keep in mind when making their decision is that "we are the government." Don't lose faith in how our government works because of the foolishness going on in Washington. If the 2,400 employees of Appleton Papers are concerned about their jobs if the EPA comes in and forces the companies to spend enormous amounts of money on the cleanup, then we should let the EPA be aware of this, and work

towards a compromise — they do work for us.

To citizens interested in becoming an informed citizen: The Appleton Public Library has information in-house, and posted on the Web at <http://www.apl.org/pages/pcb.html>.

Mark Janssen,  
Little Chute

7/12/98

## What about a river mining moratorium?

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:

Over the past few months I have read many articles written by people who seem to feel endangered by the mere presence of some PCBs in the mud of the Fox River bottom. They also imply that the seven paper companies involved had done something illegal and should be punished for their "sins of the past."

Don't they know that it was the paper companies themselves that blew the whistle on PCBs, and voluntarily stopped putting them into the sewer system way back in 1971.

If, after 27 years, the PCBs are still present in the mud of the river bottom, I'd say that's good evidence that they are entombed and should remain there.

I haven't seen any of the activism that resulted in a mining moratorium up in Crandon.

The moratorium required Exxon to provide proof that the proposed mining process has been used successfully elsewhere for some number of years. Why not apply the same safety requirements to the mining of PCBs from the Fox River? After all, the dredging process is really an underwater open pit mining operation. Put on a moratorium for some number of years and then require the pro-dredge people to show proof that this dredging system has worked in a flowing river.

If the PCBs are still potent or "poisonous," we could hope that they would kill the lamprey eels or

the zebra mussels, but, alas, even the fish-eating eagles near Kaukauna are thriving. The dredging would surely disrupt the habitat of the native Wisconsin salamander. If other places can prevail in saving snail darters, spotted owls, and kangaroo rats we should do the right thing and "Save our Mudpuppies."

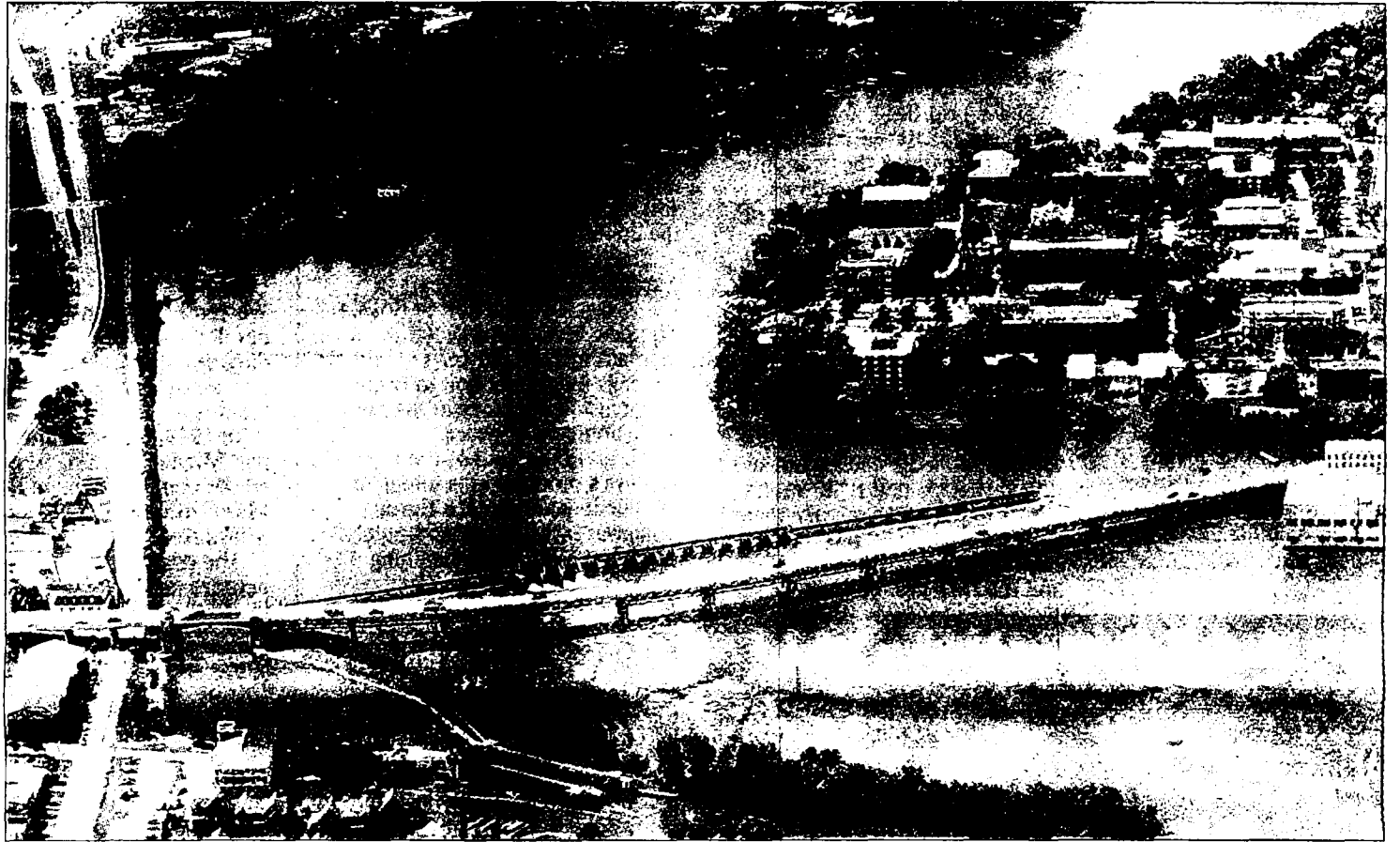
Don Krabbe,  
Seymour

the future  
for the  
**FOX**  
river



DNR taps northern landfill  
to receive PCB sediments  
from Fox River, New Holstein  
and Sheboygan River sites

# LONG HAUL



Post-Crescent photo by Mike De Sisti

THE PCB-FILLED sediment from dredging on the Fox River in De Pere (above) and in Kimberly will be transported to Sarona.

## Town of Sarona official expects negative local reaction to landfill

By Doug Erickson  
Post-Crescent staff writer

Contaminated sediment dredged from the Fox River during two upcoming demonstration projects would be trucked more than 200 miles away to Washburn County under a state proposal announced Friday.

The Department of Natural Resources said it intends to award the disposal contract to Houston-based Browning-Ferris Industries, which owns the Lake Area Landfill in the Town of Sarona.

It was the low bidder of four companies.

That means thousands of tons of dried sediment contaminated with

polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), a suspected carcinogen, could end up in the rural northwestern Wisconsin county.

"People won't react favorably to this, I can tell you that," said Paul Hagen, a Town of Sarona supervisor and a member of the Local Monitoring Committee for the landfill.

"I'm sure there will be some concerned citizens," said Sarona Town Chairman Russell Furchtenicht. "I guess we have to have faith in the DNR that we're not getting hazardous waste that will contaminate the area."

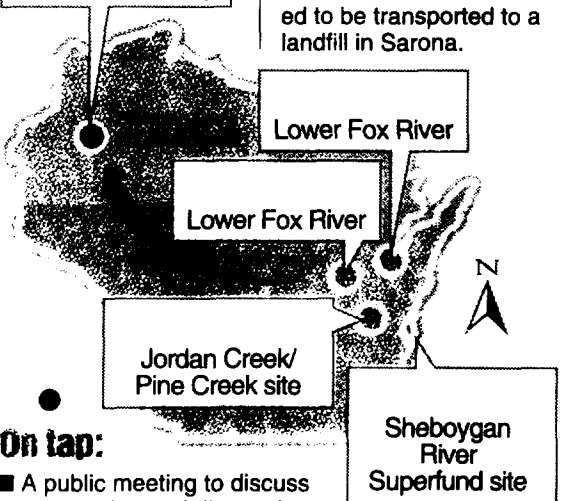
DNR officials maintain that the disposal procedure is sound and rel-

Please see **LANDFILL**, BACK PAGE

## NEW HOME FOR PCBs

Sarona  
Washburn County

■ About 100,000 tons of dried PCB sediments from four locations are scheduled to be transported to a landfill in Sarona.



### On tap:

■ A public meeting to discuss transportation and disposal plans is scheduled for Aug. 12 in Rice Lake.

## EPA chief blasts industry for minimizing PCB threat

By Bob Vitale  
Post-Crescent Washington bureau

WASHINGTON - PCBs are no longer entering the nation's waterways, but those still in them pose a serious threat to nearby communities and residents, EPA Administrator Carol Browner said this week.

Countering industry claims that the PCB-laden Hudson River is posing no danger to residents along its banks, Browner went before a committee of the New York Legislature on Thursday to deliver what environmentalists called one of her agency's strongest statements ever on the need to clean them up.

Her comments came the same day EPA was taking one of its strongest actions ever on PCB pollution in Northeast Wisconsin's Fox River, proposing that a 39-mile stretch be placed under the federal Superfund program to end years of cleanup delays.

Please see **THREAT**, BACK PAGE

Coming Sunday



### Night Riders

Valley Transit's evening bus runs suit people whose livelihoods don't stop after the sun goes down / A-1



### What would Jesus do?

Religious-themed articles cool with Valley kids / Life & Style

## Oneida death delays tribal meeting on arena funding

By Eve Wideman  
Post-Crescent staff writer

GREEN BAY - The death of Oneida Nation tribal elder led to the cancellation of today's scheduled General Tribal Council meeting to review controversial funding of a new arena and expansion of a convention center for Brown County.

The meeting was scheduled to discuss whether the tribe should raise taxes from its Radisson hotel to help pay for construction of a \$40 million Brown County arena and \$12 million to expand the Green Bay convention center.

The meeting has been rescheduled for Aug. 1.

Tribal spokeswoman Bobbi Hagen said it is normal for the tribe to cancel events and meetings when a tribal member dies.

It is a standard procedure in the Oneida community. One death in a community affects so many people," she said.

Hagen identified the deceased as 72-year-old Reginald M. Denny, a Oneida resident who died Wednesday. Denny will be buried at Riverside Cemetery in Green Bay.

The death was simply an unforeseen tragedy. This is a very prominent member in the Oneida tribe so they

Please see **ONEIDA**, A-6

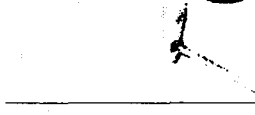
## Weather today

8-9 Obituaries..... B-4  
D-1 Stocks..... C-6,7,8  
B-8 Sports..... C-1  
A-7 TV..... B-7  
E-1 Theater..... B-6  
B-1 Weather..... A-8

Monday: Mostly sunny, high 80  
Tuesday: Mostly sunny, high 80



## Coming



Tips on how to read Reid Golf Course



Your complete tournament

## Minergy plant plagued

By Ed Lowe  
Post-Crescent staff writer

NEENAH - The latest in a string of at least five fire calls at Minergy Corp., 231 Millview Drive, tied up the entire Neenah Fire Department and required the services of three other area departments Friday night.

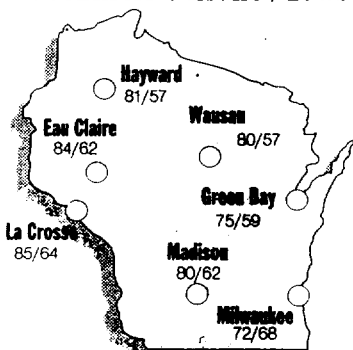
One firefighter suffered minor heat-related

quickly, Relien said. The blaze, reported inside a 70-foot tall cyclone, which Minergy uses to produce paper byproducts, produced a large amount of sludge, converting it into a hazardous waste. P.H. Glatfelter is in the construction of a new facility. Firefighters from the Neenah Fire Department arrived

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THE LOOK

YESTERDAY'S HIGHS / LOWS



WEATHER DATA

Yesterday's high	78
Overnight low	59
Today's record high	100 (1936)
Today's record low	51 (1978)
24-hour precipitation	0
Cooling degree days	3.5
Today's sunset	8:38
Tomorrow's sunrise	5:22

LOWS ACROSS THE U.S.

72	57	cdy	Phoenix	112	88	clr
71	53	clr	Pittsburgh	78	62	clr
88	67	clr	Pocatello	90	54	cdy
84	49	cdy	Portland, Me.	78	60	cdy
77	60	cdy	Portland, Or.	69	50	cdy
87	52	cdy	Providence	82	63	cdy
96	74	01	Raleigh	90	73	clr
01	75	cdy	Rapid City	89	61	10
85	66	clr	Reno	89	59	clr
98	72	1.16	Richmond	88	68	88
94	75	03	Roanoke	89	70	clr
83	72	clr	Rochester	73	61	15
88	70	cdy	Sacramento	82	57	cdy
08	79	clr	St. Louis	82	78	14
04	78	43	Salt Lake City	90	71	17
87	68	clr	San Angelo	101	79	cdy
86	74	cdy	San Diego	74	65	clr
93	78	05	S. Francisco	61	52	cdy
86	68	clr	St. Paul	75	55	clr
95	74	01	Savannah	98	76	cdy
88	74	02	Seattle	73	58	cdy
87	80	clr	Shreveport	105	79	clr
93	72	clr	Sioux Falls	87	63	cdy
05	76	cdy	Syracuse	73	61	25
81	72	cdy	Tampa	84	82	1.77
86	78	16	Tulsa	99	80	clr
85	69	20	Wash., D.C.	88	71	clr

CITIES AROUND THE WORLD

60	50	cdy	Nassau	91	77	clr
107	82	clr	New Delhi	93	78	clr
64	53	cdy	Osaka	87	82	clr
66	57	cdy	Oslo	64	53	cdy
75	57	cdy	Paris	64	59	cdy
89	78	m	Rio	82	55	m
69	44	clr	Rome	82	62	clr
91	73	clr	San Juan	87	78	cdy
71	53	clr	Santiago	73	35	clr
89	80	clr	Sao Paulo	68	55	cdy
75	64	m	Sapporo	68	62	m
87	68	clr	Seoul	84	73	m
59	44	cdy	Singapore	86	78	m
66	55	m	Stockholm	75	57	cdy
66	62	cdy	Sydney	55	42	cdy
86	62	clr	Taipei	91	78	clr
69	60	cdy	Tel Aviv	87	75	clr
95	59	clr	Tokyo	84	73	cdy
89	80	cdy	Toronto	86	57	clr
77	57	m	Vancouver	75	57	cdy
78	59	cdy	Vienna	69	59	cdy
73	62	cdy	Warsaw	64	42	cdy
71	50	cdy	Zurich	73	55	cdy

LANDFILL: PCB disposal plan targets small northern town

From A-1

actively safe. Because PCBs adhere tightly to dried sediment, they shouldn't end up in the rainwater and snowmelt that soaks into and runs through landfills, they say.

That runoff, called leachate, drains into pipes and is treated at a local wastewater plant. The leachate will be tested regularly for PCBs, said Bruce Baker, the DNR's deputy administrator for water.

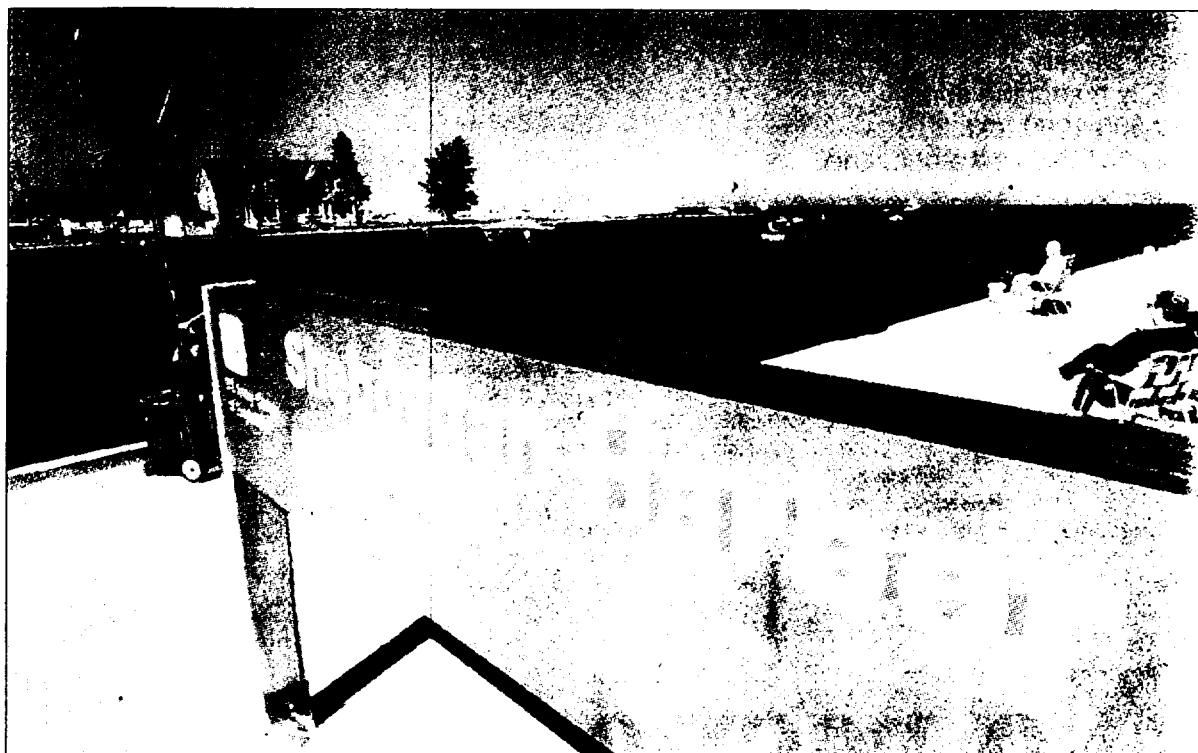
"I think people get confused because we talk a lot about the health effects of PCBs in the aquatic environment where they're exposed to the food chain," he said. "This is different. They are not causing a major risk by having this stuff disposed there."

The disposal plan is subject to public review before the bid is formally awarded this fall. The DNR has scheduled an Aug. 12 meeting in Rice Lake to answer residents' questions.

"I would expect people there will take the PCB waste issue very seriously. If I lived next door to it, I'd want to make darned sure it was going to stay in place, too," said Mark Stokstad of the DNR's northern region. His staff will handle the landfill regulatory role.

"We're very confident the landfill will be able to contain those wastes," he said. "It's a very high-quality, well-operated landfill."

The contract covers about 92,500 tons of PCB-contaminated



Thomson Newspapers photo by Gary C. Klein of The Sheboygan Press

PCB WASTES from the Fox River will join 5,000 tons of waste to be dredged from the Sheboygan River Superfund site as well as 7,500 tons from another site in New Holstein.

sediments from three areas in the state.

The majority of that soil, about 80,000 tons, will come from the lower Fox River, where demonstration projects in Kimberly and De Pere will extract PCBs this fall as a dredging test.

The rest of the sediment headed for the landfill will come from the Sheboygan River Superfund site (5,000 tons) and the Jordan Creek/Pine Creek site in New Holstein (7,500 tons).

PCBs are manmade chemicals banned by the federal government in 1977. They once were widely used by paper companies in the manufacture of carbonless copy paper and other products. They are

now considered a significant health threat to the aquatic and natural resources of the state.

Browning-Ferris Industries bid \$5.7 million for the contract, or about \$62 per ton. That's considered a good price by the DNR, which once had predicted it might cost up to \$100 per ton to dispose of the soil, Baker said.

The other bids came from the Michigan-based Environmental Quality Company (\$12.9 million), Racine-based USA Waste of Wisconsin (\$11.5 million), and Fond du Lac-based Superior Services (\$7.6 million).

Superior Services would have disposed of the waste at landfills in Eau Claire and Horicon, Baker

said. USA Waste's landfill is near Racine, he said.

Furchtenicht, the Town of Saronna chairman, said he just learned of the PCB contract Friday from the DNR and the landfill company.

"My first reaction was that I'm not even sure what PCBs are," he said. "I'm sure you in Appleton are much more aware of what they are than we are here."

Both he and Hagen said they have been impressed with the way BFI has managed the landfill the last few years.

Still, they will be reviewing the contract between the town and the company and researching PCBs they said.

THREAT: EPA administrator blasts industry view on PCBs

From A-1

In her New York speech, Browner said the EPA "will not hesitate to take strong and immediate action" to protect the public from environmental hazards. She accused General Electric Corp., which discharged PCBs into the Hudson from the 1940s until 1977, of misleading the public about the dangers those chemicals cause.

And she refuted GE claims — the same kind made in Wisconsin by seven companies responsible for the Fox River's PCB contamination — that the problem is dissipating naturally.

"EPA's latest analysis shows that more than 20 years after PCBs were last produced, the environment cannot simply heal itself," she said.

GE spokesman David Warshaw told the Albany Times Union that Browner's comments "overstate the risk and don't reflect real-world conditions."

"PCBs do not cause cancer in humans," nor have they been proven as the cause for any other adverse health effects, he told the newspaper.

Browner cited reams of data she

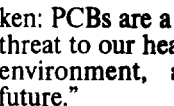
said prove otherwise.

A 1996 EPA review of more than 20 scientific studies found the chemicals to cause cancer in animals and possibly in humans, she said. Preliminary research indicates that PCBs might impair children's growth and development, she added, and new studies have found

evidence of a link between PCBs and non-Hodgkins lymphoma.

"We do not have every single answer, nor every single piece of data," Browner said. "But clearly the science has spoken: PCBs are a serious threat — a threat to our health, a threat to our environment, a threat to our future."

EPA is currently in a battle with GE over efforts to move forward on cleanup of the Hudson River, which has been on the national Superfund list for more than a decade. The company is pushing a rules change in Congress that would require the agency to con-



BROWNER

EPA brings alphabet soup of acronyms to Valley

NPL: National Priorities List, which is the list of sites nationwide that EPA thinks are the most hazardous.

PRP: The businesses and people deemed to have caused the pollution at a hazardous waste site are called Potentially Responsible Parties.

HRS: Hazardous Ranking System. It's a numerical score given after scientific studies that helps the EPA decide on Superfund listings.

The Fox River received an HRS score of 50, which put it in the top 25 percent of sites

already on the list.

APC: The Fox River is one of 96 bodies of water around the country considered an Area of Probable Concern. These are places contaminated enough that wildlife and people who consume them face health risks.

RI/FS: This is the next step for EPA's consideration of the Fox River as a national Superfund site. It stands for a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, during which the agency reviews previous studies and looks at possible cleanup strategies.

duct more studies before going forward with plans to dredge the river.

Dredging is also opposed by Fox Valley companies that say it is too costly and would only stir up PCBs that have settled into river sediment.

Browner, however, said that in

upstate New York the EPA "will not turn away from our responsibilities, even when they require dredging."

She vowed that the agency will come up with its final cleanup plans for the Hudson by the end of 2000.

ST BETS  
e weekend

boys, best known for their "nd Ring" in 1965, perform at ... Celebration today. Tickets ... 57-6447 for info.

A running of the bulls is set today in Nevada at \$50 a non

Post - Crescent?

**SUPPORT CLEANUP:** The cleanup of the Fox River will be addressed at the Outagamie County Board's Property Committee meeting at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday at the administration building. The county executive and supervisors need to hear from the people in this area that the river cleanup is essential. The EPA designation of the Fox River as a Superfund site may be the definite way to get the cleanup done. Negotiations with paper companies

7/11/98

## IT'S YOUR CALL

YOUR CHANCE TO VOICE A BRIEF  
OPINION OF ANY SUBJECT  
GREAT OR SMALL  
**PHONE:** 734-5678

and the state have gone on for more than a decade and the PCBs remain in the river. The July 14 Property Committee meeting will be followed by the Board of

Supervisors meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the old courthouse. Go to these meetings and show support for the cleanup.

**Penny Bernard Schaber,**  
Appleton

## REGIONAL

## YOUR CONTACT:

Amy Pelishek, news editor  
920-993-1000, ext. 286  
e mail: PC News@athenet.net

B-1 ■ WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 1998

## INSIDE THIS SECTION

Oakfield sentencing...B-2  
Chilton drug hearing...B-4  
Manawa drowning....B-5

# Outagamie board delays Superfund vote

By Judy Williams  
Post-Crescent staff writer

Declining to follow the lead set by Winnebago County and other area governments, the Outagamie County Board Tuesday decided not to take action on a resolution opposing the involvement of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the Fox River cleanup.

Instead, the board plans to hold a public hearing on the issue before deciding what action to take on the proposed resolution that opposes "any proposal to consider or decision to in fact include the Fox River on the National Priorities List as a Superfund Priority Site at this time."

A date for the public hearing has not yet been set. Corporation Counsel Joseph Guidote is checking to see how much advance notice is required. He said he expects it to be two weeks before the hearing can be scheduled.

The EPA is expected to decide in June or July whether to put the river, which is polluted by polychlorinated biphenyls discharged into the water by paper mills located along the river, on the national Superfund list.

County Executive James Schuette declined to take a stance on the issue, but he urged the board to hold the public hearing as soon as possible and schedule it separately from a regular County Board meeting because it likely will attract a vocal crowd.

"This is an issue that's going to be around a long time, and at some point in time, counties will have to get involved to whatever degree," said Schuette.

"I think it's critical that you understand that probably this issue is going to divide the community, is going to divide families and probably is going to divide this board."

Schuette said he has read information on all sides of the issue of cleaning PCBs from the Fox River but he still doesn't have the answers.

"I don't think that you people do, either," he told the board.

The resolution was also before the Property, Airport, Recreation and

Economic Development Committee in a meeting preceding the full County Board meeting. The committee also delayed taking action.

Rebecca Katers, of the Clean Water Action Council, in Green Bay, asked supervisors not to rush to resolution. - "We're concerned with the speed with which this resolution is going through," said Katers.

She said Superfund is the only source of money up front and only EPA involvement would allow cleanup action and human health assessments to begin almost immediately.

Sarah Welch, also a Clean Water Action Council member, urged the committee "to take it slow and be conservative with your decisions."

She said there should be more time for public input before the board goes on record opposing EPA involvement.

Schuette said he asked for the resolution to be put on the agenda "to get it on the table" in conjunction with Brown and Winnebago counties.

He predicted the issue of Superfund designation of the Fox River and federal EPA involvement in the cleanup issue will remain a contentious topic for years.

While Winnebago County already has passed the resolution opposing Superfund designation, Brown County officials are scheduled to deliberate the issue later this month and take action in July.



the future  
of the  
FOX  
river

7/10/98

LETTERS

# PCBs do not yet pose a physical or financial threat

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:

In a recent editorial you bemoaned the apathy of local citizens to the PCB problem in the Fox River.

Human nature being what it is, we have a tendency to let a sleeping dog lie unless we feel that our physical or financial health is being threatened.

With respect to PCBs in the bed of the Fox River, local citizens have a hard time feeling physically threatened by them. After all, prior to the 1970s, we all drank the PCB-laden water of the river and there doesn't seem to be any evidence of harm to our health from that consumption. So citizens are apathetic to the proposed cleanup of the river so long as someone else is fingered to pay the bill.

If *The Post-Crescent* would like to focus the attention of the local citizenry on the problem, why not

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Prior to the 1970s, we all drank the PCB-laden water of the river and there doesn't seem to be any evidence of harm to our health from that consumption.

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write an editorial informing the public that under environmental law, a transporter of toxic waste is jointly liable with the polluter for the cost of cleanup.

The editorial should note that the municipal governments in the Fox Cities transported PCB-laden effluent to the Fox River through their sewer systems. It should explain that the boards of directors of the corporations singled out as defendants in federal and state lawsuits to recover the costs of dredging the length of the Fox River will

have no choice but to implead the municipalities in the Fox Cities for contribution. At this point apathetic citizens should become threatened taxpayers and dialog will begin.

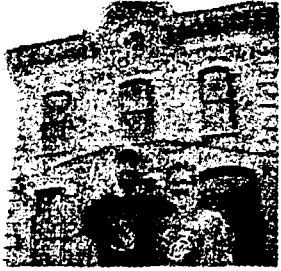
With the paucity of any hard evidence that the health of local citizens has been or will be damaged by the presence of PCBs in the Fox River, common sense would dictate that the river bed not be roiled and be allowed to heal itself over time.

**Charles Banker,**  
Appleton



What's  
on Tap

Coming Saturday



### THIS OLD HOUSE

Many younger couples find the restoration of old homes to be a labor of love that pays off with future financial equity and a truly unique place to live

HOME

## Losses threaten bank in Pov Sippi

# FOX



the .....  
future  
of the  
FOX  
river

Growing possibility of river as a Superfund site creates gulf between state, federal officials and area industries

# clock starts



### inside today

While some Appleton-area officials strongly oppose a Superfund designation for the Fox River, many officials in Brown County are supporting federal involvement.

page 2

U.S. Rep. Jay Johnson says companies responsible for the PCB contamination have the power to head off a potential Superfund designation.

page 2





Post-Crescent photo by Mike De Soli

Fox River on a list of the nation's biggest environmental hazards.

## fresh negotiations, t since last September

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HANNA

tions on the table.

"Doesn't this seem like something that either needs to be mediated or negotiated?" he said Thursday. "You have a dispute between regulatory agencies. Someone needs to mediate that before this train wrecks."

Dennis Hultgren of Appleton Papers Co., representing the Fox River Group - the seven industries being held responsible for the PCB discharge - said the last proposal by the federal government was so unacceptable that industry representatives were left speechless.

"We are so far apart," Hultgren said. "How do you respond?"

The exact nature of that proposal is

Please see RIVER, BACK PAGE

## up is not 'if'

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EPA, BACK PAGE



**JASON MEULEMANS,** 15, of Kaukauna tries his luck fishing from a rocky perch in Kaukauna. The EPA claims the "best and most efficient way" to ensure cleanup of the river is by listing it on the federal government's National Priorities List.

Post-Crescent photo by Dan Powers

U.S. Rep. Jay Johnson says companies responsible for the PCB contamination have the power to head off a potential Superfund designation.

PLEASE SEE PAGE B 1

What's it all about? Question and Answer to help you sort out the EPA's announcement.

PLEASE SEE PAGE B 1

## what's next

Here's a look at what will happen over the next few years as a result of Thursday's decision by the EPA to formally consider Superfund designation for the Fox River:

**In the next 30 days:** The EPA will be accepting public comments on its proposal to place the Fox on its National Priorities List.

**In the next six months:** Officials at the agency will be conducting more studies to determine whether Superfund listing is necessary.

**In the next year:** The EPA will decide whether to actually designate the Fox River as a Superfund site. Officials say, however, that a listing could be delayed or avoided if progress is made on cleanup talks between the state and seven area companies responsible for river pollution.

**In the next two years:** If a voluntary agreement is reached without Superfund designation, the first cleanup efforts could begin, according to David Ullrich, acting administrator for EPA's Midwest regional office.

**Unknown:** Ullrich said "it's hard to tell right now" when cleanup will be completed with or without a Superfund designation.

## your voice

To submit comments to the EPA, write:  
Docket Coordinator  
U.S. EPA Headquarters  
CERCLA Docket Office  
Mail Code 5201G

EPA OFFICIALS on Thursday said they will seek to place the Fox River on a list of the nation's biggest environmental hazards.

Post-Crescent photo by Mike De Sisti

# Despite calls for fresh negotiations, parties have not met since last September

By Ed Cuihane  
Post-Crescent staff writer

7/10/98



he growing possibility that the chemically polluted Fox River will be listed as a federal Superfund site highlights the tremendous rift that separates state and federal officials and the seven industries expected to pay for the cleanup.

Behind the calls for a new round of negotiations lies a stark and disturbing fact — the principal parties to the cleanup process have not shared the same room since last

September.

No one can say when the warring parties might start talking, and as the public information war heats up — with the various sides becoming entrenched in their positions and other groups adding their voices to the fray — the possibility of a negotiated cleanup plan acceptable to all parties seems remote.

All of which is depressing to Appleton Mayor Timothy Hanna, who has seen his city's chief geographical feature branded as a national pollution problem with no solu-



HANNA

tions on the table.

"Doesn't this seem like something that either needs to be mediated or negotiated?" he said Thursday. "You have a dispute between regulatory agencies. Someone needs to mediate that before this train wrecks."

Dennis Hultgren of Appleton Papers Co., representing the Fox River Group — the seven industries being held responsible for the PCB discharge — said the last proposal by the federal government was so unacceptable that industry representatives were left speechless.

"We are so far apart," Hultgren said. "How do you respond?"

The exact nature of that proposal is

Please see RIVER, BACK PAGE

## EPA officials say cleanup is now matter of 'when,' not 'if'

By Bob Vitale  
Post-Crescent Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said Thursday that it will seek to place the Fox River on a list of the nation's biggest environmental hazards, a move top officials said puts long-stalled cleanup efforts in the category of "when" rather than "if."

Expressing frustration with seven companies that dumped PCBs into the river for two decades and have been discussing cleanup options for about as long, the director of EPA's Superfund program said adding the Fox to the federal government's Nat-

ional Priorities List is the "best and most efficient way" to ensure cleanup.

Should the agency decide to actually list the Fox as a Superfund site — Thursday's announcement was simply a proposal to do so, with a final decision up to a year off — it would put cleanup under a more watchful federal eye. The agency made clear, however, that it would be more than willing to delay a final listing if the companies and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources come up with an acceptable river cleanup plan on their own.

"There must be a cleanup, one way

Please see EPA, BACK PAGE



**JASON MEULEMANS**, 15, of Kaukauna tries his luck fishing from a rocky perch in Kaukauna. The EPA claims the "best and most efficient way" to ensure cleanup of the river is by listing it on the federal government's National Priorities List.

Post-Crescent photo by Dan Powers

a result of Thursday's decision by the EPA to formally consider Superfund designation for the Fox River:

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**Unknown:** Ullrich said "it's hard to tell right now" when cleanup will be completed with or without a Superfund designation.

**your voice**

To submit comments to the EPA, write:  
Docket Coordinator  
U.S. EPA Headquarters  
CERCLA Docket Office  
Mail Code 5201G

## RIVER: Cleanup process pits state, federal officials against each other

From A-1

shielded by confidentiality, but an informed source outside industry or government told *The Post-Crescent* that the industries were invited to support the removal of 80% of the contaminated sediments in the river.

Industry officials have estimated this cleanup option would cost \$3 billion while leaving their companies forever liable for any problems arising from the remaining contamination or from any contaminated sediments that would be dredged and stored in landfills.

The official with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency who made the decision to propose the Fox River as a Superfund site said the specter of the federal government using its enforcement powers to force a cleanup could speed the process.

Timothy Fields Jr., the agency's acting assistant administrator, said the decision was difficult for him, given the opposition to Superfund listing voiced by Gov. Tommy Thompson, the state Department of Natural Resources and the majority of local elected officials, but he said he believed it was the best and most efficient way to ensure a cleanup of the Fox River.

"I believe the ... proposal will provide the needed incentive for the (seven industries) to negotiate more seriously with the state and the EPA," Fields said.

Thompson called the EPA's action the height of arrogance and blasted the embattled Superfund program as a failure. A top DNR official was equally critical, saying the federal government lacked the speed and flexibility of state regulators.

"The problem with the (proposed) Superfund listing is that the process is very prescriptive," said Susan Sylvester, administrator of the DNR's Bureau of Water. "Listing as a (Superfund) site takes us back in time and sort of starts the process over again."

Sylvester said the DNR has been making progress on the long-awaited cleanup. A fundamental dispute between the DNR and the EPA, she said, is the federal agency's insistence that a comprehensive cleanup plan be in place before remediation of the river can begin. The DNR's approach, she said, has been to tackle one sediment hot spot at a time with the goal of eventually getting to all of them.

"I can tell you we have been working with the (industries) to move forward," Sylvester said, "and we have been happy with the progress we have been making.

The EPA feels their approach is better, and we disagree."

Bruce Johnson, of the non-profit Fox-Wolf Basin 2000, said officials with both governments and with industry have all been negligent.

"I have not seen strong evidence of any of these governments wanting (to negotiate) since those first attempts at a global settlement went awry last September," Johnson said, "and industry is not doing the kinds of things that I would expect to see from a group that illustrates a willingness to sit down and settle."

Hultgren said the seven companies have expressed a willingness to talk. They have

not put forth any proposals, however, since their position has been that any cleanup agreement should await the results of demonstration dredging projects scheduled for later this year. The results of those projects will probably not be known until early next year, Hultgren said.

"You might want to ask the EPA if they are willing to sit down and negotiate," Holtgren said. "I think the state is ready, and I think the companies are."

The seven companies are Appleton Papers, Fort James Corp., P.H. Glatfelter, Riverside Paper, U.S. Paper Mills, Wisconsin Tissue Mills and NCR Corp., a former owner of Appleton

Papers.

Backing the EPA have been the Oneida and Menominee tribes, who have been included in federal government's list of trustees for the river. Fields said the tribes have suffered "cultural damages" stemming from their uses of tributaries to the Fox River and Green Bay. Also on the list is the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, which has been conducting a years-long assessment of the damages to natural resources caused by industry's chemical discharges.

The area's most active environmental groups are also backing the Superfund listing.

Rebecca Katers of the Clean Water Action Council said the governor and the DNR have had 12 years to develop a cleanup plan.

"He (Thompson) is in no position to call the EPA bureaucratic and slow," Katers said. "That's been the idea for 12 years to have a negotiated settlement. I myself sat across the table from industry for years. That's been tried. I think it is clear the amount of money needed (from industry) for this cleanup will not be gotten voluntarily."

Katers said the state has never held a public hearing on the cleanup or given area



**TIMOTHY FIELDS JR.**, acting EPA assistant administrator

"I believe the ... proposal will provide the needed incentive for the (seven industries) to negotiate more seriously with the state and the EPA."



**AN ANNOUNCE**  
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Post-Crescent photo by Mike De Sisti

## EPA: Fox River is being considered for Superfund

From A-1

or another," said David Ullrich, EPA's acting regional administrator for Wisconsin and other Midwestern states. "The Superfund process is available to assure there will be cleanup if the companies do not step forward."

The seven companies the EPA holds responsible for the discharge of PCBs are known as the Fox River Group. The companies are P.H. Glatfelter Co., Riverside Paper Corp., Appleton Papers Inc., Fort James Corp., U.S. Paper Mills Corp., Wisconsin Tissue Mills, and NCR Corp., a former owner of Appleton Papers.

The Fox River Group released a statement Thursday, saying, "Unfortunately ... the EPA has chosen to ignore the wishes of Gov. Thompson, state legislators, local officials and the people of the Fox River Valley by proposing that the Fox River become a Superfund site. Many county and municipal governments and business organizations have passed resolutions opposing the Superfund designation, but the EPA has elected not to listen."

"The companies of the Fox River Group have long supported a voluntary, cooperative effort to find ways to accelerate the recovery of the river. ... Making this critical decision without any real data on how dredging contaminated sediments will impact the unique Fox River ecosystem is not only premature — it is irresponsible. ... We encourage the EPA to make this decision based on sound and demonstrated science."

Assurances that the state will continue to play a lead role in the effort did not calm Gov. Tommy Thompson. He said the federal government is the last thing the state needs for quick and effective action on the Fox River and cited a 1997 General Accounting Office study that found Superfund cleanups taking more than 10 years on average. The same study said a majority of the program's money is spent on administrative costs and legal expenses.

"This is just another example of the EPA and federal government stepping in and micromanaging state matters — and ultimately making matters worse," Thompson said. "This is the height of Washington arrogance."

In a letter announcing the EPA's decision to DNR Secretary George Meyer and the state's representatives in Congress, Acting EPA Assistant Administrator Timothy Fields Jr. said the river poses "very serious human health and ecological risks that are not being adequately addressed."

About 40 tons of PCBs remain in the Fox River more than two decades after area companies in Appleton, Neenah, Green Bay and other manufacturing centers stopped discharging them. The Fox also remains the biggest source of PCBs entering Lake Michigan: More than 600 pounds are flushed into the bay of Green Bay and the lake each year under normal conditions.

**AN ANNOUNCEMENT THURSDAY** by the federal Environmental Protection Agency that it is considering the Fox River for possible Superfund designation gives the public 60 days to submit comments.

residents a set of options.

"For them to be doing a negotiated settlement of any kind, if it doesn't involve public input, is not right," she said. "This is a public resource."

Katers pointed to information in Field's letter to state officials indicating that the EPA's system of ranking polluted sites put the Fox River in the top 25% of the nation's worst contamination problems.

"We deserve to be called a Superfund site," she said. "Our contamination is serious enough that we deserve that label. It would be better to face up to that name and try to do something about it than to run away from it."

Hanna, who doesn't think the area

deserves to be a Superfund site, searched for hope in Thursday's developments. He noted that Fields made a stronger statement that the available results of the two demonstration dredging projects would be integrated into the agency's risk assessment and feasibility study, due out in December.

Hanna also pointed to Field's statement that the EPA will hold off on listing the Fox if it sees progress toward a comprehensive cleanup plan.

"That's good," Hanna said. "Those things should not be overlooked. It is incumbent on us to hold them to those points."

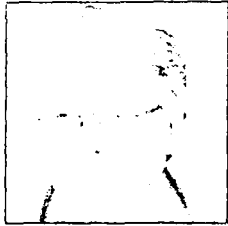
# Johnson points finger at mills

Post-Crescent

7/10/98

By Bob Vitale

Post-Crescent Washington bureau



JOHNSON

**Industries have power to head off federal action, says congressman**

WASHINGTON — The seven companies responsible for the Fox River's PCB contamination have the power to head off further federal involvement by resuming talks on a voluntary cleanup plan, U.S. Rep. Jay Johnson said Thursday.

"It is time to ask the (companies) when and if they intend to join the federal and state governments back at the bargaining table," Johnson said after the Environmental Protection Agency proposed declaring 39 miles of the river a national Superfund site.

Although the Green Bay Democrat has issued repeated pleas to business groups, environmentalists and fellow elected officials to avoid finger-pointing in the debate over Fox River cleanup, he made it clear

who he thinks is responsible for the setbacks that have the EPA pondering a greater role in the process. "I don't think the DNR and EPA walked away from the table," he said.

Johnson and the region's three other representatives in Washington — Rep. Tom Petri and Sens. Russ Feingold and Herb Kohl — all emphasized Thursday that the EPA's move is not a final one and that the long-delayed cleanup is still under local control.

The federal agency has only proposed adding the Fox to the Superfund list; a final decision could be up to a year away, or it could be delayed permanently if a cleanup plan is reached in the meantime.

In a letter to the lawmakers and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Secretary George

Please see **JOHNSON**, B-5

tee last Monday. The committee then voted 5-2 against a resolution opposing Superfund designation.

It was a rare defeat for anti-Superfund forces.

Winnebago County has passed a resolution opposing Superfund status, calling it "inadvisable" because of the "stigma, bureaucracy, litigation-promoting aspects and potential negative impact upon tourism."

Many other municipalities — including Appleton, Neenah, Kimberly and Kaukauna — have approved a resolution that seeks to avoid Superfund status "if at all possible" because of the "protracted and highly expensive litigation" it would trigger.

The full Brown County Board is expected to vote on its resolution next week.

"The principal good thing about the Superfund is that the cleanup starts," Hinkfuss said. "We don't have time to wait anymore."

The sense of urgency is more pronounced in Brown County because about 90% of the PCBs have ended up there, he said.

"We're at the bottom of this thing," he said. "This is where it's all heading."

Without the EPA applying pressure, the paper mills probably would continue to delay on a cleanup plan, said Brown County Supv. Dean Reich, chairman of the Planning, Development and Transportation Committee.

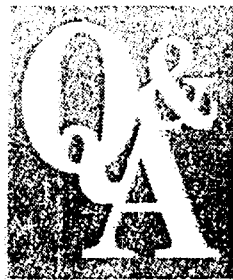
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He described some of the information being released by the paper mills as "sound-

Please see **FUND**, B-5



VAN DE HEY



WASHINGTON — Thursday's decision by the Environmental Protection Agency to seek federal Superfund status for the Fox River raises a lot of questions. Here are some of the answers:

**What does the move mean?**

Nothing definite, yet. The EPA is simply following the formal government process for such things by announcing that it is considering the Fox River for the national Superfund list. It's something officials at the agency have talked about informally for months already, though.

**When will a final decision be made?**

A final decision on whether to declare the river a Superfund site should come between April and July 1999. Right now, EPA is starting a six-month review to determine the severity of the river's pollution problem. The review also includes a 60-day public-comment period.

**Is this process just a formality?**

The man who runs the Superfund program says it isn't. Timothy Fields, the EPA's acting assistant administrator in the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, says a formal listing can be delayed temporarily or for good if an acceptable cleanup agreement is hammered out with local paper companies.

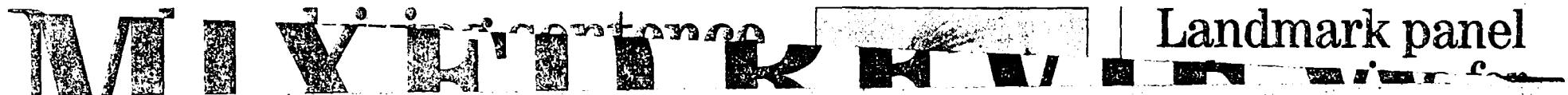
**What exactly is the Superfund?**

It's a program started by Congress in 1980 to locate, investigate and clean the country's worst hazardous waste sites. EPA calls Superfund the world's most aggressive environmental effort, while critics say it's riddled with inefficiencies that delay cleanups for years.

**Why is the Fox River being considered?**

Its problems are worse than some sites already covered by Superfund's National Priority List. While

Please see **ANSWERS**, B-5



Landmark panel



# ANSWERS: Polluters pay

From B-1

According to information on the EPA's website, there are federal funds available for the cleanup if the parties responsible for the contamination cannot be identified. However, if the government can identify the responsible parties, they pay for the cleanup. Sometimes, the government allows the responsible parties to handle the cleanup, otherwise the government oversees the operation.

## How can I weigh in with the EPA?

The EPA's public comment period runs until mid-September. While elected leaders and government officials, business people and environmentalists are sure to make their positions known, the agency also is accepting comments from anyone who wishes to submit them. You can mail yours to:

Docket Coordinator  
 U.S. EPA Headquarters  
 CERCLA Docket Office  
 Mail Code 5201G  
 401 M St. SW  
 Washington, DC 20460

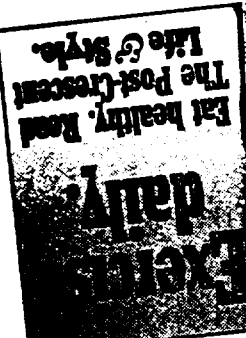
the Sheboygan River has been on the list for 12 years, the Fox has been identified as the biggest source of PCBs entering Lake Michigan. About 40 tons of the chemicals, linked to cancers in adults and developmental problems in children, are still in the river, even though area companies stopped nearly all discharges in the early 1970s.

## So why hasn't the Fox been listed already?

Officials have been well aware of the problem, but until recently they have largely sat back and allowed the companies and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to work out their own plans for cleaning it. Tired of 15 years with no agreement, EPA officials said last year that they were thinking about seeking a formal Superfund declaration. That's the process that's officially beginning now.

## Who pays for a Superfund cleanup?

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# EXPERIENCE THE PHANTOM

The property under consideration is located on the north side of US Highway 10, 1900 feet west of its intersection with County Trunk Highway "M"; Southwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 23, Township 21 North, Range 32E, Town of Dale, Outagamie County, Wisconsin. The above entitled action on the 20th of January, 1998, I will sell at the Lobby of the Courthouse, 320 S. Washington, Waukesha, WI 53091.

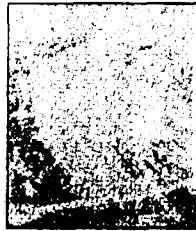
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# REGIONAL

Bingo hall reopens...B-2  
Murder sentence....B-3  
Waupaca school.....B-4

"It is time to ask the (companies) when and if they intend to join the federal and state governments back at the bargaining table."

U.S. REP. JAY JOHNSON, D-Green Bay



the future  
of the  
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"The principal good thing about the Superfund is that the cleanup starts. We don't have time to wait anymore."

TIM HINKFUSS, Brown County Board chairman

# MIXED REVIEWS

THE CLOCK STARTS TICKING FOR THE FOX RIVER AS A POTENTIAL SUPERFUND SITE

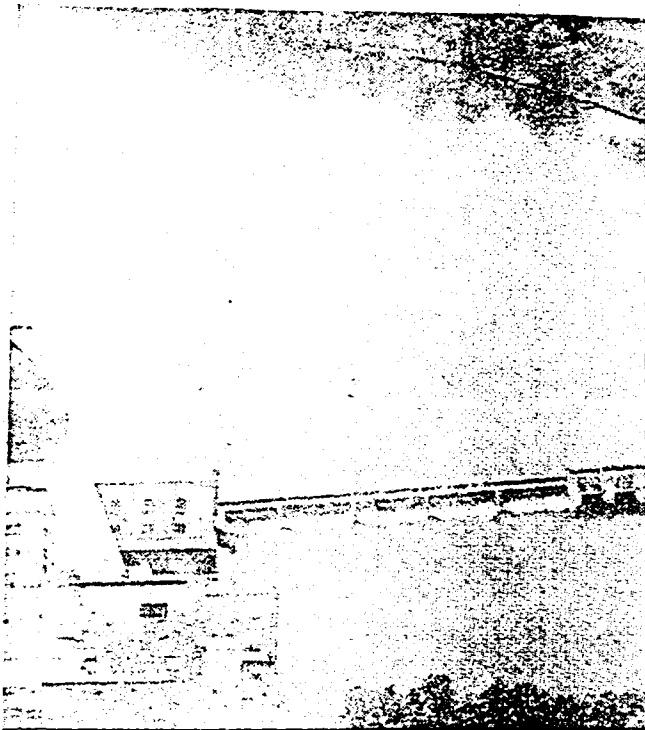


While Appleton-area officials oppose Fox future Superfund designation, some in Brown County want federal involvement

7/10/98

By Doug Erickson  
and Ed Culhane





Post-Crescent file photo by Mike De Sisti

Far shoreline of the Fox River at the center of the photo.

# finger at mills

who he thinks is responsible for the setbacks that have the EPA pondering a greater role in the process.

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Please see **JOHNSON**, B-5

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## Why is the Fox River being considered?

Its problems are worse than some sites already covered by Superfund's National Priority List. While

Please see **ANSWERS**, B-5

and Ed Guilhane  
Post-Crescent staff writers

While many Appleton-area elected officials strongly oppose Superfund designation for the Fox River, some leading Brown County politicians are equally passionate about wanting federal involvement.

"The public opinion here is substantial in favor of Superfund," Brown County Board Chairman Tim Hinkfuss said Thursday. "There's been a real swing in public opinion to get this designation."

Too much of the information given to residents so far has come from representatives of the companies accused of contaminating the river with PCBs, said Hinkfuss, who also is a Green Bay alderman.

"It's the demonization of the Environmental Protection Agency by a very select number of individuals," he said.

That's why Hinkfuss said he invited an EPA official to address the county's Executive Committee last Monday. The committee then voted 5-2 against a resolution opposing Superfund designation.

It was a rare defeat for anti-Superfund forces.

Winnebago County has passed a resolution opposing Superfund status, calling it "inadvisable" because of the "stigma, bureaucracy, litigation-promoting aspects and potential negative impact upon tourism."

Many other municipalities - including Appleton, Neenah, Kimberly and Kaukauna - have approved a resolution that seeks to avoid Superfund status "if at all possible" because of the "protracted and highly expensive litigation" it would trigger.

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Without the EPA applying pressure, the paper mills probably would continue to delay on a cleanup plan, said Brown County Supv. Dean Reich, chairman of the Planning, Development and Transportation Committee.

"I'm not comfortable eliminating the one thing that has incited action so far," said Reich, referring to the federal government's involvement.

He described some of the information being released by the paper mills as "sound-



HANNA



VAN DE HEY

Please see **FUND**, B-5

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# FUND: Officials disagree

From B-1

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ing like special-interest rhetoric" that appears "extremely misleading."

But Winnebago County Executive Jane VanDeHey's experiences with the paper mills have been much more positive.

"I believe that they have demonstrated an understanding that a cleanup needs to occur," she said. "I've not had the feeling that they were actively trying to relinquish their responsibility."

She has repeatedly said a local cleanup effort would be more cost-effective than a federal one, a position also favored by Appleton Mayor Timothy Hanna.

If the river ultimately is made a Superfund site, "there will be taxpayer dollars spent on litigation, we know that," Hanna said.

Cities could face liability in any lawsuit because they discharged industry-generated PCBs through municipal wastewater treatment plants.

"I think it would be a travesty to have money — not only money from the paper companies, but federal and local dollars — spent on drawn-out litigation," he said. "Those are all dollars that should be going to clean up the river." Hanna said he is concerned that the EPA made no mention this week of how the designation would affect the local economy.

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# ANSWERS: Polluters pay

Range 17 East, Town of Grand Chute, Outagamie County, Wisconsin. For participants, reference is made on file in the Clerk's Office.

LOSS, THEIR LAWYER SAYS.  
Any interested person may address the Board of Adjustment by letter or appear in person or by agent and be heard.  
Dated this 30th day of June, 1998.  
OUTAGAMIE COUNTY  
BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT  
ALFRED KORNBLUM  
File No. V-8-98

FOR THE

Amy Pellishek, news editor  
920-993-1000, ext. 286  
e mail: PC News@athenet.net

7-1 TUESDAY, JULY 7, 1998

# REGIONAL

Deadly crash.....B-2  
Happy ending.....B-2  
Rail hearing.....B-4

## Menasha prefers cooperative PCB cleanup

By Michael King  
Post-Crescent staff writer

With three members missing, Common Council endorses negotiated settlement

**MENASHA** - With three aldermen absent, the Common Council voted 3-2 Monday to endorse a resolution which supports a negotiated settlement to the Fox River PCB cleanup.

"This is not a new question," said Ald. Forrest Weber, who initially expressed support for the action and later voted against it. "We have

been working on this since 1986." Weber said he would like to hear "a commitment out of the industries.

"In 1990 we had a company in this area still dumping PCBs in this river," Weber said. "That river belongs to all of us. Most of the fish can't be eaten. We need to have

some action here."

Asked afterward about the comment, Weber said, the reference was to something he read recently. "Who? I'm not going to go into who the company is," he said. "It was one of the companies along the river. It bothers me that at the same time (paper companies) were talk-

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Pressed for more details on the source, Weber said, "I'd have to look back at where I picked that up. That is something that I read just recently."

"We've wasted too much time," said Ald. Stan Sevenich. "It should have been done yesterday."

"I firmly believe that the best solution to this problem is an agreed upon solution," said Ald. James Englebert. "I'd like all parties to come to a joint resolution."

Ald. Nancy Barker, a Winnebago County supervisor and chairwoman of the Green Bay remediation action plan, said even the

experts disagree on the best scientific method for PCB removal.

"There's no going back if we've got the Superfund," she said. Barker said she has received seven anonymous letters which "threatened me just short of death for the position I've taken.

"I just find it a little ironic to say that we're rushing into something," Weber said. "I can't justify another

Please see PCBs, B-5

## PCBs: Menasha endorses a negotiated cleanup effort

From B-1

12 years of study. I can't justify another \$10 million."

"It's time that the corporations and everybody sit down," Weber said. "I'm tired of seeing the finger pointing."

"We have to start thinking more globally," Weber said. "They better realize that Superfund is breathing down their neck."

Voting in favor of the resolution were Englebert, Barker and Ald. Tom Lingnofski. Weber and Sev-enich voted against it.

Polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, are a suspected carcinogen linked to learning disabilities in humans and deformities in wildlife, into the river between 1957 and 1971, when the chemical was banned.

Calling it an "anti-Superfund" or "feel-good" resolution, Tom Kees of Neenah, a volunteer member of the

Clean Water Action Council, urged defeat of the resolution prior to the vote.

Kees also referred to what he called "job blackmail," alluding to the economic disaster forecast for the paper companies with a Superfund designation. He compared it to the 1980s and the sulfur emissions at paper companies.

"I don't think we lost any jobs for installing scrubbers on these stacks and we got a cleaner environment for it," Kees said.

He said politicians who say they are obligated to protect their constituents from economic harm should not diminish their responsibility to citizens to protect public health.

"It's pie in the sky to think that these potentially responsible parties are going to step to the plate and offer to pay \$1 billion to clean up," Kees said.

# Sometimes federal help

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:

The proposal to designate the lower Fox River as a Superfund project has brought forth suggestions that action by the federal government should be discouraged. There are many situations where local initiative is clearly desirable and adequate to accomplish improvements. There are other areas, however, such as civil rights and environmental protection, where some assistance and prodding from the federal government have been necessary for real progress.

Some of us are old enough to remember how little progress was made to control pollution of our surface waters by the paper and pulp industry until the federal government became involved about 30 years ago. Prior to that time the state agencies were powerless to deal adequately with the problem due to the political clout of the industries and the threat of losing manufacturing jobs in Wisconsin.

When federal water-quality standards were adopted, we began to see progress and now the Fox and East Rivers have a more pleasant aroma and there are walleyes in the Fox River. But we can't eat the fish because of a persistent PCB problem.

History ought to give us some help in deciding whether federal involvement and Superfund designation can be helpful. That should be a better guide than clichés about the federal bureaucracy and the superiority of local initiative.

The water quality of the Fox River and Green Bay is too important to this area to permit biased attitudes to determine how we proceed to deal with the problem. People are entitled to hear all of the arguments and know how the decision is made.

We have been warned about the PCB content of fish caught in the Fox River for many years, but very little progress has been forthcoming locally to correct the problem. Is local initiative the better way to deal with the problem? It's possible, but I wouldn't bet the farm on it without more information.

**Len Montle,**  
Suamico

## OUR VIEWS

A-9

### LETTERS

# is needed to solve problem

*Appleton Post-Crescent*  
**TAKING  
SIDES**

7/7/98  
**Communities  
ponder joint  
defense over  
cleanup costs**

**By Susan Squires**  
Post-Crescent staff writer

Bracing for a potential legal battle over who will pay to remove PCB contaminants from the Fox River, Heart of the Valley Metropolitan Sewerage District communities are considering a joint defense and confidentiality agreement.

Seven companies discharged an estimated 80,000 pounds of polychlorinated biphenyls, a suspected carcinogen linked to learning disabilities in humans and deformities in wildlife, into the river between 1957 and 1971, the year the chemical was banned.

Communities along the Fox also deposited PCBs in the river, either directly or through their sewerage districts.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is expected to announce this week whether to put the Fox River on a federal priority list, the prelude to a Superfund designation.

Under the federal Superfund law, the owner of a discharge pipe can be held liable for the cleanup.

"I don't want to speculate too much, but the mills have suggested that if they are called upon to pay a substantial cost for the cleanup of the Fox River they are going to be looking for others to share it with," Carl Sinderbrand of Madison, attorney for the HOV Metropolitan Sewerage District, said in an interview Monday night.

"It is the norm in the Superfund program when the Environmental Protection Agency or state pay for a cleanup that they start looking around for other potentially responsible parties."

The Kimberly Village Board and Kaukauna Common Council's Legisla-



the future  
for the  
**FOX**  
River

Menasha board supports negotiated settlement to Fox River PCB cleanup. **B-1**

## **RIVER:** Communities consider joint defense, cost sharing

From A-1

tive Committee each approved the agreement Monday.

The villages of Combined Locks and Little Chute are scheduled to consider the agreement this week.

The contract allows the communities to preserve the benefits of attorney-client privilege while they exchange documents and informa-

tion related to the sewerage district with each other and the district's lawyer.

Recipients are required to maintain the confidentiality of documents or information they receive from other communities bound by the agreement.

"The participants deny any liability for any natural resource damages claims, environmental remedi-

ation claims or other claims or damages that may be associated with the remediation of the Fox River," the agreement reads.

The HOV sewerage district has already signed an Agreement for Cost Sharing and Joint Defense, a contract between other "dischargers," including municipalities or their sewerage districts along the Fox River.

Officials at both the state and federal levels have said they do not anticipate holding the municipalities or their sewerage districts liable for the cleanup.

Opponents of the Superfund designation, including the mills and the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce and Industry, have suggested cleanup costs could total as much as \$3 billion.

*Appleton Post-Crescent*

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"There's no going back if we've got the Superfund," she said.

Barker said she has received seven anonymous letters that "threatened me just short of death for the position I've taken."

Later, Barker said she did not feel threatened by any of the letters. "It just goes with the territory when

Please see PCBs, B-5

## PCBs: Vote favors negotiations

From B-1

you've taken a stand on something," she said.

One letter indicated that "anyone who keeps a house full of cats evidently is someone who thinks this way," Barker said. "I have never had a cat in my life."

"I just find it a little ironic to say that we're rushing into something," Weber said. "I can't justify another 12 years of study. I can't justify another \$10 million."

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# Tenacious environmentalist battles for Fox River

Opponents have branded Rebecca Leighton Katers a radical, but she knows it comes with the job

By Ed Culhane  
Post-Crescent staff writer

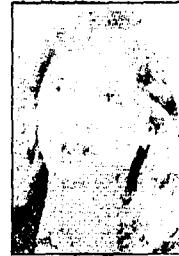
7/5/98

Long before the Fox River flowed onto the front page - its sediments heavy with pollution, its fish poisoned by chemicals - Rebecca Leighton Katers was fighting for a cleanup.

In recent weeks Katers has attended a string of government meetings throughout the region, trying, without much success, to stem a wave of coordinated municipal resolutions opposing Superfund status for the lower Fox.

Katers has been at this now for 12 years, many of them filled with disappointing setbacks. She never waivers, never retreats.

"I actually have sort of a bottomless pit of outrage," she said this past week. "I dip into that when I need to keep going."



KATERS

Katers, executive director of the Clean Water Action Council, is without question the most visible and active cit-

Even her opponents respect her tenacity, if not her politics.

"She certainly is an aggressive person," said one paper industry executive Friday.

"She believes she is right."

izen advocate for the Fox River - and for the massive removal of the contaminated sediments that pollute its waters and the waters of Green Bay and Lake Michigan.

Her opponents, in industry and in government, brand her a radical. Her allies and supporters in the environmental community have heaped awards on her. Most recently, she was named Conservationist of the Year for 1996 by the Brown County Conservation Alliance, a coalition of 18 hunting, fish-

Please see KATERS, BACK PAGE



the future of the fox river



## KATERS: Fox River has aggressive supporter

From A-1

ing, boating and environmental organizations.

Katers, in a position shared by most environmentalists, argues that the corporations that put harmful chemicals in the river should be responsible for taking them out. She says taxpayers should not have to pay the bill.

She argues that the federal Superfund program, which embraces these concepts, is the best hope for a significant cleanup. The paper industry is too powerful, she argues, to be effectively regulated by the state. The state's partnership approach with industry has failed, she said, resulting in years of delay.

This last argument pits her and her allies against Gov. Tommy Thompson, the paper industry, top officials at the state Department of Natural Resources, the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce and Industry, many union members and the majority of elected officials up and down the Fox Valley.

Seen as a threat to a paper industry that has supplied the Fox Valley with decades of prosperity, Katers has been labeled a fear-monger, a tree-hugging fanatic.

"That's the life of the environmentalist," she said. "There has been a concerted effort to discredit environmentalists, as if we were a different species. They think we are extremists, or that we are doing it for the money."

"What money?" she might ask.

She receives no pay for her leadership of the Clean Water Action Council, a grass-roots, non-profit, all-volunteer organization based in Green Bay that has 3,000 dues-paying members.

It's not that she would oppose a salary. It's just that after the mailings, she said, there is no money left over.

Most of her adult life has been spent on the edge of poverty.

"I was always broke," she said. "For about 10 years, I lived on about \$7,000 a year."

Born in 1955, she grew up in the states of Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Her father, a journalist who lost his newspaper job in a strike, worked on and off in public relations and as a fund-raiser for colleges.

"He had something of a temper," she said. "He was an idealist. He'd tell people what he thought and then quit. He was quick to move on to greener pastures."



Photo Courtesy: Fox Valley News Service

**REBECCA LEIGHTON KATERS**, executive director of the Clean Water Action Council, speaks at the June 22 Outagamie County Board meeting in support of removing PCBs under the auspices of the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund program.

Katers is more resilient. She is soft-spoken and thoughtful, and in demeanor and appearance appears more the gentle gardener — she spends 20 minutes with her flowers each morning — than the relentless activist who harries giant corporations.

But her father's anger, and his unshakable ideals, ride close beneath the surface.

She studied at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and worked part-time jobs, until she married and moved to Green Bay in 1981. She attended UW-Green Bay for two years. Her passion is biology. Elected president of the Round River Alliance, a campus environmental group, she increased membership from 5 to 120 in two years.

Her first environmental fight came in 1983 when she and other activists successfully prevented the City of Green Bay from running railroad tracks through the last remnant of a marsh surrounded on two sides by petroleum tanks.

"We proved to the Army Corps of Engineers that there was actually a better, cheaper route," Katers said. "That was my first big fight, and in just two months, we won. It was a very unrealistic win. Most issues stretch on for years and are very frustrating. Some issues you can never stop working on because they never end."

"But it hooked me into being active. I was encouraged to believe that it is possible for citizens to make a difference."

After two years of marriage, she and her husband were divorced. Inspired by the writings of Aldo Leopold, she quit school and threw herself into the environmental movement. She served as president of the Wisconsin Audubon Council and of the Northeast Wisconsin Audubon Society.

Then in 1985, Greenpeace activists sailed into Green Bay in a 100-year-old Norwegian whaler and talked to local residents about toxic pollution and about the chemicals being discharged into public waters by private industry.

"It opened our eyes," Katers said.

With one day's notice, Katers and other local organizers gathered 200 volunteers and formed the Clean Water Action Council.

That same year, she was appointed by Atty. Gen. Bronson LaFollette to the citizens advisory committee that established policy for the office of the Public Inter-

which was staffed by two attorneys from the Justice Department. The office represented the rights of Wisconsin residents to clean air and water.

Katers served on that committee until Thompson abolished both the office and the committee in 1995.

Also in 1986, she took a low-paying job with the Lake Michigan Federation, a multi-state environmental group, as the Green Bay office director. Six years later, the federation entered partnership agreements with the paper industry and Katers was fired. The federation was entering into partnership agreements with industry, and Katers' confrontational style stood in the way.

"I was on the verge of initiating a class action lawsuit (against industry) on behalf of commercial and charter fishermen," Katers said. "Many of them had measurable drops in income because of the fish advisory warnings."

The news of her dismissal came on the day of her second marriage, to Mike Katers of Green Bay.

"I am not drawing a paycheck now and I haven't for six years," she said. "My husband is very tolerant and allows me to claim that I am between jobs."

For five years, beginning in 1986, Katers served on the citizens advisory committee charged with writing a Remedial Action Plan for the waters of Green Bay. The plan was driven by joint U.S.-Canadian agreement to clean up the worst sources of pollution in the Great Lakes.

The diverse committee included representatives of the paper industry and university scientists. It was the beginning of Katers' investigation into contaminated sediments.

The RAP, as it is called, still exists, but has offered no specific solutions. Instead, its members have vacillated in recent weeks on whether dredging can be a safe cleanup technique, or whether any cleanup can be effectively accomplished.

"It is so infuriating," Katers said. "These people are so detached from reality. For them, it is an intellectual exercise."

Her view is that the cooperative approach has failed, and that it was doomed to failure from the start. Too much money is involved, she said, and the industry is simply too powerful.

Katers argues for greater public participation in these decisions

and can be heard week after week calling for public forums.

When the DNR publicly announced two years ago that it has reached a preliminary agreement with the paper mills — resulting in a \$10 million contribution to river projects — Katers was incensed that the meetings took place behind closed doors.

"I think we need corporations to be much more accountable to the public," she said. "They heavily influence how our government is structured and how it regulates. We no longer have business as part of a social structure. They are a law unto themselves."

She seems disappointed by what she sees as the reluctance of area residents and their elected representatives to take a stand different from that held by industry officials.

"We need many more people to get excited by the vision of what this river could be," Katers said. "Too many people are frustrated. They see no hope, so they take no action."

Katers and her allies exhibit no such reluctance. Recently, the seven paper mills who have been identified as responsible for the pollution, banded together as the Fox River Group, put out a newsletter called Fox River Times, putting forth their anti-dredging message.

The Clean Water Action Council quickly published its own newsletter, challenging each of the mills' arguments, and sarcastically using the same design format. The newsletter is called "Fox River Crimes." Instead of the healthy heron pictured on the industry newsletter, the activists show a picture of a cormorant with a twisted beak, the result of parents who ate PCB-contaminated fish.

Such shock tactics sometimes backfire, and Katers understands this, but she continues to seek ways to spark a response.

"For this cleanup to happen," she said, "it will take much more public involvement than we have seen."

In the meantime, she said, the pollution continues to harm wildlife and threaten the health of children whose mothers eat fish from polluted waters.

It is this awareness, she said, that keeps her going.

"Believe it is important to stick it out," she said. "I don't think you can run away from environmental problems. You get to the point

# REGIONAL

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## Are the fish safe to eat or not?

By Bob Vitale  
Post-Crescent Washington bureau

7/5/98

### Environmentalists say state lures tourists while warning of hazards

WASHINGTON - States are sending mixed signals to the public by issuing fishing advisories at the same time they promote the pastime through glossy tourism brochures and expensive stocking programs, environmentalists are charging.

The result, they say, is a disconnect in the public's mind between warnings posted for about 2,200 bodies of water nationwide and the reasons they're issued in the first place. Groups such as the Sierra Club say state governments should

spend more money to educate the public that some fish may be hazardous to people's health.

"When you go to buy a pack of cigarettes there's a health warning on the side," said Brett Hulsey, the Sierra Club's Great Lakes program director. "People should know about the fish they're eating, too."

Hulsey and other environmentalists spoke at a recent Washington seminar on efforts to clean up polluted waters and educate the public about their dangers. Speak-

ers were critical of Wisconsin and other states that they say are sending different messages from their departments of natural resources and departments of tourism.

Photos held aloft from a New York tourism brochure showed a woman in her 20s or 30s - one of the prime targets for advisories because of what health experts say is the risk of passing on mercury or PCBs to children - proudly showing off a large catch. Large fish, especially, should be avoided, experts say, because they have

been exposed to toxins for longer periods of time.

PCB-contaminated fish have been linked to cancer in adults and learning disabilities in children born to women who have regularly eaten the fish before their pregnancies. Advisories issued by states suggest how often, if at all, various types of fish can be eaten by men, women and children with minimal risk.

Wisconsin officials say they're always looking for new ways to get the word out to the public -

they've begun turning to inner-city health clinics, women's magazines, HMO newsletters and other specialized outlets - but critics say too few people understand them in all states affected.

"Advisories are ineffective," said John Vena, a medical professor at the State University of New York at Buffalo, who has studied the issue in his state. "People are aware there's an advisory, but they don't know what it means."

Wisconsin environmentalists say the same type of muddled message is coming out of Madison as

Please see **FISH**, B-5

## FISH: Are they safe or not?

From B-1

well. While the DNR has issued 358 advisories this year for lakes, rivers and streams statewide, fishing is also a big lure for the Wisconsin Department of Tourism.

Along with summer festivals, cheese factory tours and other attractions, the state's 1998 event and recreation guide features photos of anglers, one with the general caption: "Spring fishing's great in Wisconsin!"

Officials at both agencies say environmental problems need to be kept in perspective.

"This is not downplaying anything," said the DNR's Jim Ahmrein. "Most waters do not have fish advisories. We have thousands of lakes in Wisconsin. We can be responsible promoting our state as well as promoting our fish advisories."

Moose Speros, director of Wisconsin's Department of Tourism, said his agency works with the DNR to present an honest view of fishing in Wisconsin. He said materials targeted toward anglers promote catch-and-release fishing, which allows people to enjoy the sport and avoid the health risk on waters with fish advisories.

But with 15,000 inland lakes, two of the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River, fishing is something the state must use as a drawing

"It's a very large part of our promotion. There's 2 million fishermen here. It's over a billion-dollar industry."

**MOOSE SPEROS**, director of Wisconsin's Department of Tourism

card, he said.

"It's a very large part of our promotion," Speros said. "There's 2 million fishermen here. It's over a billion-dollar industry."

A 1997 Sierra Club study found Wisconsin residents more aware than most of fish advisories. While just over a third of Minnesotans who eat fish knew of advisories posted there, nearly two-thirds of Wisconsinites knew of their state's warnings.

But the group also discovered that while Wisconsin issues more than 1.2 million fishing licenses annually, its printed advisories are only a tiny fraction of that number. Other states do even less.

"No state makes sufficient numbers of additional materials available to the public to ensure sufficient education on the risks associated with eating fish from polluted waters," the study concluded.

Appleton Post-Crescent 7/4/98

An influx of paper mill cash at 1000 Islands Environmental Center has some critics questioning the companies' motives

# MONEY FOR NOTHING?



## More than \$300,000 has gone to center

By Doug Erickson  
Post-Crescent staff writer

### Kaukauna

**T**

he phone call a couple of years ago caught Lee Hammen off guard.

A paper mill consultant wanted to know if Hammen, the naturalist at 1000 Islands Environmental Center, had any projects in the works he needed financial help with.

"Well, I'd like some new binoculars," Hammen said.

"No bigger projects," said the consultant.

Turns out the caller was working for the Fox River Group, the umbrella name for the seven area paper mills potentially responsible for contaminating the

Fox River with PCBs, the man-made chemicals that are possible carcinogens.

Today, the results of that phone call are becoming apparent at the nature center, where the Fox River Group is poised to pour more than \$300,000 into trail development, new construction and land acquisition.

The money is part of a \$10 million agreement between the companies and the state that includes two dredging demonstration projects.

Some nature center projects — a fishing pier, a canoe launch, an eagle observation deck — already are done and are undeniably impressive.

But in the politically charged atmosphere of river cleanup, the paper mills' motives are being questioned.

Is the money a sincere effort to expand access to the Fox River, or a public relations ploy to distract

**LEE HAMMEN**, standing on trails that will soon be paved for easier public access, has no qualms about paper industry money paying for improvements at the 1000 Islands Environmental Center. Others, though, say the \$300,000 donation is a public relations ploy.

Post-Crescent photo by Kristyna Wentz-Graff

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# CENTER: Funds from mills questioned

From A-1

residents from the contamination issue?

"It's cosmetic, not a real fix," said Eric Uram of the state Sierra Club.

"If industry thinks they can buy us off this way, it's an insult to our intelligence," said Rebecca Katers, executive director of the Clean Water Action Council, a Green Bay-based citizen group.

She and Hammen are not on friendly terms, despite their mutual appreciation of nature. The two clashed publicly at a June 16 meeting of the Kimberly Village Board, where Hammen is a trustee.

That night, the board, including Hammen, went on record opposing the possible designation of the Fox River as a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Superfund site, a position favored also by the Fox River Group.

"(Hammen) had a clear conflict of interest on this when he voted on this resolution," Katers said this week. "This is a huge sum of money coming to his facility, so of course he's going to be extremely interested in not upsetting the paper industry.

"I see this gift as bribery," she said. "So now they have a nature center operator going to bat for them."

Hammen seems somewhat stunned by Katers' criticism.

"She's a radical," he said. "She's a tree hugger, and I'm not a tree hugger."

He does not hide his warm feelings for the paper industry. It employed his father, and the nature center exists across from the Thulmany Division of International Paper, a company Hammen considers a great friend of 1000 Islands. (It is not one of the seven mills in the Fox River Group.)

"Is the nature center benefiting from this money? Certainly," said Hammen. "But I would not compromise myself with any industry or group that I thought was radically hurting the environment."

While it is important to deal with the PCB issue, it also is beneficial to invest in healthy ways for residents to enjoy the river, Hammen said. He questions the dire warnings of environmental groups.

He would not be opposed to a "cost-effective" cleanup of the river, but "if it's going to affect the whole economy, then I have a problem



Post-Crescent photo by Kishya Wentz-Graff

**HAYLEY WEYERS**, 5, and her brother, Philip, 7, strain to see an eagle's nest their mother Marcy and older sister Ann, 9, are pointing to at 1000 Islands Conservation Center.

with that," he said.

Representatives of the Fox River Group do not go so far as to say that investing in nature centers should replace the dredging of contaminants. But some of their statements suggest they wouldn't mind if residents reached that conclusion on their own.

"The main message is that this represents an alternative investment in the river," said Steven Perry, a New-York based environmental scientist and the paper mill consultant who originally contacted Hammen. "If we have a fixed amount of money to invest in the resource, what is the best way, on balance, to do that?"

"These are projects people can get their arms around and see some real progress," said Dennis Hultgren, director of environmental and public affairs for Appleton Papers, a member of the Fox River Group.

Of the \$10 million in the agreement, about \$7 million will be spent on a large dredging demonstration project near the Fort James mill in De Pere. That project is not yet under way, but the group hopes to begin it this year, Hultgren said. A smaller dredging project is moving ahead in Kimberly.

Appleton Post-Crescent 7/2/98

# Appleton, Neenah support cleanup

By Pete Bach and Duke Behnke  
Post-Crescent staff writers

Appleton and Neenah Wednesday joined a growing list of municipalities signing onto a joint resolution advocating a settlement, short of a Superfund designation, for the removal of PCBs from the lower Fox River.

Common Councils in both cities voted by wide margins to embrace a position statement aimed at presenting a unified front by a total of six cities and four

## Cities voice concern about expensive litigation and impact on economy

sewage treatment plants from Neenah to Green Bay.

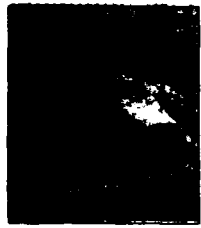
The resolution urges the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the state Department of Natural Resources and seven paper companies responsible for discharging PCBs into the river to "vig-

orously pursue negotiations to agree on a PCB cleanup that will deal with environmental and health concerns in a cost-effective manner while protecting the local economy."

It also says a Superfund listing "should be avoided if at all possible because of the protracted and highly expensive litigation that listing would trigger."

Appleton aldermen endorsed the uni-

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the.....  
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**FOX**  
river

## CLEANUP: Appleton, Neenah vote to avoid Superfund

From A-1

fied measure on a 13-2 vote with one abstention.

"I'm willing to give the business community and the consortium the benefit of the doubt," said Ald. Richard Thompson.

Policy makers debated the measure for the second time in as many weeks in both cities, and Wednesday the discussion brought out representatives from some of the companies accused of discharging PCBs to the river.

"I think it can be shown Superfund has not been a raging success over the years," said Dennis Hultgren, director of environmental and public affairs for Appleton Papers.

Hultgren told Appleton aldermen that \$10 million worth of demonstration projects to be completed by early next year will need time to prove themselves.

"We're afraid if those projects don't get done and aren't included in the final decision-making process we're going to jump to conclusions and not have all the data

"This is kind of a feel-good resolution, I think."

**NEENAH ALD. GEORGE SCHERCK,**  
who said he backed the resolution  
to get the parties off dead center

necessary," he said.

But Appleton Ald. Kathy Groat said the resolution "sounds nice politically" but falters by failing to impose deadlines for concrete action on the massive cleanup effort.

Echoing her on the Neenah council floor was Ald. George Scherck, who backed the resolution in the hope that it will push the responsible parties "to get off dead center and move in a positive direction" but nonetheless had reservations with the wording.

"This is kind of a feel-good resolution, I think," Scherck said.

Ald. Mark Lange opposed the

resolution, disputing a clause that says PCBs were the "unintended" byproduct of carbonless copy paper production and early recycling efforts.

Lange also questioned the statement that a Superfund listing "clearly would be harmful to the economy."

"We don't know that," he said.

Prior to the vote, the Neenah council heard from opposing extremes.

Curt Andersen, president of the Clean Water Action Council of Northeastern Wisconsin Inc., told city officials to welcome the EPA's involvement in the cleanup.

"The option that is going to start this the soonest is going to be the Superfund because the money is already there waiting," Andersen said.

David Lee, a mill manager for P.H. Glatfelter Co., another of the paper companies accused of discharging PCBs into the river, characterized Superfund as being very litigious.

"Oftentimes when Superfund starts, collaboration and cooperation come to an end," Lee said, "so it is important that Superfund not get in the way of a settlement."

The EPA is expected to decide whether to place the lower Fox River on the Superfund priority list, a precursor to a formal Superfund listing, by this time next week.

PCBs were discharged into the river from 1957 to 1971. They have been linked to increased cancer in people and to deformities in wild animals.

## FOX RIVER: EPA expected to announce Superfund status

From A-1

River and he knows of no intention to do so by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service nor the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources either.

Local government leaders were reassured Monday that neither the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service nor the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has any intention of holding municipalities liable for the cleanup of the lower Fox River.

Ullrich said the EPA is focusing on the seven companies responsible for discharging PCBs into the river.

"We have taken absolutely no action to date to sue the municipalities in any (potentially responsible party) status," Ullrich said during a meeting with Fox Cities officials. "If there are plans to do that, nobody has bothered to tell me about it. There is nothing in the works on that at all."

Ullrich said of greater concern to municipalities is what the companies might have in mind.

"I suggest that you direct your questions to them because, unfortunately, there's not a whole lot I can do about controlling their legal

actions," he said. DNR Secretary George Meyer and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Regional Director William Hartwig also said their agencies had no legal actions planned against the municipalities.

Meyer said the DNR is trying to reach an agreement with the seven companies, also known as the Fox River Group, that would prevent third-party lawsuits.

In return for that effort, Meyer wants local municipalities to help in other ways, like granting easements needed to remove PCB deposits from the river.

Ullrich said the finger-pointing and talk of lawsuits that might follow if the lower Fox is listed as a Superfund site have caused people to lose sight of the real issue - finding a cost-effective cleanup for the river.

"Everybody is talking about Superfund instead of talking about the river," Ullrich said. "I realize that Superfund is a very controversial thing. In my experience, it is one of the toughest laws to work with, but we have learned how to make that law work."

Ullrich said of the 1,300 national priority sites, 500 have reached the stage of substantial completion.

## Status of Superfund expected next week

By Duke Behnke  
Post-Crescent staff writer

NEENAH - The Environmental Protection Agency is expected to decide by the middle of next week whether to place the lower Fox River on the national priority list, a precursor to a formal Superfund listing.



the future of the FOX river

Speaking to local government leaders in Neenah Monday, David Ullrich, acting administrator of the EPA's regional office in Chicago, said the decision on the priority listing should be made next Tuesday or Wednesday by Acting Assistant EPA Administrator

Timothy Fields.

Ullrich also assured local leaders the EPA has no plans to hold municipalities liable for the cleanup of PCBs from the lower Fox

# THE POST-CRESCENT

Wisconsin's Best Newspaper

TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 1998

the  
Silver pen 

## We can't wait much longer to clean the Fox

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:

A recent editorial in the Green Bay Press-Gazette opposed listing the Fox River as a Superfund site, because they felt "cooperative efforts" would be the "best way of accomplishing cleanup." They worried about the "cumbersome, ineffectual Superfund process."

What planet have these editors been living on? Don't they realize that local "cooperative cleanup efforts" have dragged more than 12 years, while millions of people around Lake Michigan are being exposed to serious toxins from the Fox River? Don't they realize that it took DNR and the state legislature decades to restrict the PCB dumping in the river, because they didn't have the backbone to stand up to the industry lobbyists? Talk about ineffectual bureaucracies - under Tommy Thompson, the DNR has turned into a lapdog for the paper industry.

It's been nauseating to see how DNR grovels and begs representatives of the polluting compa-

nies for little tidbits of progress. It was a major headline when DNR got a commitment of only 1 percent of the total cleanup money we need - after 12 long years of negotiations. The Press-Gazette made a mountain out of this molehill, and now the editors use this scrap of money as proof of DNR's skill. How pathetic.

Do the editors expect the seven paper companies to donate over \$1 billion voluntarily? Does anybody really think this will happen without the threat of Superfund legal actions? Of course not.

We can't afford to let DNR bungle this for another 12 years. Public health is at stake. The federal Superfund program is a golden opportunity to get immediate cleanup money and finally get a true clean-up plan going - not just a few lame demonstrations. After all these years, it's outrageous that the Press-Gazette editors want to cheat us out of this opportunity.

**Sandra J. Rogers,**  
Green Bay

The Silver Pen is The Post-Crescent's "Letter of the Day." There is no award for it, other than being set aside from the other letters. It recognizes good writing, cogent thought and persuasive argument. The same parameters that apply to all other letters apply to "The Silver Pen" letter.



# COURT: Proposal would put a federal judge in Green Bay

From A-1

legislation introduced in the Senate by U.S. Sen. Herb Kohl, D-Wis.

"Time and time again, people in northeast Wisconsin are asked to travel great distances to Milwaukee to be heard in federal court," said Johnson. "All too often, they are asked to rely on unfamiliar, out-of-town attorneys when they get there."

Johnson said the bill to grant a federal judgeship to northeastern Wisconsin would provide geographical diversity to the state's federal court system. Currently, there are six federal judges in the state.

Lonergan said the cost of litigating a case in federal court in Milwaukee is higher than it is in northeastern Wisconsin because attorneys and their clients must incur travel costs along with other expenses, such as lodging.

Lonergan, a former president of the Outagamie County Bar Association and the current vice president of the Wisconsin Academy of Trial Judges, said some area residents have opted to litigate their cases in state courts because of the logistics and the expense involved in litigating a case at the federal courthouse in Milwaukee.

Having a U.S. court in Green Bay would provide Fox Valley residents with more equal access to the federal system - both in civil and criminal cases, he said.

Certain cases, such as civil rights violations and large-scale bankruptcies, must be handled in federal

court. Officials say other types of legal proceedings are better handled in the federal rather than the state court system.

Kohl said there is strong evidence from the Government Accounting Office to justify the additional federal judgeship in Wisconsin.

Kohl said a GAO study showed that federal judges in Wisconsin serve the highest population among all federal judges, on average.

"In fact, no other state's judges serve populations even close to the size that Wisconsin judges are responsible for," said Kohl. "This is a disproportionate burden on our judges. And it puts people at a dramatic disadvantage when they must travel long distances or hire out-of-town attorneys because the courthouse is hundreds of miles away."

The GAO report found that each judge in Wisconsin serves an average population of 859,966. The remaining federal judges across the country - more than 600 - serve an average of 417,000 people per judge. The report also noted that Wisconsin has three times the population of West Virginia and 25% more cases, but two fewer federal judges.

Lynn Becker, a spokesman for Kohl, said the Green Bay judgeship bill is pending in the Senate Judiciary Committee and would likely be considered as part of a larger judgeship legislative package. The timing of the bill is uncertain, said Becker.

# Federal judgeship is finding supporters

## Proposal would locate a new U.S. District Court in Green Bay

By Andy Thompson  
Post-Crescent staff writer

Appleton attorney Kevin Lonergan is a strong proponent of a proposal that would bring a federal judgeship to northeastern Wisconsin.

"I think it's a great idea," said Lonergan. "I strongly support it."

Lonergan said establishing a U.S. District Court in Green Bay would ease the burden on those from the Fox Valley who have to travel to Milwaukee for federal court cases.

Northeastern Wisconsin falls within the Eastern District federal court in Milwaukee. There is a federal court for the Western District in Madison.

There is legislation pending in Congress to create a federal judgeship in Green Bay.

In May, U.S. Rep. Jay Johnson, D-Green Bay, introduced his bill, which serves as the House of Representatives' counterpart to similar

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Wisconsin's Best Newspaper

# THE POST-CRESCENT

# THE POST-CRESCENT

MONDAY, JUNE 29, 1998

Wisconsin's Best Newspaper

## LETTERS

### River cleanup poses a challenge we must rise to meet

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:

Tonight my grandson is spending, just as his grandfather did some 55 years ago, the first night of his first extended stay away from home. It is a place of the darkest woods, the brightest stars, the cleanest air and the pristine waters of the Upper Wolf River running through it. It is a Boy Scout camp called Gardner Dam.

Indelibly etched in my memory as a 12-year-old is the opening campfire, where the older Scouts dressed in Indian garb, impressed upon us that "This place is to be kept in as good a condition — nay, *better condition*, than which we found it." On a recent visit I found that the Boy Scouts have indeed met that goal.

Sadly, I must admit that my generation, and others before and after, have failed the challenge. We live in the Fox Valley where the woods are stripped for developers, the stars are not bright, the air is not clean and the water is certainly not pristine.

Now we must attempt to clean our beloved Fox River of the PCBs that have been dumped by those who are more interested in their bottom line than the bottom of our river. Those are the same that have been given the opportunity to correct their past sins but have yet to remove the first pound after years of lip service. It is a bitter fact to accept, but a Superfund designation may be the only thing that will get the DNR and the offending industries off the dime and get busy.

This may be our last great opportunity "to leave this place in as good a condition — nay, *better condition*, than which we found it." I pray that we not waste it.

**Richard Loehning,**  
Menasha

28/98

LETTERS

Appleton - Post-Crescent

# An alternative method of dealing with PCBs

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:

I do not understand what all the fuss is about concerning the PCBs in the Fox River.

First, it's not as if it was anyone's fault. No one could have known or suspected that dumping these new unknown chemicals into the environment might cause problems later. I do not remember specifically, but I am sure companies stopped dumping PCBs as soon as there was any evidence to suggest they might be harmful. It is not as if they had to be forced to stop dumping PCBs.

Secondly, it is only coincidence that the cleanup method they propose also happens to be the cheapest one. Their method will keep the PCBs safely stored right at the bottom of the river where we do not have to worry about them getting into the water again. The companies, which put the PCBs there in the first place, may have paid the scientists supporting this method, but we have no more reason to doubt them than the fine scientists from Big Tobacco.

More importantly, the people that eat fish from the river and lake are not important anyway. They are mostly poor and uneducated. What difference does it make if their children are genetically damaged?

The people that really count have cottages on pure northern lakes, and take fishing trips in Canada.

I have a suggestion that will put the blame and the responsibility where it belongs. Put warning labels on the fish, then we can blame the people that eat them for getting sick.

**Dan Ensley,**  
Appleton



## Decision is simple on the Fox River

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:

Your June 22 article covering the Outagamie County public hearing on the Superfund drew attention to the fact that "The turnout ... was disappointingly small." I don't know about others, but for myself, I didn't know a meeting was scheduled and if I had known, I probably wouldn't have come anyway. I have other ways I prefer to waste my time.

The decision is a no-brainer. Yet, various local community leaders in government and in business have managed to confuse the issue to the point that I've completely lost hope of a useful outcome. Since nothing I might do or say would have any effect, I've lost interest in the deliberations.

Until someone advises me otherwise, the facts are these:

1. There is poison in the mud at the bottom of the Fox River.

2. The poison is a serious threat to the health of local citizens. The presence of the poison deters recreational development, including tourist facilities, of the river as a revenue source.

3. The poison is there as a result of past activity of local mills owned by multinational corporations who see environmental cleanup solely as a negative effect on their bottom lines. If local mill managers had been assigned Fox River cleanup as a thing to do to get a raise or get promoted, the cleanup would already be finished.

4. Local leaders misguidedly claim that poison cleanup is a local problem and resist help from outside sources, thereby delaying any action to the point of inaction.

5. The non-resident corporations win. The local citizens lose.

**Earl Gates,**  
Appleton

The Silver Pen is The Post-Crescent's "Letter of the Day." There is no award for it, other than being set aside from the other letters. It recognizes good writing, cogent thought and persuasive argument. The same parameters that apply to all other letters apply to "The Silver Pen" letter.

# Status of Superfund expected next week

By Duke Behnke  
Post-Crescent staff writer

6/30/98

NEENAH - The Environmental Protection Agency is expected to decide by the middle of next week whether to place the lower Fox River on the national priority list, a precursor to a formal Superfund listing.



the.....  
future  
for the  
**FOX**  
river

Speaking to local government leaders in Neenah Monday, David Ullrich, acting administrator of the EPA's regional office in Chicago, said the decision on the priority listing should be made next Tuesday or Wednesday by Timothy Fields, acting assistant EPA

administrator.

Ullrich also assured local leaders the EPA has no plans to hold municipalities liable for the cleanup of PCBs from the lower Fox

Please see **RIVER**, A-6

# FOX RIVER: EPA expected to announce Superfund status

From A-1

River and he knows of no intention to do so by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service nor the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources either.

Local government leaders were reassured Monday that neither the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service nor the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has any intention of holding municipalities liable for the cleanup of the lower Fox River.

Ullrich said the EPA is focusing on the seven companies responsible for discharging PCBs into the river.

"We have taken absolutely no action to date to sue the municipalities in any (potentially responsible party) status," Ullrich said during a meeting with Fox Cities officials. "If there are plans to do that, nobody has bothered to tell me about it. There is nothing in the works on that at all."

Ullrich said of greater concern to municipalities is what the companies might have in mind.

"I suggest that you direct your questions to them because, unfortunately, there's not a whole lot I can do about controlling their legal

actions," he said.

DNR Secretary George Meyer and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Regional Director William Hartwig also said their agencies had no legal actions planned against the municipalities.

Meyer said the DNR is trying to reach an agreement with the seven companies, also known as the Fox River Group, that would prevent third-party lawsuits.

In return for that effort, Meyer wants local municipalities to help in other ways, like granting easements needed to remove PCB deposits from the river.

Ullrich said the finger-pointing and talk of lawsuits that might follow if the lower Fox is listed as a Superfund site have caused people to lose sight of the real issue - finding a cost-effective cleanup for the river.

"Everybody is talking about Superfund instead of talking about the river," Ullrich said. "I realize that Superfund is a very controversial thing. In my experience, it is one of the toughest laws to work with, but we have learned how to make that law work."

Ullrich said of the 1,300 national priority sites, 500 have reached the stage of substantial completion.

# State industry cuts level of toxin release

By Bob Vitale

Special to the Journal-Sentinel

WASHINGTON - Wisconsin manufacturers are following a national trend and sending fewer toxic chemicals out into the air, water and land, according to a report released Thursday by the Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA's annual Toxics Release Inventory, a tally of information companies supply to the government, shows the state's industries cut their toxic output by more than 1.3 million pounds in 1996, a 1.3% decrease that mirrors statistics nationwide.

"Overall, this year's data are

good news," said Lynn Goldman, the agency's assistant administrator for prevention, pesticides and toxic substances, who pointed out that drops over the last several years have been accomplished even as factories increase their production.

The top 10 companies for toxic releases included Neenah Foundry and Waupaca Foundry.

Nationally, toxic releases declined 100 million pounds in 1996, from 2.5 billion to 2.4 billion. Releases into the air and underground injection wells spurred the drop. Releases into the water and land actually went up.

In Wisconsin, not all of those

trends held, though. The state's total industrial releases also dropped, from 31.1 million pounds to 29.8 million, as did the amounts sent out into the air and underground wells. Land releases also went down, however, while toxic releases into the state's surface waters increased from 2.1 million pounds to 2.8 million pounds.

The overwhelming majority of toxic releases in Wisconsin are into the state's air, which accounted for 89% of the total.

Changes in the data collected by EPA, however, caused changes in the ranking of individual industries that produced the most toxins.

Until this year's report, only

releases directly into the environment - the air, water and land - were used for the company rankings. EPA now takes into account the amount of chemicals a company disposes of in other ways such as recycling or treatment.

Because of that, state officials cautioned the report can no longer be viewed as a listing of Wisconsin's biggest polluters, which was its common interpretation.

"It's hard to say what this list is now," said Wes Taylor of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. "It's a new way of EPA to look at this stuff. That's not to say it's not valid, just different."

The change in reporting

dropped Consolidated Papers Inc. of Wisconsin Rapids from the biggest source of chemical releases to No. 3.

The company still sent the largest amount of toxins into the environment - 2.6 million pounds into the air and 250 pounds into the water - but Kewaskum-based Regal Ware Inc., ranked highest in the state because of 8 million pounds of chemicals disposed of in other ways.

Fort Howard Corp., of Green Bay ranked second in the state, reporting 2.6 million pounds of chemicals released into the air, water and a smaller amount through treatment or other means.

## TOXIC RELEASE

Wisconsin companies that released the most toxic chemicals in 1996:

- Regal Ware Inc., Kewaskum
- Fort Howard Corp., Green Bay
- Consolidated Papers Inc., Wisconsin Rapids
- Georgia-Pacific Corp., Nekoosa
- Grede Foundries Inc., Milwaukee
- Neenah Foundry Inc., Neenah
- Waupaca Foundry Inc., Waupaca
- Maynard Steel Casting Co., Milwaukee
- General Motors Corp., Janesville
- Uniroyal Engineered Products, Stoughton

# Fox off American Heritage River list

By Bob Vitale

Post-Crescent Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — The Fox River is officially out of the running for presidential designation as an American Heritage River.

A presidential advisory committee voted unanimously this week to recommend 10 rivers be included in the new federal program designed to encourage local preservation and development efforts.

The Fox had already been left off a longer list last month when the panel began reviewing 126 applications for the program.

A stretch of the Mississippi from Wisconsin and Minnesota to Illinois and Iowa was among the final rivers recommended to President

Clinton. The others are: the Connecticut River in Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts; the Detroit River in Michigan; the Hanalei River in Hawaii; the Hudson River in New York; the New River in North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia; the Rio Grande in Texas; the Potomac River in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia; the St. Johns River in Florida, and the Willamette River in Oregon.

Dayton Duncan, who chaired the panel charged with reviewing applications, said members sought a mix of rivers that included some in each part of the country, those famous and little-known, urban and rural, pristine and polluted.

"Another committee of 12 might have selected a different mix, also justifiable and valid," he said. "The final decision, of course, rests with the president, and should he choose to designate more than 10 rivers, we would enthusiastically support that decision."

Although criticized by some as a move by the federal government to inject itself into local affairs involving the rivers, the Clinton administration has insisted the program will only provide advisers to local planners. The designation brings with it no new federal money to communities along designated rivers, but officials say the federal liaisons will be able to steer communities to existing programs they might not be aware of.

# Supervisors will decide how to vote after hearing from public on Monday

By Judy Williams  
Post-Crescent staff writer

6/19/98

A promised public hearing on a resolution before the Outagamie County Board opposing the federal government's involvement in the cleanup of the Fox River has been set for 6 p.m. Monday in the County Board meeting room, 410 S. Walnut St.

"We want to allow the citizens some input," said Marvin Fox, County Board chairman. "We try to vote as our constituents would like us to vote. This should help us decide."

Earlier this month, the board delayed taking action on the controversial resolution opposing placement of the river on a federal Superfund Priority Site list, which would give the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency authority to direct the effort to remove polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, from the sediment on the bottom of the lower Fox River.

PCBs are long-lasting, man-made chemicals that were used in electrical equipment and the manufacture of carbonless paper. They have been linked to deformities in wild animals, increased risks of cancer and developmental problems in children whose mothers ate contaminated fish.

Opponents claim EPA involvement in PCB removal will be far too costly and being designated a Superfund site will attach a stigma to the Fox River Valley.

Proponents contend that the seven companies, whose production is responsible for most of the PCBs in the river, and local governments have had ample time to deal with the health and pollution problem but have failed to act. The Green Bay-based Clean Water Action Council has been the most active group testifying in favor of EPA involvement.

The resolution being considered by the Outagamie County Board is similar to those considered by other government boards, Fox said. The Kaukauna Common Council, De Pere Common Council and

## HEARING: Supervisors want to hear from public on EPA

From A-1

Kimberly and Combined Locks village boards have approved the resolution.

However, officials in Appleton, Neenah, Menasha, Little Chute and Grand Chute have postponed taking action on it, some saying they were waiting until after the Outagamie County public hearing.

The Winnebago County Board earlier this month approved a more strongly worded resolution condemning the EPA dredging plan, in advance of holding its own public forum on the subject that was organized largely by a lobbyist for the Fox River Group, the seven companies who may be held responsible for the cleanup.

Fox said the Outagamie County Board scheduled the public hearing to get the opinion of residents on whether they want to see the EPA in control of the PCB cleanup.

"Should we support the EPA coming in or should we oppose it?"

is the question to be considered at the hearing, he said.

The hearing format will be open and simple, Fox said. The size of the crowd will determine the length of time each person is allowed to speak.

"We have to let it run until every one has their say," he said.

Following the public hearing, various County Board committees are expected to consider the testimony given and come up with recommendations for the full County Board. The Property, Airport, Recreation and Economic Development Committee already has recommended adoption.

Fox said he expects the board to take action at the July 14 meeting.

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

# REGIONAL

INSIDE THIS SECTION  
Accordian Man.....B-2  
Gift from the heart..B-4  
Tax code .....B-6

## Fox Superfund a hot potato

By Duke Behnke  
Post-Crescent staff writer

6/18/98

### Neenah, Appleton, Little Chute hold off on resolutions

NEENAH — A handful of concerned citizens planted just enough doubt in the minds of aldermen Wednesday to delay the consideration of a joint resolution advocating a settlement, short of a Superfund designation, for the removal of PCBs from the lower Fox River.

The same resolution also encountered delays in Appleton and Little Chute.

Elected officials in Menasha and the Town of Grand Chute

have tabled similar resolutions, while Kimberly and Kaukauna approved the resolution Monday or Tuesday.

In Appleton, aldermen referred the resolution back to next Wednesday's Board of Public Works meeting for further discussion.

Ald. Kathy Groat said citizens need more time to grasp a subject dominated by two "very biased" points of view up to now.

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postponed action Wednesday night, waiting for a planned public hearing on the resolution by the Outagamie County Board.

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Trustees, who indicated their intention to vote on the issue at their next board meeting, said waiting was prudent, because the wording of the resolution being considered by the county might be

changed as the result of testimony at the public hearing.

The motion in Neenah to table until July 1 initially failed on a 5-4 vote of the Common Council. Supporters, fearing the timing of the measure rather than its content was about to split the council, then reconsidered.

A unified council in two weeks, they reasoned, would be better than a divided council now.

Aldermen Mark Lange and George Scherck argued for the

delay to give them time for additional study. The Clean Water Action Council of Northeastern Wisconsin Inc. presented aldermen with a packet of materials just before the meeting.

"I'm not so sure that being first means we're doing it best," Scherck said, noting other area communities also had postponed the matter.

The resolution urges the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the state Department of Natural Resources and seven paper compa-

Please see FOX, B-3

## FOX: Superfund status now a hot potato

From B-1

nies responsible for discharging PCBs into the river to "vigorously pursue negotiations to agree on a PCB cleanup that will address environmental and health concerns in a cost-effective manner while protecting the local economy."

It also says a Superfund listing "should be avoided if at all possible because of the protracted and highly expensive litigation that listing

would trigger."

Charlotte Arendt, 307 Crescent Drive, questioned whether aldermen had heard the EPA's side of the story.

"If not, you are voting blind and uninformed and should be censured for that," Arendt said.

Mayor Ken Harwood, who supports the resolution, was surprised by the reproach. He said the city's intent is to get everyone to work together rather than against one

another.

"I'm trying to get to the table," Harwood said. "I'm trying to get some answers. I'm trying to get the paper companies to stop saying, 'We can't do it. We just can't do it.' I'm trying to get the EPA to (not) say, 'You just spend whatever it takes. You just start dredging.'"

Post-Crescent staff writers Pete Bach and Ed Culhane contributed to this report.



# Johnson secures \$1 million for Fox River locks

Federal money would be used for maintenance

By Doug Erickson  
Post-Crescent staff writer

6/18/98

The Fox Cities are in line to receive \$1 million in federal funds next year to improve the three Fox River locks that are still operational, U.S. Rep. Jay Johnson, D-Green Bay, said Wednesday.

The money would be in addition to and separate from the \$14.8 million the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has tentatively agreed to pay Wisconsin if the state accepts ownership of the 17-lock navigational system.

The new sum would be used to repair pressing maintenance problems at the De Pere, Little Kaukauna and Menasha locks.

"This is very good news," said John Forster, chairman of the Fox River Management Commission, which operates the three locks. "If you don't address the problems, the deterioration hastens."

Johnson said he personally requested the \$1 million from the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, which has adopted his request.

The measure awaits action by the full House of Representatives, a conference with the Senate, and the president's signature. But Johnson said the hard part is over.

"The key thing is getting it through

committee," he said.

The corps did minimal maintenance on the locks in the past decade as it looked to unload them on another party.

The state and the corps reached a tentative agreement on an ownership transfer earlier this month. Under the plan, the state and local supporters must come up with about \$5.4 million to add to the \$14.8 million in federal money. That money would be used to renovate and reopen most of the 17 locks.

Local supporters now are trying to figure out how to fund their share. If the deal falls through, the corps has said it will work to close the navigation system.

Forster said the maintenance money bodes well for the long-discussed ownership transfer.

"The federal government wouldn't want to put additional money into the locks if it didn't look promising," he said.

Even though the \$1 million isn't part of the negotiated agreement, it lessens the overall local financial burden for renovating the locks, Johnson said.

The De Pere Lock is in need of the most immediate work, Forster said. It is hampered by a sill leak that keeps a current of water seeping underneath the lock door after it closes, he said.

If the \$1 million is included in the fiscal year 1999 federal budget, the repair work could be completed before the start of next year's boating season, Forster said.



JOHNSON

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...e credit is due.

**Mary A. Oatman,**  
Appleton

...gent thought and persua-  
...ame parameters that apply  
...ply to "The Silver Pen" letter.

ties are focusing not on these very  
real health threats, but on imagined  
dangers based on the misinforma-  
tion about Superfund.

The greatest benefit of Super-  
fund is the immediate availability of  
funds insuring cleanup happens.  
Responsibility for repaying Super-  
fund is settled after the fact, hold-  
ing those responsible for the pollu-  
tion to repaying the debt for clean-  
up.

As we wait and engage in endless  
frivolous debate, more PCBs are  
washed downstream into Lake  
Michigan, where the responsibility  
for cleanup vanishes - but the pol-  
lution, and its threat to the people  
and wildlife of the region, remains.

In order to insure that the clean-  
up of the Fox River goes well, the  
threat of Superfund is the tool the  
public needs to have for holding  
polluters responsible - instead of  
taxpayers, wildlife and future gener-  
ations of area residents (through  
additional exposure and lost recre-  
ation opportunities).

Let the polluters know the ball is  
in their court, not ours. Once they  
give us a cleanup plan and it's  
approved, the need for Superfund

Let the polluters  
know the ball is in  
their court, not ours.

and National Priority Listing ceas-  
es.

The cleanup needs to happen,  
not endless debate and delay.

**Eric Uram,**

Clean Water=Safe Fish Project,  
Sierra Club Great Lakes  
Program,  
Madison

■ Letters must be signed and include  
a telephone number where the writer  
can be reached during the day.  
Names will be withheld only if suffi-  
cient reason is given. Letters should  
be limited to 300 words. They will be  
condensed if necessary for clarity or  
brevity. Mail your letter to:

Letters  
The Post-Crescent  
P. O. Box 59  
Appleton, WI 54912  
or e-mail it to:  
PCNews@Athenet.net

## Real issue is public health along Fox

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*.

Concerns are again flying about  
the Fox River Valley as local reso-  
lutions have been calling Super-  
fund listing a threat to the cleanup.  
The real threat is not Superfund  
listing, but the public and environ-  
mental health threat PCBs in the  
Fox River/Green Bay area pose.

■ Fish in some areas of the Fox  
River are so polluted with PCBs  
that, if eaten regularly, increase a  
person's lifetime cancer risk to  
more than 1-in-100.

■ Children and infants exposed  
to PCBs are susceptible to possible  
learning disabilities, increased life-  
time cancer risks and decreased  
immune system response.

■ The Lower Fox and Green  
Bay have received a rarely issued  
waterfowl consumption advisory in  
addition to the one given for fish.

Unfortunately, many communi-

## PUBLIC HEARINGS

### Calumet County Planning

The Calumet County Planning and Zoning Comm.  
at 7:00 p.m. on June 30, 1998, in Confer-  
ence Room 201, Courthouse. Use Courthouse Entrance B and follow  
Individuals interested in the following issues are re-  
quested to bring oral and/or written testimony to the Planning Dept.  
53014, (920) 849-1442.

#### PETITIONS

1. Petition of Cellular One to seek a conditional use  
property zoned general og. Property is owned by A  
in the SE 1/4, NE 1/4, Section 24, T20N, R18E, Twp.  
2. Petition of Convenience Store Automation, Inc., to  
local commercial (C-1) to allow an office building,  
beginning at the W 1/4 corner of Section 15, then  
thence E608.53', thence S499.22', thence W607.2'  
3. Amendment to Article XII, Section 114, of the C  
would amend the County Growth Management M  
1/4, Section 2, T20N, R18E, Town of Harrison.

#### DELIBERATION

The Committee will accept and review all pertinent  
items. The Committee may, if deemed necessary, re-  
turn upon the proposed petitions pursuant to Chapter 19

#### DECISION

The Committee will make their decision in open ses-  
sion if available.

\*Any person wishing to attend who, because of  
difficulties should contact the Planning Department at  
the scheduled meeting time so appropriate arrange-

# Fox Superfund a hot potato

By Duke Behnke  
Post-Crescent staff writer

6/18/83

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Please see FOX, B-3

## FOX: Superfund status now a hot potato

From B-1

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Post-Crescent staff writers Pete Bach and Ed Culhar contributed to this report.

JUN 23 '83 01:42PM INFO & EDUC ETH F-

## Grand Chute tables resolution on Superfund designation for river

By Steve Wideman  
Post-Crescent staff writer

6/17/98

**GRAND CHUTE** - The Town Board on Tuesday tabled indefinitely consideration of a resolution opposing fund designation of the lower Fox River as a federal Superfund site.

The 3-2 vote to table the resolution puts Grand Chute in line with a growing number of municipalities that have been displaying caution when it comes to opposing federal Environmental Protection Agency involvement in cleaning up PCBs in the river.

The PCBs, which have been linked to cancer, were deposited into the river by a number of area paper mills in the late 1950s, throughout the 1960s and early 1970s before they were banned.

The resolution calls for the EPA, state Department of Natural Resources and paper mills along the Fox River to negotiate a cleanup of the river in hopes of avoiding Superfund designation.

Supv. Patricia Stevens said she preferred moving ahead with supporting the resolution.

"I think we should take a stand," she said.

Stevens said she wants two demonstration projects geared at cleansing the river to move forward.

Supv. Sharron Huss made the motion to table the resolution.

"I don't feel we have all the answers and probably never will," Huss said.

Town Chairman Michael Marsden said he felt it was best not to take any action.

## Menasha delays vote on Fox River cleanup measure

MENASHA - After lengthy discussion, aldermen opted Monday to wait two weeks before voting on a unified resolution which supports a negotiated solution to the Fox River PCB cleanup.

While Mayor Joe Laux and City Atty. Jeffrey Brandt urged Common Council support, Tom Kees of Neenah, a Clean Water Action Council board member, asked aldermen to consider arguments in favor of the Superfund designation.

The joint local government resolution asks the EPA, DNR and

paper mills to vigorously pursue negotiations to agree on a PCB cleanup to cost effectively address environmental and health concerns while protecting the local economy.

"In essence, the bottom line is consensus," said Laux. Brandt said the Superfund is a methodology to determine potentially responsible parties which are held jointly and severally liable.

"We are led to believe that there is a pot of money at the end of the rainbow and it's just a matter of tapping into it," Brandt said. "The

EPA can help us by going to the bargaining table with the mills, the people who created the problem."

Kees insisted that the measure was "a stop Superfund resolution."

Paper companies benefitted from their discharges into the Fox River and need to bite the bullet on the cleanup, he said. Dredging can be done safely and correctly, he said.

6/16/78

OST-CRE

ADL FRAT

# Why the wait? Superfund

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:

I am writing this letter in support of the Superfund designation of the lower Fox River. With the DNR and state politicians dragging their feet on this issue, it is time for the people of the area to take a stand on this issue.

Why should we put up with polluted water and tainted fish? So certain companies can profit at the expense of our Fox River? These companies will not go out of business if they are forced to pay for a cleanup.

Fort James has been investing billions of dollars in China, Russia and Turkey to expand their operations. This money should have been spent here, in the Fox Valley, since it was the working men and women of Green Bay who earned that money.

We cannot expect these companies to voluntarily clean the Fox. We have waited 12 years for results, and have only studies to show for it. It is time we take action, bring on the Superfund, so maybe someday your grandchildren will be able to bring a walleye home and eat it without fear of PCBs.

**Kyle Strauss,**  
Green Bay

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## VIEWS

A-9

LETTERS

# needed to clean up the Fox

Ed Berthiaume, features editor  
920-993-1000, ext. 213  
e mail: PC News@athenet.net

D-3 TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 1998



"THE RIVER ROCKS!" is a collection of songs that deal with some aspect of northeast Wisconsin's environmental history.

## CD puts Wisconsin's history in song

By Tom Richards  
Post-Crescent staff

**B**ruce Johnson was afraid that the Fox/Wolf Rivers Environmental History Project was going to have to go back and dig up a bunch of folksy French canoe tunes, maybe some old logging songs, for a planned recording.

Then the folks at the history project discovered that talent flows through the Valley like the rivers to which the organization is devoted.

What that talent produced is 10 songs that make up "The River Rocks!," a new CD. The styles range from folk to rap to heavy metal.

The tunes are described as "northeast Wisconsin's environmental history in music."

All deal with some aspect of environmental history of the region.

For example, Jason Moon wrote and performs a song called "The

"We've got  
to have the  
kids  
knowing  
our  
legacy."

Bruce Johnson

Day They  
Blew Up the  
Bog," which  
tells a true  
story of the  
1900s when  
bogs broke  
loose and  
floated down  
the Fox to  
Oshkosh,  
where they  
had to be  
dynamited.

Or "Mr.  
Ware, You  
Were There,"  
by Eric

Anderson (of Boogie and the Yo-Yo's), which is about a farmer named Ware who in 1876 began replanting trees that were harvested for logs on his farm.

Or "A Catfish Named Lou," by Green Bay singer/songwriter Barb Bazaldua, a tale of a fish living in the garbage that people threw in the Fox River in the 1940s and '50s.

One of the things that Johnson insisted on was that the songs didn't turn into preachy environmental stuff.

The CD was made as part of a \$20,000 grant from the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board.

The songwriters were given a modest fee for their work. "It's embarrassing what we gave them," Johnson said. "They were grossly underpaid. It hardly covered their expenses.

"But we are willing to perpetuate the image of the starving artist."

Actually, in the best tradition of squeezing the most out of a dollar for environmental work, the \$20,000 also paid for a 15-minute video about the environmental history of the region and for a site on the Internet ([www.foxwolf.org](http://www.foxwolf.org)).

A music video off the album is the likely next step, Johnson said, and work is being done on a slide presentation, backed by the music.

Between each musical cut on the CD is a brief explanation of the story behind the next number. These are done by Ken Anderson and Natalie Sandberg.

Much of the work on the video, CD and Web site was volunteer or done at the lowest possible rate.

"Part of the project was to beg and scrounge," Johnson said.

It is important to recall and record this environmental history, he added.

"We've got to have the kids knowing our legacy," he said. "Those are the folks that are going to be making the decisions pretty soon. They are going to have to deal with what we leave behind, but I've got hope. I've got a lot of hope."

The CD is available at area music stores or by calling 888-FOXWOLF.

## **Cleaning Fox should be our top priority**

**Editor, The Post-Crescent:**

It seems to me that a majority of the people in the Green Bay area don't have the facts.

Many people are brainwashed into thinking that the Fox River doesn't have that big of a problem and that bringing in Superfund would only hurt the economy.

It is absurd to think that nothing should be done. I am all for Superfund and making sure that the polluters that put their garbage in the river in the first place should pay for it.

Cleaning up the Fox River will give this community and many others a clean and fishable river and

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**It is absurd to think that nothing should be done.**

---

bay.

The Green Bay commercial and sport fishery alone could be worth millions.

The knowledge of a polluted river has suppressed many water front investments for years, and will continue to do so unless something is done.

I never realized how bad the problem was until I got the facts. More people need to open their eyes and see how dangerous this river has become to the wildlife, the

environment, the economy, and the health and general welfare of the people in this community.

**Sarah Statz,**  
Green Bay

6/15/98

■ *Letters must be signed and include a telephone number where the writer can be reached during the day. Names will be withheld only if sufficient reason is given. Letters should be limited to 300 words. They will be condensed if necessary for clarity or brevity. Mail your letter to:*

**Letters**

**The Post-Crescent**

**P. O. Box 59**

**Appleton, WI 54912**

*or e-mail it to:*

**PCNews@Athenet.net**



6/14/98

## Winnebago board rushed to judgment on Superfund

**Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:**

I'm appalled at the process used by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors to pass a resolution against Superfund cleanup of the Fox River.

Two weeks ago, 13 supervisors held a cozy meeting with a corporate lobbyist representing paper mills who polluted the river. Apparently the lobbyist helped them draft the resolution.

At the June 2 full board meeting, citizens were allowed to comment only before the board debated the resolution. Once debate began, citizens were not allowed to respond to the multitude of bald-faced lies and half-truths spouted by certain board members. We couldn't have guessed in advance what arguments they would use, and we never dreamed they could be so misinformed. The board rushed into a final vote.

Several citizens asked them to oppose the resolution, or at least wait two weeks to allow citizens time to respond, have a public debate of the issue, and provide more information. But

the board voted 27-7 against us.

It's interesting that supervisors worry about the "stigma" of the Superfund label, though everyone knows the river is polluted. They should be worried about the stigma of being labeled corrupt public officials who kiss the feet of self-serving corporate lobbyists and ignore public health concerns.

Local officials have had 12 years to write a voluntary cleanup plan and raise money to get the job done. Superfund has been the only solid effort in all that time. It has never been realistic to expect seven corporations to voluntarily donate \$1 billion, but these supervisors want to keep waiting, or stick taxpayers with the cost. Meanwhile, millions of people along the Fox River, Green Bay and Lake Michigan have been exposed to 12 years of toxic PCB chemicals.

**Rebecca Leighton  
Katers,**  
Green Bay

■ *The author is the executive director of the Clean Water Action Council of Northeast Wisconsin, Inc., based in Green Bay.*

The Silver Pen is *The Post-Crescent's* "Letter of the Day." There is no award for it, other than being set aside from the other letters. It recognizes good writing, cogent thought and persuasive argument. The same parameters that apply to all other letters apply to "The Silver Pen" letter.

# To dredge or not to dredge

By Ed Culhane  
Post-Opinion staff writer

In the intensifying debate surrounding the PCB-contaminated sediments in the Fox River, the dredger has been portrayed as a monster.

Fox Valley residents have seen a vision of a giant, dirty machine, fueled by hundreds of millions of dollars from local coffers, that would muck around in the sediments, digging through clean layers to disrupt the bad stuff below -

## Issue of dredging may come down to whose science you choose to believe

dangerous, mysterious chemicals that would be better left alone, buried in their murky lockers.

This vision can be found in a video produced by the seven companies targeted by state and federal regulators to pay for the lion's share of any Fox River cleanup.

The video shows an artist's animation of a dredger's cutting blade digging up the buried contaminants, mixing them with their blanket of clean sediment and spewing the mixture into the water column above.

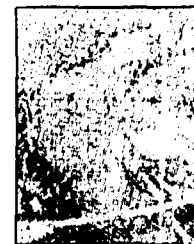
"We believe that by dredging those materials 5, 6 and 7 feet down, we're

actually going to contaminate the river more," said industry executive Dennis Hultgren in the video.

Banded together as the Fox River Group, executives from the seven companies have also produced Internet Web pages, a newsletter and a speaker's bureau, all delivering the message that large-scale dredging of the Fox River is an outcome to be feared.

But is it?

Please see **DREDGING**, BACK PAGE



the future  
of the  
FOX  
river

# DREDGING: Regulators and industry spar over science of removing PCBs from Fox

From A-1

In public meetings, and on their own Web pages and newsletters, state and federal regulators offer a vastly different vision.

They describe precision dredging, with underwater vacuums and protective screens, as a proven technology that will safely and cleanly remove the contaminants from the river with minimum noise and disruption.

"It's careful engineering and technical work, but it's not rocket science," DNR scientist Bill Fitzpatrick told residents of Little Chute 12 days ago.

Later, he referred to the dredging illustrations in the industry video as a "cartoon."

"I can show you actual film of underwater dredging," Fitzpatrick said. "The photographer taking the film is kicking up more silt than the dredger."

Government scientists, and environmentalists, have their own fear - the absence of dredging.

Leaving Fox River contaminants in place, they argue, will allow them to maintain their role as the single largest source of Lake Michigan pollution, bleeding polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and heavy metals into the river and then the lake where they will enter the microscopic end of the food chain, increasing their concentrations as they climb, poisoning fish and the birds and animals that feed on them for all of the next century, and beyond.

Mothers who eat too many of the wrong fish, health experts warn, will endanger the normal development of their children.

The question of whether to dredge the river, and to what extent and with what mix of other technologies, will not come up for a vote.

It is a regulatory issue, and the fastest, cheapest way to a decision would be successful negotiations between the paper companies and the state and federal agencies charged with protecting the environment.

Without a negotiated agreement, the federal government could force a cleanup and then invite the paper companies to pay the bill - or face years in court defending themselves, along with their possible co-defendants, the local municipalities who passed industries' PCBs through their wastewater treatment plants and into the Fox.

Worse, the federal government could fine the mills for the environmental damage, but leave the contaminants in place, taking the mon-

ey elsewhere to clean up someone else's mess.

The reality, government officials say, is that no cleanup of this magnitude can happen without public support, and for many, to support or oppose dredging requires evidence.

To bolster their assertion that dredging buried contaminants is harmful, industry executives hired the environmental consulting firm of Blasland, Bouck and Lee to monitor EPA dredging, of the same

**"I can show you actual film of underwater dredging. The photographer taking the film is kicking up more silt than the dredger."**

**BILL FITZPATRICK,**  
DNR scientist

kind being tested this summer on the Fox, which has been under way in Manistique, Mich., Harbor for three years.

The firm reported that PCB concentrations in surface sediments are now five times higher where EPA dredging occurred than where dredging did not occur.

"It further found that dredging increased by 10 times the amount of PCBs available to fish and other animals living in Manistique Harbor," industry executives said in a recent press release.

"The average concentration (of PCBs) in samples from the areas dredged by EPA was 18.5 parts per million, almost twice EPA's removal action level of 10 parts per million," the release states.

This brought a quick response from Jim Hahnenberg, EPA remedial project manager for both Manistique and the Fox. He is crying foul.

"EPA is still removing sediments in the areas evaluated in your report," Hahnenberg wrote in a letter to the report's primary author, scientist Mark Brown. "Thus your conclusions regarding the overall effectiveness regarding this project are premature and do not provide a valid, balanced evaluation of the overall effectiveness of dredging at Manistique."

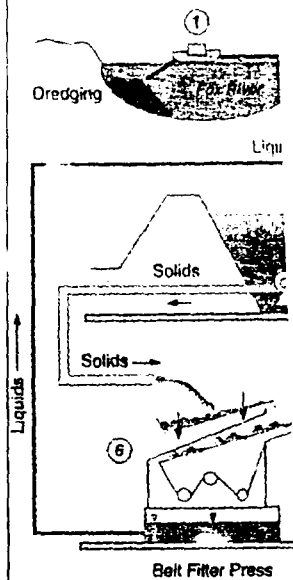
Hahnenberg said samples taken 10 days ago from an area that has been completely dredged show PCB concentrations of 1.5 parts per million, a 40-fold reduction from pre-dredging concentrations.

"Moreover, 26 of 35 samples in the completed dredge area had no detectable PCBs," Hahnenberg wrote.

He said the contamination in those areas cited by Brown that exceed the 10 ppm action level will be removed by additional "polishing" dredging, in which a diver directs a vacuum hose at sediments left in place by larger equipment.

Hahnenberg said another of Brown's conclusions - that dredging caused PCBs to be spilled over

## Deposit N Sediment Cleanup Process



THIS ILLUSTRATION describes Deposit N, on the south shore of

onto undredged areas - was "unfounded conjecture, wholly without support from sample data."

EPA officials said Blasland, Bouck and Lee consultants have worked for other polluting industries in other parts of the state and country - including the General Electric on the Hudson River in New York and Tecumseh Products on the Sheboygan River - and have opposed large-scale dredging in those cases as well.

Hahnenberg said dredging in Manistique will remove 96% of the PCBs in the areas being dredged.

**"We do believe (the samples) show conclusively that PCBs in fact have increased in surface sediments as a direct result of dredging. This assertion in (Hahnenberg's) letter that they are not releasing PCBs is just nonsense. The work they are doing there is not good science."**

**MARK BROWN,** primary author  
commissioned by industry assoc.

with large reductions in PCB concentrations and substantial, long-term improvements to the health of the waterway.

Brown was still formulating his written response as this article was being prepared. He said he stands by the report.

"We do believe (the samples) show conclusively that PCBs in fact have increased in surface sediments as a direct result of dredging. This assertion in (Hahnenberg's) letter that they are not releasing PCBs is just nonsense. The work they are doing there is not good science."

Hahnenberg and other EPA offi-

# Library has developed Web site on river, PCBs

The Appleton Public Library has developed an Internet Web site called "PCBs and the Fox River."

Located at [www.apl.org/pages/pcb.html](http://www.apl.org/pages/pcb.html), the site contains both current and historic information about polychlorinated biphenyls, deposits in the Fox River and the potential cleanup efforts of government and industry.

Library Director Terry Dawson said the site was designed to provide free public access to detailed, balanced information.

The site has five sections:

- General background about PCBs. This section links users to a fact sheet produced by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry that contains frequently asked questions about the health risks of PCBs; a research overview on the chemistry, toxicology and biodegradation of PCBs from the University of Waterloo; and a Public Broadcasting System Frontline program called "Fooling with Nature."

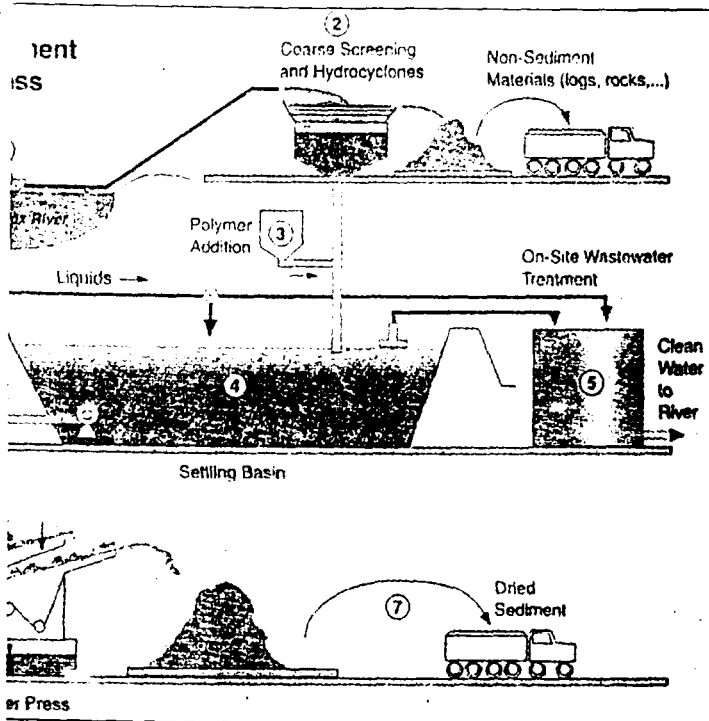
- Government agencies and resources. Links are provided to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. EPA-Region 5 and the United States Geological Survey, all of which have published documents on PCB contamination in the Fox River.

- Community organizations and industry Web sites devoted to PCB cleanup. Three community organizations - the Clear Water Action Council of Northeast Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Stewardship Network, and the Fox River Group (representing seven companies involved in the cleanup) - have produced sites that offer in depth coverage of their positions. Links to New York and Indiana sites that have similar concerns are also provided.

- Material in the Appleton Public Library's Wisconsin Collection. The collection contains documents from the late 1970s and early 1980s, prepared by the Fox Valley Water Quality Planning Agency and the state of Wisconsin, that provide perspective to pollution in the Fox River. This section also indexes *Post-Crescent* articles written between 1994 and 1988 about the topic.

- Contacts. This last section is a list of contacts including local organizations such as the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Friends of the Fox, and the Fox Cities chapter of the Sierra Club as well as state and federal agencies.

Free public access to the Internet is provided at the library. Further information is available at the library's Reference and Information Desk at 920-832-6173.



describes the process that will be used to clean PCBs from the site identified as the shore of the Fox River in Kimberly.

... was wholly "data." Scientists have found that the science of sediment remediation is evolving and no two bodies of water are alike. Using these kinds of arguments, industry executives have fashioned a compelling argument that the formation of any cleanup plan for the Fox should be delayed, from six months to a year, so that the results of two demonstration projects this summer can be analyzed. But state and federal scientists, backed by area environmental orga-

... nizations agree that different methods and different testing scenarios have been used at different sites. They point out that the science of sediment remediation is evolving and no two bodies of water are alike. Using these kinds of arguments, industry executives have fashioned a compelling argument that the formation of any cleanup plan for the Fox should be delayed, from six months to a year, so that the results of two demonstration projects this summer can be analyzed. But state and federal scientists, backed by area environmental orga-

... year - wash into the lake where they could contaminate millions of fish.

Significant removal of contaminated sediments, they argue, could result in a clean river, with fish safe to eat, within 25 years.

In cases where dredging did result in increased surface-level contamination, Hahnenberg said, the damage is temporary.

"There may be some higher concentrations," he said. "You may have some short-term increases, but if you look at the overall average over time, there are significant reductions. In the long run, you have a vast improvement."

Phil Keillor, a scientist with the University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Program, said the efficiency of dredging is generally accepted. High water storms pose a much greater danger of stirring up contaminants.

"Within the scientific community, dredging is not an important issue," he said.

But if done, he said, it must be done right.

"There certainly have been cases where what's left behind has been disappointing," he said, "but that's a problem of not dredging completely and carefully."

Detailed work must be done, he said, to locate and understand the contamination.

"Before you start dredging, you better find all of it," Keillor said. "And once you start dredging, you better get all of it."

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

... lieve (the samples) show clearly that PCBs in fact are in surface sediments as a direct result of dredging. This assertion ... that dredging is not releasing PCBs is just not good science." The work they are doing is not good science."

Primary author of a report on PCB dredging by industry executives who oppose the process

PCB contamination, long-term health of

relating his article which stands

(samples) PCBs in fact sediments dredging. This

g's) letter PCBs is they are science."

EPA offi-

... nizations, say that 10 years of intensive study by the DNR and other agencies is enough. The DNR is currently completing a feasibility study which is due by December.

State and federal regulators say they will analyze information from the demonstration projects as it becomes available, but will not delay the process.

They, too, have a compelling argument.

To wait, they say, is to lose an opportunity to remove the most dangerous sediments while they are in the river, before more PCBs - an estimated 600 pounds of them per

## **PCBs are the real threat**

MADISON — Concerns are again flying about the Fox River Valley as local resolutions have been calling Superfund listing a threat to the cleanup. The real threat is not Superfund listing, but the public and environmental health threat PCBs in the Fox River/Green Bay area pose.

Fish in some areas of the Fox River are so polluted with PCBs that, if eaten regularly, increase a person's lifetime cancer risk to more than 1-in-100.

Children and infants exposed to PCBs are susceptible to possible learning disabilities, increased lifetime cancer risks and decreased immune system response.

The Lower Fox and Green Bay have received a rarely issued waterfowl consumption advisory in addition to the one given to the general public.

Unfortunately, many communities are focusing not on these very real health threats, but on imagined dangers based on the misinformation about Superfund.

The greatest benefit of Superfund is the immediate availability of funds insuring cleanup happens. Responsibility for repaying Superfund is settled after the fact, holding those responsible for the pollution to repaying the debt for cleanup.

As we wait and engage in endless frivolous debate, more PCBs are washed downstream into Lake Michigan where the responsibility for cleanup vanishes — but the pollution, and its threat to the people and wildlife of the region, remains.

To insure that the cleanup of the Fox River goes well, the threat of Superfund is the tool the public needs to have for holding polluters responsible — instead of taxpayers, wildlife and future generations of area residents (through additional exposure and lost recreation opportunities).

Let the polluters know the ball is in their court — not ours. Once they give us a cleanup plan and it's approved, the need for Superfund and National Priority Listing ceases. The cleanup needs to happen, not endless debate and delay.

**Eric Uram**, Clean Water-Safe Fish Project,  
Sierra Great Lakes Program, Madison

6/14/98

# Superfund forum leans to one side

By Ed Lowe  
Post-Crescent staff writer

6/12/98

OSHKOSH - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's plans for the Lower Fox River remain as murky as the river itself following a public briefing on the subject Thursday night.

That's because no one from the EPA attended the event presented as an "educational issue briefing" by the Legislative Committee of the Winnebago County Board.

An EPA official might have felt



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river

a bit unwelcome at the discussion anyway, considering all of the four guest presenters placed themselves soundly against the federal agency that threatens to order the dredging of PCBs from the entire 39-mile span of river.

The lack of political balance on the panel did not

escape the notice of Rebecca Katers, executive director of the Green Bay-based Clean Water Action Council of Northeast Wisconsin Inc.

"These are all anti-Superfund speakers," Katers noted during a question-and-answer period.

"There's no balance here."

After the meeting, Legislative Committee Chairman Jim Lauson said he was surprised to learn of the panel's makeup.

"I really would have liked to have had someone from the other side," Lauson said.

Although the briefing was scheduled as a public meeting of the committee, Lauson said he

Please see FORUM, BACK PAGE

## FORUM: Foes of Superfund get their say

From A-1

asked Alice O'Connor, a Madison-based communications consultant working on behalf of the Fox River Group - seven companies that could be held liable for the costs of a Superfund cleanup - to arrange the speakers.

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

The paper mills discharged PCBs - polychlorinated biphenyls - into the river before the chemical, a suspected carcinogen, was outlawed in the 1970s. PCBs are long-lasting, synthetic chemicals used in the manufacture of carbonless paper.

PCBs have been linked to deformities in wildlife, increased risk of cancer in humans and developmental problems in children whose mothers eat contaminated fish.

According to Lauson, O'Connor arranged appearances by P.H. Glatfelter Co. paper mill manager David Lee; Mark Brown, a scientist whose engineering firm is employed by the Fox River Group; and John Kennedy, chairman of the Science and Technology Committee of the Lower Fox River and Green Bay Remedial Action Plan.

Lauson said he arranged the appearance by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources representative George Boronow after having learned of O'Connor's choices for the panel.

"I was surprised that (O'Connor) didn't get anyone from the EPA or the DNR," Lauson said. "That's what I was hoping would happen."

County Executive Jane VanDeHey said she called the Chicago office of the EPA Wednesday in an unsuccessful attempt to contact a representative of the agency. She said she did so in response to Lauson's concerns about the apparent lack of balance on the panel.

Even so, she said, "The meeting wasn't designed to be a public debate. It was supposed to be just information-sharing."

The session came nine days after the County Board passed a resolution opposing any EPA plan to place the lower Fox River on its list of Superfund sites. The resolution arose at VanDeHey's recommendation.

# Appleton board joins call for PCB solution

By Pete Bach  
Post-Crescent staff writer

Appleton's Board of Public Works Wednesday backed a unified effort to negotiate a solution to the massive PCB cleanup ahead for the Fox River.

The board, with a recommendation that goes to the full Common Council next Wednesday, became the latest to endorse a local government resolution supporting a settlement that skirts what some fear would be a far more costly solution if the river was declared a federal Superfund site.

Six communities and four sewage treatment facilities will consider the joint resolution that calls on the Environmental Protection Agency, state Department of Natural Resources and seven area paper companies, known as the Fox River Group "to vigorously pur-

sue negotiations to agree on a PCB cleanup that will address environmental and health concerns in a cost-effective manner while protecting the local economy."



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PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, were man-made chemicals legally used in the manufacture of electric equipment and carbonless papers. Banned in 1971, PCBs have been linked to cancer in humans and other ills.

"We're saying you need to work together so that the result is avoiding the Superfund," said Mayor Timothy Hanna.

City Atty. Greg Carman said the city saved literally millions of dollars by avoiding Superfund status for the old Mackville dump. The cleanup has cost the city about \$5 million versus the estimated \$18 million to \$20 million tab had it gone on the Superfund list.

Most Fox Valley residents are already all too aware of the water pollution problems in the area. For years, they have been told to stop eating the fish from the Fox and to stay out of the waters at Bay Beach, among other locations. Those who have braved their way into the water to swim or water ski often return questioning the nature of the green scum covering them from head to toe.

I also believe that non-residents are also aware of the pollution problem of the Fox to a lesser extent. Tourists are not drawn to Green Bay or the Fox Cities because they wish to experience their "pristine waters." If tourists were searching for this they would most likely travel to Alaska or Canada. Rather, tourists come to northeast Wisconsin for other reasons such as the Packers, other attractions or natural resources (Heritage Hill), or to visit their family and friends.

If the Fox River is designated as a Superfund site, I do not believe a negative stigma would result. Residents and non-residents would most likely view it as a much-needed investment in a better future. It may even be a chance to reclaim and restore the valuable resource and enjoy long-lost treasures such as the waters of Bay Beach.

Kristin Kubsch,  
Green Bay

### More information out there on PCBs

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:

For those interested in what we know scientifically about PCBs in the Great Lakes, I suggest a report to Congress by the Environmental Protection Agency.

This report is identified as *The*

*Effects of Great Lakes Contaminants on Human Health*, EPA-905-R-95-017, September 1995. This report covers nine different studies over three years at a cost to the taxpayer of approximately \$10 million. The report is published by:

USEPA

Great Lakes National Program  
Office

77 West Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, Ill. 60604

To quote from the above report to Congress:

*Although this report presents no results, it summarizes the existing literature on Great Lakes human health studies related to contaminants ...*

You read right, no results after three years and \$10 million! This report states that many of the studies were scientifically flawed. For example; the effect of the consumption of alcohol, tobacco and caffeine by the mother was not considered when studying newborn babies. These factors are known to cause lower birth weight and other problems in infants. Congress appropriated \$6 million-plus for further study for the years '95 and '96. As of a few weeks ago, no results from this study have been published.

For those interested in tracking progress, the ATSDR Great Lakes Human Health Effects Research Program is on the Internet via the

World Wide Web at:  
<http://atsdr1.atsdr.cdc.gov:8080/grtlakes.html>

I hope there are others who will write and identify other scientific studies so that we all can have a better understanding of the PCB issue.

Bob Hackinson,  
Appleton

Use caution

6/11/98  
Clean Fox would be  
huge drawing point

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:

I recently have become aware of the issues surrounding the Fox River and its potential to become a Superfund site. I believe that the Fox is polluted but people are afraid to admit it. Some do not want to name the area a Superfund site because they fear it would give our area a bad image and frighten possible tourists or business prospects away.

I do not think this would happen.

6/11/98



# Locks' tab is tallied up for Valley's supporters

The \$2.65 million local share over seven years could come from a variety of sources

By Doug Erickson  
Post-Crescent staff writer

GRAND CHUTE — Local supporters of the Fox River locks system must come up with about \$375,000 a year for seven years to fund their share of a proposed restoration project, state Department of Natural Resources Secretary George Meyer said Tuesday.

Without that commitment, a negotiated deal for the state to take over ownership of the navigational system from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers likely would not happen, he said.



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"I'm very confident the governor would not go forward (without local money)," Meyer told about two dozen local officials at an informational meeting at the Holiday Inn.

He made it pointedly clear that the state has done about as much as it can to try to save the locks.

"I think the local leaders need to get together and figure out a solution," Meyer said. "I think we've gone as far as we can without imposing something on you."

Tuesday's meeting clarified just what the state expects financially from local supporters. The roughly \$2.65 million local share over seven years is significantly less than

Please see **LOCKS**, BACK PAGE



# COMMUNITY

# Lobbying heats up on Fox River dredging

## Paper firms put message in ink and on the Web

By Ed Culhane  
Post-Crescent staff writer

The factual presentations and arguments swirling around the impending cleanup of the Fox River have spilled out of the committee room and the public meeting hall and onto the Internet.

With hundreds of millions of dollars at stake, the paper companies that will get the bill for the cleanup of PCB-contaminated sediments are expanding their public information efforts and they are getting more sophisticated with each passing month.

Government regulators are stepping up their efforts as well, and no fewer than five public meetings are planned in coming months on a single demonstration project — the dredging of

contaminated sediments from Deposit N, which hugs the south bank of the Fox River at Kimberly.

The paper mills, banded together as the Fox River Group, have now published a newsletter, called Fox River Times, and have distributed 40,000 copies. More are available. The companies have also created a highly polished Web site on the Internet, which gives modem-band folks access to industry news releases and a small library of articles on the Fox River.

Company officials are using the newsletter and the Internet to present their view that dredging, the most expensive of the cleanup options, is fraught with problems.

Besides the breath-taking expense it involves, dredging is portrayed as risky.



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Please see NEWSLETTER, B-6

## Neenah committee first to back joint resolution

By Duke Behnke  
Post-Crescent staff writer

NEENAH — A joint government resolution advocating a settlement, short of a Superfund designation, for the removal of PCBs from the lower Fox River drew the full support of the city's Finance and Personnel Committee Monday.

Mayor Ken Harwood said the city's position, developed in concert with eight other area municipalities and sewerage districts, goes further than that of Winnebago County, the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce & Industry or Gov. Tommy Thompson's office, which have opposed listing the lower Fox as a national Superfund site.

While we see some benefit in that opposi-

tion, we see more benefit in working with all of the parties to move forward on the project," Harwood said.

The resolution urges the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the state Department of Natural Resources and seven companies responsible for discharging PCBs into the river to "vigorously pursue negotiations to agree on a PCB cleanup that will address environmental and health concerns in a cost-effective manner while protecting the local economy."

It calls upon the DNR and the seven paper companies, known collectively as the Fox River Group, to settle their differences promptly regarding two PCB cleanup demonstration projects and to complete those projects this year, if possible, so the data can be used in determining

Please see COMMITTEE, B-6

1/9/98

# NEWSLETTER: Industry group goes to press

From B-1

"Dredging might be an ideal cleanup solution if it removed 100% of the PCBs," the newsletter states.

"Unfortunately, dredging is a very messy process and stirs up sediments, mixing the layer being dredged with the layer underneath, leaving some of the contamination behind and actually increasing the amount of PCBs at the top layer of sediment."

The newsletter fills the equivalent of six letter-size pages. It has photographs and graphics, but many of the pages are dominated by type.

The essence of the message is that the PCB problem in the river and in Lake Michigan is gradually going away by itself and the spending hundreds of millions to dredge the river might actually make the problem worse.

"It is one way of providing information to people that is based on science and facts that collectively we can use to determine the best way to deal with the PCB issue," said Bill Van Den Brandt, a spokesman for Appleton Papers.

Van Den Brandt said the newsletter has been distributed to chambers of commerce, area elected officials, local business and

trade groups, media outlets and a wide variety of civic groups.

Officials with the Environmental Protection Agency have challenged some of the facts contained in the newsletter, and scientists with the state Department of Natural Resources have held public meetings to explain their confidence in dredging.

Government regulators have said one goal to the demonstration project at Deposit N is to demonstrate that large-scale dredging can work.

■ To receive a copy of the newsletter, call 920-683-8583. The Web site can be found at [www.foxrivergroup.org](http://www.foxrivergroup.org).

# COMMITTEE: Resolution opposes Superfund

From B-1

remedial actions.

"It's an attempt to move people toward a consensus rather than litigation," City Atty. James Gunz said.

The committee forwarded the resolution to the Common Council for adoption June 17.

Appleton, Menasha, De Pere, Wrightstown, the Neenah-Menasha Sewerage Commission, the Grand Chute-Menasha West Sewerage Commission, the Heart of the Valley Metropolitan Sewerage District and the Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District all are expected to approve the resolution within the

next three weeks.

The localities, according to the resolution, recognize that without a settlement on the nature of the cleanup and its funding, the lower Fox will be designated as a Superfund site.

Such a listing, Gunz told city officials, likely would lead to interminable litigation that very well may involve us."

The city's allies agree.

"We believe Superfund listing should be avoided if at all possible because of the protracted and highly expensive litigation that listing would trigger, because listing is not necessary to achieve PCB cleanup and because listing clearly would be

harmful to the economy and future of our region," the resolution says.

PCBs, a byproduct of carbonless copy papers, were discharged into the river from 1957 to 1971. They have been linked to increased cancer in people and to deformities in wild animals.

Officials estimate the lower Fox contains 80,000 pounds of PCBs in 9 million to 12 million cubic yards of sediment.

## Music Lessons

Summer Special

5 Wks. Only \$15.00

# THE POST-CRESCENT

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## OUR VIEWS

6/9/98

### Don't compromise on the health of our area

The most important piece to the Fox River cleanup puzzle is health – the river's health, the economy's health and the health of those who live near the river, come in contact with it and eat any fish that come from it.

That, in a roundabout way, seems to be what a consortium of Fox Valley municipalities and sewerage districts had in mind when they issued a joint proposal late last



week. The proposal asked that the state Department of Natural Resources and the federal Environmental Protection Agency negotiate the best way to clean the PCBs out of the Fox River, and avoid placing the cleanup project on the EPA's Superfund list.

The consortium suggested, and probably quite correctly, that a Superfund listing would cause significant litigation and only harm the economic health of the Fox Valley.

We might add that it would also delay the cleanup of the river, which would definitely not help ensure its health, or that of area residents.

What the consortium suggested was not particularly earth-shaking. Nor was it particularly innovative. In fact, as Appleton Mayor Tim Hanna

noted, it was carefully worded.

But these were common-sense words that needed to be said. The DNR and the EPA needed to hear that the people of the Fox Valley – through their elected and appointed officials – have concerns about the process, and that they have the health and well-being of the area in mind.

We hope the DNR and the EPA heed the words and wishes of the group. We urge them to use the best science – and the best wisdom – possible and develop a Fox River cleanup solution that will maintain the economic, social and physical health of the Fox River Valley.

the future  
of the  
FOX  
river





the northern six counties with the Republic of Ireland?

The recent announcement that IRA dissidents plan to take up arms again on behalf of a united Ireland suggests peace will not come as a result of this accord and will come only when Britain once and for all decides to return the northern six counties to the people of Ireland.

6/9/98 William Gartland,  
Rio

### Keep Fox cleanup in state, local hands

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:

It was with great dismay that I read Sarah Welch's letter justifying why the Fox River should become

a Superfund site. ("Talk is cheap; it's time to go Superfund." May 31).

While she advanced the "common sense" notion of making polluters pick up the bill, she quickly acknowledged that idea would never happen, so it was necessary to accept Superfund to get it over with. This is absurd!

Robert Kasten wrote a piece for *The Post-Crescent* entitled, "America's 10 worst federal regulations." (July 8, 1996) Number four on that list was none other than Superfund regulations. He stated, "EPA tends to manipulate the public by exaggerating site risks, frightening communities and wasting public and private resources in unnecessary cleanup activities. Often a more expensive cleanup measure is used when a cheaper method would work just as well."

Given the EPA's track record, that same idea of wasting resources to fix the problem, would no doubt carry over into the cleanup of the Fox.

Gov. Thompson is right in his opposition to letting this great river fall into the jurisdiction of Superfund regulations. This is a state issue, and should be dealt with as a state issue. Besides, does this great state really was a bunch of bureaucratic eco-weenies dressed like Al Gore calling the shots from Washington, D.C.?

Mark Rahmlow,  
Appleton

### Regional airport name makes sense

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:

The Fox Cities Regional Airport is such a far better name than Outagamie County Regional Airport that I predict the County Board will adopt it imminently.

This is such a no-brainer that it will probably be adopted

**SUCK IT UP:** wouldn't it be better to go after the PCBs with a huge vacuum rather than with a crane with a clam bucket? If you have ever watched a crane with a bucket, you would notice a lot of water and materials leaking out of the bucket. I would think a vacuum would leave a lot fewer PCBs leaking back out into the water again.

**Gordon Johnson, Sr.**  
Neenah

6/8/88

**Joni Wanser,**  
Neenah

**NO SUPERFUND:** I agree with the Winnebago County Board. We don't need the Fox River designated as a Superfund site.

**Jack Miller,**  
Neenah

■ *Callers should include their first and last names (spell your last name please), hometown and a*

6/8/88

6/8/98

"It's stronger than a tentative agreement"

# LOCKING IT UP

Army Corps of Engineers cuts a deal to pay the state \$15 million to take over the Fox River navigational system

By Doug Erickson  
Post-Crescent staff writer



After years of on-and-off negotiations, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has agreed in concept to pay Wisconsin close to \$15 million if the state assumes ownership

of the Fox River locks, according to a state official.

"The major issues are resolved," said Ron Fassbender, spokesman for the state Department of Natural Resources and one of the negotiators. "It's stronger than a tentative agreement."

Municipal leaders along the Fox River between Lake Winnebago and Green Bay will be briefed on the proposal Tuesday in Appleton by DNR Secretary George Meyer.

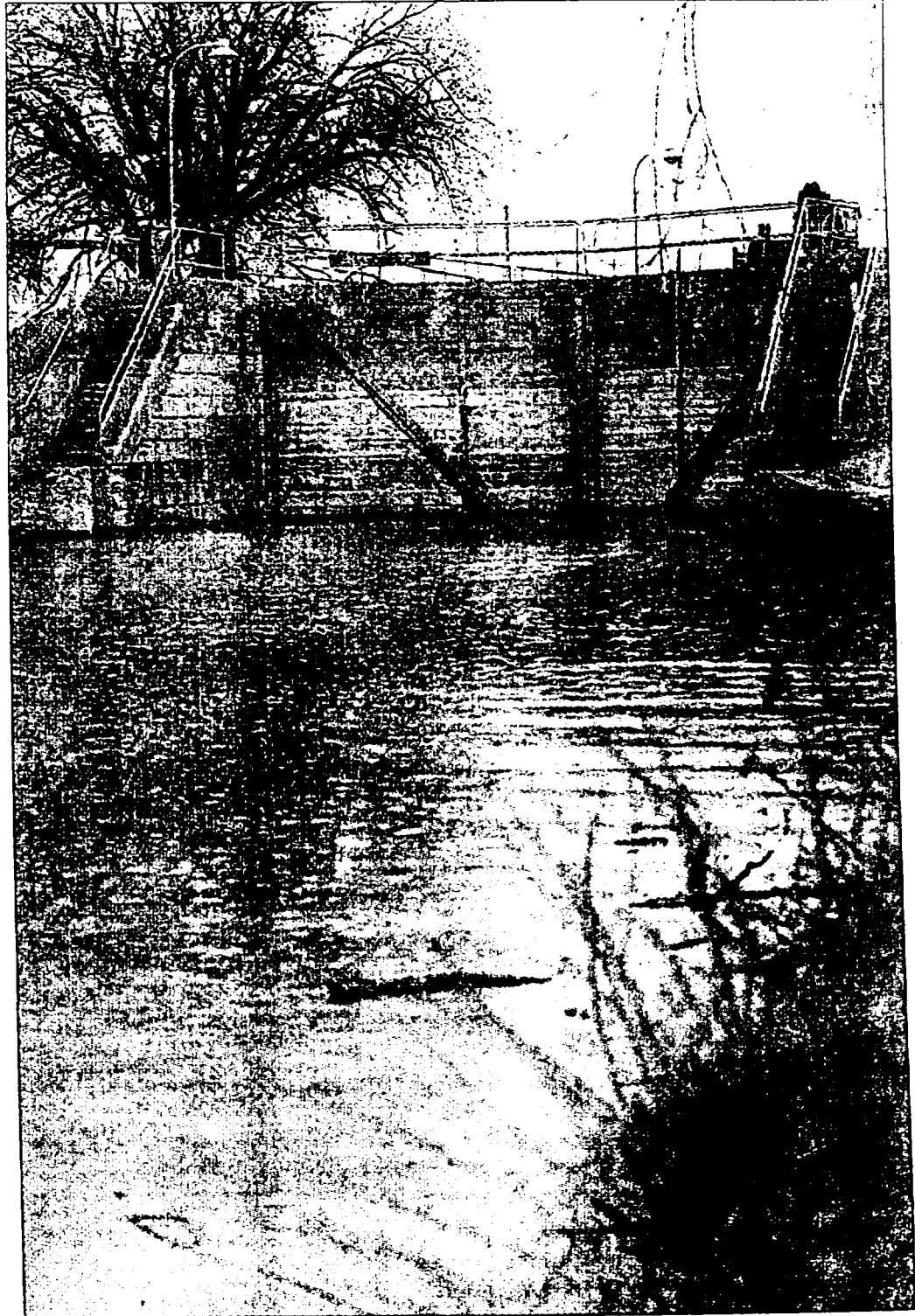
The century-old navigational system is considered hazardous and no longer economically viable by the corps, which had proposed filling in the locks if it couldn't unload them.

But the state and many local officials sense a chance to build a development and tourism boom around the recreational opportunities and historic value of a restored lock system.

Only three of 17 locks are currently operational. The \$15 million the corps is willing to pay the state is about what it would cost the corps to close the system, Fassbender said.

"It's money they'd end up spending one way or the other," he said.

The transfer of ownership is not a done deal. In addition to formal state and federal approval, the



Post-Crescent file photo by Kristyna Wentz-Graff

**THE CENTURY-OLD** Fox River locks system is considered hazardous and no longer economically viable by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Please see **LOCKS**, BACK PAGE

## LOCKS: Corps works out deal with Wisconsin for locks sale

From A-1

DNR and locks supporters must convince local municipalities that restoration is an idea worthy of their pocketbooks.

"If local support is lacking, the system will be closed," said Fassbender.

He estimates it will cost \$23.5 million to rehabilitate the system and operate it for 50 years. Subtract the \$15 million, and the state has to come up with \$8 million.

The DNR wants to get half of that from local municipalities over

several years.

"The communities have all said they support a restored and open locks system, especially if there are no dollars involved," said Harlan Kiesow, executive director of the East Central Regional Planning Commission. "The question is: Who all participates and where is the limit?"

Outagamie County is on record opposing any use of its tax dollars to restore the locks. It's afraid it will get "dumped on," said County Executive James Schuette.

The county will have a represen-

tative at next week's informational meeting, he said.

"I think when we get all the players at the table and see who wants to proceed with this, I'm sure the board would want to take another look," Schuette said. "Maybe the attitude has changed if we're not the sole responsible party."

The state is not looking for specific financial commitments at Tuesday's meeting, Kiesow said. Who pays what will come later, after it's decided how to assess the costs equitably, he said.

It is unclear how the deal would

be affected if some municipalities opt out.

"I think most will be comfortable paying a share, a couple will not," Fassbender said. "That may be an issue that will have to be resolved at a regional level."

Perhaps creative fund-raising could help get the project pushed through, said Val Wylie, executive director of the Fox Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau. There are many non-profit hobby, environmental and recreational organizations that could become partners in the effort, she said.

8/16/83



# Parties mull joint proposal

By Pete Bach  
Crescent staff writer

6/6/98

Appleton and five other Fox River communities, along with four sewerage treatment facilities, are considering a joint resolution that says designation of the lower Fox River as a national Superfund site should be avoided if at all possible.

The joint proposal calls upon the Environmental Protection Agency, the state Department of Natural Resources

## Resolution urges DNR and EPA to negotiate on PCB cleanup and avoid Superfund designation

and seven area paper mills "to vigorously pursue negotiations to agree on a PCB cleanup that will address environmental and health concerns in a cost-effective manner while protecting the local economy."

The proposal in the form of a resolution went out in packets mailed to

members of the respective governing bodies.

Considering the proposal with Appleton are Neenah, Menasha, De Pere, Wrightstown and the Grand Chute-Menasha West Sewerage Commission, Menasha-Neenah Sewerage Commission, Heart of the Valley Metropolitan

Sewerage District and Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District.

The proposal says Superfund status "should be avoided if at all possible because of the protracted and highly expensive litigation that listing would trigger, because listing is not necessary to achieve PCB cleanup and because listing clearly would be harmful to the economy and future of our region."

The proposal said the localities rec-

Please see RIVER, BACK PAGE



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RIVER

## RIVER: Joint proposal mullied for avoiding Superfund

From A-1

ognize that unless the EPA, DNR and paper mills reach a settlement regarding the nature of the cleanup and its funding, the lower Fox will be designated as a Superfund site.

Appleton played the lead role in drafting the proposal, and Mayor Timothy Hanna said the problem begs for a unified stance from municipalities most closely affected.

"This resolution is very carefully worded. I think it does say the things that concern us as local leaders," he said.

The hope is the respective governing bodies will act on the proposal within three weeks.

Earlier this week, the Winnebago County board went on record opposed to Superfund designation.

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are man-made chemicals linked to an increased cancer risk in humans, with children of mothers who eat contaminated fish particularly susceptible, and deformities in wild animals.

EPA announced last summer it intends to designate the lower Fox

as a Superfund site. Officials estimate here are 80,000 pounds of PCBs in the 39-mile stretch of river from the Menasha dam to Green Bay, contained in 9 million to 12 million cubic yards of sediment.

Area paper mills discharged many tons of PCBs into the Fox River from 1957 until 1971, at which time the chemicals used in electrical equipment and the manufacture of carbonless papers were banned.

The resolution comes as DNR scientists begin to gather core samples of PCB-tainted river sediments.

The proposal commends the DNR and seven paper mills for reaching agreement to begin separate PCB-removal demonstration projects this year and for the paper mills' \$10 million contribution to work on the PCB problem. It commends EPA and DNR for funding and starting the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study.

But the resolution also calls on the DNR and paper mills to "promptly" settle differences regarding the PCB-removal demonstration projects.

6/5/98

## State, local control of Fox River locks is a good idea

**W**e're encouraged by the developments regarding the Fox River locks. but at the same time, we're aware that not everyone sees that venerable issue in the same light.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has agreed to pay the state of Wisconsin approximately \$15 million if the state takes ownership of the locks. That amount is roughly what the corps would pay to close the locks system.

If the deal is approved on the state and federal level, the state Department of Natural Resources and supporters of

**If the locks can be rehabilitated, and if local interests wish to work toward making the entire lower Fox River a productive waterway for recreational boaters and a potentially lucrative area for well-planned commercial and residential development, then now is the time to act.**

the locks must talk local municipalities into sharing the \$23 million cost of rehabilitating the locks. After the corps pays its \$15 million to the state, that leaves \$8 million to pay, and the DNR wants local municipalities to assume half of that fee, around \$4 million.

We think that keeping the locks under local control could be a worthy investment.

Please understand that just because the state will take ownership of the locks doesn't mean the locks will be rehabilitated overnight, with life on the river returning to its form of the early 20th century. That just won't happen. The DNR, as it should, will still have oversight over the operation of the locks, and

with the aquatic life of the area's major bodies of water in the balance, the department is sure to use good judgment.

And don't forget that the Fox River must eventually be purged of PCBs and other contaminants. As we've stated here before, no one really knows how long that will take, or how much money will be spent in that effort.

If the federal Environmental Protection Agency makes the Fox River a Superfund site and proposes that dredging the length of the lower Fox to be the most effective way to clean the river, that would make the ownership of the locks considerably less lucrative.

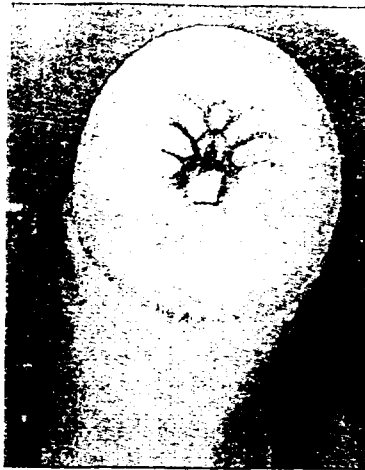
That's a big "if."

Still, we're in favor of splitting the relatively small \$4 million (spread over several years) cost among the municipalities along the Fox.

If the locks can be rehabilitated, and if local interests - public and private - wish to work toward making the entire lower Fox a productive waterway for recreational boaters and a potentially lucrative area for well-planned commercial and residential development, then now is the time to act.

It's better to have the locks in state and local control.

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AP photo

**WILDLIFE BIOLOGISTS** say opening the locks could welcome harmful and exotic creatures, like the sea lamprey, pictured above.

## Opening all Fox locks could create an invasion

DNR says one lock must remain closed to prevent sea lamprey, other exotics from entry into system

By Ed Culhane  
Pos. Crescent staff writer

6/5/98

The possible opening of the Fox River locks has supporters of the historic structures dreaming of new life on the Fox, with riverfront businesses popping up like spring flowers to please a new generation of boaters.

They dream of parks and trails and a stream of visitors approaching the 150-year-old locks, and their park-like landscapes, by land and by water.

“Several businesses could locate



# LOCKS: DNR won't allow Wrightstown lock to be opened

From A-1

excent Superior. So far, efforts to reintroduce a naturally reproducing population of lake trout have failed.

Bruch, who has spent much of his career studying and protecting the lake sturgeon population in Lake Winnebago, fears for their survival should the lamprey be allowed to cross the first lock at Rapide Croche, near Wrightstown.

"The sea lamprey could devastate the largest lake sturgeon population in the world," Bruch said, "all for the benefit of ... the old record show that 200 to 300 boats made round trips per year on the Winnebago system."

DNR Secretary George Meyer said Thursday that the state has no intention of opening the Rapide Croche lock.

"It would not be our intent to have a completely open system," he said. "We will still have one closed lock. Rapide Croche will stay closed. Ultimately, there may be a boat lift around that."

Meyer will meet with area officials Tuesday to explain the proposed agreement in which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would turn the locks over to the state, along with \$15 million for repairs. The state is proposing to contribute another \$4 million if local municipalities will match it.

"What we have found is there is a lot of support for it," Meyer said. "The big issue is finances. The negotiations with the Army Corps of Engineers have helped a great deal."

Meyer said installing a boat lift at Rapide Croche would not be high on the priority list.

Once installed, a boat lift would preserve the lamprey barrier at Rapide Croche, said another biologist, but only if a qualified person were on hand to carefully inspect the hull of every boat that was lifted to the upstream side of the lock.

"We have to take into account the resource we have up here on the Lake Winnebago system, and we can't jeopardize it," said Art Techlow, the DNR's Lake Winnebago system biologist. "I don't want the public debate to look like

**"The sea lamprey could devastate the largest lake sturgeon population in the world."**

**RON BRUCH, DNR**

there are nothing but pure benefits to this, because there are some potential drawbacks."

A boat lift wouldn't stop an invasion of other exotic species, like the zebra mussel or the spiny water flea, but destroying the lock system wouldn't stop them either.

They can easily be transported in bilge water, live wells on fishing boats and even bait buckets, and boats are easily moved by trailer between Green Bay and Lake Winnebago.

But a well-operated boat lift would provide some protection against other harmful invaders which are currently reproducing at exponential rates in the Great Lakes.

Exotic plants and animals are species which are moved into an area where they never existed before, either by misguided people or by accident, as when they hitch rides in the bilge water of merchant ships. Often they find a rich environment with few natural enemies, and their populations can expand at frightening rates.

Scientists have documented 136 species of exotic plants and animals in the Great Lakes and there are hundreds more waiting to get in.

Among those already changing the Great Lakes ecosystem are the Eurasian ruffe, the white perch, the round goby and the tube-nosed goby. None of them are desired by anglers.

"They tend to be aggressive, and they tend to out-compete native species," said Techlow. "They out-compete them for food and for spawning sites and they are predators as well, eating the eggs and fry of other fish."

Six years after the first ruffe was found in Loch Lomond in Scotland, it was the most dominant fish in the lake and whitefish harvests were cut in half.



parking areas, and by water.

Several businesses could locate along the locks if all were opened again, said one federal official.

"This is big stuff."

But area wildlife biologists have a different kind of dream. It's called a nightmare.

Ron Bruch, a fisheries biologist with the state Department of Natural Resources, said that if all the locks were opened, as seemed to be implied in various news reports, the entire Lake Winnebago could be invaded by a host of harmful, exotic creatures that have already devastated native fish populations in the Great Lakes.

The sea lamprey, which clamps its mouth onto the sides of fish and then sucks the life out of them, has already wiped out native trout populations in all the Great Lakes

Please see **LOCKS**, BACK PAGE

the future of the river



# REGIONAL

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1988

## Winnebago board opposes EPA plan

By Ed Lowe  
 Post-Crescent staff writer

Supervisors vote against designating Fox River as Superfund site

OSHKOSH - The Winnebago County Board voted Tuesday to oppose any plan by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to declare the lower Fox River a Superfund site, rejecting pleas for further debate on the subject amid speculation by one official that the EPA may be close to making a decision.

Although it is unclear what effect, if any, the vote will have on the EPA's plans, Board Chairman Joe Maehl took the unusual step of scheduling the vote for Tuesday's

meeting, one of the board's quarterly special-orders-of-business meetings.

The board established the quarterly meetings about five years ago as a means for extended discussion about major issues, not for the purpose of voting on resolutions, said David Kollath, a 13-year member of the board who voted against the measure.

"Those (quarterly) meetings were established to take away a lot of the general discussion that slows down the monthly meet-

ings," Kollath said. "They're just supposed to be workshops."

Tuesday's vote followed a forum at which speakers in opposition to the resolution outnumbered supporters five to one. All who spoke in opposition asked the board to delay the vote at least until June 16, the next regular monthly meeting of the board.

The delay would allow both sides of the Superfund proposal to state their cases in a public setting, they argued.

"This is a multibillion-dollar

decision and it should not be arrived at hastily," said Rebecca Katers, executive director of the Clean Water Action Council of Northeast Wisconsin, a Green Bay-based non-profit group claiming to have a large number of members in Winnebago County.

"This resolution prevents the public from having an opportunity to have a hearing on the issue," Katers said. "We barely had time to mail anything to our members about this meeting."

The county's Legislative Com-

mittee submitted the proposal after having endorsed it in a 130 vote a week earlier. The meeting featured a presentation by Alice O'Connor, a lobbyist working on behalf of the Fox River paper companies known collectively as the Fox River Group.

Members of the Fox River Group would be held liable for the cost of dredging 39 miles of the lower Fox to remove PCB-contaminated sediment. PCBs, which cause birth defects and other human health problems, were banned in 1976.

Please see SUPERFUND, B-6

## SUPERFUND: Winnebago board votes to oppose EPA's plan

From B-1

Maehl, vocal in his opposition to the Superfund distinction at the committee meeting, determines the agenda for each meeting of the board. Maehl disagreed with the several supervisors and citizens who said they felt the vote was scheduled too quickly after it was proposed.

"It is not premature," Maehl countered, saying the debate over Superfund status has been waged here for more than a decade.

Thom Ciske, vice president of government relations for the Fox

**"But maybe if the river is designated a Superfund site, that would get the process started. Maybe something would finally get done."**

TOM PECH, Winnebago County supervisor

Cities Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the lone speaker to voice support for the proposal, suggested the board has no time to waste in making its feelings known.

"The EPA is prepared to act," Ciske said. "There is a notice of intent to list the Fox River as a

Superfund site as soon as (this) June."

Ciske said the costs associated with the cleanup could exceed \$3 billion, an amount he said could bankrupt some of the companies held liable.

Supv Jim Larson said he has heard the cost could be as high as \$25 billion. In the end, he said, the area would be better off if the cleanup were managed by the state Department of Natural Resources instead of the EPA, which he credited with possessing "good intentions" and little else.

Kollath's motion to table the vote until June 16 failed 24-10. The resolution then passed by a vote of 27-7, with supervisors Kollath, Robert Klizka, Tom Pech, Laura Bertrand, Bill Wingren, John Hue and Jeanette Diaboff voting against it.

"By voting against this resolution, I'm not saying I want the Superfund," Pech said afterwards. "This just wasn't the right time for the vote."

"But maybe if the river is designated a Superfund site, that would get the process started," Pech said. "Maybe something would finally get done."

# THE POST-CRESCENT

Wisconsin's Best Newspaper

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 1998

## Experts detail PCB removal



**BILL FITZPATRICK**, DNR project leader

By Ed Culhane  
Post-Crescent staff writer

**LITTLE CHUTE** - In August, the earth movers will come and four acres of land on the north side of the Fox River, just west of the Cedar Dam, will be flattened. Protective berms will be shoved up on all sides.

A sheet of plastic will be placed over the soil to protect it and over that a thicker sheet of high density polyethylene and over that 8 inches of sand. Where the trucks will

Test dredging on part of the lower Fox River to begin in September, setting the stage for larger cleanup later

come and go, eight to 10 of them a day, pavement will be laid down.

It won't look like much, but it will be history. It will mean that after a decade and a half of planning, the state will undertake the first significant removal of polluted sediments from the lower Fox River.

The heavy equipment, if all goes as

planned, will signal the end of Deposit N - 12,000 cubic yards of PCB-laced sediments lying under 8 feet of water, just off the south bank of the river.

The details were explained Tuesday evening as more than 70 people crowded into a public meeting room at the Civic Center to hear the latest update from sci-

entists with the state Department of Natural Resources and the engineering firm of Foth & Van Dyke.

DNR project leader Bill Fitzpatrick, an engineer with degrees in biology, said the sediments contain 400 pounds of PCBs, which are considered dangerous to fish-eat-

Please see RIVER, A-10

- Cleanup timeline: A-10
- Winnebago board votes to oppose any EPA Superfund plan B-1

POST-CRESCENT, APPLETON-NEENAH-MENASHA, WIS.

WEDNESDAY

## FOX RIVER: Experts give public a rundown on what to expect from preliminary river dredging

...man in concentrations as high as 5 parts per million. These 400 pounds are enough chemicals, he said, to contaminate half billion fish, and he and the project team intend to go after them.

"That's something quite exciting," he said, "to take that out of the river system and lock it up."

The \$3 million demonstration project is designed to clean up a small section of river, to develop cost projections for other removals and to prove that contaminated sediments can be dredged without harming the river environment.

It is also designed to gain public support for the much larger



"It's impossible to do this invisibly. This is going to be a bit of a disturbance to the community."

**BILL FITZPATRICK**, DNR project leader, referring to PCB removal from the Fox River

dredging will begin, below the surface of the water, where the sediments will be sliced up and drawn into a large-diameter tube and taken up onto the barge where they will be pumped into another large tube that will stretch across the dis-

topsoil will be added and by next spring, it will have plants growing on it.

There will be no danger to area residents, the scientists said. The amount of PCBs released into the air will be minuscule, far below federal and state standards for safety, and in any case, Fitzpatrick said, PCBs are not a hazardous material. Direct exposure, even if that were to occur, would not be a problem.

"Unless you were to eat it, and eat a lot of it, it's not going to hurt you," Fitzpatrick said. "The problem is when they get in the water where the critters are living in contact with them all their lives."

It is by entering the food chain that PCBs harm wildlife and threaten humans, primarily the children

Many of the audience's questions concerned the costs, the logistics and the impact the dredging will have on the community.

"It's impossible to do this invisibly," Fitzpatrick said. "This is going to be a bit of a disturbance to the community."

Trucks will likely use State 96, County N, County OO and the State 441 bypass to enter and leave the community. There should be no unusual odors. Dust and noise should be held to a minimum.

The state has let bids, seeking a landfill in the state to take the Deposit N dredgings, along with dredgings from a larger demonstration project below the De Pere dam and from two other locations in the state. The bids are to cost about

by the DNR. What would happen if no state could be found said he had no guess.

But the alternative. The federal government in and force a cleanup said, and local procedures could be used. dredgings could be state at great cost. ity of regulators to of the river.

In the meantime studies show that the single largest entering Lake Michigan for 50% to 70% contamination. Although no longer disch-

# RIVER: Experts give public a rundown on what to expect from preliminary river dredging

Form A-1

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Inside the curtain, hydraulic



Post-Crescent photo by Kristina Wenz-Greif

**MIKE HRUZEK, Village of Kimberly trustee, listens attentively Tuesday to plans for preliminary Fox River dredging to remove PCBs.**

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In the de-watering tank, polymers will be added to hasten and improve the separation of sediments from water, and the water will be siphoned off for treatment before it is returned to the river. The discharge water, said Laszewski, will have other contaminants besides PCBs removed and will be cleaner than the water in the river.

The sediments will be compressed to further remove water and then will be shipped off site to be buried in a Wisconsin landfill.

This will go on, with eight to 10 covered dump trucks rumbling in and out of the village each day for about three months.

Then they take it all down, and the protective layer, including the asphalt will be torn up and shipped off for burial. The site will be graded back to its original shape, new

topsoil will be added and by next spring, it will have plants growing on it.

There will be no danger to area residents, the scientists said. The amount of PCBs released into the air will be minuscule, far below federal and state standards for safety, and in any case, Fitzpatrick said, PCBs are not a hazardous material. Direct exposure, even if that were to occur, would not be a problem.

"Unless you were to eat it, and eat a lot of it, it's not going to hurt you," Fitzpatrick said. "The problem is when they get in the water where the critters are living in contact with them all their lives."

It is by entering the food chain that PCBs harm wildlife and threaten humans, primarily the children of mothers who eat contaminated fish.

Paper mills discharged PCBs — polychlorinated biphenyls — into the river before the chemical, a suspected carcinogen, was outlawed in the 1970s. PCBs are long-lasting, synthetic chemicals used in the manufacture of carbonless paper.

Many of the audience's questions concerned the costs, the logistics and the impact the dredging will have on the community.

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"This problem is not going away," Fitzpatrick said. "The PCBs are not being buried (under cleaner sediments.) This is a persistent and long-term problem for the Fox Valley."



# Completion seen in 1999

**May 1998:** DNR prepares permits for dredging, shoreline activity, wastewater treatment and discharge, solid waste management and disposal and air quality monitoring. The agency requests bids for a landfill to receive the POBs. Detailed information on the project is distributed to area libraries.

**June:** Contractors prepare detailed plans. Written bids are due from landfill operators. The DNR requests bids for dredging, water treatment and sediment dewatering. Analysis is completed for an EPA-mandated environmental assessment of benefits and impacts.

**July:** Landfill plans are due, with public notice to follow. Public input is sought for the EPA assessment and for the dredging permits. Public notice is also given for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

## timeline



permits regulating structures in the waterway and dredging.

**August:** DNR public hearing for the wastewater permit. Public meeting to discuss the landfill plan. DNR responds to public comments on landfill. Landfill approval could be issued. Various permits issued. Contracts awarded. On-land construction begins.

**September:** Dredging begins.

**October:** Construction, environmental monitoring and cleanup continue. Site restoration begins.

**November:** Dredging completed. Barge removed.

**December:** On-shore treatment facilities dismantled and site restoration begins.

**Winter:** Reports on project prepared.

**Spring 1999:** Restored land site is planted over.

POST-CRESCENT

# Experts detail PCB removal



**BILL FITZPATRICK,**  
DNR project leader

**By Ed Culhane**  
Post-Crescent staff writer

**LITTLE CHUTE** - In August, the earth movers will come and four acres of land on the north side of the Fox River, just west of the Cedar Dam, will be flattened. Protective berms will be shoved up on all sides.

A sheet of plastic will be placed over the soil to protect it and over that a thicker sheet of high density polyethylene and over that 8 inches of sand. Where the trucks will

## Test dredging on part of the lower Fox River to begin in September, setting the stage for larger cleanup later

come and go, eight to 10 of them a day, pavement will be laid down.

It won't look like much, but it will be history. It will mean that after a decade and a half of planning, the state will undertake the first significant removal of polluted sediments from the lower Fox River.

The heavy equipment, if all goes as

planned, will signal the end of Deposit N - 12,000 cubic yards of PCB-laced sediments lying under 8 feet of water, just off the south bank of the river.

The details were explained Tuesday evening as more than 70 people crowded into a public meeting room at the Civic Center to hear the latest update from sci-

entists with the state Department of Natural Resources and the engineering firm of Foth & Van Dyke.

DNR project leader Bill Fitzpatrick, an engineer with degrees in biology, said the sediments contain 400 pounds of PCBs, which are considered dangerous to fish-eat-

Please see RIVER, A-10

- Cleanup timeline: A-10
- Winnebago board votes to oppose any EPA Superfund plan: B-1



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future  
of the  
**FOX**  
river

# RIVER: Experts give public a rundown on what to expect from preliminary river dredging

From A-1

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"This problem is not going away," Fitzpatrick said. "The PCBs are not being buried (under cleaner sediments.) This is a persistent and long-term problem for the Fox Valley."

# Winnebago board opposes EPA plan

By Ed Lowe

Post-Press staff writer

6/3/98

## Supervisors vote against designating Fox River as Superfund site

OSHKOSH — The Winnebago County Board voted Tuesday to oppose any plan by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to declare the lower Fox River a Superfund site, rejecting pleas for further debate on the subject amid speculation by one official that the EPA may be close to making a decision.

Although it is unclear what effect, if any, the vote will have on the EPA's plans, Board Chairman Joe Maehl took the unusual step of scheduling the vote for Tuesday's

meeting, one of the board's quarterly "special-orders-of-business" meetings.

The board established the quarterly meetings about five years ago as a means for extended discussion about major issues, not for the purpose of voting on resolutions, said David Kollath, a 13-year member of the board who voted against the measure.

"Those (quarterly) meetings were established to take away a lot of the general discussion that slows down the monthly meet-

ings," Kollath said. "They're just supposed to be workshops."

Tuesday's vote followed a forum at which speakers in opposition to the resolution outnumbered supporters five to one. All who spoke in opposition asked the board to delay the vote at least until June 16, the next regular monthly meeting of the board.

The delay would allow both sides of the Superfund proposal to state their cases in a public setting, they argued.

"This is a multibillion-dollar

decision and it should not be arrived at hastily," said Rebecca Katers, executive director of the Clean Water Action Council of Northeast Wisconsin, a Green Bay-based non-profit group claiming to have a large number of members in Winnebago County.

"This resolution prevents the public from having an opportunity to have a hearing on the issue," Katers said. "We barely had time to mail anything to our members about this meeting."

The county's Legislative Com-

mittee submitted the proposal after having endorsed it in a 13-0 vote a week earlier. The meeting featured a presentation by Alice O'Connor, a lobbyist working on behalf of the Fox River paper companies known collectively as the Fox River Group.

Members of the Fox River Group would be held liable for the cost of dredging 39 miles of the lower Fox to remove PCB-contaminated sediment. PCBs, which cause birth defects and other human health problems, were banned in 1976.

Please see **SUPERFUND**, B-5

## SUPERFUND: Winnebago board votes to oppose EPA's plan

From B-1

Maehl, vocal in his opposition to the Superfund distinction at the committee meeting, determines the agenda for each meeting of the board. Maehl disagreed with the several supervisors and citizens who said they felt the vote was scheduled too quickly after it was proposed.

"It is not premature," Maehl countered, saying the debate over Superfund status has been waged here for more than a decade.

Thom Ciske, vice president of government relations for the Fox

**"But maybe if the river is designated a Superfund site, that would get the process started. Maybe something would finally get done."**

TOM PECH, Winnebago County supervisor

Cities Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the lone speaker to voice support for the proposal, suggested the board has no time to waste in making its feelings known.

"The EPA is prepared to act," Ciske said. "There is a notice of intent to list the Fox River as a

Superfund site as soon as (this) June."

Ciske said the costs associated with the cleanup could exceed \$3 billion, an amount he said could bankrupt some of the companies held liable.

Supv. Jim Lauson said he has heard the cost could be as high as \$25 billion. In the end, he said, the area would be better off if the cleanup were managed by the state Department of Natural Resources instead of the EPA, which he credited with possessing "good intentions" and little else.

Kollath's motion to table the vote until June 16 failed 24-10. The resolution then passed by a vote of 27-7, with supervisors Kollath, Robert Klitzke, Tom Pech, Laura Bertrand, Bill Wingren, John Hue and Jeanette Diakoff voting against it.

"By voting against this resolution, I'm not saying I want the Superfund," Pech said afterwards. "This just wasn't the right time for the vote."

"But maybe if the river is designated a Superfund site, that would get the process started," Pech said. "Maybe something would finally get done."

# Fox PCB samples to be collected

6/2/98

By Ed Culhane  
DNR permanent staff writer

Scientists with the state Department of Natural Resources will be working on the Fox River this week, collecting and testing core samples of PCB-contaminated river sediments.

A DNR official said the testing was necessary to complete a feasibility study on the massive cleanup of Fox River sediments proposed by state and federal authorities.

DNR staff and employees of Remediation Technologies Inc. will be taking the samples from the dam at De Pere upstream to the PCB hot spots in Little Lake Butte des Morts.

The sediment sampling is not related to

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There are an estimated 80,000 pounds of PCBs in the 39-mile stretch from the Menasha dam to the mouth of the river at Green Bay

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the test dredging scheduled to take place in the river near Kimberly later this summer.

However, DNR scientists working on the sampling will attend a public meeting at 7 p.m. today at the Little Chute Civic Center.

Bruce Baker, administrator of the DNR's water division, said the sampling will fill holes in data that has been collected in the river for more than 10 years. Much of the previous sediment sampling occurred in 1989 and 1990.

Scientists are creating computer models

to describe where the pollution exists, and at what levels, and to predict the movement of pollutants over time.

"We know the PCBs are shifting," Baker said.

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are long-lasting, man-made chemicals used in electrical equipment and in the manufacture of carbonless papers. Area paper mills discharged tons of these chemicals into the Fox River from 1957 to 1971, when they were banned.

PCBs have been linked to deformities in wild animals, increased risk of cancer in humans and developmental problems in the children of mothers who eat contaminated fish.

There are an estimated 80,000 pounds of PCBs in the 39-mile stretch from the Menasha dam to the mouth of the river at Green Bay, contained in 9 to 12 million cubic yards of sediment.

Health advisories have been issued on Fox River fish for the past 25 years.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is expected to decide within weeks whether to propose the Fox River as a national Superfund site. Whether the agency decides to make that proposal, the

Please see **PCBS**, B-3

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## PCBS: Fox River tests begin

From B-1

federal feasibility study (called an RIFS) would continue independently.

EPA officials have signed agreements with the DNR, acknowledging the state agency's previous work toward a cleanup and allowing the DNR to conduct the federal study.

Gov. Tommy Thompson and DNR Secretary George Meyer both oppose Superfund listing for the Fox, arguing that the state can do the job more efficiently. Many

environmental organizations favor federal involvement, citing the political power wielded by large paper companies.

Baker said the sampling taking place this week will shore up the scientific evidence behind whatever cleanup technologies are proposed.

A draft of the feasibility study, and the public's first glimpse of an actual cleanup plan, or the basis for one, will be available early this fall, Baker said, and more public meetings will be scheduled.

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# Sierra Club: Superfund for Fox can help cleanup

## Club members will be watching Winnebago board's vote Tuesday

By Doug Erickson  
Fox-Creston staff writer

**OSHKOSH** - The Sierra Club is rallying its Fox Valley contingent to rebut the anti-Superfund biases of some Winnebago County officials.

The national environmental organization intends to have some of its local members at Tuesday's County Board meeting, where a resolution opposing the possible designation of the Fox River as a national Superfund site is to be voted on.

"As an organization, we feel we should not close any doors," said Eric Urban of the Madison office of the Sierra Club. "The Superfund designation gives us a banner to force or persuade the sure and responsible parties to move forward."

The Sierra Club has about 650 members in the Fox Valley area, he said.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is considering whether the lower Fox River should be a Superfund cleanup site because of the presence of PCBs. The man-made chemicals are suspected carcinogens that were once used in electrical equipment and in the manufacture of carbonless paper.

Seven paper mills have been named as potentially responsible for contaminating the river with PCBs.

The county's Legislative Committee has endorsed a proposal by County Executive Jim VanDeHey to oppose Superfund designation.

"When fairly remote federal agencies try to manage local projects, historically, there has not been as effective an implementation," VanDeHey said Friday.

In part, the committee's resolution reads that the Superfund designation is inadvisable because of "the stigma, bureaucracy, litigation-promoting aspects and potential negative impact upon tourism."

Urban said the county isn't considering all angles.

"The pollution creates the stigma, not the Superfund designation," he said.

The area already is being hurt because weed is out among herring and fishermen about the pollution, he said. Fish advisories warning people to avoid eating contaminated fish from the river have been in effect since 1978.

As for litigation, a Superfund

He can't imagine anything confronting at the time, he speaking that would alter his voting opposition to a Superfund designation.

"No matter what happens, we

Supv. James Larson, chairman of the Legislative Committee, said the formal meeting is intended more for county elected officials such as mayors and village presidents.

They already are open to that liability," he said.

The Sierra Club questions the timing of an informal meeting June 11 sponsored by the county's Parks and Recreation and Legislative committees. The meeting is expected to feature reports on the dredging of PCBs from the river.

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# SUPERFUND: Sierra Club lobbies for Fox

From a-1  
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Larson said the panel by the time of an informal meeting is being coordinated by Alton O'Conor, a Madison-based lobbyist working on behalf of the seven paper companies.

## FAX NOTE

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From de de	Emily Green	
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## YOUR VIEWS

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 1998

# Talk is cheap; it's time to go Superfund route

job they did in the Medina park

### LETTERS

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:

Kudos to Rebecca Katers for her comments about the Fox River and its potential Superfund designation (Superfund isn't necessarily bad for us, May 24, 1998). It is time that we do something about one of our primary resources in Northeastern Wisconsin instead of continually talking about what could be done.

I think it is insane that anglers cannot eat the fish they catch from the river without relatively serious risk to their health. I think it is ridiculous that we are proposing the building of pipelines farther into Lake Michigan to have access to "cleaner" drinking water for Green Bay (but where does everyone think the water from the Fox goes?).

This is *our* river. In many ways it is the lifeblood of our communities — in terms of water supply, jobs and a healthy economy and simply in terms of recreation, biodiversity and beauty. The accusations that environmentalists and conservationists would prefer to see the paper industry shut down are irrational and extremist. This is our economy, too, and everyone that lives in the area is somehow dependent on the continued success of the paper mills and the health of the river.

It is time that we admit to ourselves that everyone makes mistakes. And it is time that we take action. Superfund designation for

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the Fox allocates cleanup costs to the polluters. I would rather the money come from the dozens of mills along the river than from taxpayers — which is where it would come from if there is no Superfund designation.

The mills have billions of dollars in assets; *some* of which could surely be used to help clean up the river. We cannot afford to spend any more time or money "studying" the Fox. Please let's be smart about this and take advantage of this opportunity to eliminate the problem once and for all.

Sarah Welch  
Appleton

# SIERRA CLUB: Superfund for Fox can help cleanup

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Post-Crescent staff writer

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Please see SUPERFUND, B-5

## SUPERFUND: Sierra Club lobbies for Fox

From B-1

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He can't imagine anything surfacing at the June 11 meeting that would alter his strong opposition to a Superfund designation.

"No matter what happens, we

don't want it," Lawson said. "We're afraid once they (EPA officials) get involved, it's going to cost billions of dollars and be a never-ending project. We say no thank you. We'll do it on our own."

Lauson said the panel for the June 11 informational meeting is being coordinated by Alice O'Connor, a Madison-based lobbyist working on behalf of the seven paper companies.

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Grand Unite

## Chamber knows little of PCB facts

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*: 5/28/98

Bill Welch, president of the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce, is the new mouthpiece for the seven Fox River PCB polluters. His recent statements concerning the cleanup are half-truths and whole untruths. With real remediation about to begin on this most serious environmental problem, Welch's corporate bias and scientific ignorance are a disservice to Fox Cities communities.

The chamber says there is not enough evidence to conclude that PCB contamination endangers human health. Wrong! Notwithstanding the hundreds of studies linking PCBs to deformed frogs, birds and mammals in the river and bay, evidence linking PCBs and other chlorinated hydrocarbons to human health problems is factual and growing daily. In the past two years, the EPA, Physicians for Social Responsibility and dozens of other researchers have published articles in *Scientific American*, *British Medical Journal* and nu-

rate was not far behind. Marxist insurgencies and communist ideology were on the march all over the globe. Americans stood in long gas lines at home while

greater opportunities to make it better. Welcome to the real world.

Lan Kachinsky,  
Neenah

The ~~Silver Pen~~ is The Post-Crescent's "Letter of the Day." There is no award for it, other than being set aside from the other letters. It recognizes good writing, cogent thought and persuasive argument. The same parameters that apply to all other letters apply to "The Silver Pen" letter.

merous other peer review, scientific journals. These studies have linked PCBs to human cancers and reproductive and hormonal dysfunction.

The chamber's contention that PCBs are ubiquitous and therefore too dispersed to recover is misleading. The world production balance sheet on PCBs shows 30% unaccounted for. The remaining 70% are either in landfills, sediments or still in use. The 40-50 tons still in the Fox are inventoried, localized and are the primary PCB source into Lake Michigan. Removal now will decrease risk to human health for everyone living around Lake Michigan. The idea that, spread out, these toxins are less of a human

health risk is the old industry mantra - dilution is the solution to pollution.

The chamber has opposed environmental regulations for years. They are an advocate for continuing corporate welfare. If you take everything the chamber knows about PCBs and put it in a thimble, it would rattle like a BB in a boxcar.

Stephen Abitz,  
De Pere

## Method of their madness raises ire

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:

The proposed annexation along Meade Street north of Appleton

Sunday profile

5/19/98

Superfund chief claims level of skepticism over potential Fox River listing is unusual and distorted



the future of the FOX river

# Tainted views



Photo Courtesy: Stephen H. ...

## EPA official who will decide fate of Fox defends his agency

By Bob Vitale  
Post-Crescent Staff Writer  
Washington

**B**attered, rain and bright blue skies adorn a Superfund promotional poster that hangs outside the office of

Timothy Flahs. Inside, the Environmental Protection Agency official who has run the program for the last 15 months paints an equally positive portrait with words such as "sensitive" and "concerned." What a far different picture it is than the one being painted in the Fox Valley, where it's sometimes hard to tell which some leaders think is worse: a 39-mile stretch of river tainted with hazardous toxins, or the federal program that's trying to speed its cleanup. Superfund has been criticized locally as a boondoggle that could bankrupt businesses, stifle

economic growth and take even longer to rid the Fox River of pollutants that have been in its waters for 41 years already.

Flahs, who will decide by the end of June whether to propose a Superfund listing for the river, says it's a distorted, outdated view.

"There is a lot of misinformation and misunderstanding of the real benefits Superfund can provide to communities," he says. "There's a real paranoia about Superfund listing that in many cases is unfounded."

Superfund, the shorthand title for what's officially known as the EPA's National Priorities List, was created in 1980 to locate, investigate and clean up the nation's worst hazardous waste sites. A total of 1,194 around the country -- rivers, landfills, industrial sites and government installations -- are currently on the list.

Delays and litigation are cited often by critics. EPA says 498 cleanups have been completed, but opponents say there are far

Please see RIVER, SACK PAGE



"There is a lot of misinformation and misunderstanding of the real benefits Superfund can provide to communities. There's a real paranoia about Superfund listing that in many cases is unfounded."

TIMOTHY FLAHS

AAA

MICHAEL SCHNEIDER, 17, of Appleton sits along the banks of the Fox River at Lutz Park.

## Superfund can be both blessing, curse

By Ed Chaffee  
Post-Crescent staff writer

Superfund designation for the Fox River might be a godsend or it might be a disaster, but it wouldn't be the first time this area has experienced the dubious honor.

There are more than a thousand Superfund sites nationwide, and more than three dozen in Wisconsin, all sharing the distinction of being among the most polluted hot spots in the nation.

Of these, one is in the heart of Appleton, and another has threatened drinking water supplies in the Town of Harrison.

A third, in Sheboygan, involves 2 million cubic yards of PCB-contaminated river sediment, a large quantity but less than a fourth of what lies in the Fox.

Please see SUPERFUND, A-13

## Justice, Microsoft talks end in failure

OPTIONAL FORM NO. (7-89)  
FAX TRANSMITTAL  
# of pages = 3  
To: Jim Hammel  
From: Dave H. ...  
Dept./Agency  
Phone #  
Fax #  
NSN 7940-01-317-7568 5009-101 GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

company, of illegally fixing its market shares to crush competitors.

Those lawsuits could have a profound impact on how people will buy computers and software, and what features Microsoft is allowed to include within Windows, which is used on almost all desktop computers.

Microsoft said it will now press ahead with plans to ship Windows 95, the latest upgrade of its flag

Please see MICROSOFT, A-12



MICROSOFT CHAIRMAN BILL GATES talks at a Chicago trade show in this April 20, 1995, the photo.

## Fishermen find body of boater who was missing on Lake Butte des Morts

By Judy Williams  
Post-Crescent staff writer

CONQUEROR - The body of ...  
Medical Center showed that Boen died of drowning, said Winnebago County Deputy Coroner Pete ...  
According to Winnebago Coun...





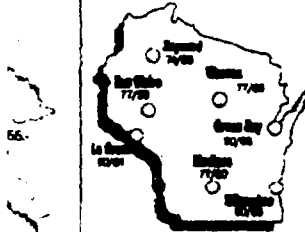
THE BACK PAGE

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 1988

WEATHER

CAST

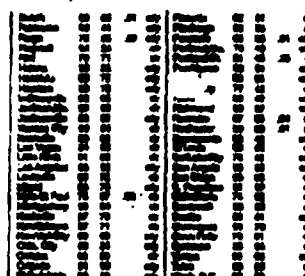
YESTERDAY'S HIGHS / LOWS



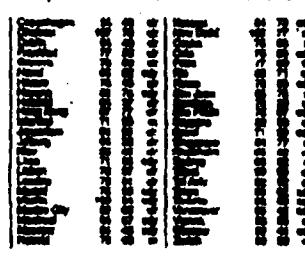
WEATHER DATA

Yesterday's high	51
Overnight low	33
Today's record high	87 (1987)
Today's record low	32 (1989)
24-hour precipitation	0.00
Coasting degree days	7
Today's sunset	8:16
Tomorrow's sunrise	5:24

HIGHS/LOWS ACROSS THE U.S.



HIGHS/LOWS AROUND THE WORLD



sentenced to 90 days in jail

The owners of boats of record to be used in the...  
 Stevens, 49, is to begin serving his three-month term June 15.  
 Stevens, owner of the steam "Eduard" Natural History, pleaded guilty to...  
 William

RIVER: Official says communities benefit from Superfund

From A-1

lower. The program has become so controversial that more than a dozen reform plans are currently floating around Congress.

But even though he's used in those battles, Fields rarely sees disputes like the one over the Fox River.

Sometimes, EPA is called in by communities as a way to guide cleanup. Usually, listing comes as a result of cooperation between federal and state regulators.

Once or twice a year, though, a disagreement over Superfund listing - in this case it's between regional officials in Chicago and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources - means Fields must make a decision from his office at the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington.

"This is not usual," he says firm-

ly. Nor is the level of skepticism in the Fox Valley, according to Fields.

Although local and state officials have publicly worried that a Superfund listing would end their input into the course of Fox River cleanup, Fields recounts meetings he's already had with the area's representatives in Congress, members of Gov. Tommy Thompson's staff, officials at the state DNR and leaders of the seven paper companies responsible for discharging PCBs into the river between 1957 and 1971.

If he decides to seek a Superfund listing for the Fox, he says, another six-month process will be triggered for more public comments and input. He also adds that a final listing could be put off temporarily or for good if a cleanup agreement is reached between the companies, the state and EPA.

Fields combats other worries as well in the area. Although the Fox River cleanup won't be cheap - at an estimated \$300 million to \$1 billion Fields calls it "pretty expensive" though not history's costliest - he says EPA is required under Superfund law to seek the lowest-cost cleanup method that gets the job done. That means EPA would consider dredging the river to remove contaminated sediment, but it would consider cheaper alternatives as well.

The fact that dredging the river to remove contaminated sediments has been such a focus in the dispute is something he blames partly on his agency. On the regulatory side of things, he says, people have talked about it too much.

"I assure you we have not made a judgment that we're going to go with dredging," Fields says. "I believe all the alternatives need to be put on the table."

In Tacoma, Wash., he says, PCBs are being removed from Commencement Bay and the city is developing its inner harbor as a tourist destination.

In other cities, there are ship-ping centers, hospitals and golf courses in places that used to be contaminated.



A TRAIL winds its way on the left bank of the Fox River viewed from the College Avenue bridge.

Man who will decide Fox status is 26-year EPA vet

By Bob Vitale  
 Post-Dispatch Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON - His title is only a temporary one, but his actions could have an impact on the Fox Valley for years to come.

Timothy Fields is the acting assistant administrator in the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response.

In short: He runs the federal Superfund program.

He's the federal official who will decide whether EPA moves to put the Fox River on the national Superfund list.

Fields, a 46-year EPA employee, has been in his current, acting position since February 1987. It's a post usually occupied by President Clinton, but his last choice to fill the job - former East Orange, N.J., Mayor Carroll Cooper - was withdrawn when Republicans complained he lacked technical experience on environmental matters and refused to schedule a confirmation hearing.

Experience is not something Fields lacks.

He has served EPA in a variety of positions, most recently as its deputy assistant administrator

responsible for the same division, which oversees programs dealing with oil spills, underground storage tanks and other environmental issues.

He has also been director of EPA's Superfund Reevaluation Office and deputy director of its remedial program, which is the first step in the cleanup process.

Fields has a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from Virginia Tech and a master's in operations research from George Washington University. He has received three awards from President Bush and Clinton for distinguished government service.

Designing opponents contend, would be the most expensive, disruptive way to clean the Fox River.

The EPA might use bulldozers and blue skies to partway back, but opponents in the Fox Valley talk of abandoned paper mills and unemployed workers.

Fields looks elsewhere in the country to describe Superfund success stories.

In Tacoma, Wash., he says, PCBs are being removed from Commencement Bay and the city is developing its inner harbor as a tourist destination.

In other cities, there are shipping centers, hospitals and golf

courses in places that used to be contaminated.

"We're finding that Superfund has been in many cases what people need to restore the economic vitality of a community," he says. "Economic development and environmental cleanup go hand-in-hand."

At the same time he emphasizes that his decision on whether to seek a Superfund listing isn't made - a "last resort," he calls it - Fields also says he thinks the state and paper companies have had enough time to devise their own cleanup plan.

Superfund might be the "only

way to get that process off the dime," he adds.

And while he emphasizes that Superfund wouldn't be the end of the world for the Fox Valley, he also paints a less glowing picture of the reason it's being considered.

"We've got to keep in mind in the Fox River levels of contamination are causing impacts to health, birds and fish," he says, having already spoken of its impact on people, on Green Bay and on Lake Michigan.

Superfund may be the only tool we have. We want the residents of the Fox River to have a clean environment to live in."

## YOUR VIEWS

A-11

# Fox cleanup will require teamwork

I was disappointed to read *The Post-Crescent's* editorial on April 29 regarding methods of remediation for the Fox River. The PC chose to focus the debate on which clean-up option is preferred by Wisconsin's elected officials.

More accurately, the point is whether or not the Fox will be cleaned up at all.

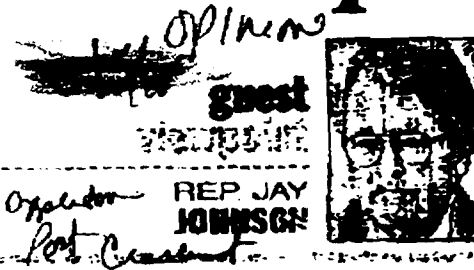
As a representative of the public, there is much I can do to foster debate, bring information to the public, speak on behalf of my constituents, and ask the tough questions of the federal authorities. I have done so, and I will continue to do so.

However, as a member of the House of Representatives, I have neither a seat at the bargaining table nor a vote in Congress on the Fox River cleanup. This is appropriate because choosing how to clean up the river should be a process independent of politics.

It should be left up to the scientists.

My position on the Fox River cleanup is clear and consistent. I am working with all parties involved to move from confrontation to cooperation. I continue to maintain a healthy distrust of the hot rhetoric on both sides of the debate, and instead I am searching for the common ground where, after more than a decade of study, a solution can be found.

Finally, I have called for, and I prefer, a voluntary cleanup and restoration plan for the Fox River under a global agreement by all the parties involved — but I have not discounted (nor



do I possess the authority to stop) the real possibility that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Environmental Protection Agency will clean up the river in the absence of such a formal agreement.

To that end, I am again calling for a resumption of negotiations to achieve a comprehensive settlement. The continued delay in these vital negotiations can only lead to an increased federal role in the cleanup.

I believe that the best way to avoid the listing of the Fox River as a Superfund site is for the governmental and potentially responsible parties to voluntarily agree on what to do, when to do it, and over what period of time.

It is a difficult task, but much has been accomplished already. The state and federal governments have reached an agreement to work together on a cleanup plan. The paper companies and the state have agreed to start work on two pilot projects this summer. Legal time-outs have been mutually established, and

millions have been spent to complete important scientific studies of the river.

We have come a long way. Every party I have talked to who has a stake in this process says they want to clean up the Fox River. It is from this common ground that I believe a formal agreement can be reached to clean up and restore our river.

Further, I am confident that the necessary work can be done in a fashion that will not threaten the economic health of the Fox River communities.

No family in the Fox Valley will be well-served by allowing areas of disagreement to prevent us from seeing the big picture, a clean Fox River. No amount of finger pointing will remove the toxins from the bottoms of the Fox River any faster.

The only way we will clean up our waters and give our children a healthy environment is by moving forward together.

■ Jay Johnson represents the 8th Congressional District of Wisconsin in the United States House of Representatives.

Editor's note: To clarify, *The P-C's* April 29 editorial to which Rep. Johnson refers did not ask elected officials to state which cleanup method for the Fox River they prefer. It only stated that the Fox River Valley public deserves to know where its elected officials stand on such an important issue.

# Superfund isn't necessarily bad for us

Once again, the paper companies ask for delays in the Fox River cleanup. They hope to block the Superfund process, even though Superfund is our only hope for providing the necessary funding and law enforcement to finally get the job done.

The polluters argue they should be given a chance to finish their "demonstration project" and study the results. They claim it's too soon for EPA to write a comprehensive cleanup plan under Superfund, even though planning and over \$20 million in studies have already dragged for 12 long years.

The Fox River is one of the most studied rivers in the world.

The reality is that the "demonstration project" will demonstrate nothing new. It's just another dredge-and-landfill proposal. Dredging is a well-known, frequent activity in rivers around the world. Several state-of-the-art hydraulic dredging techniques are already proven to minimize downstream flow of contaminants. They function like vacuum cleaners and, if used thoroughly, can be very effective.

We don't need to wait for research results from the polluters. A plan can be written based on current information.

Furthermore, the industry demonstration raises other concerns. The project will cut a relatively small hole in a huge continuous bed of contaminated sediments to try to remove the worst PCB hotspot (called 56/57) offshore

## guest viewpoint

REBECCA  
LEIGHTON  
KATERS

The Fox River  
must be listed as a  
Superfund site if  
we ever hope to  
have a clean river

from the old Fort Howard (Fort James) Mill in Green Bay. Even before they examined the technical options for cleanup of this hotspot, they limited themselves to only a \$7 million effort, which may be drastically less than they need to do the project correctly.

They'll be cutting into a layer cake of contaminated sediments, exposing deeper levels of contamination, but after exposing these layers, they may not have enough money to remove all the contamination they should. This could result in a temporary increase in PCB flows, until the hole fills in again with sediments from upstream.

Industry plans to sample the water and fish afterwards, but how can they demonstrate anything but an increase, or at best no improvement, in contamination when most of the PCB sediments will still be there, perhaps even more exposed when they're done? This is not sound science, nor is it honest.

And how can the public be sure they'll implement the best dredging techniques or conduct fair tests, when the polluters have a strong incentive to show a negative result, a failure which could help them argue against dredging and save them from a billion dollars in future clean-up costs?

They may also demonstrate inflated costs with such a small, limited effort — another tool for frightening mill workers and swaying public opinion. They won't have the economy of scale of a large project, which drives down unit costs.

They want another two- or three-year delay to conduct and analyze this test. An obvious question is, "Why didn't they fund legitimate, independent studies 12 years ago when official cleanup planning began, so we could be further along now?"

The obvious answer, "Because they are more interested in delays and obstruction of progress."

Please don't be fooled.

The Fox River must be listed as a Superfund site if we ever hope to have a clean river for our children and grandchildren to enjoy in good health.

Let the cleanup begin. Superfund represents a positive opportunity we can't afford to pass up.

■ *Rebecca Leighton Katers is the executive director of the Clean Water Action Council, Green Bay.*

ing to -  
At press time, the hearing was moving into the sentencing phase.

**LITTLE CHUTE**

P-C

5/24/78

**DNR changes meeting  
on PCB test dredging**

The state Department of Natural Resources has rescheduled a public meeting to explain this summer's test extraction of PCB contaminants from Deposit N in the Fox River.

The meeting originally was set for May 27. It now will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. June 2 at the Civic Center, 625 Grand Ave.

The pilot project is the smaller of two tests the state will use to project the environmental impact and cost of removing tons of PCBs from 39 miles of river between Lake Winnebago and Green Bay.

Engineers expect to dredge about 414 pounds of the suspected carcinogens from Deposit N between Aug. 15 and Nov. 15. The site is west of Cedars Dam.

END OF COLUMN

GREEN BAY

P-C  
5/22/98

### Superfund foes received more donations

Special interests donated campaign money to congressmen who voted to weaken the federal Superfund program that could help remove polluted silt from the Fox River, a Superfund defender says.

Rebecca Katers of the Clean Water Action Council of Northeast Wisconsin told a press conference Thursday there may be a link between the congressional voting and the money from political action committees.

The Wisconsin Public Interest Research Group has analyzed the money donated to congressional candidates by 188 political action committees representing oil, chemical and insurance companies from 1991 to 1997.

It says representatives who voted for a bill to weaken the Superfund received an average \$107,518 while those who opposed it got \$39,485.

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P-C 5/19/98

# 26 rivers taken off Heritage River consideration list

Critics worried about  
bureaucratic tangle

WASHINGTON (AP) - Opposition from local leaders drove lawmakers to take vast stretches of the nation's waterways out of the running for a new White House initiative to revitalize rivers.

Twenty-six rivers or river segments will no longer be considered for a special American Heritage River designation, which would help towns tap federal resources to improve riverfronts. President Clinton's advisory panel gave veto power to senators and House members who oppose their districts' projects.

Area officials are trying to get the designation for the Fox River.

"They want nothing to do with the program," Rep. Jim Talent, R-Mo., said of voters in his St. Louis-area district. He vetoed portions of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers.

"Frankly, I think it is a very sad statement that my constituents have so little trust in their govern-

ment that they are willing to lose out on a potentially beneficial program than face a repeat of the bureaucratic nightmares they've dealt with in the past," Talent wrote in a letter to the administration.

Antagonism comes both from farm interests, who fear the initiative could divert money from agricultural programs or lead to restrictions on barge traffic, and property rights groups.

Property rights groups have fueled lawmakers' concerns with misinformation, said Scott Faber, spokesman for Washington, D.C.-based American Rivers.

It's impossible for municipal officials to understand the more than 100 federal programs available for riverfront revitalization, Faber said. The special designation assigns a full-time "River Navigator" to help communities.

A panel will choose up to 20 to present to Clinton, who will declare a top 10 as heritage waterways in June.

Sunday profile

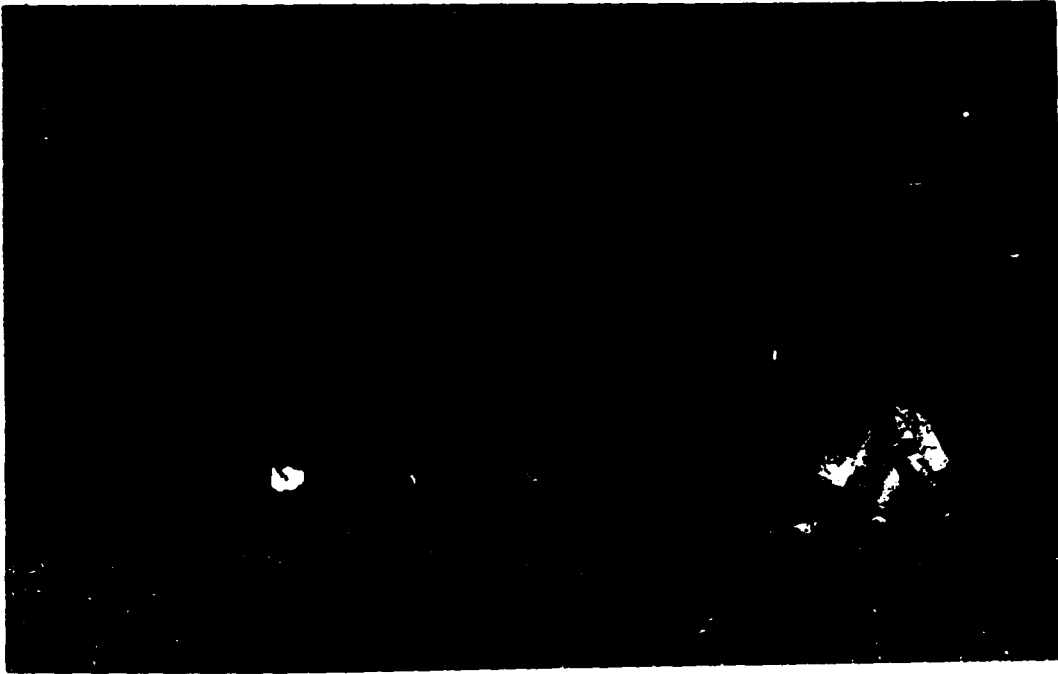
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9/17/88

Superfund chief claims  
level of skepticism over  
potential Fox River listing  
is unusual and distorted



the.....  
future  
for the  
**FOX**  
river

# Tainted views



# "PERFUND: Past cases show designation by the EPA can be a blessing or a curse

From A-1

Superfund designation is intended to aim the power of the federal government at the most dangerous and costly threats to our ecological systems — can be seen as victory or defeat.

For those who remember the smog-choked air and burning rivers of the 1960s, before federal legislation forced action by the states, Superfund designation means that finally a terrible problem will be solved — by a force large enough to withstand the local political influence of powerful industries.

For those who remember \$30,000 toilets bought by the federal government, Superfund means the end of common sense. It means being forced to weave through an expensive, time-consuming and difficult maze of federal regulations, with no assurances in what lies at the other end.

The local experience has been mixed.

The worst single-source pollution of groundwater in Appleton's history came to light in 1982 when neighbors of the N.W. Mauthe Co., 725 S. Outagamie St., noticed puddles of bright, yellow-green water near their homes.

Chromium colored that water, in concentrations more than 500 times the level at which they become toxic to humans.

When workers digging a trench through the area began suffering from skin rashes, the truth came out. Mauthe had been dumping his used chemicals into the ground for more than two decades.

The state Department of Natural Resources pumped 30,000 gallons of surface water off the site. In 1989 the EPA placed the site on the National Priority List of the Superfund program.

For two years, nothing happened. EPA officials blame this on federal guidelines mandated by Congress. But when an EPA official convinced the state Health Department that the site posed an immediate threat to human health, the regulations were bypassed.

The EPA funded an emergency excavation in 1991, and the DNR found zinc, cadmium, cyanide and volatile organic compounds in the soil. The site was fenced. Then came two years of studies.

In 1994, the DNR and EPA signed agreements releasing Superfund money. In 1995 the poisonous Mauthe building was demolished. More than five tons of soil were removed, some shipped to a hazardous waste site.

In 1996, a new building was constructed, containing a fully automated, groundwater treatment system that draws in the contamination water below the site, subjects it to initial treatment and then sends it to Appleton's wastewater treatment plant.

Because Mauthe, who died in the mid-1980s, left no assets to cover the cost of cleanup, the EPA expects to use \$7 million in taxpayer money to purge the groundwater below the two-acre site, a process that could take 20 to 30 years.

A few miles to the south, in the late 1960s and early 1970s, the 75-acre Schmalz dump site in the

"We are trying to find ways to do the job effectively and do it in a streamlined fashion."

STEVE PADOVANI, remediation project manager for the EPA.

Town of Harrison was filled in by the owner with car bodies, stone, trees, pulp chips, fly ash, bottom ash and demolition debris contaminated with PCBs. The debris was used to fill a former wetland.

In 1979, the state ordered a halt to the dumping. There were 60 residences and businesses within 1,000 feet and Lake Winnebago, a source of public drinking water, lies just 500 feet to the south. The soil and groundwater were contaminated with heavy metals and PCBs.

The Schmalz site was proposed for listing in September 1983 and placed on the Superfund list one year later. In 1985 the EPA fenced in the site. In 1988, the EPA excavated 3,500 cubic yards of PCB-contaminated soil.

Nearly homeowners were asked to abandon their wells. A clay and soil cap, seeded for vegetation, was completed in 1994, 15 years after the neighbors began their complaints. The cap is designed to prevent rainwater from leaching through the soils below.

Monitoring wells were installed around the site, managed now by the DNR. It is too soon to know if it will work.

"We really don't have enough data to give us a good long-term trend," said DNR hydrogeologist Jennifer Huffman.

The first reliable figures will appear in a year or two.

When state officials want to demonstrate everything they don't like about Superfund, they point to Sheboygan.

"If you want an example of where a cleanup is not being implemented through Superfund, Sheboygan is that example," said the DNR's Ed Lynch, an engineering supervisor attached to the Fox River project.

In Sheboygan, the die-casting company identified as being responsible for the cleanup, Tecumseh Products, contracted with the EPA to conduct the feasibility study that would outline cleanup options and their pros and cons.

Superfund listing occurred in 1986. In 1989 and 1990, the company's engineers dredged contaminated sediments from the upper portion of the river to evaluate cleanup technologies.

The study was finally completed and submitted to the EPA this past December, 12 years after it was initiated.

The EPA rejected it. "We got a document, in my opinion, that was an exhaustive effort to minimize the amount of work they have to do," said Steve Padovani, remediation project manager for the EPA.

Padovani said the company proposed limited dredging near the downstream portion of the 14-mile

project, leaving the great mass of PCBs buried in the sediments downstream in place. Its consultants argue that disturbing them will cause greater harm than leaving them alone.

"They basically recommended no action for a majority of the site," Padovani said. "It was not an approvable document. The river is changing in unpredictable ways over time. The PCBs in those deposits will eventually become mobile and migrate into the river system. It is an erosive environment."

A new study has been completed and is being evaluated. Padovani said this is the hardest part of any Superfund process, getting an action plan — called a Record of Decision — approved.

Padovani said the EPA has worked hard in recent years to become more efficient.

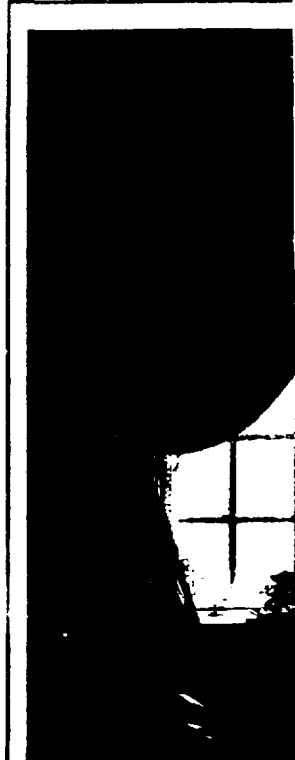
"It's a jungle of procedures you can follow," he said. "We are trying to find ways to do the job effectively and do it in a streamlined fashion."

The agency has also tried hard, he said, to improve communications with industry and local governments and to work in partnerships. There are many examples where this has worked well, he said.

"Sheboygan is an example where I feel the partnership approach didn't work so well," he said.

DNR officials, whose agency opposes a Superfund designation for the Fox, agreed that the EPA has reformed itself.

"I think they really are making an effort to improve the program," said Lynch. "But it is really case specific, and there is no guarantee that Superfund is going to work any better on any one site."



Percentages off represent savings on regular prices. Sales may or may not have been made at regular prices. Extended payment plan available. Customer Decorating available at most larger JCPenney stores. Sale prices effective through June 8, 1998.

# Build

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superfund  
sting that  
in many  
cases is  
founded."

TIMOTHY  
FIELDS

...spoon in the nation.

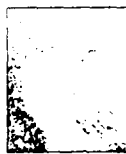
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Please see SUPERFUND, A-13

5/17/98

Superfund chief claims level of skepticism over potential Fox River listing is unusual and distorted



the future of the river

# Tainted views



Post-Crescent photo by Melissa White-Graf

## EPA official who will decide fate of Fox defends his agency

By Bob Vitale  
Post-Crescent Washington bureau  
Washington

**B**utterflies, rainbows and bright blue skies adorn a Superfund promotional poster that hangs outside the office of

Timothy Fields. Inside, the Environmental Protection Agency official who has run the program for the last 15 months paints an equally positive portrait with words such as "sensitive" and "concerned." What a far, far different picture it is than the one being painted in the Fox Valley, where it's sometimes hard to tell which some leaders think is worse: a 39-mile stretch of river tainted with hazardous toxins, or the federal program that's trying to speed its cleanup.

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economic growth and take even longer to rid the Fox River of pollutants that have been in its waters for 41 years already.

Fields, who will decide by the end of June whether to propose a Superfund listing for the river, says it's a distorted, outdated view.

"There is a lot of misinformation and misunderstanding of the real benefits Superfund can provide to communities," he says. "There's a real paranoia about Superfund listing that in many cases is unfounded."

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Please see RIVER, BACK PAGE



MEGHAN SCHELBLE, 17, of Appleton sits along the banks of the Fox River at Lutz Park.

## Superfund can be both blessing, curse

By Ed Cullhane  
Post-Crescent staff writer

Superfund designation for the Fox River might be a godsend or it might be a disaster, but it wouldn't be the first time this area has experienced the dubious honor.

There are more than a thousand Superfund sites nationwide, and more than three dozen in Wisconsin, all sharing the distinction of being among the most polluted hot spots in the nation.

Of these, one is in the heart of Appleton, and another has threatened drinking water supplies in the Town of Harrison.

A third, in Sheboygan, involves 2 million cubic yards of PCB-contaminated river sediment, a large quantity but less than a fourth of what lies in the Fox.

Please see SUPERFUND, A-13

"There is a lot of misinformation and misunderstanding of the real benefits Superfund can provide to communities. There's a real paranoia about Superfund listing that in many cases is unfounded."

TIMOTHY FIELDS

## Justice, Microsoft talks end in failure

Antitrust suits likely to be filed Monday

Post-Crescent wire services

WASHINGTON — Settlement talks between Microsoft Corp. and the Justice Department collapsed Saturday, making it almost certain that federal and state officials will file broad antitrust suits against the company Monday.

The discussions between the Justice Department, a coalition of state attorneys general, and Microsoft ended today without resolution," said Gina Talamona, a spokeswoman for the Justice Department. "At this point they're not expected to resume."

The talks broke off at midday, following a seven-hour Friday session that had been described alternatively as "constructive" by sources close to the Microsoft camp and "fruitless" by sources familiar with the government's strategy.

That sets the stage for two separate but allied suits to be filed Monday, one by the Justice Department, and the other by a group of 20 states

**"We still have an open mind."**

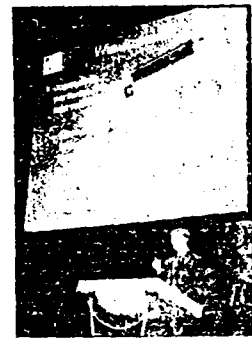
MARK MURRAY,  
Microsoft spokesman

that have been investigating Microsoft since early this year. Both will accuse Microsoft, the world's most influential software company, of illegally flexing its market muscle to crush competitors.

Those lawsuits could have a profound impact on how people will buy computers and software, and what features Microsoft is allowed to include within Windows, which is used on almost all desktop computers.

Microsoft said it will now press ahead with plans to ship Windows 98, the latest upgrade of its flag-

Please see MICROSOFT, A-12



MICROSOFT CHAIRMAN Bill Gates talks at a Chicago trade show in this April 20, 1998, file photo.

THE BIG... AUTOMOBILE... OUR... SECTION

## Fishermen find body of boater who was missing on Lake Butte des Morts

By Judy Williams  
Post-Crescent staff writer

OSHKOSH — The body of Roger Beese, who drowned Tuesday night in Lake Butte des Morts,

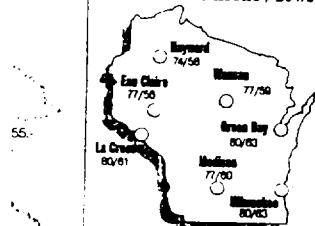
Medical Center showed that Beese died of drowning, said Winnebago County Deputy Coroner Pete Fahrenkrug.

According to Winnebago County sheriff's Lt. Bruce Rhoades, the fishermen who found Beese's body

WEATHER

CAST

YESTERDAY'S HIGHS/ LOWS



WEATHER DATA

Yesterday's high	81
Overnight low	63
Today's record high	87 (1967)
Today's record low	32 (1930)
24-hour precipitation	0.00
Cooling degree days	7
Today's sunset	8:15
Tomorrow's sunrise	5:24

HIGHS/LOWS ACROSS THE U.S.

Alaska	50-60	50-60
Arizona	60-80	60-80
California	60-80	60-80
Colorado	50-70	50-70
Connecticut	60-80	60-80
Delaware	60-80	60-80
District of Columbia	60-80	60-80
Florida	70-90	70-90
Georgia	70-90	70-90
Idaho	50-70	50-70
Illinois	60-80	60-80
Indiana	60-80	60-80
Iowa	50-70	50-70
Kansas	60-80	60-80
Kentucky	60-80	60-80
Louisiana	70-90	70-90
Maine	50-70	50-70
Maryland	60-80	60-80
Massachusetts	60-80	60-80
Michigan	60-80	60-80
Minnesota	50-70	50-70
Mississippi	70-90	70-90
Missouri	60-80	60-80
Montana	50-70	50-70
Nebraska	50-70	50-70
Nevada	60-80	60-80
New Hampshire	50-70	50-70
New Jersey	60-80	60-80
New Mexico	60-80	60-80
New York	60-80	60-80
North Carolina	70-90	70-90
North Dakota	50-70	50-70
Ohio	60-80	60-80
Oklahoma	60-80	60-80
Oregon	60-80	60-80
Pennsylvania	60-80	60-80
Rhode Island	60-80	60-80
South Carolina	70-90	70-90
South Dakota	50-70	50-70
Tennessee	70-90	70-90
Texas	70-90	70-90
Utah	50-70	50-70
Vermont	50-70	50-70
Virginia	60-80	60-80
Washington	60-80	60-80
West Virginia	60-80	60-80
Wisconsin	60-80	60-80
Wyoming	50-70	50-70

HIGHS/LOWS AROUND THE WORLD

Amsterdam	50-60	50-60
Ankara	60-70	60-70
Antwerp	60-70	60-70
Athens	70-80	70-80
Bangkok	80-90	80-90
Beijing	60-70	60-70
Bombay	80-90	80-90
Buenos Aires	60-70	60-70
Calcutta	80-90	80-90
Caracas	80-90	80-90
Chicago	60-70	60-70
Colombo	80-90	80-90
Copenhagen	60-70	60-70
Dallas	60-70	60-70
Dhaka	80-90	80-90
Dublin	60-70	60-70
Frankfurt	60-70	60-70
Geneva	60-70	60-70
Hanoi	80-90	80-90
Helsinki	60-70	60-70
Hong Kong	80-90	80-90
London	60-70	60-70
Los Angeles	60-70	60-70
Madrid	60-70	60-70
Manila	80-90	80-90
Moscow	60-70	60-70
Mumbai	80-90	80-90
New York	60-70	60-70
Osaka	80-90	80-90
Paris	60-70	60-70
Perth	60-70	60-70
Rangoon	80-90	80-90
San Francisco	60-70	60-70
Seoul	60-70	60-70
Singapore	80-90	80-90
Sydney	60-70	60-70
Taipei	80-90	80-90
Tokyo	80-90	80-90
Washington	60-70	60-70
Yokohama	80-90	80-90

entenced to 90 days in jail

The own-  
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y traffick-  
William

Stevens, 49, is to begin serving his three-month term June 18. Stevens, owner of the store "Evolution: Natural History," pleaded guilty in March to two felony counts of illegal trafficking.

RIVER: Official says communities benefit from Superfund

From A-1

fewer. The program has become so controversial that more than a dozen reform plans are currently floating around Congress.

But even though he's used to those battles, Fields rarely sees disputes like the one over the Fox River.

Sometimes, EPA is called in by communities as a way to guide cleanup. Usually, listing comes as a result of cooperation between federal and state regulators.

Once or twice a year, though, a disagreement over Superfund listing - in this case it's between regional officials in Chicago and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources - means Fields must make a decision from his office at the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington.

"This is not usual," he says firmly.

Nor is the level of skepticism in the Fox Valley, according to Fields.

Although local and state officials have publicly worried that a Superfund listing would end their input into the course of Fox River cleanup, Fields recounts meetings he's already had with the area's representatives in Congress, members of Gov. Tommy Thompson's staff, officials at the state DNR and leaders of the seven paper companies responsible for discharging PCBs into the river between 1957 and 1971.

If he decides to seek a Superfund listing for the Fox, he says, another six-month process will be triggered for more public comments and input. He also adds that a final listing could be put off temporarily or for good if a cleanup agreement is reached between the companies, the state and EPA.

Fields combats other worries as well in the area.

Although the Fox River cleanup won't be cheap - at an estimated \$500 million to \$1 billion Fields calls it "pretty expensive" though not history's costliest - he says EPA is required under Superfund law to seek the lowest-cost cleanup method that gets the job done. That means EPA would consider dredging the river to remove contaminated sediment, but it would consider cheaper alternatives as well.

The fact that dredging the river to remove contaminated sediments has been such a focus in the dispute is something he blames partly on his agency. On the regulatory side of things, he says, people have talked about it too much.

"I assure you we have not made a judgment that we're going to go with dredging," Fields says. "I believe all the alternatives need to be put on the table."



A TRAIL winds its way on the left bank of the Fox River viewed from the College Avenue bridge.

Man who will decide Fox status is 26-year EPA vet

By Bob Vitale  
Post-Crescent Washington bureau

WASHINGTON - His title is only a temporary one, but his actions could have an impact on the Fox Valley for years to come.

Timothy Fields is the acting assistant administrator in the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response.

In short: He runs the federal Superfund program.

He's the federal official who will decide whether EPA moves to put the Fox River on the national Superfund list.

Fields, a 26-year EPA employee, has been in his current, acting position since February 1997. It's a post usually appointed by President Clinton, but his last choice to fill the job - former East Orange, N.J., Mayor Cardell Cooper - was withdrawn when Republicans complained he lacked technical experience on environmental matters and refused to schedule a confirmation hearing.

Experience is not something Fields lacks.

He has served EPA in a variety of positions, most recently as its deputy assistant administrator

responsible in the same division, which oversees programs dealing with oil spills, underground storage tanks and other environmental hazards.

He has also been director of EPA's Superfund Revitalization Office and deputy director of its remedial program, which is the first step in the cleanup process.

Fields has a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from Virginia Tech and a master's in operations research from George Washington University. He has received three awards from Presidents Bush and Clinton for distinguished government service.

Dredging, opponents contend, would be the most expensive, disruptive way to clean the Fox River.

The EPA might use butterflies and blue skies to portray itself, but opponents in the Fox Valley talk of shuttered paper mills and unemployed workers.

Fields looks elsewhere in the country to describe Superfund success stories.

In Tacoma, Wash., he says, PCBs are being removed from Commencement Bay and the city is developing its inner harbor as a tourist destination.

In other cities, there are shopping centers, hospitals and golf

courses in places that used to be contaminated.

"We're finding that Superfund has been in many cases what people need to restore the economic vitality of a community," he says. "Economic development and environmental cleanup go hand-in-hand."

At the same time he emphasizes that his decision on whether to seek a Superfund listing isn't made - a "last resort," he calls it - Fields also says he thinks the state and paper companies have had enough time to devise their own cleanup plan.

Superfund might be the "only

way to get that process off the dime," he adds.

And while he emphasizes that Superfund wouldn't be the end of the world for the Fox Valley, he also paints a less glowing picture of the reason it's being considered.

"We've got to keep in mind that in the Fox River levels of contamination are causing impacts to fish, wildlife, bald eagles," he says, having already spoken of its impact on people, on Green Bay and on Lake Michigan.

"Superfund may be the only tool we have. We want the residents of the Fox River to have a clean environment to live in."

# SUPERFUND: Past cases show designation by the EPA can be a blessing or a curse

From A-1

Superfund designation — intended to aim the power of the federal government at the most dangerous and costly threats to our ecological systems — can be seen as victory or defeat.

For those who remember the smog-choked air and burning rivers of the 1960s, before federal legislation forced action by the states, Superfund designation means that finally a terrible problem will be solved — by a force large enough to withstand the local political influence of powerful industries.

For those who remember \$30,000 toilets bought by the federal government, Superfund means the end of common sense. It means being forced to weave through an expensive, time-consuming and difficult maze of federal regulations, with no assurances in what lies at the other end.

The local experience has been mixed.

The worst single-source pollution of groundwater in Appleton's history came to light in 1982 when neighbors of the N.W. Mauthe Co., 725 S. Outagamie St., noticed puddles of bright, yellow-green water near their homes.

Chromium colored that water, in concentrations more than 500 times the level at which they become toxic to humans.

When workers digging a trench through the area began suffering from skin rashes, the truth came out. Mauthe had been dumping his used chemicals into the ground for more than two decades.

The state Department of Natural Resources pumped 30,000 gallons of surface water off the site. In 1989 the EPA placed the site on the National Priority List of the Superfund program.

For two years, nothing happened. EPA officials blame this on federal guidelines mandated by Congress. But when an EPA official convinced the state Health Department that the site posed an immediate threat to human health, the regulations were bypassed.

The EPA funded an emergency excavation in 1991, and the DNR found zinc, cadmium, cyanide and volatile organic compounds in the soil. The site was fenced. Then came two years of studies.

In 1994, the DNR and EPA signed agreements releasing Superfund money. In 1995 the poisonous Mauthe building was demolished. More than five tons of soil were removed, some shipped to a hazardous waste site.

In 1996, a new building was constructed, containing a fully automated, groundwater treatment system that draws in the contamination water below the site, subjects it to initial treatment and then sends it off to Appleton's wastewater treatment plant.

Because Mauthe, who died in the mid-1980s, left no assets to cover the cost of cleanup, the EPA expects to use \$7 million in taxpayer money to purge the groundwater below the two-acre site, a process that could take 20 to 30 years.

A few miles to the south, in the late 1960s and early 1970s, the 7.5-acre Schmalz dump site in the

**"We are trying to find ways to do the job effectively and do it in a streamlined fashion."**

**STEVE PADOVANI, remediation project manager for the EPA.**

Town of Harrison was filled in by the owner with car bodies, stone, trees, pulp chips, fly ash, bottom ash and demolition debris contaminated with PCBs. The debris was used to fill a former wetland.

In 1979, the state ordered a halt to the dumping. There were 60 residences and businesses within 1,000 feet and Lake Winnebago, a source of public drinking water, lies just 500 feet to the south. The soil and groundwater were contaminated with heavy metals and PCBs.

The Schmalz site was proposed for listing in September 1983 and placed on the Superfund list one year later. In 1985 the EPA fenced in the site. In 1988, the EPA excavated 3,500 cubic yards of PCB-contaminated soil.

Nearby homeowners were asked to abandon their wells. A clay and soil cap, seeded for vegetation, was completed in 1994, 15 years after the neighbors began their complaints. The cap is designed to prevent rainwater from leaching through the soils below.

Monitoring wells were installed around the site, managed now by the DNR. It is too soon to know if it will work.

"We really don't have enough data to give us a good long-term trend," said DNR hydrogeologist Jennifer Huffman.

The first reliable figures will appear in a year or two.

When state officials want to demonstrate everything they don't like about Superfund, they point to Sheboygan.

"If you want an example of where a cleanup is not being implemented through Superfund, Sheboygan is that example," said the DNR's Ed Lynch, an engineering supervisor attached to the Fox River project.

In Sheboygan, the die-casting company identified as being responsible for the die-casting sludges, contacted with the EPA to conduct the feasibility study that would outline cleanup options and their pros and cons.

Superfund listing occurred in 1986. In 1989 and 1990, the company's engineers dredged contaminated sediments from the upper portion of the river to evaluate cleanup technologies.

The study was finally completed and submitted to the EPA this past December, 12 years after it was initiated.

The EPA rejected it. "We got a document, in my opinion, that was an exhaustive effort to minimize the amount of work they have to do," said Steve Padovani, remediation project manager for the EPA.

Padovani said the company proposed limited dredging near the upstream portion of the 14-mile

project, leaving the great mass of PCBs buried in the sediments downstream in place. Its consultants argue that disturbing them will cause greater harm than leaving them alone.

"They basically recommended no action for a majority of the site," Padovani said. "It was not an approvable document. The river is changing in unpredictable ways over time. The PCBs in those deposits will eventually become mobile and migrate into the river system. It is an erosive environment."

A new study has been completed and is being evaluated. Padovani said this is the hardest part of any Superfund process, getting an action plan — called a Record of Decision — approved.

Padovani said the EPA has worked hard in recent years to become more efficient.

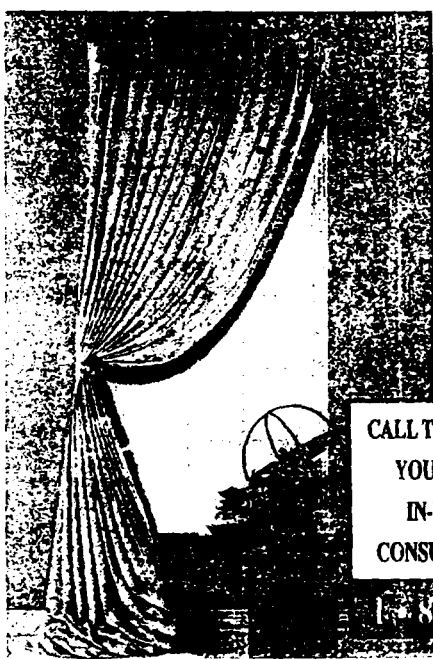
"It's a jumble of procedures you can follow," he said. "We are trying to find ways to do the job effectively and do it in a streamlined fashion."

The agency has also tried hard, he said, to improve communications with industry and local governments and to work in partnerships. There are many examples where this has worked well, he said.

"Sheboygan is an example where I feel the partnership approach didn't work so well," he said.

DNR officials, whose agency opposes a Superfund designation for the Fox, agreed that the EPA has reformed itself.

"I think they really are making an effort to improve the program," said Lynch. "But it is really case specific, and there is no guarantee that Superfund is going to work any better on any one site."



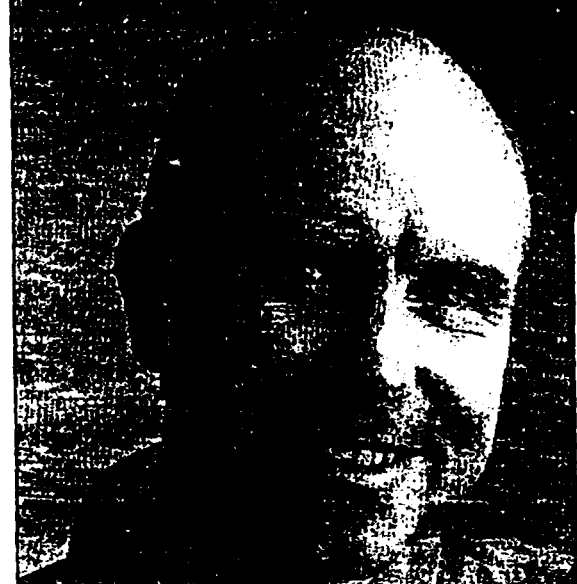
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**Correction Notice**

In today's insert, we featured the Sony PlayStation game *Jeremy McGrath Super Cross '98* as being available.

Due to delays in manufacturing, this title is not currently available, but will be arriving in late May. We are offering rainchecks for this product.



The Best of Both Worlds

# UP AND COMING IN THE VALLEY

commitment than they are putting into it.

**Charles Lewis,**  
Appleton

## **Fox cleanup needs local leadership**

**Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:**

In regard to your editorial of May 10 titled "Lawmakers Talked About Fox Cleanup; Now They Must Act":

I do not understand why you think that it is our elected representatives' collective responsibility to bring the paper mills and the DNR together to form a cleanup plan. Yes, we need Sen. Herb Kohl, Sen. Russ Feingold, Rep. Jay Johnson and Rep. Tom Petri to provide access to the EPA and to make sure that whatever the EPA does in regards the Fox River cleanup is in all of our best interests. But I am not happy about your view that it is their responsibility to bring the DNR and the paper mills together to form a cleanup plan.

What about the other people

education and the Hmong

who live here in the Valley? What about the cities, towns and villages? What about the average folk who "own" the river as much as anybody else does. Where do they fit into the process of forming a cleanup plan? The river belongs to all of us who live, work and play here in the Valley. Thus, as I see it, leadership for the cleanup needs to be local leadership representing all of us. Without local leadership I fear the solution to the cleanup will be a bigger disaster than the disaster we are trying to clean up.

**Wayne Defferding,**  
Appleton

■ *Letters must be signed and include a telephone number where the writer can be reached during the day. Names will be withheld only if sufficient reason is given. Letters should be limited to 300 words. They will be condensed if necessary for clarity or brevity. Mail your letter to:*

**Letters**  
**The Post-Crescent**  
**P. O. Box 59**  
**Appleton, WI 54912**  
*or e-mail it to:*  
**PCNews@Athenet.net**

5/10/98

# Letter says federal Superfund classification of Fox River could divide the parties who need to find consensus on how to clean the waterway

**By Bob Vitale**

Post-Crescent Washington bureau

WASHINGTON - The fact that federal officials are even considering Superfund status for the Fox River has begun to divide the very groups that should be coming together on a cleanup plan. Wisconsin lawmakers warned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Monday.

In a letter to Acting Assistant EPA Administrator Timothy Fields, who will decide shortly whether to seek the federal designation as a way to move cleanup forward, the region's representatives in Congress cautioned the action could have the opposite of its desired effect.

"We support a consensus-based approach to remediation and restoration of the Fox involving all interests: federal, state, local, tribal, private companies, and environmental and other interest groups," the letter said. "We feel

that if either the listing decision or the remediation of the Fox becomes mired in litigation, our constituents, the greater Fox ecosystem and the Great Lakes Basin will be the losers."

The letter was signed by U.S. Reps. Jay Johnson and Tom Petri,

Herb Kohl.

Kohl issued a separate statement Monday saying his biggest concern about the long-awaited cleanup of 40 tons of PCBs between Neenah and Green Bay is that the whole matter will end up in court.

"Nobody wants PCBs buried in the river to continually be washed into Green Bay for the next 10 to 20 years," the senator's statement read. "I think it makes a lot more

sense to negotiate now instead of through a bunch of lawyers."

If lawyers get involved, Kohl said, "we'll have lawyers who clean up, instead of a cleaned-up river."

The EPA, frustrated with 15 years of studies and negotiations between the state and seven area paper mills that discharged PCBs into the Fox River, began its process a year ago to consider the river as a federal Superfund site.

That designation would put the federal government in charge of the cleanup - although it has an agree-



"If lawyers get involved, we'll have lawyers who clean up, instead of a cleaned-up river."

SEN. HERB KOHL

ment to let the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources oversee things - and pass the bill along to the paper companies.

In their letter to the EPA, the four Wisconsin lawmakers complained to Fields that they have not

✓



FRIDAY MAY 8, 1998

what's  
on tap

Tim Rothe  
wins 35-lap  
feature as  
WIR opens  
season  
see D-1



Coming Saturday

# EPA briefs lawmakers

By Bob Vitale  
Post-Crescent Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Designating the Fox River as a national Superfund site wouldn't end local input — or even local control — in the effort to rid its waters of PCBs, a top Environmental Protection Agency official told the region's lawmakers Thursday.

In a meeting with Reps. Jay Johnson and Tom Petri and Sens. Russ Feingold

Agency says it's in no hurry to designate Fox River as a Superfund site, but it won't wait forever, either

and Herb Kohl, the EPA official who will decide the future of Fox River cleanup efforts offered assurances that a federal Superfund listing would not be a federal takeover of the cleanup.

But at the same time, the lawmakers said, they got the feeling the agency

won't wait forever for the state and area paper companies to figure things out themselves.

"I didn't get the feeling they can't wait to designate a Superfund site," said Kohl. "They simply want all parties to get together. At the same time,

they feel a long time has gone by when nothing has been done."

There are 40 tons of PCBs in the Fox River between Neenah and Green Bay, all discharged by seven area paper companies between 1957 and 1971. Fifteen years of negotiations and studies

Please see RIVER, BACK PAGE

Fox River Forward making final pitch for Heritage designation: B-1



the.....  
future  
for the  
FOX  
river



## Lawmakers hear details from EPA on Superfund status for Fox

Am A-1

have not produced an agreement for getting them out, however. The chemicals are harmful to animals and humans.

Timothy Fields, acting assistant EPA administrator, has told the four lawmakers and Gov. Tommy Thompson that he will decide soon whether to seek Superfund status for the Fox River as a way to end the delays in cleanup progress.

That decision is likely within the next couple of months. If EPA does

seek Superfund status, it would trigger another agency review and another final decision about six months later.

Feingold said Fields specifically told lawmakers at Thursday's meeting, though, that EPA's goal is not a Superfund listing, and the senator said he left the meeting with the feeling Superfund status can be avoided.

He and the others reported three reasons why:

■No Superfund site has ever been designated by EPA over a gov-

ernor's opposition. Feingold said Fields cited 30 cases where initial objections were either overcome or led to other cleanup plans.

■Even if Superfund status is declared, EPA has almost always accepted a state or local cleanup plan.

■If the agency decides to move forward and propose a Superfund listing, it might be willing to put its final action on hold while a local cleanup agreement is hammered out.

Thompson already has signaled

his opposition to a Superfund listing for the Fox River, and spokesman Kevin Keane said it's because EPA has such a poor track record of making progress on other federally designated sites.

Feingold said he hopes the governor signals a willingness to at least cooperate with the agency, though.

"If we engage in a flat refusal, I think it will make it more likely that the Fox River is listed as a Superfund site," the senator said.

In a written statement, Johnson

also prodded all sides of the cleanup to sit down and talk.

The Green Bay Democrat found significance in the EPA's willingness to delay any proposal for a Superfund listing, but he said the agency would only put its action on hold if it sees "substantive and good-faith negotiations between the state and potentially responsible parties."

"Unfortunately, the seats at the Fox River negotiating table are empty," Johnson said.

# Fox River initiative has run its course

Panel doesn't seem  
taken with proposal to  
designate it American  
Heritage River

By Bob Vitale

5/13/98

Post-Crescent Washington bureau

WASHINGTON - The waters got a whole lot rougher Tuesday for efforts to bring federal recognition - and welcomed federal help - for the Fox River.

A commission formed to select finalists for President Clinton's new American Heritage Rivers program narrowed its focus from 126 nominated rivers to a few dozen that have caught members' eyes.

While the group's chairman stressed that no river has been eliminated from consideration, the Fox was clearly not among the favorites.

In two days of deliberations among the 12 members of the American Heritage Rivers Initiative Advisory Committee - enough debate to fill three walls with poster-size sheets of

comments - a proposal submitted by a local coalition called Fox River Forward was mentioned just once.

In three rounds of voting in which each advisory committee member listed his or her 10 favorites, the Fox River received no support.

Still, said chairman Dayton Duncan, a documentary film producer who wrote last year's PBS special about explorers Lewis and Clark, "it's a great proposal.

"This is not the NCAA tournament," Duncan said of the selection process, in which the committee will send 20 recommendations

**In three  
rounds of voting  
in which each  
advisory  
committee  
member listed  
his or her 10  
favorites, the  
Fox River  
received no  
support**

5-13/018

# RIVER: National effort appears muddled

From A-1

to Clinton, who will chose the final 10. "You can have 10 American Heritage Rivers, but our experience is there are more than 10."

Maybe, but only 10 will get the capital letters that come with official designation.

That status also brings with it a promise from the federal government to help - though not control - local efforts to preserve and improve the rivers. Fox River Forward's plan included efforts to reduce the threat of PCBs, increase public access, boost regional tourism and foster educational programs for children and adults.

Appleton Mayor Tim Hanna, the group's chairman, said those efforts will continue with or without a boost from Washington. The mere effort of putting together the American Heritage Rivers proposal, he said, brought together various Fox River interests that had never sat at the same table.

"We've already started to accomplish things that maybe wouldn't have been accomplished," Hanna said. "We opened some partnerships and lines of communication."

The mayor said he's unsure whether Fox River Forward will remain in existence, but "there's a strong desire for some form of the organization to continue."

That's something advisory commission members in

Washington said they hoped to hear.

"The pleasantly distressing thing about this initiative is it tapped into a tremendous amount of local interest in the rivers that flow through their communities," Duncan said.

Duncan wouldn't say why the Fox River failed to gain support from his committee, but he did point out the strengths of several that did:

■The Mississippi River, he said, has to be included because of its size and history. "How can there be 10 American Heritage Rivers and one not be the Mississippi?" he said. The only question is which part of the river to include: Wisconsin's portion is still among those being considered.

■The Rio Grande in Texas and the Detroit River in Michigan have an international character.

■The Puyallup River in Washington state impressed members for its sheer grandeur. It flows from Mount Rainier to the Puget Sound.

■The Cuyahoga River in Ohio, meanwhile, drew attention for the opposite reason. So polluted that it once caught fire, it spurred national efforts to revitalize rivers.

"We have all that," Hanna laughed when told of the features that helped other rivers stay in contention.

In their application for American Heritage Rivers status, though, advocates for the Fox obviously rec-

ognized the hurdle they faced.

"In terms of flashiness, this is not a prima donna river; no grand waterfalls or canyon vistas," they wrote. "The Fox is much like the people who dot its banks: hard-working, genuine and without excessive ornamentation."

Some advocates privately speculated whether the current controversy surrounding the Fox - possible listing by the Environmental Protection Agency as a Superfund site - hurt its chances.

The EPA is one of 16 federal agencies involved in the Heritage Rivers program, which President Clinton has promised will bring a federal partnership to locally controlled development, preservation and cleanup efforts along the 10 rivers chosen.

The EPA will soon be deciding on its own, though, whether to seek Superfund status for the Fox. That listing, opponents fear, would bring with it federal control over how the river is cleaned.

Many of the same people backing the first listing - Gov. Tommy Thompson and area business leaders among them - have been outspoken in their opposition to the second.

Although the river is still technically under consideration for the program, Hanna said he plans no further effort to convince committee members it should be included.

"We've done all we can," he said.

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United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

# Politics plague river heritage plan

Those pushing the Fox River for designation have faith in the Clinton plan

By Bob Vitale

Post-Crescent Washington bureau

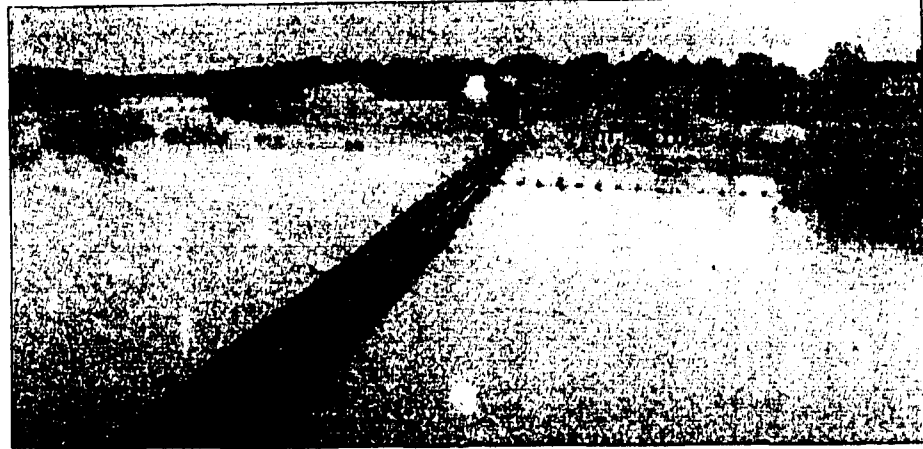
WASHINGTON — When President Clinton created the American Heritage Rivers program last fall, he called it a chance to rededicate the nation to preserving and protecting its waters.

"Many of our greatest cities became what they are because they were built on rivers," Clinton said. "If we want them to be even greater ... we have to make sure that the rivers that run through them are good, clean rivers that offer the potential for young people to do something they can be proud of, to have a place that they can be proud to be a part of, and to preserve a heritage for their own children and grandchildren."

Clean rivers, proud children, preserved heritage. What could be controversial about that?

Plenty, it turns out.

Clinton's program, first proposed in his 1997 State of the Union address and signed into being through an executive order last September, has been the target of a lawsuit from congressional oppo-



Post-Crescent photo by Mike De Sisti

**A COALITION** is pushing for the Fox River to attain American Heritage status.

nents who say it needs approval from the House and Senate.

It has been criticized by property-rights advocates who fear government designation would bring government interference for both rivers and the land around them.

On Monday, as an advisory commission began two days of meetings to narrow a list of 126 nominees down to 20 finalists, more opponents stepped forward to criticize a selection process that

will end today in closed-door deliberations.

Leaders of a coalition pushing the Fox River for American Heritage status say they've taken all of it into account and are still convinced the program can enhance preservation and progress along the river's 176 miles.

If the Fox is one of 10 rivers chosen — Clinton will make the final decision later

## Heritage nominees

Among the 126 rivers nominated, there are five in Wisconsin:

- Fox River
- Milwaukee River
- Rock River
- Upper Mississippi River (with Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Missouri)
- Wolf River

Other rivers from around the U.S.:

- Chattahoochee River (Georgia)
- Cuyahoga River (Ohio)
- Detroit River (Michigan)
- Hudson River (New York)
- Lower Mississippi River (Louisiana)
- Missouri River (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota)
- Rio Grande River (N.M., Texas)

Please see **RIVER**, BACK PAGE

6/10/88

# RIVER: Politics playing role in heritage program

From A-1

this year — local efforts will get “focused support” from the federal government as they seek help from existing programs.

Appleton Mayor Timothy Hanna, chairman of Fox River Forward, calls the federal government a “partner” in the process. But he and other advocates — lawmakers, local and county governments, environmental and business groups — say they’re certain priorities and action would always be guided locally for an American Heritage-designated Fox.

In other parts of the country, they’re not so sure.

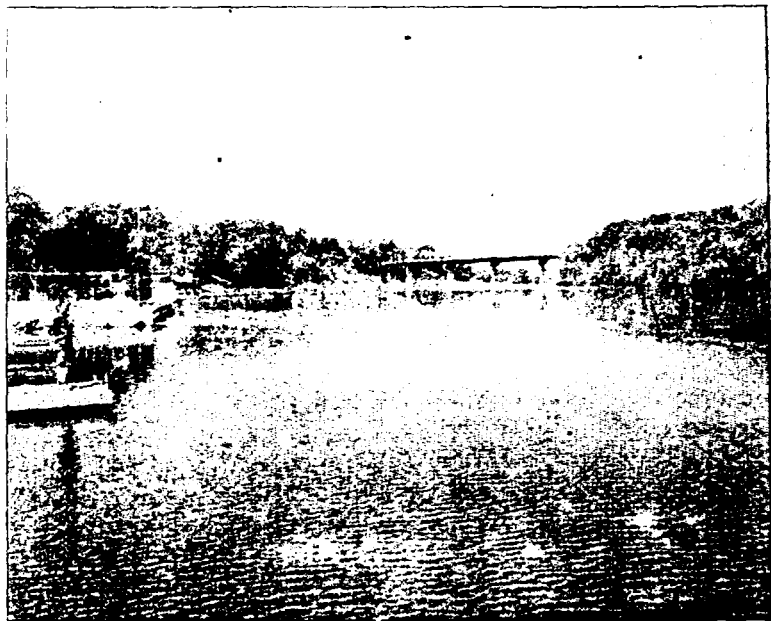
Of the 126 waterways nominated for American Heritage Rivers designation, 14 already have been eliminated because of opposition from the representatives whose congressional districts they flow through.

Twenty-five others face an extra hurdle because of opposition by at least one representative or senator.

“When you invite 12 or 16 or however many federal agencies into an area, quite often there are going to be federal strings attached,” said Michael Jahr, a spokesman for Rep. John Hostettler, R-Ind., who has vetoed participation for two rivers in his district.

“There’s always mission creep when you invite the federal government into your back yard.”

Hostettler and others also contend the program needs an OK from Congress. Because it merely coordinates other, existing federal programs, however, the White House contends it can go ahead on its own. A lawsuit by House Resources Committee Chairman



Post-Crescent photo by Mike De Sisti

**THE ONEIDA SKYLINE BRIDGE** looms in the distance in this scene looking east on the Fox River.

Don Young, R-Alaska, was dismissed in March.

While opponents of the program around the country tend to be Republicans, the Fox River application is supported by state and federal officials of both parties.

Gov. Tommy Thompson, Rep. Tom Petri, Wisconsin Senate Majority Leader Michael Ellis and state Agriculture Secretary Ben Brancel are among Republicans backing the effort. Rep. Jay Johnson and Sens. Herb Kohl and Russ Feingold are among Democratic supporters.

Hanna called that bipartisan lineup a strength of the Fox River application, and he said it took hard work to gain that support.

At one point, when information about the program indicated American Heritage River status would put no new federal regulations on local governments, representatives of the business community pointed it out it made no mention of them. Kohl’s office got an assurance in writing that businesses, too, would face no new controls from Washington.

“From the very beginning we

had some concerns,” Hanna said. “From the beginning we said if this means new regulations we’re not interested.”

Clinton and administration officials have emphasized that over and over.

“Every step of the way the initiative will be driven by the needs and desires of the communities that choose to participate,” he said when creating the program last September. “There will be no federal mandates, no regulations, no restrictions on property-holders’ rights.”

Ray Clark, who is helping direct the program as part of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, said Monday that the program is “not a cash cow” and is not mandatory.

“We will not tell rivers when to participate,” he said. “We will not tell them what their goals are. We are here to help them realize the goals they have developed.”

If that ever changes, Hanna said, the Fox River could always go it alone.

“We can opt out and say, ‘no thank you,’” he said.

LITTLE CHUTE

**May 27 meeting set  
on PCB test extraction**

The state Department of Natural Resources has scheduled a public meeting May 27 to explain this summer's test extraction of PCB contaminants from Deposit N in the Fox River. The site is west of Cedars Dam.

Engineers expect to dredge about 414 pounds of PCBs from the deposit between Aug. 15 and Nov. 15.

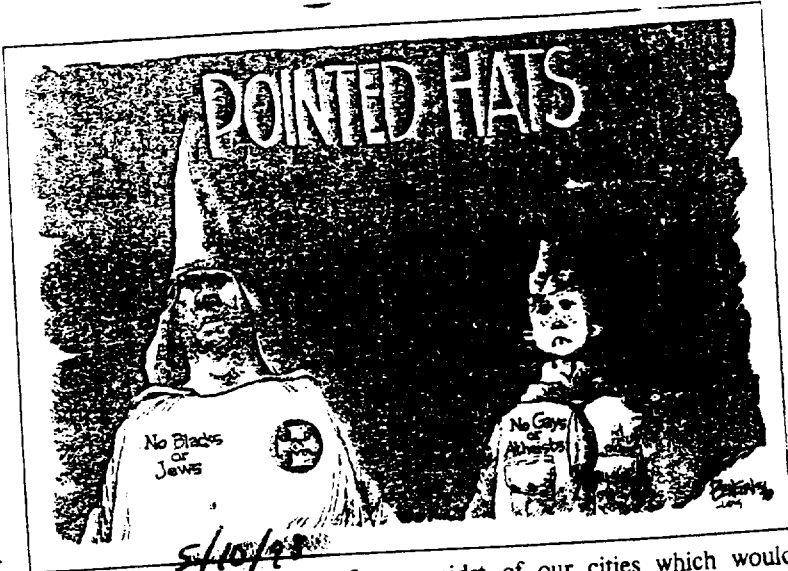
The project is the smaller of two tests the state will use to project the environmental impact and cost of removing tons of PCBs from 39 miles of river between Lake Winnebago and Green Bay.

PCBs are suspected carcinogens and have been blamed for deformities in wildlife and learning problems in children whose mothers ate contaminated fish.

The meeting will be 7 p.m. at the Little Chute Civic Center.

P-C 5/12/98

LITTLE CHUTE



## Bring the Fox back to its natural state

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*.

With a lower Fox River cleanup decision approaching, a few ideas need to be considered:

(1) The projected cost is \$1 billion dollars, or \$300 for each cubic yard of sludge removed.

(2) The "river" is really a series of reservoirs, a chain of lakes or sediment basins. It was once a wild roaring river of rapids and falls.

(3) Draining these reservoirs would restore this great natural attraction, providing a strip of land from city to city that could possibly be used for a continuous public park containing trails and wildlife areas.

(4) Emptying the reservoirs would create a wild river, a canoeing and rafting asset right in the

midst of our cities which would attract thousands each day in the summer. Anyone doubting this should check on the Wolf River Inn, Shotgun Eddie's and the Smokey Falls Rafting Company on the Wolf River above Keshena.

(5) We could possibly get a more effective and efficient method of cleaning up the contaminated sludge with bulldozers and front-end loaders on the newly created dry land rather than trying to remove the sludge from under the water risking stirring up the sediments.

(6) Our dams are old and crumbling and will soon need to be

replaced. They serve no purpose except to provide lakes in an area that has a more than its share of lakes. But a wild scenic river, a powerful force of nature to lift the spirit, challenge the adventurous and restore the soul, now that is something else.

I don't know whether this idea will work or not, but it is worth our consideration. After all, it is our river, our health, our environment and our dollars.

Perhaps we can clean up our river, bring more beauty into our lives, save a bundle and defeat the vested interests with one blow.

Don Daka,  
Appleton

## Having a pet calls for responsibility

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:

This is in response to the Conns' letter in the April 21 *Post-Crescent*. I take issue with the heading on your letter from the Conns, "Aggressive dog brought tragedy." Just because a dog reacts differently than one thinks it should doesn't mean it should be labeled aggressive.

To quote your 1998, C-3, "Owning an unpredictable dog is a sympathy for a tweeler, it's a deal with an irre-

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# THE POST-CRESCENT

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## OUR VIEWS

5/10/98

### Lawmakers talked about Fox cleanup; now they must act

The federal legislators who have some stake in the cleanup of PCBs from the Fox River — Sen. Russ Feingold, Sen. Herb Kohl, Rep. Jay Johnson and Rep. Tom Petri — have finally met with the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

What came out of that recent meeting is not much more than impressions. Nothing was cast in concrete, and apparently nothing was done to upset the EPA into immediately putting the Fox River into Superfund status, a real possibility that worries all legislators and paper companies involved.



the future  
of the  
FOX  
river

The good news to come out of the meeting is that a Superfund designation for the Fox River project would likely keep it in the hands of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and paper companies, but the bad news is that the EPA would be watching over the project, with a lot to say about its timetable, criteria and cost.

Superfund, it seems, could be easily avoided. What the EPA is apparently waiting for is an agreement between the paper mills who legally (at the time) dumped 40 tons of PCBs in the river and the state DNR, who must oversee their removal and disposal.

Not only that, but a Superfund designation has never been placed on a project over the objection of that state's

governor. Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson, in a letter to the EPA's regional director last summer and in a letter to the EPA on Friday, made his stance clear: He doesn't want this to be a Superfund site.

Now, we'd like to see Kohl, Feingold, Johnson and Petri play an even larger role by bringing together the paper mills and the DNR to form a cleanup plan. This needs to be done soon, before the EPA makes its Superfund decision, possibly this December or January.

This time, our legislators cannot wait so long to publicly show their concern. They must put public pressure on both parties to reach an agreement, or else the Superfund decision is relatively easy for the EPA.

If they tell us that it's not proper for them to do so, we must respectfully, but forcefully, disagree.

Time is short, and the deal must get done.

# Thompson wants EPA to keep Fox off Superfund list

By Duke Behnke  
Post-Crescent staff writer

5/9/98

Gov. Tommy Thompson reiterated his opposition to designating the lower Fox River as a national Superfund site in a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency Thursday.

Thompson said the EPA's consideration of the listing has detracted state and local officials from addressing the issue at hand — the cleanup of PCBs from the river.

About 40 tons of PCBs lie in the river between Neenah and Green Bay. The chemicals, discharged by seven area paper companies between 1957 and 1971, are harmful to animals and people.

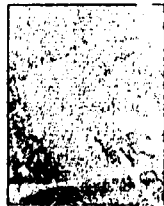
"From my perspective, listing the site would further separate the companies and the government agencies, leading to further liability concerns, delays, increased expenses

and possible litigation," Thompson told Acting Assistant EPA Administrator Timothy Fields.

Thompson questioned the EPA's current scoring of the river. He noted the river has been evaluated in the past but has not been listed as a Superfund site.

The governor also assured Fields that Wisconsin remains committed to the cleanup of the river. He cited the state Department of Natural Resources' progress in completing a remedial investigation/feasibility study and in negotiating with potentially responsible parties.

"I urge EPA to work with the state to ensure this work is finished," Thompson said.



the future  
of the  
river

NEENAH

## City allocates \$25,000 for PCB cleanup defense

The Common Council this week allocated another \$25,000 for legal services to protect the city's interest in the pending cleanup of PCBs from the lower Fox River.

The money will be drawn from the city's sewer fund.

The city has spent the \$5,000 allocated in 1996 and the \$25,000 allocated in 1997.

City Atty. James Gunz said about half of the new amount would cover the city's share of the Fox River cleanup joint defense agreement with other area municipalities and sewerage districts.

The balance will be available for cleanup issues that are unique to Neenah and Menasha.

## If PCB numbers are right, why the fuss?

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:

I read in your paper today a quote from David Ulrich of Chicago, the acting director of EPA Region 5. Ulrich said PCBs are "seeping into Green Bay through the Fox River at a rate of 600 pounds per year."

This is something less than 2 pounds per day. Is this a typo? If correct, it seems like there is an awful lot of fuss over an extremely small amount of material that is only "suspected" to be a health hazard.

I wonder how many pounds of manure are seeping into Green Bay per day?

P-C 5/9/98 Bob Hackinson,  
Appleton

POST-CRESCENT 5/2/95

# Fox River group tries 'short, concise beg' for heritage listing

## Presidential panel begins meeting next week to trim 127 applicants down to 20 finalists

**By Doug Erickson**  
Post-Crescent staff writer

The local advocacy group working to get the Fox River designated one of President Clinton's 10 American Heritage Rivers makes a last-ditch push today to help the nomination stand out from the pack.

A 12-member presidential committee begins meeting Monday in Washington, D.C., to narrow the field of 127 applicants to about 20 finalists.

The 10 designees could be announced as early as June, although the White House has not announced a date.

Seventeen members of Fox River Forward met Thursday at Appleton Mayor Tim Hanna's office to brainstorm a final pitch. The brief written statement will be sent by fax to Washington today and will update the committee on river-related progress since the hefty, formal application was submitted months ago.

"If they're giving us a shot at what we've done lately, we don't have to make a lot up," said Jerry Fisher of Appleton, a longtime supporter of river projects.

Among the recent strides: The

completion of an 18-month tourism study commissioned by the Fox Cities Visitors & Convention Bureau that includes riverfront development ideas, and the continued expansion of the "Rivertime" educational curriculum for school-aged children.

The final pitch, which will stress how badly local advocates want the designation, should be "a short, concise beg," suggested Frank Frassetto, a field representative for Rep. Tom Petri, R-Fond du Lac.

Clinton announced the American Heritage Rivers initiative in his 1997 State of the Union address. It is designed to refocus federal resources and give certain communities more tools in cleaning up their rivers and restoring their riverfronts.

A group of local elected officials, business leaders and interested residents has been working for more than a year to prepare the application documents.

The American Heritage Rivers Initiative Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet in closed session Tuesday to determine the list of finalists to forward to Clinton. Some members of Fox River Forward said they doubt the list of finalists will be made public.

**Don't put PCBs in landfill**

CHILTON — Recently, we have been reading about the PCB problem in the Fox River. I do not want to spoil the party, but one issue has been conspicuously absent from this discussion. That issue is, what happens to the PCB sediment after it has been dredged from the river?

The most likely disposal option will be a landfill. And where will that landfill be? The most likely place will be a privately owned landfill now being developed in the town of Chilton in Calumet County.

Now, what happens to the PCBs when they are buried in a conventional landfill? Nothing! That is my point. The PCBs do not biodegrade in a landfill. The landfill will be nothing more than a huge storage area. We are going to spend hundreds of millions of dollars to dredge the PCBs from the river, and then bury them under farm land.

Does this solve the PCB problem? Or does it just move the problem to another location? This may be the cheapest way of removing them from the river, but isn't this exactly the way they ended up in the river in the first place? Paper mills chose the cheapest way of disposing their wastes, which was to dump them into the river.

Another reason they dumped the PCB contaminants into the river was because they were unaware of the effects this would have on the environment. This is exactly the reason we should not just dump them into a landfill, no matter how well we think it is engineered. There may be dangers with this we have not yet discovered.

We may find that not only do we still have a problem in the river, but we now have another huge problem in and around the landfill.

**Wes Kupsky, Chilton**

**Larson's columns are great**

Green Day

**KEEP IT LOCAL:** Regarding the Fox River cleanup, be advised that northeast Florida is in the midst of a debate just as we are here — how to best clean up the St. Johns River. On the one hand, you have those who want to keep things under state control. On the other hand, you have those lusting for "free federal money," which is an oxymoron if there ever was one. I say take the advice of Gov. Thompson and our elected member of Congress and keep it local. Whenever you throw a dollar into the bottomless federal pit, you're lucky if you get a quarter back.

**Don Kuper,**  
Appleton

*Post-Crevent 5/8/98*

*5/18/98*

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# EPA briefs lawmakers

By Bob Vitale

Post-Crescent Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Designating the Fox River as a national Superfund site wouldn't end local input — or even local control — in the effort to rid its waters of PCBs, a top Environmental Protection Agency official told the region's lawmakers Thursday.

In a meeting with Reps. Jay Johnson and Tom Petri and Sens. Russ Feingold

Agency says it's in no hurry to designate Fox River as a Superfund site, but it won't wait forever, either

and Herb Kohl, the EPA official who will decide the future of Fox River cleanup efforts offered assurances that a federal Superfund listing would not be a federal takeover of the cleanup.

But at the same time, the lawmakers said, they got the feeling the agency

won't wait forever for the state and area paper companies to figure things out themselves.

"I didn't get the feeling they can't wait to designate a Superfund site," said Kohl. "They simply want all parties to get together. At the same time,

they feel a long time has gone by when nothing has been done."

There are 40 tons of PCBs in the Fox River between Neenah and Green Bay, all discharged by seven area paper companies between 1957 and 1971. Fifteen years of negotiations and studies

Please see RIVER, BACK PAGE

**Fox River Forward making final pitch for Heritage designation: B-1**



the future of the Fox River

Tim Rothe wins 35-lap feature as VAR opens season



Coming Saturday

sen, or the Asian teens Kou's older "It was probably wrong what I that hung open across his forehead,

## RIVER: Lawmakers hear details from EPA on Superfund status for Fox

From A-1

have not produced an agreement for getting them out, however. The chemicals are harmful to animals and humans.

Acting Assistant EPA Administrator Timothy Fields has told the four lawmakers and Gov. Tommy Thompson that he will decide soon whether to seek Superfund status for the Fox River as a way to end the delays in cleanup progress.

That decision is likely within the next couple of months. If EPA does

seek Superfund status, it would trigger another agency review and another final decision about six months later.

Feingold said Fields specifically told lawmakers at Thursday's meeting, though, that EPA's goal is not a Superfund listing, and the senator said he left the meeting with the feeling Superfund status can be avoided.

He and the others reported three reasons why:

■No Superfund site has ever been designated by EPA over a gov-

ernor's opposition. Feingold said Fields cited 30 cases where initial objections were either overcome or led to other cleanup plans.

■Even if Superfund status is declared, EPA has almost always accepted a state or local cleanup plan.

■If the agency decides to move forward and propose a Superfund listing, it might be willing to put its final action on hold while a local cleanup agreement is hammered out.

Thompson already has signaled

his opposition to a Superfund listing for the Fox River, and spokesman Kevin Keane said it's because EPA has such a poor track record of making progress on other federally designated sites.

Feingold said he hopes the governor signals a willingness to at least cooperate with the agency, though.

"If we engage in a flat refusal, I think it will make it more likely that the Fox River is listed as a Superfund site," the senator said.

In a written statement, Johnson

also prodded all sides of the cleanup to sit down and talk.

The Green Bay Democrat found significance in the EPA's willingness to delay any proposal for a Superfund listing, but he said the agency would only put its action on hold if it sees "substantive and good-faith negotiations between the state and potentially responsible parties."

"Unfortunately, the seats at the Fox River negotiating table are empty," Johnson said.

...hood,  
Appleton

### **Fertilizers might be the bigger problem.**

**Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:**

I attended the Sierra Club sponsored public forum on April 27, the same forum attended by your reporter. I also heard Professor Warren Porter speak. I heard him say all the things reported with perhaps one small exception. Professor Porter talked primarily about the effects of pesticides and herbicides on the population - not PCBs!

He stated that the combination of pesticides and PCBs had never been studied, but never the less, he expressed concern that they could be additive in their effects.

I was surprised that a learned individual would be asked to speak on agriculture chemicals when the issue at hand is supposedly industrial in nature.

He did raise an interesting point. The real problem may be the con-

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Another summer of excessive algae growth will be one more warning of the real problem

---

tinued nonpoint source contamination from agriculture and urban sprawl. After we clean up the PCBs, will we be cleaning up residues from fertilizer, pesticides, and herbicides? This is the message I believe Porter was giving us. Another summer of excessive algae growth will be one more warning of the real problem that dredging the Fox River will never eliminate.

**Bob Hackinson,**  
Appleton

### **You have to have priorities straight**

**Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:**

Channel 41, Brewers and Bucks, \$1 per month. Not

Apparently, Time Warner can't add \$1 plus the \$2.50 for the cable box needed, bringing my total cable

# Fox cleanup will require teamwork

I was disappointed to read *The Post-Crescent's* editorial on April 29 regarding methods of remediation for the Fox River. *The P-C* chose to focus the debate on which clean-up option is preferred by Wisconsin's elected officials.

More accurately, the point is whether or not the Fox will be cleaned up at all.

As a representative of the public, there is much I can do to foster debate, bring information to the public, speak on behalf of my constituents, and ask the tough questions of the federal authorities. I have done so, and I will continue to do so.

However, as a member of the House of Representatives, I have neither a seat at the bargaining table nor a vote in Congress on the Fox River cleanup. This is appropriate because choosing how to clean up the river should be a process independent of politics.

It should be left up to the scientists.

My position on the Fox River cleanup is clear and consistent. I am working with all parties involved to move from confrontation to cooperation. I continue to maintain a healthy distrust of the hot rhetoric on both sides of the debate, and instead I am searching for the common ground where, after more than a decade of study, a solution can be found.

Finally, I have called for, and I prefer, a voluntary cleanup and restoration plan for the Fox River under a global agreement by all the parties involved — but I have not discounted (nor

guest

REP. JAY  
JOHNSON



do I possess the authority to stop) the real possibility that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Environmental Protection Agency will clean up the river in the absence of such a global agreement.

To that end, I am again calling for a resumption of negotiations to achieve a comprehensive settlement. The continued delay in these vital negotiations can only lead to an increased federal role in the cleanup.

I believe that the best way to avoid the listing of the Fox River as a Superfund site is for the governmental and potentially responsible parties to voluntarily agree on what to do, when to do it, and over what period of time.

It is a difficult task, but much has been accomplished already. The state and federal governments have reached an agreement to work together on a cleanup plan. The paper companies and the state have agreed to start work on two pilot projects this summer. Legal time-outs have been mutually established, and

millions have been spent to complete important scientific studies of the river.

We have come a long way. Every party I have talked to who has a stake in this process says they want to clean up the Fox River. It is from this common ground that I believe a final agreement can be reached to clean up and restore our river.

Further, I am confident that the necessary work can be done in a fashion that will not threaten the economic health of the Fox River communities.

No family in the Fox Valley will be well-served by allowing areas of disagreement to prevent us from seeing the big picture, a clean Fox River. No amount of finger pointing will remove the toxins from the bottom of the Fox River any faster.

The only way we will clean up our waters and give our children a healthy environment is by moving forward together.

■ Jay Johnson represents the 8th Congressional District of Wisconsin in the United States House of Representatives.

**Editor's note:** To clarify, *The P-C's* April 29 editorial to which Rep. Johnson refers did not ask elected officials to state which cleanup method for the Fox River they prefer. It only stated that the Fox River Valley public deserves to know where its elected officials stand on such an important issue.

# cleaning up the Fox River

Sierra Club and a team of volunteers hits the banks of the river for annual trash pick-up on Saturday



Post-Crescent file photo

A BEER CAN and fast food wrappers await a volunteer during last year's trash pickup along the banks of the Fox River.

## Half a day means a lot to the river

By Ed Cullhane  
Post-Crescent staff writer

**T**hey found a case of beer cans last year, unopened. There was a set of box springs from someone's bed.

In one small area, near Horseshoe Park in Kaukauna, volunteers picked up between 20 and 30 empty pint bottles of bourbon, all the same brand, all within a 25-yard radius - all left behind, one could assume, by the same lonely drinker.

Mostly though, volunteers who gave a half day last spring to the Fox River (bank) Clean-up found and disposed of empty beer and soda cans, old tires, empty motor oil containers and lots of paper and plastic trash.

"It was a record year," said Jim Parker of the Fox Valley chapter of the Sierra Club. "We had over 300 people."

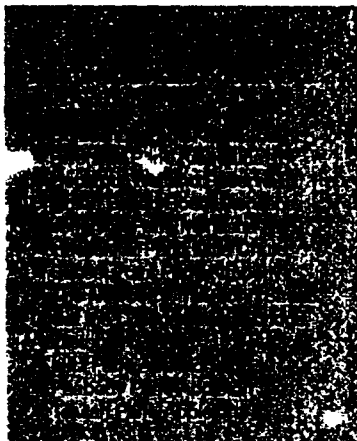
They filled dozens of trash bins with the garbage they removed from the banks of the river, working out of nine sites from Kaukauna to Menasha.

It was an act of respect and admiration for the river, an ecological spring cleaning.

Now the call is going out for volunteers again. The clean-up takes place this Saturday, from 9 a.m. to noon.

All you need are work gloves, a sturdy pair of boots or shoes and clothes that can handle the weather. The cleanup proceeds rain or shine.

Experienced river cleaners bring along a few of those small plastic shopping bags, the ones from Kohl's or Shopko or Wal-



greens. While the Sierra Club provides all the large trash bags and other equipment, the small bags are convenient for temporary trash storage.

The Sierra Club is looking for helpers of junior high school age or older. Small children can accompany parents, but they must be constantly supervised, for obvious safety reasons.

"It's a big river, and it's a fast river," Parker said.

Volunteers do not enter, or even reach into, the water. The cleanup takes place on

## Crane will clean debris at High Cliff State Park

By Ben Jones  
Post-Crescent staff writer

**SHERWOOD** - With the help of a construction crane, volunteers will begin hauling decades-old trash from the base of cliffs in High Cliff State Park this Saturday.

Park Supt. Joe Hennlich said that before modern methods of trash disposal, area farmers simply tossed their household garbage off the cliff.

"Basically, if you name it, it's there," he said. "It was an out of sight, out of mind attitude."

For years, car parts, kitchen utensils and bicycles were left to rust away in the wooded park.

At 9 a.m. Saturday, volunteer workers will meet at the pavilion, located in the upper portion of the park. At 10 a.m. the four-hour trash removal project will begin. Participants should bring work gloves, clothes they're willing to get dirty and hiking boots.

Assisted by the crane, workers will remove the garbage so it may be recycled or disposed of in a landfill.

The event is sponsored by Friends of High Cliff State Park.

For more information on taking part in the cleanup, contact park naturalist Cynthia Mueller at 920-989-1106.





Post-Crescent file photo

**FOX RIVER CLEAN-UP DAY** last year drew more than 300 volunteers to retrieve cans, bottles, box springs and various types of litter from the river banks.

## **RIVER: Volunteers sought for clean-up day**

**From B-1**

the banks, which offer their own challenges.

"In some places you have to crawl under the brush and down some steep hills," Parker said. "If it's muddy it gets pretty messy. If it rains out the night before, you are

going to get damp."

To participate, simply show up at one of the meeting places by 9 a.m. Each site is staffed by Sierra Club volunteers. They have fun. Parker promises to cut you loose no later than noon.

Anyone bringing a large group is encouraged to call Parker in

advance at 920-734-2017.

"We may need help at one site more than another," he said.

■ *Similar and concurrent cleanups will occur on the Fox River in Green Bay (call Rama Stoviak at 920-391-4620) and on the Fond du Lac River (call Susan Tesarik at 920-923-3033, ext. 117.)*

# Ignoring PCBs not an option, Ullrich says

Fox River may be proposed for Superfund status in 30 to 60 days

By Ben Jones  
Post-Crescent staff writer  
5/2/98



the future of the river

Ullrich said that in coming months, the Fox River may be given Superfund status.

The EPA began to pursue the status last year following 15 years of studies and negotiations between the state and several area paper mills that discharged polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) into the Fox River. The chemicals are used in electrical equipment and in the manufacture of carbonless papers.

While the discharges ceased in 1971, Ullrich said 250,000 pounds of the substance are still imbued in the river sediment, seeping into Green Bay at the rate of 600 pounds per year.

Ullrich said in the next 30-60 days, the EPA may propose to put the project on the Superfund list. After one or two months of receiving comments, the EPA will review the comments and make a decision on plac-

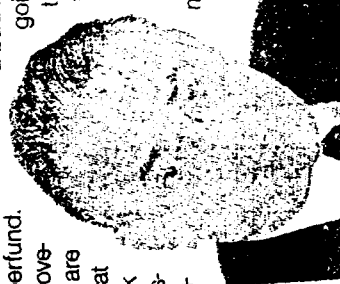
Please see RIVER, A-6

## Governor offers a rare commentary on river cleanup

During a visit to Manawa Friday, Gov. Tommy Thompson said he does not want the Fox River declared a Superfund site.

"I think it is a terrible mistake to have it listed as a Superfund."

It just delays any improvements to the Fox. We are making progress. What we need to do is work together, the business, the DNR, the communities to help in the improvement. What the Superfund will do is just polarize the parties,



create lawsuits and delay any kind of cleanup.

Bringing in the EPA and declaring it under the Superfund is going to give the people who live on the Fox a bad image nationally. It is

going to hurt tourism and thirdly, it is going to delay the progress, because if you are going to do it, you are going to do it. It is going to delay it. It is much better to allow us at the state level to work with the companies and the communities and have the EPA supervise it."

## RIVER: EPA official says PCBs in water cannot be ignored

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1998

From A-1

ing it on the Superfund list. "From right now, it's probably a three- to six-month time frame," Ullrich said. "If the parties involved work out their own agreement, this may not be necessary."

Ullrich said the Fox River pollution is on a similar scale with other sites that are on the Superfund list. He said that if the river makes the list, the EPA will select from three to five different plans for the river.

Ullrich said dredging would probably play a big part in the cleanup plans.

He has heard citizen complaints that dredging does more harm than good, but says they are unfounded. He said that other dredging sites, including one near Chicago, have proved to be extremely effective in reducing PCBs to safe levels.

"We do this in a lot of places," Ullrich said. "It's not rocket sci-

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Ullrich said the work is going to be expensive, but is necessary because of the danger PCBs pose to the health of animals and humans. PCBs have been linked to cancer in humans, and developmental problems in the children of mothers who eat contaminated fish.

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David Ullrich, acting director of EPA Region 5, referring to dredging as a means of removing PCBs from the river

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Johnson, along with several other state lawmakers,

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Johnson said science will provide the answers of how to best clean up the river.

"Clean water and public health is at stake," Johnson said. "I remain hopeful that we will see strong movement in coming months. We are getting somewhere."

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the future  
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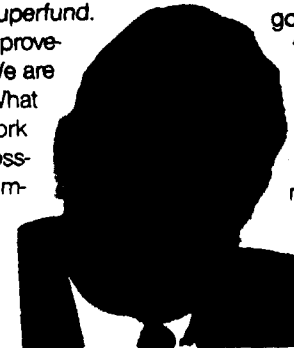
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# The river is good, but the timing is all wrong

The Fox Cities Visitors & Convention Bureau recently commissioned a study of the area, hoping to be told what needs to be done to bring more tourism dollars to the area.

The 18-month study by Leisure Quest Inc., a Milwaukee-area consulting firm, showed that development should be focused on the Fox River, that the communities should not alter themselves but develop "attractors" around our geography that would draw people to the area. The study surveyed not only Fox Cities residents, but those from Milwaukee and Chicago who had made contact with the Visitors & Convention Bureau.



the .....  
future  
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Rating high for both local and out-of-town residents were an aquarium/ecological center, a riverside promenade and a riverfront festival park much like the Summerfest grounds in Milwaukee. Survey respondents stressed that whatever developments are undertaken, they must fit the community.

We applaud the study, and we thank the Visitors & Convention Bureau for undertaking such a project.

We agree that the Fox River is the area's most prominent physical feature. That's why our area is called the Fox River Valley, obviously.

Having said that, however, we're obviously concerned about spending a lot of investors' money on riverfront development while a major debate rages about how best to rid the river of PCBs. We're concerned that any development would be hurt by even the hint of the poisons that lurk in the waterbed, or for that matter, the water.

All things being equal, if the river's health - and for that matter, the river's impact on your health - weren't an issue, we'd put our support behind using the river as an regional attraction. The kinds of developments listed in the survey would be great additions to the Fox Cities.

We're reluctant to give that support. As long as the paper companies and local, state and federal governments are at odds on the cleanup of the Fox, that would make any infusion of local funds into a riverfront project a risky investment at best. Unfortunately, that discussion could last another decade or so, leaving many projects in limbo.

We don't want to be perceived as negative. We actually agree with the survey's suggestions, and we support the Visitors & Convention Bureau for seeking the answers.

But we don't want to see anyone fail - especially the taxpayers of our area - if their dollars are invested in a riverfront development that is doomed from the beginning.

# THE POST-CRESCENT

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## OUR VIEWS

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# the future for the FOX river

By Bob Vitale

Post-Crescent Washington bureau  
Special Washington

# I

t's time for area paper companies and federal environmental officials to "stop brandishing swords" and figure out a way to clean up the Fox River once and for all, Sen. Herb Kohl said Wednesday.

After 15 years of studies and negotiations on how to handle 40 tons of PCBs polluting the river from Neenah to Green Bay, Fox Valley residents have a right to believe cleanup will finally be forthcoming, the Democrat said in some of the strongest statements yet on the issue by lawmakers representing the Fox Valley in Congress.

Kohl, Rep. Jay Johnson and Rep. Tom Petri were all interviewed by *The Post-Crescent* this week on the problems in the Fox, who should be held responsible for cleanup and how that cleanup should proceed. Sen. Russ Feingold provided two written statements responding to specific questions.

To varying degrees, all four lawmakers said they oppose moves by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that could lead to designation of the Fox as a national Superfund site, which could speed cleanup efforts but could also reduce local influence on how it's done.

But while Petri blamed the EPA for years of delay and Johnson said finger-pointing will do no good, it was Kohl whose comments echoed the frustration many feel with those on both sides of the debate.

Of the EPA, whose record of success in other cleanups is spotty at best, Kohl said: "Superfund designation often means the beginning of a long process leading nowhere."

Of the seven area paper companies that stopped putting PCBs into the river years ago but say they need more time to get them out, he

Please see FLOW, BACK PAGE



Post-Crescent file photo by Sharon Galsbolter

## WHERE THEY STAND

How (l-r) Sens. Russ Feingold and Herb Kohl, as well as Reps. Tom Petri and Jay Johnson, stand on the issues of cleaning up PCBs in the Fox River:



### Q: Should the EPA list the Fox River as a national Superfund site?

"I will not make a final decision ... until the EPA briefs the delegation on the level of PCB contamination and the hazards it poses."

"There's no question EPA has a role to play ... but I think any single player should be the party that gets to make all the important decisions."

"I think it would be better to have the (Wisconsin) DNR lead the effort as they have volunteered to do."

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"It's one solution. We don't know dredging is going to be the ultimate solution."

### Q: As a lawmaker, what is your role in the process?

"I have been involved in the cleanup my entire time in office."

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-Compiled by Bob Vitale

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1998

# FLOW: Lawmakers speak out on Fox cleanup

From A-1

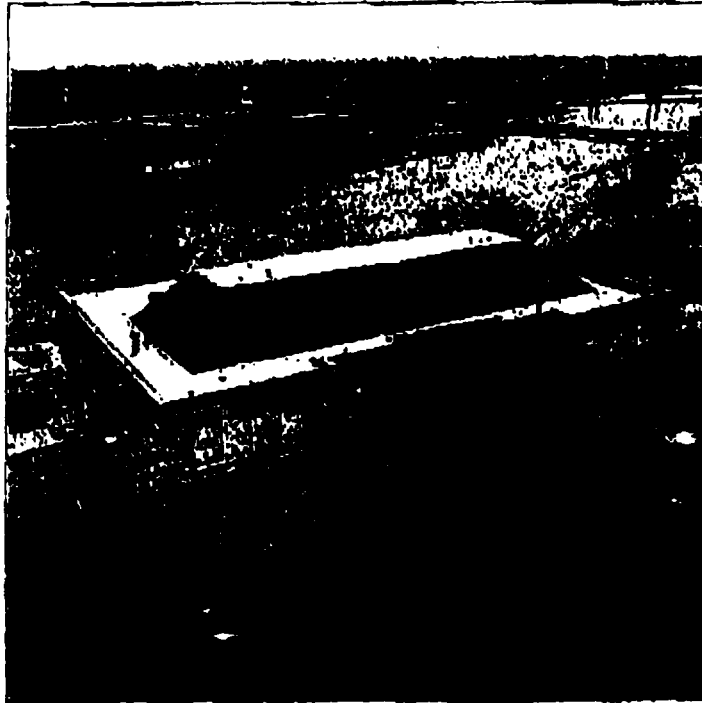
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All four lawmakers and their aides defended themselves against critics who say they've been silent in the debate over Fox cleanup. Since the EPA announced a year ago that it was considering whether to pursue Superfund status for the river, lawmakers said they've spent considerable time with federal and state officials, local groups and each other trying to keep discussions moving along.

"We've certainly made more progress in the last year and a half than in the previous 11 years," said Rep. Jay Johnson, D-Green Bay, whose House district includes the biggest stretch of the river's 39 polluted miles. "There hasn't been as much travel back and forth, there hasn't been as much action on this in a long time."

Still, as Johnson and the others revealed in a letter Monday to the EPA official who will make the agency's decision, they haven't been totally successful in their efforts. While expressing concern that Superfund status could end up delaying the cleanup even further, Johnson, Petri, Feingold and Kohl also told Acting Assistant Administrator Timothy Fields that they were unable to weigh in on the technical merits of such a listing because the agency has never told them its criteria.

In his statement on the issue, Feingold said he will not make up his mind on Superfund status until EPA officials talk to lawmakers about the level of PCBs in the Fox River and the hazards they pose. "(Superfund) listing is a science-based decision," the Democrat said in his statement. "If the Fox River contains enough contamination, it will score high enough to be placed on the ... list. I think the citizens of



Post-Crossed Fox photo by Don Roberts

**PCB CONTAMINATION** in the Fox River and how to clean it up has been a contentious issue for 16 years.

the Fox Valley, and all parties involved in this cleanup, deserve to know the reasons why EPA believes this site should be listed."

Feingold was less alarmed, however, about the possibility of that listing than Petri.

A decision by EPA to seek Superfund status for the river would not affect paper companies' ability to negotiate cleanup methods, Feingold said. Petri, however, said he doesn't want to see the process dominated by "some Washington bureaucrat."

Petri, R-Fond du Lac, blamed the EPA, rather than the paper companies, for delays.

"It's not as though they haven't stepped up to bat or aren't trying to be good citizens," he said. "They

have come up with their solutions. They have been running into opposition instead of support from the EPA."

Johnson walked more of a fine line. Finger-pointing has caused every delay in the cleanup so far, he said. Cooperation has paved the way for every step forward.

"I'm for cleaning up the Fox River sooner rather than later, cooperatively rather than confrontationally," he said. "I don't think it does any good to point fingers."

Kohl said he, too, seeks cooperation in the cleanup. And his comments indicated he thinks a good push is necessary.

"We have to put the pressure on both sides — public and private — to sit down and argue (a solution)."

7



# TOUR OF HORTONVILLE SCHOOLS shows need for a new facility

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:

We have toured the existing Hortonville High School and Hortonville Elementary School during a school day and would like to share our observations.

■ There are no unused classrooms in the high school/ elementary school building.

■ We observed many classrooms filled to 23-24 students.

■ It is our opinion that the physical classroom size in this building would not easily accommodate more than 24 students. It is possible that increased classroom numbers in rooms this size could result in disciplinary problems and adversely affect the learning experience.

■ The school district's strategic plan looks to a desired maximum of 24 students per classroom.

■ Some teachers in the high school do not have a home room and must transport their possessions on a cart from classroom to classroom.

■ At times there is an intermingling of high school and elementary school students in the hallways.

■ Elementary and high school students share the cafeteria at the same time.

■ Elementary art classrooms are located in the high school.

■ An elementary room, once a small gym, is now classroom space. The media room once used by the whole elementary school is now a high school room. There is no space available for growth. Growth projections for our district show steadily increasing enrollment.

It is our opinion that a new facility must be built to meet the needs of the growing student body.

We see this new facility as a replacement facility with room for growth. It will replace the existing Hortonville Elementary School. This facility will allow for the growth in our elementary school and high school. As parents, and as taxpayers, of the Hortonville

**There is no space available for growth. Projections for our district show steadily increasing enrollment.**

School District, we plan to look to the future and provide our children with the educational opportunities they deserve.

We plan to vote yes May 19.

*Linda Heyes,*  
*POST-CRESCENT* Hortonville  
*4/30/98* Joan Burrill,  
Carl Matson,  
Greenville

## Some Superfund factors to consider

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:

I would like to mention a couple of points that I think the people of the Fox Cities should take into consideration before writing to their Congressmen to urge them not to make the Fox River a Superfund sight:

1. Aspen, Colo., was a designated cleanup sight due to mining wastes. This designation doesn't seem to be hurting their tourism.

2. The paper companies always point out how the PCBs are buried under a foot or two of sediment now and if we start dredging we'll stir them up. First of all, modern dredging equipment minimizes how much sediment escapes because of a filtering process that is used. Second, the surface water is only a part of the concern. Buried PCBs can and do get into the groundwater! Why aren't they concerned about this?

3. The companies also point out how many times Superfund issues are tied up in court for years and years and that this is a waste of taxpayers' money. Who is doing the

tying? It's the companies who are responsible for cleaning up! If they would just get it done and not litigate every step of the way, the paper companies would save the taxpayers loads of money.

From all I've read and heard, I believe the paper industry is more concerned with its bottom line than with the bottom of the Fox River.

Dean Simon,  
Appleton

■ Letters must be signed and include a telephone number where the writer can be reached during the day. Names will be withheld only if sufficient reason is given. Letters should be limited to 300 words. They will be condensed if necessary for clarity or brevity. Mail your letter to:

Letters  
The Post-Crescent  
P. O. Box 59  
Appleton, WI 54912  
or e-mail it to:  
PCNews@Athenet.net

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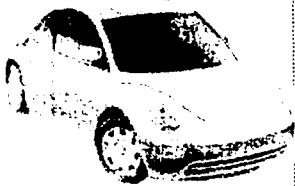
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What's  
On Road

Coming Friday



**Beetlemania**  
VW Beetle is trip down memory lane for some prospective customers  
Auto Showcase

On Saturday



**Back in time**  
Hearthstone recreates original Victorian paint schemes as part of its major renovation  
Home cover story

## Lewinsky not immune to prosecution, judge rules

WASHINGTON (AP) - Giving prosecutors new leverage, a judge has decided there was no deal granting Monica Lewinsky immunity from criminal charges in the investigation into an alleged presidential affair and cover-up. The Associated Press has learned.

The decision, still under seal, is a setback for Lewinsky's lawyers, who had maintained that Whitewater prosecutors had a binding agreement not to prosecute the former White House intern in exchange for her cooperation.

Now, Lewinsky's lawyers will have to appeal or seek other avenues to remove their client from the possibility of criminal prosecution.

Her chief lawyer, William Ginsburg, said Wednesday night he had

Valley lawmakers sound off on progress toward ridding Fox River of PCBs, and who is at fault for delays

# WORDS FLOW



the future  
of the  
FOX  
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By Bob Vitale  
Post-Crescent Washington bureau  
Washington

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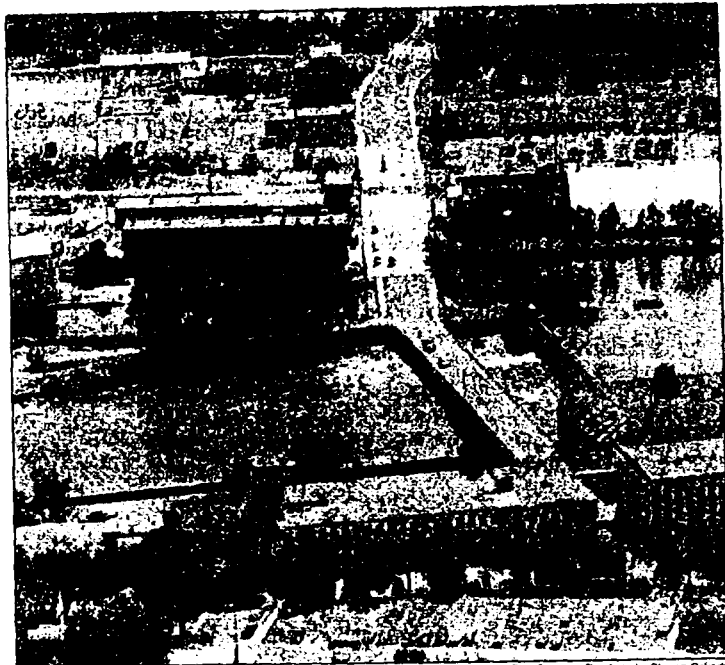
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Post-Crescent file photo by Sharon Celada

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Please see FLOW, BACK PAGE

Copyright by Bob Vitale

# FLOW: Lawmakers speak out on Fox cleanup

From A-1

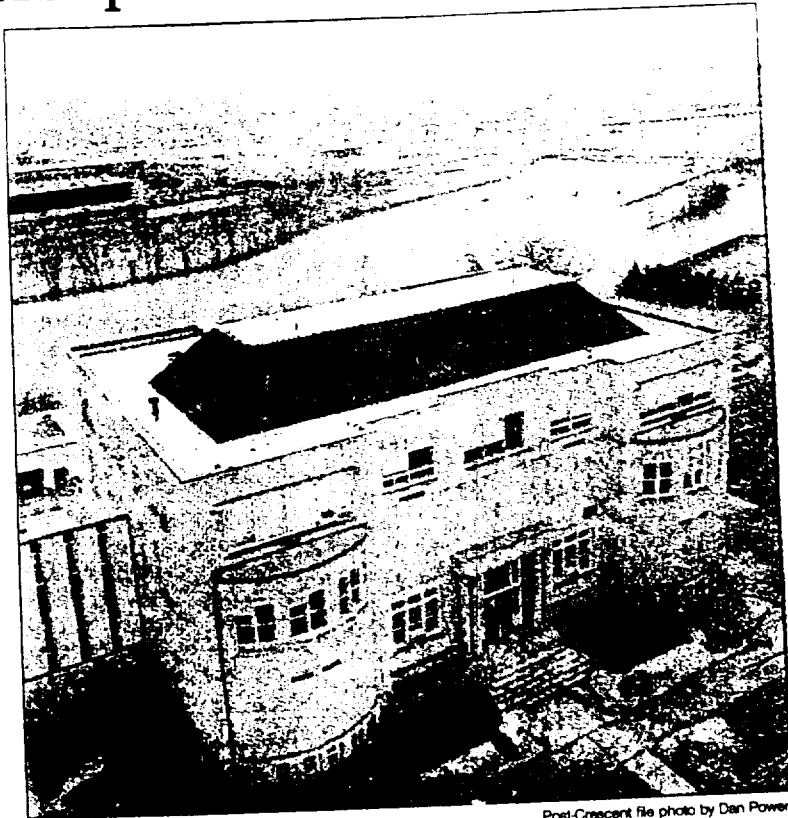
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Post-Crescent file photo by Dan Powers

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## Thomas fires up a large anti-abortion crowd

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# BUSINESS

A-10  
THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1998

## Fox Cities needs 'attracters' to draw tourists, says study

Riverwalk, aquarium could be possibilities

By Don Castonia  
Post-Crescent staff writer

The Fox Cities is a great place to live, but it needs to take advantage of the Fox River to make it a destination point for tourists and visitors.

John Ricks, head of Leisure Quest Inc., a Milwaukee-based travel and tourism consulting firm, said the Fox Cities should pursue development of the river front, "but not change who we are."

Leisure Quest was hired by the Fox Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau 18 months ago to study the area and develop strategies to assist the Bureau's Capital Development Committee in better defining its role in making the Fox Cities a visitor destination.

The results were presented at a community forum at Riverview Country Club Wednesday.

Ricks said that his team surveyed not only Fox Cities residents, but people from Milwaukee and Chicago who had made previous contacts with the Convention and Visitors Bureau, as to what types of

attractions the Fox Cities should develop.

Currently, he said, the Fox Cities has several "attractions," places that people will visit since they are already here. What is lacking is "attracters," the type of place that people will come here to see.

The locals and out-of-towners were not too far apart on what they felt was needed here to hold the local interest and also become a destination for visitors.

For local residents, an aquarium/ecological center rated first both as a place they would visit and would like to see developed. A riverwalk promenade ranked second in both categories.

For Milwaukee and Chicago residents surveyed, the riverwalk promenade was the top potential attraction, followed by a riverfront festival park. But, said Ricks, "they stressed making it (the attractions) fit the community."

He said the Fox River is the area's top feature and that the aquarium/ecological center and other attractions that ranked high on the local resident list, such as a performing arts center, "would be more attractive if they are part of a river development."

He urged the Bureau's Capital Development Committee to investigate riverfront development as a means to provide a focus for the Fox Cities, while providing a common development thread.

At the same time, he recommended a series of attractions, rather than a single mega-development, to potentially involve most of the Fox Cities communities.

Ricks said he and his team spent three days "playing tourist. We took a visitors guide and went to all of the places listed."

What they found, he said, was many good attractions which were unevenly distributed through the area, developed more with a local interest than an area interest.

While Ricks did not get into the Fox River locks issue, Bob Miller, head of Miller, Wagner, Coenen & McMahon Inc., who led the study of potential development sites on the river, said "we need to think about the locks land if the Corps of Engineers pulls out."

The committee inventoried sites from Lake Winnebago through Kaukauna that it saw as having potential. But the mapping also showed extensive river frontage that is now owned by the corps.



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Valley lawmakers sound off on progress toward ridding Fox River of PCBs, and who is at fault for delays

# WORDS FLOW



By Bob Vitale  
Post-Crescent Washington bureau  
Washington



Post-Crescent file photo by Sharon Oswald

**I**t's time for area paper companies and federal environmental officials to "stop brandishing swords" and figure out a way to clean up the Fox River once and for all, Sen. Herb Kohl said Wednesday.

After 15 years of studies and negotiations on how to handle 40 tons of PCBs polluting the river from Neenah to Green Bay, Fox Valley residents have a right to believe cleanup will finally be forthcoming, the Democrat said in some of the strongest statements yet on the issue by lawmakers representing the Fox Valley in Congress.

Kohl, Rep. Jay Johnson and Rep. Tom Petri were all interviewed by *The Post-Crescent* this week on the problems in the Fox, who should be held responsible for cleanup and how that cleanup should proceed. Sen. Russ Feingold provided two written statements responding to specific questions.

To varying degrees, all four lawmakers said they oppose moves by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that could lead to designation of the Fox as a national Superfund site, which could speed cleanup efforts but could also reduce local influence on how it's done.

But while Petri blamed the EPA for years of delay and Johnson said finger-pointing will do no good, it was Kohl whose comments echoed the frustration many feel with those on both sides of the debate.

Of the EPA, whose record of success in other cleanups is spotty at best, Kohl said: "Superfund designation often means the beginning of a long process leading nowhere."

Of the seven area paper companies that stopped putting PCBs into the river years ago but say they need more time to get them out, he

## WHERE THEY STAND

How (l-r) Sens. Russ Feingold and Herb Kohl, as well as Reps. Tom Petri and Jay Johnson, stand on the issues of cleaning up PCBs in the Fox River:



### Q: Should the EPA list the Fox River as a national Superfund site?

"I will not make a final decision ... until the EPA briefs the delegation on the level of PCB contamination and the hazards it poses."

"There's no question EPA has a role to play ... but I don't think any single player should be the party that gets to make all important decisions."

"I think it would be better to have the (Wisconsin) DNR lead the effort as they have volunteered to do."

"I'm for the cooperative effort we have seen."

### Q: Where do you stand on dredging the river to remove PCBs?

"An appropriate cleanup plan should be chosen (cooperatively)."

"We need to look at options. It's one option."

"I don't think a one-size-fits-all solution for everywhere in the river makes sense."

"It's one solution. We don't know dredging is going to be the ultimate solution."

### Q: As a lawmaker, what is your role in the process?

"I have been involved in the cleanup my entire time in office."

"We have to put pressure on both sides - public and private."

"Working to make sure a sensible cleanup plan is developed."

"I'd rather see scientists decide on the best methods than politicians."

*Compiled by Bob Vitale*

Please see FLOW, BACK PAGE

# FLOW: Lawmakers speak out on Fox cleanup

From A-1

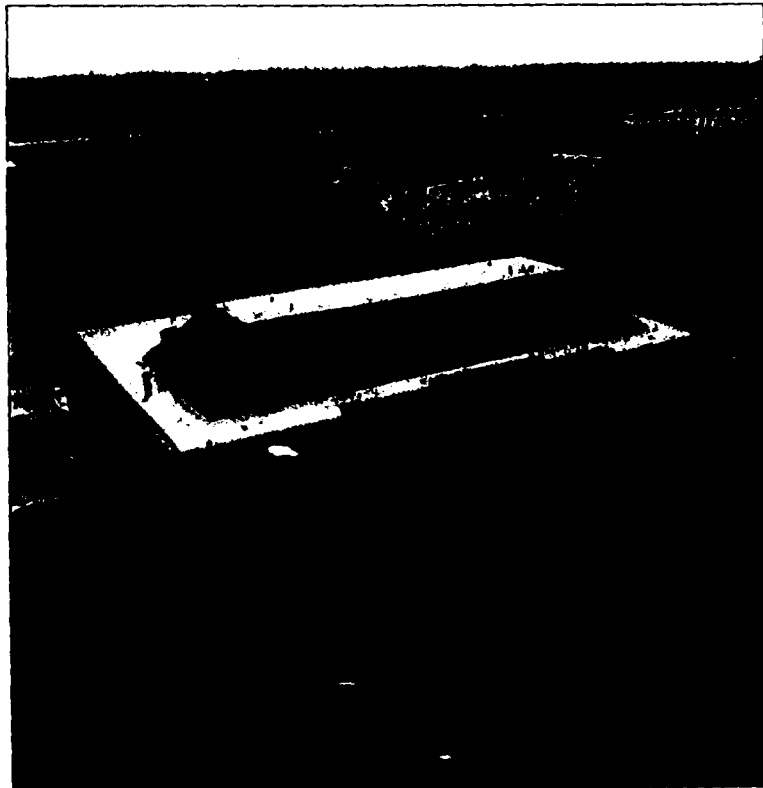
said: "I would like to hope they're not just dragging their feet. ... We're past the point where we say we still need more preliminary work."

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# THE POST-CRESCENT

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## OUR VIEWS

4/29/98

### We deserve to know where our leaders stand

The issue of cleaning up the Fox River is not new. The river's PCB deposits have been known for years. In the past year, however, debate has heated up about the method of remediation. There are many cleanup options, some more costly than others and some more effective than others.



the.....  
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**FOX**  
 river

The implications are huge. Industries that have long been the economic backbone of this area are in a state of peril. Jobs could be lost. Environmentalists, government agencies and municipalities all have a stake.

This sounds like an issue that needs political leadership. But political leadership from the congressmen and senators who serve the Fox Valley has been in short supply.

That's inexcusable.

The cleanup of the Fox River could dwarf the proposed Crandon mine as Wisconsin's major environmental problem. The economic health of one of the state's most vital areas hangs in the balance.

Still, neither of the congressmen and neither of the senators had a

stance on this issue until questioned by *The PC* last week.

When they are in a position to make a difference, when they can help calm the waters between the EPA, the DNR and the paper companies, our representatives in Congress have to be goaded to speak.

The four sent a letter to the EPA that, in essence, said, "All the parties need to work together." How brave, how insightful.

And how far behind the issue. The Fox cleanup is an issue that demands a strong public stance by our representatives, working for the people of the Fox River Valley.

To those representatives, we have one simple request: Let us know where you stand on the matter. Soon.

Time is running out.



**To be a parent, you must  
 do right by your children**



# A be

## A computer pro revenue without (

The *Post-Crescent* makes a reasonable ("Wisconsin's computer tax takes a business," April 26) that a personal p on computer hardware and software creates the image that Wisconsin is behind the eight ball when it comes to attracting and fostering high-technology companies.

But the newspaper too readily brushes off the concerns of local government leaders that homeowners and Main Street merchants will

vie



# Lawmakers send letter of caution on cleanup

Letter says federal Superfund classification of Fox River could divide the parties who need to find consensus on how to clean the waterway



**By Bob Vitale**

Post-Crescent Washington bureau

WASHINGTON - The fact that federal officials are even considering Superfund status for the Fox River has begun to divide the very groups that should be coming together on a cleanup plan, Wisconsin lawmakers warned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Monday.

In a letter to Acting Assistant EPA Administrator Timothy Fields, who will decide shortly whether to seek the federal designation as a way to move cleanup forward, the region's representatives in Congress cautioned the action could have the opposite of its desired effect.

"We support a consensus-based approach to remediation and restoration of the Fox involving all interests: federal, state, local, tribal, private companies, and environmental and other interest groups," the letter said. "We feel that if either the listing decision or the remediation of the Fox becomes mired in litigation, our constituents, the greater Fox ecosystem and the Great Lakes Basin will be the losers."

The letter was signed by U.S. Reps. Jay Johnson and Tom Petri, as well as Sens. Russ Feingold and

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**SEN. HERB  
KOHL**

Please see **LETTER**, BACK PAGE



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# FORUM: Meeting outlines health dangers of Fox River PCBs

From A-1

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PCBs cling to soil particles in the river and are slowly released into the aquatic environment where they accumulate in fish and move up the food chain. They have been linked to deformities in wild animals, increased risk of cancer in humans and developmental problems in the children of mothers who eat contaminated fish.

In a pregnant woman, PCBs and other chemicals, such as those found in commercial weed killers and pesticides, induce changes in thyroid activity that affect growth of the fetus, according to Porter.

"If the thyroid level gets jacked up, or suppressed, that crosses the placenta, affecting the thyroid hormone in the fetus in ways that can affect brain development permanently," Porter said.

He said federal health agencies are not even subjecting these chemicals to the type of tests that would mimic real-life exposure.

He said his research shows that "pulse dosing" or the concentrated spurts at which toxins enter the body, is harmful at much lower levels than traditional dosing methods show.

Other research demonstrates that these health effects don't occur in a biological vacuum.

For instance, a healthy, well-fed person who is well stocked with immune agents might sustain a



Post-Crescent photo by Sheron Cekada

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"pulse dose" of PCBs or dioxins with no measurable harm, while a malnourished person, or one whose immune system has been slightly suppressed, could be injured by the same dose.

Man-made chemicals released into the environment are likely to cause a host of human ailments, from birth defects and learning disabilities to aggressive behavior, adult onset diabetes and cancer, Porter said.

If chemical contamination persists, he said, society will experience heightened levels of aggressive behavior by individuals whose nervous systems have been altered, there will be more cases of adult onset diabetes, more species of animals will become extinct and there will be higher rates of cancer in children.

The public forum was sponsored

by the Sierra Club and the Clean Water Action Council, with support from area fishing clubs and conservation organizations.

It had been scheduled by the state Department of Natural Resources, which canceled it.

Outraged at the cancellation, environmentalists resurrected the meeting and obtained commitments from three of the four speakers recruited by the DNR.

But all three of those speakers canceled last week, leaving Porter as the only technical speaker on the agenda. Environmentalists charged that the government health agencies bowed to political pressure.

Three staff members of the Sierra Club filled in for the missing government health experts.

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As a fall-back position, the Sierra Club supports placing the PCBs in landfills on property owned and managed by the paper companies who discharged the chemicals.

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# LETTER: Superfund questioned GROUP: Annexation opposed

From A-1

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Feingold and Petri were unavailable for comment Monday. A spokesman for Johnson said the Green Bay Democrat was returning to Washington but thought "the letter speaks for itself."

From A-1

school board, plus reach some members of the Appleton Common Council, said Bender.

The town will hold an informational meeting May 5 to air the proposed annexation. But under a 7-year-old boundary agreement with the city, the town is precluded from mounting a formal legal challenge to the annexation.

"I don't mind the high school, but I don't like the procedure the city is doing to get the high school out here," said Bender. "I'm hoping

we could shoot it in the foot right now. I wish they'd find a different site."

Bender expressed other fears, noting that Appleton North High School is just a mile east.

"The traffic out here is going to be horrendous," he said.

Kathy Mueller, an annexation opponent whose Schuh Road home was one of those bypassed in the city's annexation map, said the community's welfare is at stake.

"It's a community effort to protect one another from loss of land, loss of homes and high taxes."



Post-Crescent  
4/28/98

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Please see LETTER, BACK PAGE

# Kimberly hosts forum on health dangers of PCBs

By Ed Cuthane  
Post-Crescent staff writer

**KIMBERLY** — Despite the 11th-hour cancellations of key government speakers, more than 160 people showed up Monday evening to hear about the detrimental health effects of Fox River PCBs and how dredging is an option in cleaning up the river.

Warren Porter, a professor of zoology at the University of Wisconsin, took the audience on a tour

of pollution history and then zeroed in on the molecules of the animal and human cell, where the basic processes of life occur.

He explained how man-made chemicals, even at extremely minute levels, can disrupt those processes, causing the nervous system, for example, to produce hormones that suppress the body's immune system, making it more susceptible to disease.

Please see **FORUM**, BACK PAGE



**WARREN PORTER**, professor at UW-Madison, explains some of the health risks posed by PCBs during a public hearing in Kimberly.

Post-Crescent photo by Sharon Colcade

## THE BACK PAGE

TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 1989

# FORUM: Meeting outlines health dangers of Fox River PCBs

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# DNR promises to be 'very open' with test dredging

Post-Crescent  
4/28/98

## Observation platform planned at Kimberly test site for public viewing of PCB removal

By Susan Squires  
Post-Crescent staff writer

KIMBERLY - The state Department of Natural Resources, eager to calm public jitters, has promised village officials this summer's pilot remediation of PCB-contaminated Deposit N will "be very open, very accessible, very public."

"What they are trying to do is eliminate public fear," Village Administrator Rick Hermus told the Village Board Monday. "They know there will be many people scrutinizing the process."

Hermus and Village President Chuck Rundquist met last week with representatives from the DNR and Foth & Van Dyke, the engineering firm hired to oversee the project.

The Kimberly site, located west of Cedars Dam on the Fox River, is the smaller of two demonstration projects designed to project the cost and effect of dredging PCBs from 39 miles of river sediment between Lake Winnebago and Green Bay.

PCBs - polychlorinated biphenyls - are a class of industrial chemical seven area paper companies discharged into the river before they were banned in the 1970s.

A suspected carcinogen, PCBs have also been linked to deformities in wildlife and cognitive impairments in children whose mothers ate contaminated fish.

Engineers expect to dredge about 414 pounds of PCBs from

Deposit N between Aug. 15 and Nov. 15.

Using a process called "hydraulic dredging," engineers will suck sediment from the river and transport it through a closed system to a leased site in Little Chute, across the river.

The site, referred to by village officials as the Altergott property, is a three-acre field.

With the exception of disposal, all remediation will take place at the Little Chute property, including wastewater treatment.

The engineering plan calls for disposal of the contaminants at an in-state landfill, but a site has not been located yet, according to Hermus.

The DNR plans to build an observation platform so the public can watch the remediation process, Hermus said.

A series of public meetings will precede the dredging project.

"They're (the DNR) not trying to hide anything," he said. "They want public input."

Federal funds will pay for the Deposit N cleanup.

A larger dredging project is planned for a site downstream from the De Pere Dam.

Part of a \$10 million down payment the DNR negotiated with the seven paper companies - Fort James Corp., Appleton Papers Inc., P.H. Glatfelter Co., Riverside Paper Corp., U.S. Paper Mills Corp., Wisconsin Tissue Mills Inc. and NCR Corp., a former owner of Appleton Papers, - will fund the De Pere site cleanup.

*Appleton Post-Crescent 4/26/95*

# Environmentalists outraged that experts drop out of PCB forum

Despite cancellations, forum will go on as planned Monday night

By Ed Culhane  
Fredericton staff writer

Environmentalists said they were confused and outraged by the 11th-hour cancellation of three government experts scheduled to speak Monday at a public meeting on the health effects of Fox River

PCBs. They vowed that the forum would still take place.

Warren Porter, a professor of zoology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, was still scheduled to speak on the manner in which PCBs are thought to disrupt endocrine glands in the human body.

PCBs are long-lasting, man-made chemicals used in the manufacture of carbonless papers. Area paper mills discharged tons of

these chemicals into the Fox River from 1957 to 1971, when they were banned.

They have been linked to deformities in wild animals and increased risk of cancer to humans.

Other speakers were to have been Chris DeRosa, director of toxicology for the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry; Heraline Hicks, a senior environmental health scientist with the ATSDR; and Dr. Henry Anderson, chief medical officer of the Wis-

consin Department of Health and Human Services.

But after twice agreeing to come, Anderson canceled late Wednesday afternoon, on a day considered sacred by environmentalists. Angry Sierra Club members sarcastically referred to the health department's cancellation as an "Earth Day Present."

Anderson was scheduled to speak on the public's general awareness of fish consumption advisories, relying on recent

research funded by the ATSDR.

Emily Green, director of the Sierra Club's Clean Sediment Project, said Anderson told her he was pulling out because the state Department of Natural Resources was no longer a sponsor of the meeting, a fact that has been known for weeks.

"That's outrageous," Green said. "He would have been presenting research funded by our federal tax

Please see FORUM, A-6

# Forum. Despite last-minute cancellations, PCB meet on

From A-1

dollars." Environmentalists suspect political influence was exerted by the seven paper mills identified by state and federal regulators as being responsible for the PCB contamination. Paper company officials could not be reached for comment.

One day later, after business hours on Thursday, the two federal speakers canceled their commitment. They had assured Sierra Club members as recently as Monday that they would attend, Green said.

"I'm not sure what kind of behind-the-scenes maneuvering made them pull out at this late date," she said.

The defections came as a hard blow to sponsors of the meeting, who had spent thousands of dollars setting it up and advertising it.

Originally, the forum was set up by the DNR after William Welch, president of the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce & Industry, wrote in a widely distributed letter that "nobody is contending that the current levels of PCBs in the river pose a serious threat to human health."

The keynote speaker was to have been Theo Colborn, senior scientist with the World Wildlife Fund and co-author of the book "Our Stolen Future."

But DNR Secretary George Meyer canceled the forum on April 3 after Welch agreed to rephrase the statement. Welch issued a public letter acknowledging that state and federal agencies consider PCBs harmful.

Dismayed by this about-face on the forum, environmental groups joined with several fishing and conservation clubs to resurrect the meeting, and although Colborn pulled out, the other government speakers originally agreed to come.

The late cancellations this past week left no time for replacements. Instead, the Sierra Club quickly filed Freedom of Information Requests to obtain slides and information from the ATSDR scientists. Sierra Club members will present

that information themselves.

Rebecca Katers of the Clean Water Action Council said the meeting is timely because the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is expected to announce next month that it is proposing the Fox River for Superfund status.

"Citizens need this information now, not later," Katers said.

■ The forum is set for 7 p.m. Monday at Liberty Hall, 800 Eisenhower Drive, Kimberly.

#26/78

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Post-Crescent staff writer

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\* Discounted fixed 6.9% APR available for lines up to \$50,000. Rate will not exceed 2%. Consult your tax advisor regarding interest.



Appleton  
Post-Crescent  
4/26/78

## PCB information will still get out

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:

Strange how a weak acknowledgment that perhaps there is something to the concerns about PCBs in the Fox River results in the DNR promptly bowing out of sponsoring the public health forum scheduled for April 27. Surely some political strings were pulled, further evidence for those still doubting whether the governor's restructuring of the DNR and the public intervenor has had any negative effects.

The free presentation is still on, thanks to the Clean Water Action Council, Sierra Club and others. Everyone is welcome to attend at 7 p.m. April 27 in Liberty Hall at Kimberly.

Come hear about the threats PCBs pose to health, information others may not want you to hear.

**Thomas Kees,**  
Neenah

LETTERS

# Fox River cleanup gets mired in uninformed debate

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:

Informed consent, a basic tenet of health care, should be the primary focus of the debate surrounding the cleanup of PCBs in the Fox River. Informed consent divulges the facts surrounding a health issue. Positive or negative results and previous circumstances are reviewed and theoretical considerations are taken into account. Possible consequences of action or inaction are part of the decision-making process. All of these features are coalesced and an informed decision is made.

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The current debate, unfortunately, has been filled with accusations and innuendo. Environmentalists and industrialists have painted their own type of ecologic or economic disaster scenarios. Unfortunately, this has led to reactionary thinking.

It is time for more reasoned thinking on this vital issue. Let us move forward on a principle that all sides agree upon - the protection of public health.

Physicians for Social Responsibility, scientists and others recently adopted a precautionary principle to protect public health.

"When an activity raises threats of harm to the environment or human health, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically. The precautionary principle shifts the burden of proof, insisting that those responsible for an activity must vouch for its harmlessness and be held responsible if damage occurs. In decision making, the precautionary approach must also involve examination of the full range of alternatives, including no action."

We believe that this principle should be adhered to by all involved parties. We need to know the facts. We must focus on the health of our communities. That will lead us to the right decision. A health-protective response to the Fox River contamination.

At 7 p.m. April 27 at Liberty Hall, a public forum will be held to continue the process of informing us on this crucial issue.

**Monk Elmer, M.D.,**  
**Tim Wycoff, M.D.,**  
Fox Valley Physicians for  
Social Responsibility



### Johns of sm:

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:  
I would like to see the uniform grossman ted to sma ing the Independe how our le business is

Congress against the federat the World- Act, a bill L vidual the pensatory time pay, Amendments two-thirds House and increase in payer Relief reduction of 2002.

The savin would inclu lower capita all capital deducation, sive definiti Social Responsibility as an indeper

town area? What other changes might make a greater impact on "case of use?"

A systematic evaluation of the

the rest of our lives. I'm humbled to say that John Planalp has passed my way and that a little of him will be carried forward by each of us.

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1998

## Fox River

A judge from the will preside over the

YOUR CONTACT:  
Dan Flannery,  
deputy managing editor  
920-993-1000, ext. 237  
e-mail: PCNews@athenet.net



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# THE POST-CRESCENT

## EDITORIAL BOARD

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OUR VIEWS *4/22/98*

## The new and expensive look of Earth Day

A fellow Wisconsinite, former Sen. Gaylord Nelson, was the founder of Earth Day, on this day in 1970. He had a vision then of saving our planet and its environs, and he continues to have that kind of foresight. Nelson said the other day that overpopulation is Mother Earth's most vexing environmental problem. Crowding is occurring throughout the globe, he said, and that is choking our resources and crowding our spaces. In the big picture, Nelson - also a former Wisconsin governor - is correct, of course. The world can only produce a finite amount of goods to supply its inhabitants. The more inhabitants, the less each of them has, until that product or that provision is no longer in supply. Global population, clearly, must be controlled at a level the earth's people can sustain.

But, on this Earth Day, let's look closer to our home and understand something very basic. Keeping our environment healthy requires a lot more than recycling, more than separating glass from newspaper and aluminum from steel. Most of the major environmental work that needs to be done in this state will require a lot of money, a lot of study and a lot of political haggling.

Keeping our environment healthy requires a lot more than recycling, more than separating glass from newspaper and

LETTER



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# Back 1

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more than separating glass from newspaper and aluminum from steel. Most of the major environmental work that needs to be done in this state will require a lot of money, a lot of study and a lot of political haggling.

None of the environmental hazards that will have a huge impact on

Wisconsin lives and livelihoods have easy answers or cheap solutions. None of them will be effect-free for the state of Wisconsin.

The most notable dilemma is the impending cleanup (in one form or another) of the Fox River. Years of dumping PCBs into the river has left deposits of the alleged carcinogen throughout the 39-mile length of the Fox.

Today, the state Department of Natural Resources, the federal Environmental Protection Agency (established in the wake of the environmental movement of the early 1970s) and other federal agencies are dealing with the local paper mills who - quite legally at the time, by the way - left the PCBs in the Fox. Among the many costly cleanup options is dredging the river, either in part or in full. The cost could run into the billions of dollars.

Farther north, a copper and zinc deposit in Forest County has state government, mining companies, local residents and environmentalists all at each other's throats. Today, Gov. Thompson is signing the Mining Moratorium bill that will make the Crandon mine more difficult to accomplish.

Elsewhere, municipalities are dealing with wastewater treatment, urban sprawl, stormwater runoff and non-point source pollution at the local level, fighting to find long-term, tenable solutions for everyday problems.

All of these carry a hefty pricetag, and all of them will carry a hefty burden into the next century if not dealt with appropriately today.

And as Sen. Nelson points out, when more of our population desires a more rural setting for their homes, that puts more pressure on rural ecosystems. Preserving those ecosystems calls for more policies, more studies and more money.

Earth Day still means as much today - probably more - as it did when Nelson founded it.

But with a growing population and different societal pressures being placed on the planet, the stakes are significantly different.

This is the face of Earth Day 1998.

# Back 1

## A renegade Clinton to a new low with

The Kennedys had a couple, F whole cadre. Political hatchet guys who do the rough stuff w keep their fingers clean.

Dick Tuck was one. Back in the 1962 California governor's race, he painted a giant banner in Mandarin characters demanding to know "What About the Hughes Loan?"

Tuck hung his handiwork behind beleaguered candidate Richard Nixon, who then stood goofishly before a backdrop he assumed to say, "Welcome to Chinatown."

Tuck's exploits grew so legendary that Nixon's own embittered henchmen set out to recruit and train "Dick Tuck's" of their own.

The result of that copy-cat enterprise was Watergate.

A quarter-century later, we witness a new type of dirty trick, an escalating battle to establish which party can dig up the most sexual dirt on the other. Dick Tuck! Paul Corbin! Murray Chotiner! Chuck Colson! Donald Segretti! Linda Tripp! Wake up and take note. There's a new Democratic kid on the block with a rough new game.

His name: Bob Mulholland, 51, of Chico, Calif.

Position: Campaign adviser for the California Democratic Party, Democratic National Committee.

Reputation: A man Republicans than Bill Clinton's approval ratings. California Democratic Party operative to expose the sexual dalliances of any of Congress who goes gunning for Bill

"When some Republican gets on nati and starts attacking Democrats or Pre for family values or moral problems.

*Sept 14th Post-Crescent*

# Fox River PCB forum back on

By Susan Squires  
Post-Crescent staff writer

Environmentalists have revived an April 27 forum on the hazards of PCBs in the Fox River — which was called and then canceled by the state Department of Natural Resources — but a renowned author the DNR recruited to speak has backed out.

"(Dr. Theo Colborn) said, upon conference with those who had invited her, she should not attend," said Eric Uram of the Sierra Club, one of 11 organizations now sponsoring the meeting.

Colborn, a senior scientist with the World Wildlife Fund, co-authored "Our Stolen Future," a book her supporters compare to Rachel Carson's environmental landmark, "Silent Spring."

DNR Secretary George Meyer

## After the DNR canceled it, environmentalists feared closed-door negotiations were being held

said Friday he made no effort to dissuade Colborn from speaking at the environmentalists' meeting.

"We told Theo, as we told every other speaker, that we are no longer sponsoring that meeting," Meyer said.

The DNR scheduled the forum to address the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce and Industry's statement that "nobody is contending that the current levels of PCBs in the river pose a serious threat to human health."

"We were very concerned there was misinformation out there," Meyer said. "That was why we scheduled the forum."

When the chamber admitted, in a March 31 letter to elected offi-

cial, "the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the DNR, the Wisconsin Division of Health, and others, do consider that the current levels of PCBs found in the river pose a serious threat to human health," Meyer canceled the meeting.

"We didn't believe it was necessary to go on with the conference. The point had been made," Meyer said.

The chamber's acknowledgment rang hollow with the environmentalists, however.

"No, we are not really satisfied. Their admission is very tongue-in-cheek," Uram said.

Seven area paper mills discharged PCBs — polychlorinated

biphenyls — into the river before the chemical, a suspected carcinogen, was outlawed in the 1970s. PCBs are long-lasting, synthetic chemicals used in the manufacture of carbonless paper.

PCBs have been linked to deformities in wildlife, increased risk of cancer in humans and developmental problems in children whose mothers eat contaminated fish.

There are an estimated 80,000



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Please see PCBs, A-6

**BACK**

# PCBs: Environmental groups stage Fox River forum previously canceled by the DNR

From A-1

pounds of PCBs in the 39-mile stretch of river from the Menasha Dam to Green Bay.

The DNR had been negotiating a cleanup agreement with the paper companies — P.H. Glatfelter Co., Riverside Paper Corp., NCR Corp., Appleton Papers Inc., Fort James Corp., U.S. Paper Mills Corp., and Wisconsin Tissue Mills when the EPA announced last April it planned to pursue Superfund designation for the Fox.

The chamber entered the fray in January when president William Welch vowed to defeat Superfund.

Opponents, including the paper industry and the chamber, have said dredging the river — a process they contend the EPA is determined to use — could cost as much as \$3 billion.

The DNR is trying to negotiate an agreement with the paper mills to avoid litigation and Superfund.

Meyer's decision to cancel the April 27 meeting "shows they are working behind closed doors and are not allowing adequate public access to negotiations," Uram said Friday.

The cancellation continues to anger environmentalists.

"The DNR is essentially groveling at the feet of these industry people," said Rebecca Katers, president of the Clean Water Action Council.

"If we weren't holding this program, if we hadn't rescued this program, it wouldn't be happening," Katers said.

"This latest round is just another example of where they are trying to stifle public awareness, and this issue is just too important to be handled by a small group of agency and industry people."

Meyer said there is no truth to a rumor he was ordered to cancel the meeting.

"It was my own decision. I contacted the U.S. EPA, and they contacted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and we mutually agreed to cancel the meeting, Meyer said.

Organizers have extended Colborn's invitation to her co-author,

Pete Meyers. He has not yet responded, they said.

Other speakers are Chris De Rosa, director of toxicology for the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry; Dr. Henry Anderson, chief medical officer of the state Department of Health and Family Services, and Heraline Hicks, senior environmental health

science for the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

Public testimony will be videotaped and distributed to the EPA and DNR, Uram said.

The new sponsors are the Sierra Club, Clean Water Action Council, Fox Valley Physicians for Social Responsibility, Izaak Walton League-Brown County, Wisconsin

Council of Sports Fishing, Twin City Rod and Gun Club, Brown County Conservation Alliance, Wisconsin Waterfowl Association, Fox-Wolf Basin 2000, Musky Clubs Alliance of Wisconsin and Sturgeon for Tomorrow.

■ The forum is set for 7 p.m. at Liberty Hall, 800 Eisenhower Drive, Kimberly.

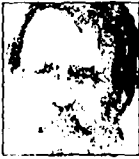
Amy Pelishek, news editor  
920-993-1000, ext. 286  
e-mail: PC News@athenet.net

B-1 SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1998

# REGIONAL

Sex offender law ..... B-2  
Cheese demand ..... B-3  
Man guilty of murder. B-5

TOM  
RICHARDS  
EVER  
WONDER?



## For every fan to turn there is a reason

It was a hot day, and the cave man's wife was waving a big palm leaf over him. However, he was annoyed, got a fat stick and beat the palm leaf to shreds. The stick was the world's first example of a fan club. Now look at the way the wind blows. ...

Q How come the switches on fans always go "Off, High, Medium, Low" instead of "Off, Low, Medium, High"? This going from off straight to full speed makes no sense to me, although I see drivers every day who seem to think that their cars should work the same way.

T.T., Appleton

A Actually, it makes perfect sense if you understand it, according to Bill Gauerke, owner of Electric Tools and Housewares Service, 600 W. College Ave., Appleton. The motors in those fans are of relatively small horsepower for

## Garvey waves 'green' flag at Thompson

By Judy Williams  
Post-Crescent staff writer

Ed Garvey thinks the environment will be his ticket into the governor's office in November.

"When you write your stories, the environmental issue will top how Ed won," said Garvey, the only announced Democratic candidate to challenge Gov. Tommy Thompson in November. "The best thing Tommy Thompson has done for the environment is to make people aware of the intervenor, and they want it back."

In his budget two years ago, Thompson cut the public intervenor's staff from two attorneys to one and stripped the post of authority to sue the state over environmental issues.

"We will not only bring back the public intervenor, but also ask for constitutional protection," Garvey said Friday.

He said the state Department of Nat-

"When you write  
your stories, the  
environmental issue  
will top how Ed won."

ED GARVEY, Democratic challenger  
to Gov. Tommy Thompson

ural Resources has lost its independence from the governor's office, creating a threat to the environment, especially when it comes to permitting mining companies to operate in the state and cleaning up PCBs dumped by paper mills into the Fox River from 195 to 1971. The chemicals have been linked to increased risk of cancer.

"The problem is the DNR is no longer independent and no public intervenor is

around to look at it," he said.

Environmental protection is not the only focus for Garvey and his running mate for lieutenant governor, Barbara Lawton, on the campaign trail since last August. Education and campaign finance reform issues also play high roles.

"People are beginning to understand that it's not only the money going into campaigns, but the policies that come out as a result of the money that comes in," said Garvey.

So far, the duo has received campaign contributions from 4,427 people. The average amount is \$53.22, Garvey said.

"Wherever we go, we find people have been locked out because they're not big contributors," said Garvey. "Our goal is 15,000 to 20,000 individuals who'll give a small amount."

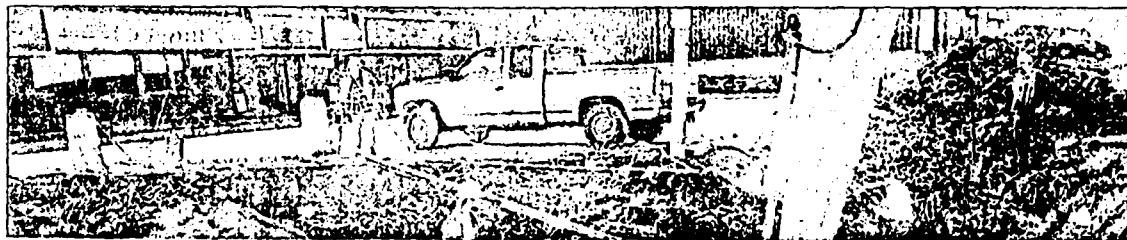
The duo plans to raise \$1.4 million by

Please see GARVEY, B-5



Post-Crescent photo by Kyrstine Wertz-Graft

LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY student Chris Kattenburg, right, listens as Democratic gubernatorial candidate Ed Garvey answers a question during an appearance at the school Friday.



## Trestle's conversion to rec trail to take time

It could take years for

# Man guilty of murdering

By Pam Hinman  
For The Post-Crescent

**SHEBOYGAN** - Eugene Thomas was found guilty Friday afternoon of breaking into the apartment of his former girlfriend and strangling her last year.

Thomas, 41, stared straight ahead, showing no emotion as the verdict was read by Sheboygan County Circuit Judge James Bolgert.

It took the jury about four hours to deliver the decision in connection with the Aug. 1 murder of Betty Ebben, a former Appleton resident.

Several members of Ebben's family, including her 19-year-old daughter Melinda Rowan, sat quiet-

ly as Bolgert read the guilty verdict on the two counts: first-degree intentional homicide and burglary with the intent to commit a battery.

As the jury left the courtroom, Thomas turned and stared at Ebben's family, but said nothing.

Outside the courtroom, Thomas' attorney, Owen Monfils of Green Bay, would not comment on the outcome. He did say he anticipates Thomas will appeal the verdict.

Christopher Stock, Sheboygan County deputy district attorney, said there were no winners in the case, but he believes justice was done.

"I think Mr. Thomas got a fair day in court," Stock said.

The four-day trial included testimony from Thomas who denied

having anything to do with Ebben's death. He said he got drunk while driving her car to Manitowish

The prosecution presented testimony from several Sheboygan police officers and detectives who were at Ebben's apartment Aug. 1 investigating her death when Thomas showed up in Ebben's car.

He made several statements at that time, saying he knew he strangled her and that there was no reason to investigate because he had committed the crime.

In court, however, Thomas testified he had no recollection of making any statements because he blacked out from drinking.

Closing arguments were presented Friday morning. Stock main-

## GARVEY: 'Green' flag waved

From B-1

October, the amount needed to qualify for public financing.

Garvey and Lawton also are getting help from Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., and Rep. David Obey, D-Wausau, who are planning a fundraiser for them in Washington, D.C.

Garvey expects Thompson to spend between \$8 million and \$10 million, a decided advantage, but said he thinks people are beginning to make a connection between campaign donations and public policies.

"We're confident people are realizing that the campaign financing system is out of control. Private financing has a very high price tag," said Garvey. "We're gambling we can cut through the 30-second (television) spots by doing what we're doing."

They're covering the state in a van, so far visiting 60 of 72 coun-

ties.

"What's at stake is who we are in Wisconsin, what we believe in, what we stand for," said Lawton.

Lawton criticizes Wisconsin Works, the state's welfare reform program, as deeply flawed. It lacks provisions for education, child care and evaluating the program, which has \$1.2 billion committed to the system this year, she said.

She fears Wisconsin may be left "holding the bag" if the economy takes a nose dive and the federal government cuts back on its funding for W-2.

Lawton's running mate is more harsh in his criticism.

"Tommy Thompson deliberately did not have a way to assess it," he said. "It's based on the punitive premise that says poverty is immoral."

Thompson, the state's only three-term governor, has not announced whether he will run for re-election.



Post-Crescent photo by Kristina Wentz-Graff

**BARBARA LAWTON**, who is Ed Garvey's running mate in a Democratic challenge to Gov. Tommy Thompson, speaks at Lawrence University on Friday. Lawton is a LU graduate.

## TRESTLE: Recreation trail plan will take time

... 20% of the project cost ... recreational trail paralleling the





Avenue in Appleton is the destination for vehicles that are seized from drunken drivers. To have a car in this lot, a motorist

tour of the lot where the 18 vehicles are parked. "This is probably one of the nicest we

page.

Please

# Fox River PCB forum back on

By Susan Squires  
Post-Crescent staff writer

Environmentalists have revived an April 27 forum on the hazards of PCBs in the Fox River — which was called and then canceled by the state Department of Natural Resources — but a renowned author the DNR recruited to speak has backed out.

"(Dr. Theo Colborn) said, upon conference with those who had invited her, she should not attend," said Eric Uram of the Sierra Club, one of the organizations now sponsoring the meeting.

Colborn, a senior scientist with the World Wildlife Fund, co-authored "Our Stolen Future," a book her supporters compare to Rachel Carson's environmental landmark, "Silent Spring."

DNR Secretary George Meyer

## After the DNR canceled it, environmentalists feared closed-door negotiations were being held

said Friday he made no effort to dissuade Colborn from speaking at the environmentalists' meeting.

"We told Theo, as we told every other speaker, that we are no longer sponsoring that meeting," Meyer said.

The DNR scheduled the forum to address the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce and Industry's statement that "nobody is contending that the current levels of PCBs in the river pose a serious threat to human health."

"We were very concerned there was misinformation out there," Meyer said. "That was why we scheduled the forum."

When the chamber admitted, in a March 31 letter to elected offi-

cials, "the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the DNR, the Wisconsin Division of Health, and others, do consider that the current levels of PCBs found in the river pose a serious threat to human health," Meyer canceled the meeting.

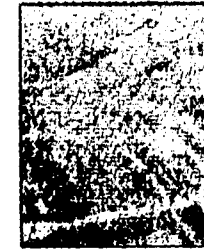
"We didn't believe it was necessary to go on with the conference. The point had been made," Meyer said.

The chamber's acknowledgment rang hollow with the environmentalists, however.

"No, we are not really satisfied. Their admission is very tongue-in-cheek," Uram said.

Seven area paper mills discharged PCBs — polychlorinated

biphenyls — into the river before the chemical, a suspected carcinogen, was outlawed in the 1970s. PCBs are long-lasting, synthetic chemicals used in the manufacture of carbonless paper.



the future of the FOX river

PCBs have been linked to deformities in wildlife, increased risk of cancer in humans and developmental problems in children whose mothers eat contaminated fish.

There are an estimated 80,000

Please see PCBs, A-6



THE DAY AFTER



bers of the Fox Valley's Hmong community. The first column will be written by Lo Lee (left), director of the Hmong-American Partnership based in Appleton and a former lieutenant in the United States SGU force in Laos.

- (4) Exposing the global surveillance system.
- (5) U.S. companies are world leaders in the manufacture of torture devices for internal use and export.
- (16) U.S. paper companies conspire to squash Zapatistas.
- (18) Pharmaceutical companies mass-market drugs.

I take this stuff very seriously, but there was even

refused to allow publication of the results when UCSF concluded there was no difference other than price.

So it goes. Businesses are there to make money and projects like this are there to make trouble, and sometimes that's God's work — especially if the rest of us are asleep at our computers.

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plain; turn the channel.

Wolf Nielsen,  
Appleton

Callers should include their first and last names (spell your last name, please), hometown and a phone number for verification.

### LETTERS

# More study needed before cleanup commences on the Fox River

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:

I am a lifelong resident of the Fox Cities who has always been concerned about the quality of our local environment.

My father, Gordon, was instrumental in leading efforts to clean up the Fox River during the 1960s, before the environmental movement was a popular cause.

My family has always supported efforts to make the Fox River better and cleaner.

I must confess, however, that I am increasingly troubled by recent developments concerning how best to address PCB contamination on the Fox.

I can find no good purpose that

## A Superfund designation will only delay any clean-up plan.

would be served by designating 39 miles of the Fox as an EPA Superfund river.

This designation will do nothing that will lead to prompt clean-up efforts on the river. It will only lead to protracted legal squabbling that will delay any clean-up plan. It will also hurt the image of our area and deter development.

I am also concerned about the speed with which the DNR and others have rushed to embrace a massive program of dredging without first evaluating all possible options to remediate PCB contamination. It is important to carefully study all of the possible remedies, their benefits and costs, as well as the implications these solutions might have for the river ecosystem.

My father lived long enough to witness dramatic progress in the health of the Fox River. We have come a long way in the past 25 to 30 years.

All of us can take pride in what has been accomplished, especially our friends and neighbors who

work in Fox Cities paper mills. It is critical, however, that plans to address PCB and non-point pollution be made with great care, so as to maximize the benefit and to minimize the adverse impacts to both our economy and our environment.

John Buboltz,  
Appleton

## Environmental factors can harm

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:

I read with great interest the section of the paper devoted to health on Saturday, April 11. The article on preventing cancer was disturbing. Although the article was infor-

mative, it neglected to mention environmental factors as a cause of cancer. It has been documented in numerous studies that people exposed to certain chemicals show a higher incidence of cancer than the general population (pesticide residue in drinking water, for example).

Although it is possible to avoid some known cancer risks, there are environmental factors which are beyond the control of the average citizen. Contaminated water, air, or food can be avoided only if one chooses to give up drinking, breathing, bathing and eating.

I urge you to address these issues in future, since they affect so many and are more difficult for a person

to avoid than the cancer risks named in the article.

Sheryl Stidham-Gebert,  
Appleton

Letters must be signed and include a telephone number where the writer can be reached during the day. Names will be withheld only if sufficient reason is given. Letters should be limited to 300 words. They will be condensed if necessary for clarity or brevity. Mail your letter to:

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The Post-Crescent  
P. O. Box 99  
Appleton, WI 54912  
or e-mail it to:  
PCNews@Athenet.net

Post-Crescent 4/17/98

## Time for accountability draws near for Fox locks

**A**lthough the headline atop Monday's front page of *The Post-Crescent* seemed ominous, the news was not all that new to those close to the Fox River locks system.

They know that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hasn't been especially keen on keeping the locks in operation for quite some time. Having said that, however, the process for actually closing the locks is not a quick one. And chances are, it probably won't happen in the long run. There's too much interest in the locks system locally for that to happen.

That's why negotiations have been ongoing for months with the state Department of Natural Resources, with the ultimate purpose of transferring ownership of the locks over to the state.

Although Monday's news is significant in that the Corps of Engineers was informing the public of its intentions, more significant is that it puts those who want to save the locks one step closer to their dream.

At present, the locks are owned by the federal government, but several local and state groups have made it known that there is considerable potential for tourism in the locks, a series of 17 navigational gateways on the Fox River from Menasha to De Pere that once made commercial traffic easily attainable but have since become little more than a costly service for recreational boaters.

The price to transfer ownership of the locks to the state has been estimated at anywhere from \$13.75 million to \$26 million. The lower figure is the one cited by the Corps of Engineers, which stated Monday "there is no economic justification for federal interest" in the locks.

That pretty much opens the doors for local and state concerns to put their plans together. Negotiations are said to be progressing well with the state, and an agreement might not be far away.

But what are those plans? We've heard nothing but some rather vague notions that the Fox itself and the locks systems have some sort of historical purpose that could be linked to a tourism draw.

The annual cost of maintaining the locks - some are 100 years old - isn't cheap. That's why the feds want to leave them behind. Any plans to use the locks must factor in those costs, too, and any plans to develop the land around the locks must also factor in considerable excavation expenses.

Although Monday's news is significant in that the Corps of Engineers was informing the public of its intentions, more significant is that it puts those who want to save the locks one step closer to their dream.

And that's one step closer to accountability.



© 1998 SCOTT PER

# Poor Don't h B

**M**y, how I had missed sheer nerve, their unaltered, their unparalleled clarity.

There was a tobacco mogul on the podium, whining about progress had betrayed him, declaring the deal they struck last June was a lie. I could think of was: YESSSS! BACK!

Steven Goldstone of RJR man in a nicotine-induced state of self-righteousness, complained that the tobacco industry was being unfairly discriminated against. Then someone from Brown & Williamson, a fellow traveler in the smoking section, huffed and puffed, "Congress wants us to sign a suicide note."

I mean, don't you love it when they talk like that?

# WISCONSIN

 B-2  
 THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 1988

## Water pollution situation 'getting better'

MADISON (AP) — More than 50 Wisconsin streams and lakes are polluted but the problem is relatively less serious than in many other states, the head of the Department of Natural Resources says.

The department is sending the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency a list of waters that need work as part of a nationwide pollution clean-up campaign, DNR Sec-

### DNR report cites 550 affected lakes and streams

retary George Meyer said Wednesday.

As a portion of the state's 15,000 lakes and 92,000 miles of streams, the list of 554 waters ranks Wisconsin among the cleanest 25 states, he said.

"Twenty, 25 years ago, our list would've been in the thousands,"

Meyer said. "Things are getting better, not worse."

The department said last month that Wisconsin had 452 lakes and streams with pollution exceeding standards for protecting the health of humans and wildlife.

The lists are part of the reports required by states under the federal

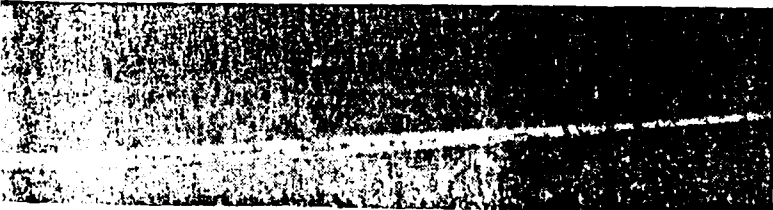
Clean Water Act. They identify waters whose aquatic life is so contaminated that health agencies provide advisory limits on eating the fish.

Meyer said 200 Wisconsin bodies of water are listed because of mercury in fish. The contamination is airborne, arriving from

industrial emissions in many states, he said.

"The real problem is coming up with cost-effective equipment that removes mercury before it goes up the smokestack," he said.

Wisconsin's most serious contamination is PCBs in sediment of the Fox River from Lake Winnebago downstream to Lake Michigan's Green Bay, he said.



## Agenda for state Assembly's special session takes shape

# Dollar details worked out in Fox locks transfer

By Don Gastonia  
Post-Crescent staff writer

A final draft agreement for the transfer of the Fox River locks system to the state could be ready for signing by early June.

"We want to have the governor and (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) sign the agreement this summer, possibly as part of a sesquicentennial event," said Department of Natural Resources spokesman Ron Fassbender.

Fassbender, who has been representing DNR Secretary George Meyer in

## State, local communities would have to come up with \$8 million for locks

negotiations between the state and corps, said only four or five issues remain in negotiations "and we are close at deciding how to resolve those."

An agreement, if reached and approved, would involve local communities along the Fox River coming up with about \$4 million as their share of the cost.

Fassbender said the current proposed financial arrangement looks like this:

The corps would pay the state approximately \$15 million, up from \$13.7 million. The estimated cost is \$23 million to rehabilitate all 17 navigation locks, plus leave enough capital for future closure, if required, or to generate interest to cover operating costs for 50 years.

The \$8 million difference between the corps payment and estimated cost would be split between the state and

### FOX RIVER LOCKS COSTS

Total estimated cost .....	\$23 million
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers share.....	\$15 million
State share .....	\$4 million
Local communities share.....	\$4 million

**THE MONEY WILL** pay to rehabilitate all 17 navigation locks and leave enough capital to generate interest to cover operating costs for 50 years or ultimately to pay to close the locks.

Please see LOCKS, A-8

## LOCKS: Dollar details revealed

From A-1

local governments. Fassbender said the state/local contribution could be spread out over seven or eight years, the length of time it would take to rebuild all of the locks.

"Everyone has been hesitant to commit without knowing the dollar figures," he said. "Now we know how much it will cost to bring the locks up to speed and operate."

He said once a draft agreement is in place, the next step would be to meet with representatives of all of the communities along the river to present the agreement and discuss their roles in operation, management and funding of the locks.

If an agreement is reached, Fassbender said there will still be considerable time before any work starts.

"I don't think you will see anything happening until 2001," he said. "It will take that long to get through Congress and the state Legislature."

He said the DNR may seek some limited funding in the next biennium for preliminary planning

The work, he said, would probably be spread out over seven or eight years, starting at both ends of the system and working toward the middle.

In the meantime, part of the continuing negotiations is to get the corps to commit funds to prevent further deterioration of the lock system while the transfer process takes place.

Fassbender said the state is working with U.S. Rep. Jay Johnson, D-Green Bay, to get additional money in the corps budget for advance work on Menasha, De Pere and Little Kaukauna locks, which are still being used for navigation.

Several navigation changes would be made. Because of several fixed-span bridges being built over the river, the minimum clearance from normal water level will now be 23 feet, instead of 55 feet, and channel depth will be four feet, instead of six feet.

Fassbender said this will still accommodate all boats that would normally use the system. Larger sailboats would have to lower their masts.

## Re

By Amy Knight Ric

Father time with in general around. While women cheering/ing representing the work. An hour with T for her les 20

# Chamber's rationale on Fox hard to figure

Why would an organization such as the Fox Cities Chamber Of Commerce & Industry be interested in slowing down or preventing the Fox River from being restored?

This is the question I keep asking myself on learning of the Chamber's well-published opinions. Although the Chamber claims it is "committed to preserving and enhancing the Fox River/Lake Winnebago watershed," you have to doubt their sincerity on their distrust of science and their narrow view that the local economies are better served by a contaminated Fox River than a healthy one.

Last month, while at a presentation by DNR Secretary George Meyer, I was disappointed when I heard Chamber President

Welch state that he wasn't convinced that PCBs posed a threat to human health or environment. So much for his belief in science! Why should we think the Chamber is serious about cleaning the Fox if their president isn't sure there is a problem?

Some critics suggest that their "selective" use of facts are similar to the techniques of tobacco officials' that are still "unsure" whether smoking is hazardous to your health. Although that may be a stretch, their regard for scientific evidence does make

you question their concern for our community.

And let's say that the Chamber takes a leap of faith and decides to trust the scientific evidence that has documented the threat PCBs pose. After reading his column in a recent *Post-Crescent*, you have to question Mr. Welch's sincerity at finding a feasible solution for restoring the Fox.

The crux of his argument was that dredging is an option that the DNR is giving serious consideration to for the cleanup and that he believes dredging is "controversial." Apparently, the Chamber thinks dredging is too costly and may not be beneficial enough to warrant it as a serious possibility in the cleanup effort. To be honest, like the DNR and the Chamber, I am not sure if dredging is the best solution to cleaning up the Fox either. But, if dredging turns out to be the best available technology to clean the river up, then why fight it?

Ironically, the only reason the EPA is

## guest viewpoint

MICHAEL LEMANSKI



If dredging turns out to be the best available technology to clean the river up, then why fight it?

the impact the PCB contamination has had on the local economies?

While many rivers and bodies of water serve as the lifeblood to local communities, the Fox has been little more than a cancer on the cities it passes through from Lake Winnebago all the way to Green Bay.

Try to imagine Door County without its lakes, rivers, or streams ... try to imagine the Wolf River if the local communities couldn't

threatening to list the Fox as a Superfund site is because we seem to be afraid to clean it! If we can't demonstrate that we are willing to restore the river, then we are, in essence, asking them to come in and clean it for us! If the Chamber really had an interest in staving off Superfund designation, then shouldn't they be lobbying the responsible parties to get the river clean?

And if the Chamber is looking out for the best interests of the Fox River communities as they claim, then why have they ignored

enjoy the fishing and recreation that it provides. If you were to take away these living water systems, you would also take away the local economies that depend on them.

Now try to imagine the Fox River alive again. Imagine the impact it would have on the cities and people that live along it. The question we should be asking is not whether we can afford to clean the river, but rather, can we afford to delay any longer!

If the Chamber leadership is truly concerned about the "more than 90% of (its) members that are small businesses" then why do they think that delaying the cleanup is better for the local economy? It is common knowledge that a high quality of life attracts people and businesses, and a contaminated river does just the opposite.

Does the Chamber think it would be adequate if we wait another decade, two decades, or 50 years for a more "cost effective" way to improve the river and our quality of life? Or, as someone joked with Mr. Welch on the way out of Mr. Meyer's speech, do they think that the best thing that could happen is for a huge flood to hit the area and wash the contamination into Green Bay?

Michael Lemanski is a chemical engineer and environmental scientist who works in the paper industry in the Fox Cities.

# Is the answer to parking meter problem

and bring more people downtown.

Rosalie Misco,  
Town of Grand Chute

## Superfund label could spoil Valley

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:

I love the Fox Valley. I moved here because this area had so much to offer. It had a vibrant economy that was perfect for starting my new business. It had a fine school system to educate my children. It offered fantastic outdoor recreation opportunities for us to camp and canoe. It is my opinion that all this has gotten better, and I would hate to see that change. I'd hate to see others not considering this wonderful Fox Valley as a place to move to and enjoy.

My concern is for this beautiful Fox Valley to become known

nationally as the "Superfund Poster Child." Superfund designation could have a devastating effect on this community and all who live and work in it. I want to see that we expediently move to understand and properly deal with the PCB situation. However, let's be diligent in our efforts to do the right thing.

My fear is that no one knows what the correct, most ecologically effective solution is. I'm not convinced moving the PCBs out of the river only to put them in some landfill is any better. Even if that exercise would make the river 100% free of PCBs, how long would it take before the PCBs would leech back into the ground water to combine with the other chemicals already there?

Ensuring the future of this beautiful Fox Valley is not about political orientation, it's not about con-

servatives vs. liberals, it's about stopping the implementation of Superfund status which would allow this Valley to be a guinea pig, and potentially devastate this community's health and economic well being. We should demand that proper research be done before any further steps are taken. We need to ensure that what we do is right for our families and our community for a long, long time.

Norman Christnacht,  
Appleton

## Thanks for the Journalism lesson

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:

I just wanted to write a letter of appreciation. On April 3, my class went on a field trip to *The Post-Crescent*. There was a lady (Joanne Fries) who gave us the tour. I want

to say that she did a real job. It was my favorite field trip. I learned a lot. I also met a great photographer and customer manager. I was surprised how friendly they were. I really want to become a journalist no more again.

Ab

Letters must be signed and include a telephone number where they can be reached during business hours. Names will be withheld if a sufficient reason is given. Letters are limited to 300 words. They will be condensed if necessary for brevity. Mail your letter to:

### Letters

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# Focus now turns to transfer of property

4/14/98

By Doug Erickson  
Post-Crescent staff writer



The recommendation Monday by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to close the Fox River locks was neither unexpected nor necessarily disheartening to local leaders trying to keep the navigational system open.

The corps had been moving in that direction for so many years that Monday's announcement had little of its shock value, municipal officials said. Local leaders long ago turned to trying to influence negotiations for a transfer of property from the corps to the state. That outcome, they say, appears to have great momentum.

"The state has indicated a definite interest in taking over the system," said Brian Kiesow, executive director of the 1st Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. "Unless something major would come up, I see an agreement some sort."

Appleton Mayor Timothy Hanna



called the announcement "nothing new." "We all knew this was coming," he said. "The focus now is on the negotiations."

The 17 locks between Menasha and

Please see **LOCKS**, BACK PAGE

**A FISHERMAN** prepares a lure before fishing Monday at the Menasha Lock and Dam. At top is the lock near Little Chute. Both locks are operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Post-Crescent photo by Kistyna Wertz-Graff

\*\*\*\*\*

## Across the nation, Corps helps keep waterways flowing

By Bob Vitale

Post-Crescent Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Don't let its name fool you: Only a small portion of the work performed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is actually done for the U.S. Army.

The corps designs and builds military facilities such as ranges and barracks — it also has made huge contributions during wartime — but its scope extends far beyond

the Department of Defense.

Around the country, the Army Corps of Engineers keeps harbors open for both commerce and recreation, stops floodwaters from consuming towns and cities, and plays a role in everything from hydroelectric power to environmental cleanup.

In Florida, the agency is leading a two-year-old federal effort to restore the Everglades.

In the Pacific Northwest, it runs hydro-

electric power facilities.

In the Great Lakes, it fights erosion, fixes piers and maintains harbors from Duluth-Superior to the eastern tip of Lake Ontario.

President Clinton's proposed budget for fiscal 1999 includes nearly \$30 million in Army Corps of Engineers spending in Wisconsin alone, plus another \$4.1 million at

Please see **CORPS**, BACK PAGE

# LOCKS: Officials were prepared for closure

From A-1

De Pere once met the commercial navigation needs of industry, but that traffic has been almost nonexistent for 40 years. Today, the system serves recreational boaters and provides a historic link to the past that can aid tourism, supporters say.

The system is managed by the corps. Its study of the navigational system hinged primarily on a cost-benefit analysis, and from that angle, "there is no economic justification for federal interest" in the locks, said Robert King, project manager with the corps' Detroit district.

One goal of Monday's announcement by the corps was to officially notify the public of that conclusion, King said.

"It is important for people to know that this is the final report that's going to be used as the vehicle to shut down the locks," he said.

Local officials have read several drafts of that report over many months, hence the lack of surprise.

"They (the corps) said two or three years ago the train is moving," said John Forster, chairman of the Fox River Management Commission, which operates three of the locks. "They're just saying this is their next step. This doesn't affect the negotiations between the state and the corps. I've talked to people at the state and they're very close to an agreement in principle (to transfer ownership)."

King agrees that there may be significant local and regional reasons — such as tourism-related employment — to keep the locks open. If the state can come up with enough money for the transfer of ownership, the corps may change its recommendation, he said.

But right now, "it would cost us a lot more to transfer the locks to the state than to shut them down," King said.

He hopes negotiations are done by June. Some of the structures are not sound, so there is an urgency, King said.

"You have a real potential safety risk," he said. "It's important we don't let something just sit there and deteriorate. Doing nothing is not really an option."

Meanwhile, local leaders have been angling for the Fox River to be named one of 10 American Heritage Rivers by the Clinton administration.



Post-Crescent photo by Kristyna Wentz-Graff

THE LOCKS in Little Chute were quiet Monday.

Hanna said he can only speculate what the designation would mean to the locks negotiations, but it could be helpful.

There's thought that the designation might give the Fox River more clout or a higher priority in Congress, allowing the corps more flexibility and more money to play around with in its negotiations.

"The more money the corps puts on the table, the easier it is for the state to take over the locks," Hanna said.

The public can comment on the corps' final disposition report through mid-May. Copies are available for review at the Appleton and Menasha public libraries.

Post-Crescent staff writer D. Castonia contributed to this report.

# CORPS: Fed agency keeps waters flowing

From A-1

harbors that cross over state lines from Superior into Duluth, Minn., and from Marinette into Menominee, Mich.

A good portion of that money would be spent in northeastern Wisconsin:

■\$2.36 million has been requested for navigational projects along the Fox River.

■\$4.8 million has been requested for dike disposal and other projects at Green Bay harbor.

■\$1.1 million is in the budget for harbor maintenance in Sturgeon

Bay, Marinette, Kewaunee and Manitowoc.

In addition, Clinton and the corps have asked Congress to put \$122.4 million in the federal budget for navigational studies, environmental management and other projects along the Upper Mississippi River along the borders of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois and Missouri.

"Our navigation mission is vital to the nation," Army Corps Commanding Gen. Joe Ballard said when he made the request two months ago. "More than 60% of our country's grain exports are

transported along our inland waterways, and when there is an emergency, we are among the first on the ground assisting with recovery efforts."

It's almost certain, though, that the corps will be doing its job in the future with less money. Around the country, \$3.4 billion has been requested for civil works projects in fiscal 1999, an amount that's 5% less than Clinton proposed for this year and 20% less than Congress approved.

About 50 corps projects were added by lawmakers in last year's budget.

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*Post-Crescent*  
**Kimberly** 4/7/98  
**backtracks  
on Superfund  
designation**

**Village returns to  
neutral mode under  
advice of legal counsel**

**By Susan Squires**

Post-Crescent staff writer

**KIMBERLY** - The only river-front community to take a stand on a proposal to target the Fox River for a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Superfund cleanup retreated to neutrality Monday.

After a brief conference in closed session, the Village Board rescinded the official opposition to Superfund it adopted Feb. 16.

"On the advice of our attorney," was Trustee Chuck Kuen's only comment, referring to Heart of the Valley Metropolitan Sewage District legal counsel Carl Sinderbrand.



the.....  
future  
for the  
**FOX**  
river

The EPA announced last April its plan to pursue Superfund designation for the Fox.

Seven area paper mills discharged polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, into the river before the chemical, a suspected carcinogen, was banned in the early 1970s. PCBs are

long-lasting, man-made chemicals used in electrical equipment and in the manufacture of carbonless papers.

PCBs cling to soil particles in the river and are slowly released into the aquatic environment where they accumulate in fish and move up the food chain. They have been linked to deformities in wild animals, increased risk of cancer in humans and developmental problems in the children of mothers who eat contaminated fish.

There are an estimated 80,000 pounds of PCBs in the 39-mile stretch from the Menasha dam to

## FOX RIVER: Kimberly retreats to neutrality on cleanup issue

From A-1

the mouth of the river at Green Bay, contained in 9 to 12 million cubic yards of sediment. About 600 pounds of PCBs are being washed into the waters of Green Bay each year, enough to contaminate 750,000 pounds of fish fillets. Health advisories have been issued on Fox River fish for the past 25 years.

The contaminants made their way to the river through waste water treatment facilities, a potential source of liability for the municipal owners.

A Superfund cleanup, according to opponent William Welch, president of the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce and Industry, could mean years of dredging at a cost of

\$3 billion, a price tag the EPA calls exaggerated.

Superfund opponents, including the chamber and the paper mills, have accused the EPA of a myopic commitment to dredging to the exclusion of other, less expensive remediation processes.

Welch urged leaders from the Quad Communities Feb. 9 to join the chamber in its Superfund opposition. Only Kimberly responded.

The DNR is currently attempting to negotiate a settlement and cleanup agreement with the mills - P.H. Gladfelter Co., Riverside Paper Corp., NCR Corp., Appleton Papers Inc., Fort James Corp., U.S. Paper Mills Corp. and Wisconsin Tissue Mills - that could avert the Superfund designation.

Superfund it adopted rev. 10.  
"advice of our attorney,"

# Meeting enters troubled waters

Environmentalists  
scramble to rework  
canceled river forum

By Ed Culhane  
Post-Crescent staff writer

Environmentalists - outraged that the state Department of Natural Resources has canceled a public information meeting on the health risks of PCBs in the Fox River - are hastily making plans to reinstate the meeting under their own flag.

The dispute centers on a public presentation originally set for April 27 at Liberty Hall in Kimberly by the DNR and the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency.

The featured speaker at the event was to be Theo Colborn, senior scientist of the World Wildlife Fund and author of the controversial book, "Our Stolen Future."

Colborn's book raises concerns about the health effects of man-made chemicals to a new and



the  
future  
of the  
**FOX**  
river

Please see **RIVER**, BACK PAGE

# RIVER: Canceled Fox River meeting stirs up controversy

From A-1

alarming level.

It argues that certain synthetics, called endocrine disrupters, may be interfering with hormones that regulate growth and behavior.

Colborn believes these chemicals lead to birth defects, problems of sexual development, breast cancer, prostate cancer, and even mental problems.

Supporters have compared Colborn's book to Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring," which led to pesticide bans. Critics have called it "hypothesis disguised as fact."

Other speakers at the April 27 meeting were to be Chris De Rosa, a federal toxicologist, and Henry Anderson, chief medical officer of the Wisconsin Department of Health and Human Services.

DNR Secretary George Meyer said Friday that the main reason for scheduling the meeting was to counteract information being wide-

ly distributed by Bill Welch of the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce & Industry.



MEYER

"We've been working hard to restore the (Fox) river with the cooperation and support of everyone in the Fox Valley," Meyer said.

"This spirit of cooperation faltered recently

when the (chamber) indicated that 'Nobody is contending that the current levels of PCBs in the river pose a serious threat to human health.'"

Evidence of PCB toxicity is backed up by a solid base of scientific research, Meyer said.

After the April 27 meeting was scheduled, Meyer said, Welch agreed to publicly restate the chamber's position.

In a letter dated March 31 and

mailed to elected officials, Welch wrote, "Upon reflection, I would like to clarify that statement by indicating the U.S. EPA, the DNR, the Wisconsin Division of Health, and others, do consider that the current levels of PCBs found in the river pose a serious threat to human health."

Because the chamber now acknowledges these health concerns, Meyer said, the public forum was canceled.

"We do need to get on and talk about cleaning up the Fox," Meyer said.

Welch said Friday he restated the chamber's position in the spirit of cooperation he believes is growing among the DNR, the governor's office and the Fox Valley paper industries.

Welch and the chamber have been conducting a public campaign in opposition to federal Superfund designation for the Fox.

The chamber argues that Superfund designation would lead to court battles and years of uncertainty that would sap the area's financial strength.

"I took 50 (chamber) people to Madison a few weeks ago, and we had an opportunity to spend some time with Meyer and (Gov. Tommy) Thompson," Welch said. "We were encouraged by the sensitivity they portrayed"

Meyer said the governor did not speak to him about canceling the

meeting.

The DNR secretary has been attempting to negotiate a global cleanup agreement and financial settlement with the seven paper industries that released PCBs into the Fox before they were banned, an agreement that would avoid court battles and Superfund status.

The cancellation of the April 27 meeting drew angry protests from the Sierra Club and the Clean Water Action Council. Rebecca Katers, council president, called it censorship.

The Sierra Club joined the Clean Water Action Council in vowing to see the meeting proceed.

"This deal (between the DNR and the chamber) is unacceptable," said Carl Zichella of the Sierra Club. "After months of misinformation by polluters, the best the Thompson DNR can do is get a weak apology."

Zichella said the Federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry had already agreed to present recent findings on the human health effects of PCBs, which have been associated with developmental problems in children.

Meyer was asked about the plans by the two groups to resurrect the meeting.

"Obviously they have the prerogative to that," Meyer said. "I think the public is very well informed"

*3/28/88 Appleton Post-Crescent*

# Officials meet on PCB efforts

By Andy Thompson  
Crescent staff writer

NEENAH — State and federal regulators pledged Friday to maintain an open line of communication with area leaders during the impending cleanup of the Fox River.

"Obviously, this is a critical issue to the Fox River Valley, the state of Wisconsin and the federal government," state Department of Natural Resources Secretary George Meyer said during a meeting at City Hall in Neenah.

## Municipal leaders hear from state and federal agencies

"We are all in this together."

Meyer and David Ullrich, acting regional administrator for the Region 5 office of the federal Environmental Protection Agency in Chicago, were the principal speakers at the meeting.

In attendance were about 30 representatives of municipalities from De Pere to Neenah.

Meyer and Ullrich initiated the meeting with a steering committee comprised of municipal officials who are keeping a close eye on the river cleanup process.

"Obviously, local government has a great stake in this," said Ullrich, who indicated that the presence of PCBs in the river must be addressed.

"It is a serious chemical that must be dealt with," he said.

Please see **PCB**, BACK PAGE



VALLEY'S LIFELINE THREATENED

## PCB: State, federal regulators talk about Fox River cleanup

From A-1

Menasha Mayor Joe Laux said Friday's give-and-take session with state and federal regulators was worthwhile.

"I thought it was a very good meeting, a very positive meeting," said Laux. "I hope this dialogue can continue."

Laux said the cleanup issue has a far-ranging impact on the future of the area.

"We need to be working together to come up with a solution. We have to work on the big picture. All of this has an impact on our communities. Clearly, there are a lot of issues out there. This is going to be a long process," he said.

A key issue for many municipal leaders is the potential of liability for communities. Seven area paper mills currently face the prospect of a large bill in connection with the PCB cleanup.

Meyer and Ullrich told municipal officials that their agencies do not intend to bill the communities for the cleanup.

"We believe that the primary

responsibility for the problem is with the seven mills that have been identified," said Ullrich, who added that his agency could not prevent the mills from taking legal action against the municipalities.

Meyer said it is "clearly not our intent" to proceed with any action against municipalities or area sewerage districts.

"We are very cognizant of your concerns about municipal liability in this situation," said Meyer. "I know that's a major concern to you."

But Meyer stressed that the state would be looking for cooperation from Fox Valley communities during the cleanup process, including the possibility of making landfill space available for dredgings if that process is used.

Both Meyer and Ullrich assured municipal officials that the river cleanup process has yet to be finalized and encouraged cooperation between all of the various entities in the cleanup effort.

"If we can continue to work together...we will be far better off," said Meyer.

Meyer said he and other state officials are "greatly concerned" about the potential impact that the cleanup could have on the economy of the Fox Valley.

"We approach the issue with that in mind," he said. "That is of paramount concern in how we approach this issue."

Ullrich questioned the accuracy of some of the information that has been circulating about the cleanup of the Fox River, including a statement that the process would cost \$3 billion.

"There's a lot of rhetoric in all of that," said Ullrich. "We have not made up our minds. I want to reassure you that no decisions have been made about what needs to be done."

Ullrich said officials are awaiting the completion of a feasibility study on the river cleanup.

"It is a tough problem and it is an expensive problem," he said. "I am very sensitive to the economic implications" to the paper mills and the area communities.

In a related matter, the DNR announced that a \$1 million con-

tract has been awarded to an environmental consulting firm to assess the health risks and to investigate "technically feasible options" for cleaning up contaminated sediment in the lower Fox River.

The St. Paul, Minn., branch of RETEC, a Seattle-based environmental consulting firm, will conduct the project, according to Ed Lynch, project manager in the DNR's Bureau of Remediation and Redevelopment. The EPA awarded funding for the contract to the DNR in February.

RETEC will prepare a report that assesses how sediment contaminated with PCBs poses risks to human and ecological health and will evaluate the feasibility of various remediation alternatives, Lynch said.

Potential remedial options range from no action to possible removal of the contaminated sediment.

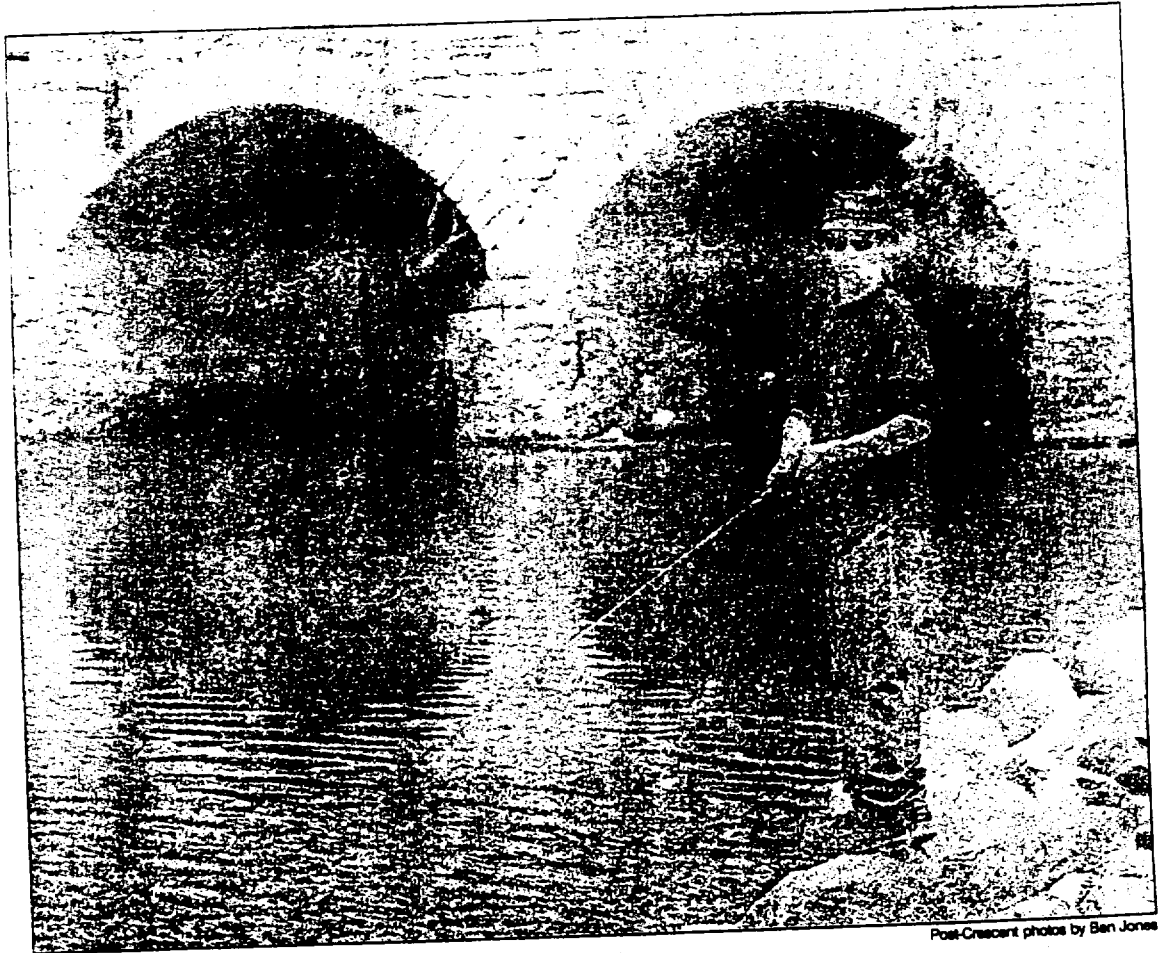
A draft report from the consultant is scheduled to be available for public review and comment this fall, with another draft that incorporates public comment expected in December.



# PCB PARTNERS

Small-engine maker Tecumseh teams up with local, state and federal agencies to clean up PCBs from an area of land and water near New Holstein

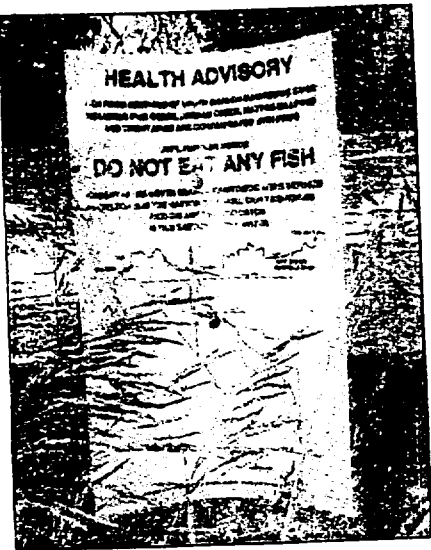
**JESSE LEASE, 16,** of Chilton fishes below the Hayton Mill Pond dam, an area officials claim the fish are not safe to eat.



Post-Crescent photos by Ben Jones

By Ben Jones  
Post-Crescent staff writer  
New Holstein

3/11/98



HEALTH ADVISORIES warn fishermen in the Pine Creek area.

**W**

hen Donald Stier was a boy in the 1960s, he escaped summer's heat by running through the shallow meandering waters of Pine Creek. Today he knows better.

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) of an unknown origin pollute the stream along with nearby Jordan Creek and Hayton Mill Pond. Bright yellow signs now warn fishermen not to eat fish caught in these waters. "I don't let my children and animals anywhere near it," Stier said. This summer, more than 10 years after scientists discovered contamination, several partners are close to a cleanup agree-

ment that involves removal of PCB-contaminated soil.

Small-engine maker Tecumseh, the state Department of Natural Resources, the City of New Holstein and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are partners in a cleanup group. The partners plan to remove PCBs from parts of an eight-mile stretch of land and water between New Holstein and Hayton.

PCBs are man-made chemicals once used in electrical equipment. Studies have linked the long-lasting chemicals to cancer, animal deformities and developmental problems in children whose mothers eat contaminated fish.

DNR project manager Mark Velleux said removal of the soil-imbedded chemicals won't be cheap.

Depending on removal methods and the amount of PCBs the partners choose to

# CLEANUP: Agencies team up to remove PCBs

From A-1

remove, the project cost could range from a few million dollars to more than \$11 million. Velleux said engineers will provide a more accurate cost estimate when they complete a feasibility study in September.

When the study is finished, project members will negotiate to determine who will pay for the work.

Velleux said officials have known about PCB contamination in the Hayton-New Holstein area for some time.

Routine dioxin checks in Lake Michigan drew scientists to the area in 1987. DNR workers harvested fish with electric shocks from the North Branch of the Manitowoc River near Chilton.

Some of the fish had PCB levels of 77 parts per million, 40 times the level determined safe by the state Department of Health.

"We went back to the site in 1992," Velleux said. "We had to see if this was just a lab error or if there was something there."

A follow-up test that included 27 samples and nine species of fish confirmed that initial tests were no fluke.

In samples of northern pike, carp, suckers and minnows, Velleux said PCB levels averaged 16 parts per million, about eight times the average PCB level in the lower Fox River, which is under consideration for federal Superfund cleanup status.

Velleux said scientists traced the PCBs to a mill pond in Hayton that was fed by Pine Creek. Tests found the highest contamination levels in a farmer's field near the base of the

creek in New Holstein.

He said a DNR investigation indicated the contaminants came from the city's sewer system and the field contamination may stem from a drainage ditch overflow area. He said the sewer contamination is in the area of Tecumseh's New Holstein plant.

"We don't have any conclusive evidence who caused this," Velleux said. "One small transformer spill could account for the PCB levels in this area."

Kerry De Kaiser, environmental manager with Tecumseh, said that while studies by the DNR and Tecumseh don't have any solid proof that the small engine maker is responsible for the contamination, it is willing to help solve the problem.

"Rather than spending our resources in a legal battle, we chose to become part of the solution," De Kaiser said.

To date, Tecumseh has spent more than \$100,000 in studies of the creek area.

Velleux said the EPA has offered \$250,000 toward the effort if a plan can be implemented soon. If the partners reach an agreement, he said site work could begin as soon as this fall or next spring.

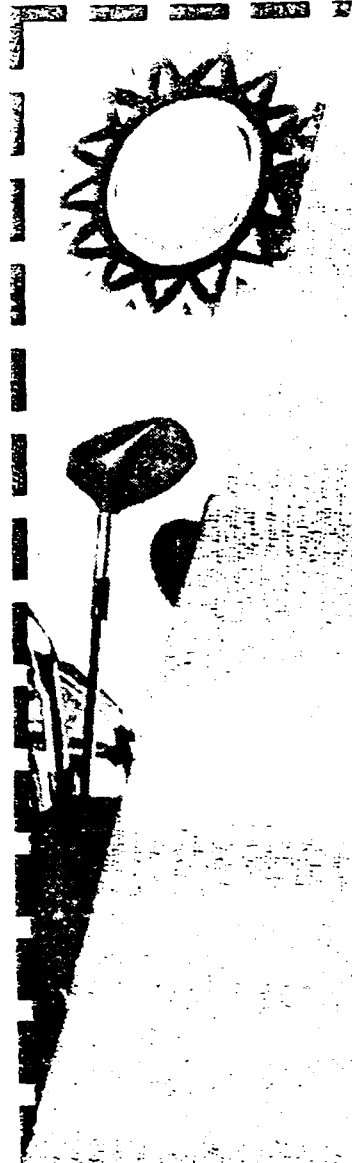
He said the several-year cleanup will include removal of soil and sediments from the contaminated watershed.

Engineers divided the project area into four groups. An area near New Holstein that accounts for 75% of contamination will be targeted first.

Velleux said the area will never be completely free of PCBs.

"There are minute levels of PCBs everywhere," he said. "What

we're trying to do is get them down to a level where we can minimize risk for people who eat the fish."



3/11/92

MAR 10 '98 04:24PM THEIDA LAW

# Fox cleanup mires local government

Local officials are caught in the middle of a liability battle as titans on either side determine the scope of the remediation

By Ed Culhane  
Post-Gracert staff writer

In the midst of the noisy, high-stakes battle that swirls around the impending cleanup of the Fox River, local elected officials have been strangely quiet.

State and federal agencies have held public meetings, saying the chemicals in the river sediment will threaten human health and render fish unsafe to eat for centuries if nothing is done.

Officials from the seven paper mills that put most of the chemicals in the river — facing what they see as a potentially ruinous cleanup bill — have questioned the scientific integrity of the yet-to-be-formed remediation plan.

The Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce & Industry has gone on record opposing federal involvement in the cleanup, arguing that the large-scale dredging suggested by regulators would cripple the local economy.

But with one exception, leaders of the cities and villages that cling to the water's edge — they would be most affected by 20 years of dredging — have said nothing.

It is understandable. They are caught up in a clash between giants, and they face terrible dangers on every side.

"Think of it as a chess game," said Appleton Mayor Tim Hanna. "We are the pawns."

Although it has not been widely publicized, the cities and villages face enormous financial risk as the Superfund cleanup process marches forward.

In the 1950s, '60s and early '70s, when the mills were discharging the industrial chemicals called PCBs, area communities passed those toxins through sometimes primitive wastewater treatment sys-

tems.

Under the federal Superfund law, the owner of the discharge pipe can be held liable for the cleanup, and the cities and villages owned the pipes, either directly or through their sewerage commissions.

Currently, the state Department of Natural Resources and the federal Environmental Protection Agency have said they have no plans to bill the cities for the clean-

up.

"The cities didn't do anything other than operate the piping through which the PCBs traveled on their way to the river," said EPA attorney Roger Grimes. "It's really the mills that put them in the wastewater."

But that could change.

"We want to hold cities harmless," said DNR Secretary George Meyer. "That is a two-way street, however. We really need municipal cooperation."

That could mean anything from providing river access for heavy equipment and places to park it to making landfill space available for the dredgings.

Grimes said the EPA is withholding final judgment on the liability of the river communities from De Pere to Neenah.

"We want to cooperate with these cities, and we hope they want to cooperate with us. We're not looking to take money out of their pockets. But we have to do what we have to do."

Even if the state and federal governments don't name the cities as responsible parties, they are not in the clear.

If the regulators and the mills cannot agree on a cleanup plan — and on who pays how much to accomplish it — the cleanup will proceed with taxpayer money and then the federal government will sue the mills to recoup the expense.

If that happens, it is a virtual certainty that the mills will name the cities as third-party contributors.

"I can tell you categorically, if the mills and the EPA litigate, we will be sued," said one city official.

Grimes said this is a common practice in such lawsuits. The mills, he said, would find every business or municipality that discharged PCBs and name them in the suit. "The idea is to spread the hurt around as much as possible."

That spreading of hurt isn't necessarily done on the heels of who discharged the most PCBs, city officials said.

Under the legal rule known as "joint and severable liability," the cities could conceivably get tagged with whatever portion of the bill the mills are unable to pay.

With cost estimates on up to proposed 15-year cleanup ranging from several hundred million dollars to the billions, the liability is frightening.

"Can you imagine what that would look like on the property tax?" said Hanna.

Complicating the problem is the issue of insurance coverage. If the cities are named responsible parties by the federal government, their insurance policies would not cover them. If they are sued by the paper mills, on the other hand, insurance would offer some protection.

So the cities are caught in the middle — between the huge machinery of federal and state governments, mobilized to protect human health and the environment, and the seven paper mills that contribute millions to local tax coffers and that offer high-paying jobs and financial security to thousands of families.

At risk are the cities of Appleton, Neenah, Menasha and De Pere, the village of Wrightstown and the sewerage commissions serving the Green Bay area, the Neenah-Menasha area, the Heart of the Valley, and the towns of Grand Chute and Menasha.

These local governments have banded together to pool legal costs, and they have been holding meetings with their lawyers, closed to the public and the media under a state rule that allows government bodies to meet in private to discuss pending litigation.

"That doesn't equate to hiding something," said Neenah Mayor Marigen Carpenter. "This is an extremely complex, procedurally complex, politically complex and costly issue, and I think it behooves everyone to know as much as possible and to work as carefully and collaboratively as possible. Strategy is a legitimate component here."

Hanna said this enforced silence is hard on elected officials.

"Can you imagine how difficult this is?" he said. "Here are the municipalities, out in the middle — entities that people normally look to for leadership — and we can't give it."

MAR 12 1998 24:25PM ONEIDA LGA

# Kimberly may rescind Superfund opposition

By Susan Squires  
Post-Press Staff Writer

**KIMBERLY** - Village officials, caught in a dangerous legal bind, will consider abandoning their official stance against the proposed Fox River Superfund designation.

Carl Sluderbrand, attorney for the Board of the Valley Metropolitan Sewerage District, advised the village to "remain neutral" on the Superfund issue. Village Administrator Rick Hermus said after a closed session Monday.

The Environmental Protection Agency announced last April it plans to pursue Superfund status for the PCB-contaminated Fox and to assess seven area paper mills for the cost.

Opponents of the designation contend the EPA is committed to dredging the contaminants from the river, a process paper industry officials claim could cost \$2 billion, putting the area economy at risk.

EPA officials have said those cost estimates are exaggerated and premature.

Kimberly officials voted Feb. 16 to oppose the Superfund designation at the time

Please see EPA, A-7

## EPA: Kimberly rethinks Superfund dissent

From A-1

ing of William Welch, president of the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Welch presented the chamber's argument against Superfund at a Feb. 9 meeting of the Quad Communities. He argued that massive dredging of river sediments was unnecessary and financially irresponsible.

Welch has made defeating Superfund the chamber's top 1998 priority.

For Kimberly to resume a neutral position, Hermus said, the board would have to rescind the position statement it adopted Feb. 16.

The Village Board will address the matter at its next meeting.

"We want two weeks to think

about it," said Village President Chuck Rundquist. "People have made statements, attorneys have

**"We want two weeks to think about it."**

CHUCK RUNDQUIST, village president

become involved, lots of things have happened we weren't aware of two weeks ago."

Sluderbrand would not say Monday how he had advised the other three HOV partners - Little Chute, Kaukauna and Combined Locks - to proceed in the matter, citing attorney-client privilege.

Kaukauna didn't adopt the chamber's position statement, according to Mayor John Lambie,

"because some of the wording, we felt was an admission of guilt."

The document Kimberly signed reads, "It is generally assumed that these paper mills are the predominant cause for the PCB contamination of river sediments, but other parties including local municipalities and businesses may also bear some responsibility."

The legal risk faced by Kimberly and other area communities stems from the discharge of PCBs that passed through municipal wastewater treatment plants.

According to Lambie, municipal sewer districts from Green Bay to Neenah attended a meeting with attorneys at Neenah in February.

The municipalities were advised to "move about this very carefully before we pass any resolutions," Lambie said.

# Paper mills level accusations at government cleanup standards

By Ed Culhane  
Post-Crescent staff writer

Officials with the seven Fox Valley paper mills facing a huge cleanup bill for once discharging PCBs into the Fox River accused the federal government this week of inconsistent cleanup standards.

The Environmental Protection Agency said last week it is delaying the release of its seven-year feasibility study of New York's PCB-contaminated Hudson River "to allow for additional outside scientific and public review of its findings."

"The EPA is acknowledging that a scientific basis for a decision for the Hudson is years away," said Dave Lee of the P.H. Glatfelter Co. in Neenah.

"At the same time, they are rushing toward a conclusion for the Fox. Why the double standard? If the science to support dredging buried sediments doesn't exist, it doesn't exist for either river."

The seven mills, banded together as the Fox River Group, have accused the Region 5 office of the EPA with having a predisposition toward dredging. The mills argue that large-scale dredging would be too costly and would worsen pollution by resuspending chemicals in the river's current.

EPA officials said Wednesday that no decisions will be made about dredging the Fox until the state Department of Natural Resources finishes a cleanup feasibility study.

"At this point, I don't see why the delay in the Hudson River situation would cause any delay in the Fox River cleanup," said EPA spokesperson Bri Brill. "We are at a



Post-Crescent file photo

**EPA OFFICIALS** conducted tests of the Fox River as part of their feasibility study for cleanup recommendations.

very different stage with the Fox River."

Brill said other Superfund cleanups involving dredging are proceeding. Some bodies of water lend themselves to dredging more than others.

"Every site is unique, every site has unique issues," Brill said. "I don't think it's different (EPA) regions taking different approaches. It's different approaches for different sites."

The Fox River Group has urged the EPA to delay its feasibility study so that it can include the results of two demonstration dredging projects scheduled to begin this spring.

Lee also pointed to reports that EPA and state officials in Ohio will use clay-coated pellets to cover

PCB-contaminated sediment in the Ottawa River instead of dredging.

"Region 5 keeps telling us that dredging is the cure-all and the only way to go, yet here's another incident where other EPA officials are expressing concerns over the effectiveness of dredging," Lee said.

The EPA said alternatives to dredging are being studied for the Fox River as well.

"We are just beginning to look at cleanup options," Brill said. "We want to make a decision that is based on scientific evidence."

■ *FRG companies include Appleton Papers, Fort James, P.H. Glatfelter Co., NCR Corp., Riverside Paper Corp., U.S. Paper Mills Corp. and Wisconsin Tissue Mills Inc.*

3/11/83  
Pete  
Pastor

## YOUR VIEWS

# Fox cleanup could be costly, but worthwhile

The Post-Crescent's Feb. 1 front-page article, titled "Making Waves," highlighting the position statement of the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce & Industry contains several inaccurate and misleading statements concerning the CERCLA actions (Superfund & Natural Resources Damages Assessment) on the Fox River.

Chamber Executive Director Bill Welch says that the EPA has proposed "the most widespread dredging operation ever undertaken in the world." While the EPA may predredging, it has not determined what remedial action will be undertaken to reduce exposure to the environment.

While removing the sediments from the river is the one sure way of eliminating the problem, no one has stated that it is the only solution. One of the purposes of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) conducted by the EPA and WDNR is to examine all alternatives to deal with the problem. After the RI/FS is completed the communities and the general public have an opportunity and a responsibility to comment on the recommendations.

The Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce & Industry implied that dredging will cost \$300 to \$400 per cubic yard and that this is the most expensive alternative available.

While the cost of dredging for some projects has been this high, there are many examples of dredging at lower costs. For example, the initial costs for dredging and disposal of the sediments from the harbor in Manistique, Mich., were approximately \$400 per cubic yard. Over the last two years, these costs have dropped to between \$200 and \$300 per cubic yard and cost projections for dredging this summer indicate these costs

will be reduced even further.

A report published by the WDNR estimates the cost for in-place capping of deposit near Kimberly will exceed \$450 per cubic yard. The same report estimates the cost of dredging and disposal of the sediments as low as \$225 per cubic yard. Clearly, dredging may not be the most expensive alternative.

Welch stated, "The cost of dredging could exceed \$3 billion with local paper companies and municipalities expected to pick up a large share." Depending on the remedy chosen, this may be true. Current published estimates, however, place the range of remediation costs between \$100 million and \$2.2 billion depending on the remedy chosen.

However, any cost estimate at this time is premature until the RI/FS is completed. All governmental parties to the cooperative agreement agree that the cleanup must be done without damaging the strong local economy.

The cost for cleanup must be weighed against the benefits to the community. These benefits will include increased tourism, recreation and commercial fishing. The Fox River as a sport fishery has definitely been impact-

ed by the PCB contamination. Remediation will at the very least reduce the time necessary for the fishery to become safe for human consumption. These benefits are an offset to the total cost of remediation.

What is the cost of not cleaning up the river? The value of loss of use of the resource must be estimated and balanced against the cost of remediation.



guest  
THOMAS NELSON

**Chronic exposure to PCBs have resulted in developmental problems for children and PCBs are classified as probable human carcinogens.**

It is common knowledge around the Great Lakes that the Green Bay Mass Balance study points to the Fox River as the largest source of PCB contamination to Lake Michigan. These costs far outweigh the cost of cleaning up the Fox River.

In the article, Mr. Welch questioned the ability of a dredging project to safely remove sediments without increasing the exposure of fish, birds and people. The EPA is currently dredging the channel in Manistique, Mich., with minimal resuspension of sediments. Turbidity

measurements taken upstream, alongside and downstream of the dredge during operation do not indicate a significant increase in the resuspension of sediments. Dredging in Waukegan Harbor, Ill., resulted in fish-tissue PCB levels dropping five-fold one year after dredging. A 1982 dredging project in the Shi-

awassee River in Michigan resulted in a 20-fold reduction of PCBs in fish tissue. These are three projects from a list of projects that demonstrate dredging can be done safely and benefit the environment.

Mr. Welch is quoted as stating, "Nobody is contending that current levels of PCBs in the river pose a serious threat to human health." While it is true that there are no published reports of acute health problems associated with the PCB levels in the Fox River, there are published reports of chronic health effects associated with PCB levels similar to those in the Fox River.

Chronic exposure to PCBs have resulted in developmental problems for children and PCBs are classified as probable human carcinogens. There is a substantial human population that eat fish from the Fox River as a significant portion of their diet. We are trying to avoid having that population provide the perfect case study for the devastating effects of PCBs.

The Oneida Nation is participating in the Fox River cleanup because the waters of the Oneida Reservation are linked directly to the river and the fish and wildlife do not recognize political boundaries. Many of the fish and water fowl that spend the majority of their life in the waters of the Fox River and Green Bay travel to the reservation during seasonal migrations.

These resources are important to all of the people of northeast Wisconsin and the Oneida Nation wants to do its part to repair the damage that has been done and preserve what we have left for generations to come.

■ Thomas Nelson is an environmental specialist for the Oneida Environmental Quality Dept.

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# DNR chief offers grim Fox picture

Health concerns create urgent need to remove contaminated sediments, he says

By Ed Culhane  
Post-Crescent staff writer

The need to remove contaminated Fox River sediments from contact with the river's current is both dramatic and urgent, the secretary of the state Department of Natural Resources said here Thursday.

Speaking at Lawrence University in Appleton, George Meyer described the dangers to human health in frightening terms, and said those dangers will persist for hundreds of years unless action is taken.

PCBs that cling to animal tissue become more concentrated as they move up the food chain, Meyer said, resulting in deformities in birds that eat contaminated fish.

Even more alarming are studies that document both learning and behavioral difficulties in the children of mothers who eat PCB-contaminated fish.

The children are born sooner, have lower birth weights and smaller heads, Meyer said. They are



the  
future  
of the  
**FOX**  
river

three times as likely to have a lower average IQ and twice as likely to be up to two years behind in reading comprehension.

Follow-up studies show that these difficulties persist as the child ages. These children also show a pattern of hypersensitivity to stress.

"We are dealing with a very harmful substance," Meyer told an audience of more than 90 people who crowded into a classroom on the university campus.

Questions from the audience showed broad support for the costly and lengthy cleanup of the Fox River proposed by state and federal regulators.

Meyer was challenged, however, by Bill Welch, president of the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

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(Continued, Next Page)

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# THE POST-CRESCENT

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## OUR VIEWS

### Valley, mills should rest a bit easier — for now

If the Environmental Protection Agency's grant of \$1.65 million to the state Department of Natural Resources gets the Fox River cleanup off dead-center, we're all for it.

The federal agency announced Wednesday that not only would the DNR get the grant to develop a cleanup plan, but that the DNR will be the lead agency in the cleanup study effort.

Perhaps that's a sigh of relief you're hearing from the seven local paper companies which have taken the lead in developing such a plan. They had already forged something of a partnership with the DNR before the EPA determined that it wanted to have a say about the PCBs in the Fox.

Then, thanks to the EPA, the paper company partnership with the DNR hit a bit of a snag.

Not coincidentally, those seven companies also stand to bear a significant part of the cleanup cost, and frankly, they need all the friends they can get.

This week's events don't mean that the EPA is signing off on Fox cleanup, or that the feds will allow the DNR to dictate how the events will unfold, but it could mean that Wisconsin interests — environmental, economic and social — should be preserved throughout the planning process.

The EPA will continue to be a player, no doubt, overseeing every step along the cleanup process, but by placing the DNR as the lead agency in establishing the study, it should make the Valley feel a little more comfortable, if nothing else.

Then, once the study is completed, perhaps next winter, the real battle over how to proceed begins.

At that point, be advised to hang on because it could be a long, bumpy ride.

For all of us.



the  
future  
of the  
FOX  
river



3



# Weich wins tentative allies in EPA fight

2/10/88

By Susan Squires  
Post-Dispatch staff writer

KIMBERLY - Officials from four municipalities were cautiously receptive Monday to the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce & Industry's call to arms against a proposal to target the Fox River for a federal Superfund cleanup.

"I think we're all in agreement we don't think they should be running off, stirring this all up," said Kaukauna Mayor John Lambie, referring to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's interest in dredging PCB contaminants from the river.

Seven paper mills discharged the chemical into the river before its use was outlawed in the 1970s. The mills were negotiating a cleanup agreement with the state when the EPA announced last April it would seek the Superfund designation for the river.

The Superfund designation could lead to years of dredging, a 1,500-acre landfill full of PCB-tainted soil, lost jobs, endless litigation and a \$3 billion price tag, chamber President Bill Welch told Quad Communities leaders.

"We believe at this point we have been unfairly targeted," Welch said. "I think it is because we have a political issue, and some people they think have deep pockets."

Under the Superfund program, the federal government oversees industry-funded cleanup. Welch says sites more contaminated than the Fox River have been spared the cleanup. He also contends the connection between PCBs and human illness has not been adequately established.

According to Welch, only the Jacobson study, undertaken in Michigan during the 1980s, ever linked PCBs to human ailments.

The study is impossible to replicate, Welch said, and failed to eliminate other causes for cognitive impairment observed in children whose mothers ate PCB-laden fish. Anyway, Welch argued, PCB levels in the river and its fish have fallen significantly over the years.

Welch urged the communities to adopt resolutions in support of the chamber's position.

The chamber supports "efforts which will truly maintain our quality of life."

## EPA: Heart of the Valley offers support

From B-1

ty of life and the quality of our environment," efforts that balance the cost of remediation against the benefit; efforts that focus on the link between PCBs and human health and fair and equitable treatment.

"He (Welch) brings up some good points, but he didn't really present an action plan," said Little Chute Village President John Rooyakkers.

Rooyakkers is "absolutely" worried about the effect litigation or dredging costs could have on paper mills or on municipalities, which could become involved in legal battles.

"I don't think the people in the Valley should end up paying for it," Rooyakkers said. "One way or the other, they will, either through taxes or employment."

Rooyakkers said, however, he would like to hear the EPA and the DNR's positions.

Lambie and Combined Locks Village President David King said they would endorse resolutions opposing the Superfund designation.

Lambie, however, said the chamber's position is not specific enough. The mills would expect Kaukauna to take a "stronger stand."

Welch presented "very clear

choices out there for us (that) will require additional study," said Kimberly Village President Chuck Rundquist. "There are a lot of us who do not fully understand yet the implications of PCB contamination."

The state extended negotiations with the seven mills - Riverside Paper Corp., Fort James Corp., NCR Corp., Appleton Papers, Inc., U.S. Paper Mills Corp., P.H. Glatfelter Co. and Wisconsin Tissue Mills - last week for one year. The companies had agreed to contribute \$10 million to the cleanup, including \$7 million earmarked for tests to determine the effectiveness of dredging.

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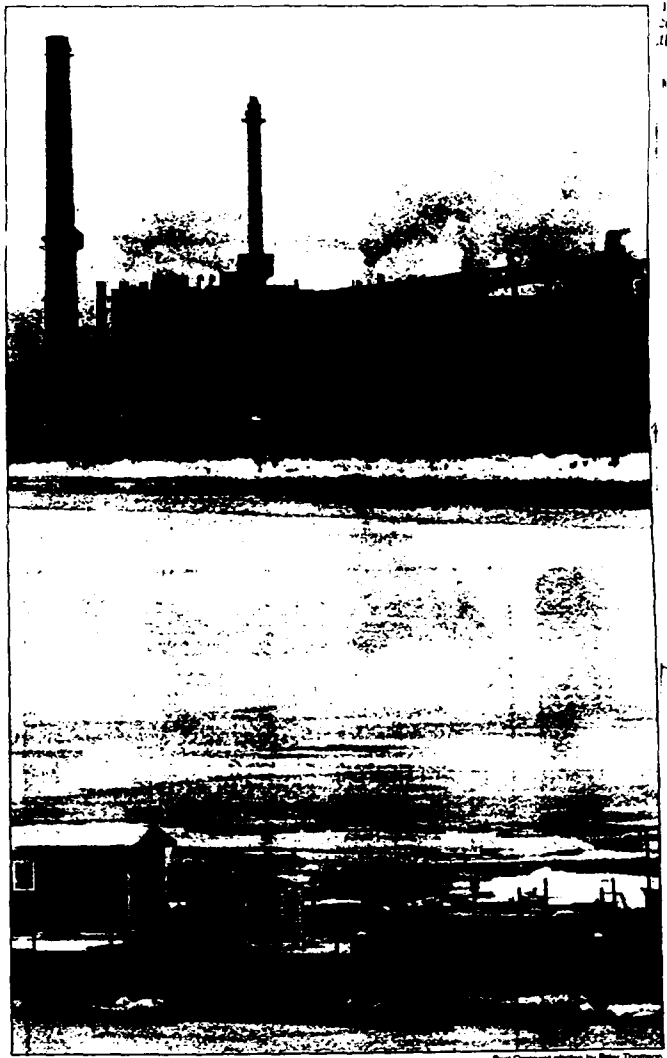
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Palestinians discuss renouncing  
 calls for destruction of Israel  
 The 15-member PLO executive

2/1/98

Fox Cities officials are mounting  
 an all-out effort to drive EPA off the Fox River

# MAKING WAVES



The cleanup will be aimed at 40 tons of PCBs, a now-banned industrial chemical, which are dispersed through 11 million cubic yards of river sediment in dozens of hot spots along the 39-mile stretch of river between Neenah and Green Bay

By Ed Cuthens  
 Post-Crescent staff writer

**T**he spectre of the Fox River as a federal Superfund site — with its waters subjected to years of massive and costly dredging — has spurred area business leaders into political activism.

In a widely distributed letter and position statement, the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce & Industry has launched an all-out offensive against the Superfund designation, saying it would damage the local economy and give the community a black eye while doing little to help the environment.

Defeating Superfund — and driving the federal Environmental Protection Agency off the river — will be the chamber's top mission in 1998, said chamber president William Welch.

"Our strategy is pretty straightforward," Welch told *The Post-Crescent*. "We plan to do everything we can to demonstrate to the EPA in no uncertain terms that we disagree with the (Superfund) designation and will do everything we can to oppose it."



WELCH

State and federal regulators who have seen the chamber's position statement say it paints a biased and inaccurate picture of the proposed cleanup.

"Some of the things in there just aren't true," said Bob Paulson, a DNR water quality specialist.

In the chamber letter, Welch said that if the EPA and the state Department of Natural Resources have their way, the Fox River will become the site of the largest river dredging and remediation project undertaken anywhere.

The cleanup will be aimed at 40 tons of PCBs, a now-banned industrial chemical, which are dispersed through 11 million cubic yards of river sediment in dozens of hot spots along the 39-mile stretch of river between Neenah and Green Bay.

State and federal officials say the PCBs are responsible for deformities in fish-eating birds and developmental problems in the children of women who eat PCB-contaminated fish.

Post-Crescent photos by Peter Thomson  
**STEAM POURS INTO** the winter air from the Appleton Papers mill in Combined Locks. At left, ice forms over much of the Fox River near the Washington Street Bridge between Little Chute and Kimberly. Valley officials are fighting the river's Superfund designation.

**"We plan to do everything we can to demonstrate to the EPA in no uncertain terms that we disagree with the (Superfund) designation and will do everything we can to oppose it."**

WILLIAM WELCH, Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce & Industry president



# Seven Valley mills unite to challenge EPA ruling

Companies band together to oppose decision on cleaning up the Fox River

By Ed Culhane

Post-Crescent staff writer

GREEN BAY - Seven area paper mills joined Monday in asking EPA Secretary Carol Browner to overturn a local regulatory decision the mills say could lead to prolonged court battles and delays in cleaning up the Fox River.

"Today, ladies and gentlemen, we are fighting back," Mark Reimer, senior attorney for the Fort James Corp., said at a press conference held by officials from all seven mills.

It amounted to a public challenge to the regional EPA staff and the state Department of Natural Resources.

At issue is who conducts the final study on what could become the largest and most expensive pollution cleanup ever attempted in this country - the removal of up to 15 billion pounds of PCB-contaminated sediment from the 39 miles of river between Neenah and Green Bay.

PCBs have been associated with birth defects in wild animals and with reduced mental ability in the children of mothers who regularly eat contaminated fish.

Under federal law, the companies responsible for the pollution will be billed both for the study and the cleanup, which could run to hundreds of millions of dollars.

In recent years, the EPA has routinely allowed what it calls "potentially responsible parties" (PRPs) to conduct this pre-cleanup study, called a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RIFS).

The seven PRPs are Fort Howard, Appleton Papers, P.H. Glatfelter, Riverside Paper, U.S. Paper Mills, and Wisconsin Tissue Mills. NCR, a data processing company, is involved because it



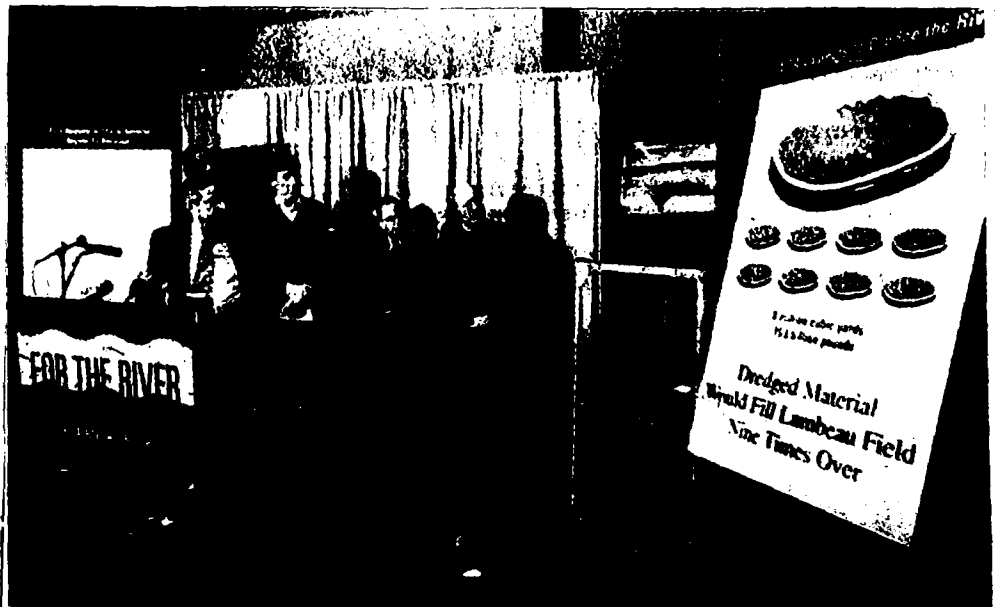
REIMER

## SEVEN PRPs

The seven PRPs are: Fort Howard, Appleton Papers, P.H. Glatfelter, Riverside Paper, U.S. Paper Mills, and Wisconsin Tissue Mills. NCR is also involved because it once owned Appleton Papers.

CK PAGE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1997



PHILIP SERVIDEA, government affairs vice president of NCR Corp., shows a dredging demonstration video during a press conference Monday at the Regency Suites in Green Bay.

## MILLS: EPA asked to overturn Fox decision

From A-1

once owned Appleton Papers.

Regulatory reformers argued that industry involvement leads to faster, more efficient cleanups.

But after four months of negotiations with the mills, EPA and DNR officials announced Dec. 11 they were rejecting the mills' proposal and would conduct the study themselves.

That decision signaled a fundamental shift in the 11-year relationship between the mills and government regulators.

EPA and DNR officials say enough studies have been done and the information needs only to be plugged into the RIFS, which will take about a year.

The paper mills disagree, saying no "real life" studies of dredging on a river like the Fox exist. They accuse the EPA of being predisposed toward dredging.

"If anyone has prejudged the outcome of an open, objective RIFS, it is the EPA," Reimer said. "This decision by Region 5 (of the EPA) threatens our long-standing cooperative effort. This decision starts us down the path of litigation, confrontation and delays in restoring the river."

Reimer denied that the mills are close-minded about dredging.

"Of course, we have a lot of ques-

tions and concerns about dredging," he said, "because we have yet to see any real scientific evidence that it will work in the Fox River situation."

The mills want the RIFS to incorporate the results of two dredging projects, set to begin on the Fox this summer with a \$7 million down payment from the mills.

Company officials said the projects might confirm their belief that dredging will not only be prohibitively difficult and expensive, but will worsen pollution by stirring up contaminants buried under cleaner sediments.

Waiting for the dredging projects would delay the RIFS by just six months, Reimer said.

Philip Servidea, a senior official with NCR, played a video showing monstrous machinery pulling tons of wet mud from a water body and dropping it in settling ponds.

"What we're talking about is this kind of equipment being on these 39 miles of river for somewhere between 20 and 25 years."

Servidea said the companies are proposing a combined approach that might involve some dredging, but that would emphasize the creation of enhanced wildlife refuges and the capping of sediments on the river bottom.

Other contaminants would be allowed to remain in the river, cov-

ered with cleaner sediments that have formed in the 25 years since PCBs were outlawed.

The EPA and DNR have said those chemicals won't remain covered, that each major storm that riles the river will push more of the them into the waters of Green Bay, where they cannot be recovered and will harm wildlife and people for more than a century.

The Clean Water Action Council, a nonprofit environmental group, is gearing up to publicly oppose the mills' position.

"The big issue is to make clear to the public that this stuff is already moving, and we have to catch it before it gets to the bay," said council president Rebecca Katers. "It is our responsibility, not our grandchildren's, to clean it up."

Katers said the mills can afford to spend hundreds of millions on the cleanup by sharing an expense to be spread out over 10 to 20 years.

Industry officials disagree. Servidea was asked why the mills don't just go along with the EPA and the DNR.

"Unfortunately, with the direction the EPA seems to be going in," he said, "going along means going out of business for some of these companies."

Please see MILLS, BACK PAGE

*(A. J. ...)*

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**By Ed Culhane**

Post-Crescent staff writer

**GREEN BAY** - Seven Fox River paper mills joined Monday in asking EPA Secretary Carol Browner to overturn a local regulatory decision the mills say could lead to prolonged court battles and delays in cleaning up the lower Fox River.

A press conference held by officials from all seven mills amounted to a public challenge to regional EPA regulators and the state Department of Natural Resources.

"Today, ladies and gentlemen, we are fighting back," said Mark Reimer, senior attorney for the Fort James Corp.

At issue is who conducts the final study on how to proceed with what could become the largest and potentially most expensive pollution cleanup ever attempted in this country - the removal of up to 15 billion pounds of PCB-contaminated sediment from the 39 miles of river between Neenah and Green Bay.

PCBs, a now banned class of industrial chemicals, have been associated with birth defects in wild animals and with reduced mental ability in the children of mothers who regularly eat contaminated fish.

Under the federal Superfund law, the companies responsible for the pollution will be billed, some for the study and the cleanup, which in the case of the Fox River could easily run to hundreds of millions of dollars.

In recent years, the EPA has routinely allowed what it calls "potentially responsible parties" (PRPs) to conduct this pre-cleanup study, called a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RIFS). Regulatory reformers argued that industry involvement in these studies led to faster, more effective, less expensive cleanups.

But after four months of negotiations with the mills, EPA and DNR officials announced Dec. 11 they were rejecting the mills' proposal. They said they would conduct the study themselves.

The agencies cited a dispute over the time it would take to complete the study and disagreements about the approach.

That decision signaled a fundamental shift in the relationship between the mills and government regulators. For 11 years, the companies and state regulators sat across from the same table, conducting studies and analyzing cleanup options.

But as hard choices rapidly approach, the proudly advertised spirit of cooperation has withered.

EPA and DNR officials say enough studies have been done, more than on any other river in history. The information needs only to be plugged into the RIFS, they said, a process that will take about a year.

The paper mills disagree, saying no "real life" studies of dredging on a river like the Fox exist, and they accuse the EPA of being predisposed toward dredging, the most expensive response to the pollution.

"If anyone has prejudged the outcome of an open, objective RIFS, it is the EPA," Reimer said. "This decision by Region 5 (of the EPA), threatens our long-standing cooperative effort. The decision starts us down the path of litigation, confrontation, and delays in restoring the river."

Reimer said the mills are accused of having a closed mind toward dredging.

"This simply is not true," he said. "Of course, we have a lot of questions and concerns about dredging because we have yet to see any real scientific evidence that it will work in the Fox River situation."

Which is why the mills want to incorporate two demonstration dredging projects, set to begin on the Fox this summer, into the RIFS.

Company officials said the projects might confirm their belief that dredging will not only be prohibitively difficult and expensive, but will actually worsen pollution by stirring up contaminants that are now buried under cleaner sediments.

Waiting for information from the dredging projects would delay the RIFS by just six months, Reimer said.

Philip Servidea, a senior official with NCR, played a video at the conference, made available to television stations, showing monstrous machinery pulling tons of wet mud from a water body and dropping it in settling ponds.

"What we're talking about is this kind of equipment being on these 39 miles of river for somewhere between 20 and 25 years."

Servidea said the companies are proposing a combined approach that might involve some dredging, but that would emphasize the creation of enhanced wildlife refuges and the capping of sediments on the river bottom. Other contaminated sediments would be allowed to remain in the river, covered with the cleaner sediments that have formed in the nearly 30 year since the use of PCBs were banned.

The EPA and DNR have said those chemicals won't remain covered, that each major storm that riles the river will push more of the contaminants into the waters of Green Bay where they cannot be recovered and where they will continue to harm wild animals and people for more than a century.

One environmental group, the Clean Water Action Council, is gearing up to counteract what it considers a public relations campaign by the mills.

"They've spent big money on this PR machine," said Rebecca Katers, president of the non-profit group. "It's cranking up and it's having an effect on people."

Katers said she demanded and will receive equal time on a Green Bay television station that aired a segment highlighting the mills' position.

"The big issue is to make clear to the public that this stuff is already moving, and we have to catch it before it gets to the bay. It is our responsibility, not our grandchildren's, to clean it up."

Katers said the mills, some of which have billions in assets, can afford to spend hundreds of millions on the cleanup - by sharing an expense which will be spread out over 10 to 20 years.

Paper company executives have a different view of the expense.

Servidea was asked at the conference why the mills don't just go along with the EPA and the DNR.

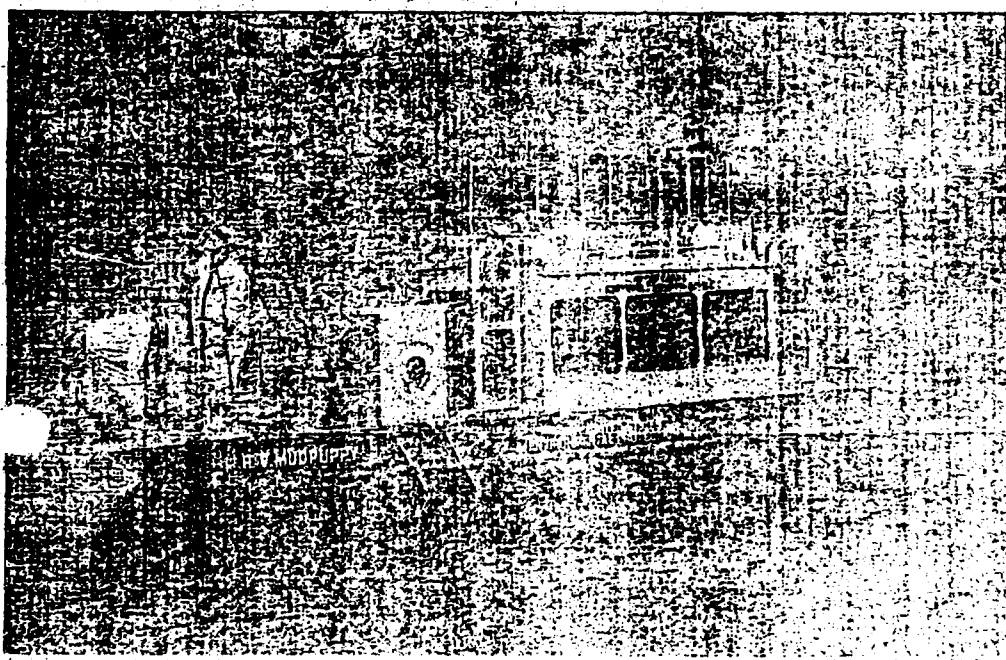
"Unfortunately, with the direction the EPA seems to be going in," he said, "going along means going out of business for some of these companies."

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*The seven PRPs are Fort Howard, Appleton Papers, P.H. Glatfelter, Riverside Paper, U.S. Paper Mills, and Wisconsin Tissue Mills. NCR, a data processing company, is involved because it once owned Appleton Papers.*

## DNR sides with EPA in rejecting cleanup offer by Fox River paper mills

# STORMY WATERS



"They don't plan on gathering any more data. What they are proposing here is a monumental project that has never been done before, with no foresight at all whether it's going to work or not, and they have nowhere to put this stuff."

DENNIS HULTGREN, manager of environmental affairs for Appleton Papers

OFFICIALS FROM the federal Environmental Protection Agency collected sediment from the Fox River in November.

By Ed Cushman  
Post-Presscraft staff writer

The much-publicized partnership between Fox Valley paper mills and the state Department of Natural Resources to clean up the PCB-laden Fox River without litigation or excess red tape appears to be unraveling.

In a statement released Thursday, the DNR joined the federal Environmental Protection Agency in rejecting a proposal by seven paper mills that they be allowed to conduct the final study that would lead to a Superfund cleanup plan.

The paper mills, banded together as the Fox River Group, reacted with dismay.

In Neenah, the mill manager at P.H. Glatfelter Co., David R. Lee, and the

## Mill official says decision will hurt river environment and mean lengthy litigation

president of the local paperworkers union, Daniel Finn, said the decision "will only increase the likelihood of prolonged litigation, which will hurt everyone involved, and most important, will hurt the Fox River environment."

It was the specter of a decades-long legal battle that inspired the DNR and the paper companies to form an alliance years ago called the Fox River Coalition. The idea was to spend resources, not in court, but on cleaning up the river.

But after years of studies and meetings, with no sediments removed, the

EPA grew impatient and, earlier this year, began the Superfund process.

State officials, concerned about sovereign authority, objected, but it soon became clear that the EPA was not leaving town.

"It was not our decision to launch it, or to keep it going," said Bruce Baker, a top DNR official. "But if it's going to happen, we better serve the people of Wisconsin, and we think everyone comes out ahead, if the state has a lead role."

In EPA parlance, the paper mills are the PRPs, the potentially responsible par-

ties, that will fund the Superfund study, called RIFS (Remedial Investigation Feasibility Study), and receive the final cleanup bill, which in this case will be massive.

Dennis Hultgren, manager of environmental affairs for Appleton Papers, said that in almost all cases, the EPA allows the PRPs to conduct the study.

But a dispute over the direction and timing of the study could not be resolved. The mills charge that the EPA, and now the DNR, have a bias in favor of dredging the sediments and burying them in licensed landfills.

The mills argue that dredging, the most costly of all cleanup options, will suspend contaminants in the river's cur-

Please see RIVER, BACK PAGE

## RIVER: Area paper mills not pleased with DNR decision

From A-1

rent, that it will be far too expensive and that burying the PCB-laced sediments will be politically, financially and socially impossible.

The real argument now revolves around how much sediment will have to be removed and at what cost.

"I can't tell you what it might be," said Hultgren. "No one has come up with a number yet. But I think the number is going to be huge."

He said EPA dredging in Manistique, Mich., has been costing \$300 per cubic yard of sediment. In the Fox River, which represents the largest environmental cleanup project ever proposed in the United States, there are between 8 million and 11 million yards of contaminated sediments.

"It puts us in the multibillion-dollar range," Hultgren said.

Hultgren said the EPA rejected the industry study proposal because of the mills' insistence that information learned during two cleanup demonstration projects, scheduled to begin this summer, be included in the study.

"They don't plan on gathering any more data," Hultgren said. "What they are proposing here is a monumental project that has never been done before, with no foresight at all whether it's going to work or not, and they have nowhere to put this stuff."

But EPA officials say commercial landfills can accept the sediment and that after 15 years of scientific investigation, enough studies have been done. The DNR essentially agrees.

U.S. Sens. Russ Feingold and Herb Kohl, joined by U.S. Reps. Jay Johnson, D-Green Bay, and Tom Petri, R-Fond du Lac, issued a statement Thursday calling on the EPA to include the \$7 million paper mill projects in the study.

Baker said information from the dredging projects can always be incorporated into the cleanup plan. But he said the EPA and DNR did not want the study to be dependent on the projects.

Hultgren said the real fireworks will come late in 1998, or in 1999, when the RIFS is complete and the projects are complete and the amount of sediment to be removed is known and a cost is attached to the removal.

Baker said if the cost is too great for the mills to afford, it is possible other funding sources could be added to the mix, but no one has identified them yet. He held out hope for a cooperative, negotiated agreement.

"Maybe we won't be successful, I don't know, but it isn't dead," he said. "The concept that all parties can work cooperatively on environmental cleanup is still something that we think is worth the time and effort."



# THE POST-CRESCENT

THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 1997

WISCONSIN'S BEST NEWSPAPER

## Little Chute police chief says school harassed son

The lawsuit claims the teen was harassed by the high school principal, even after a doctor advised the school "ease up" on the boy

By Judy Williams  
Post-Crescent staff writer

**LITTLE CHUTE** — A former Board of Education member has filed a lawsuit against the Little Chute School District claiming that the actions of a school principal have harmed his son's earning potential.

The suit, filed by David Peterson, his wife, Ann, and their son, Brian, 18, asks for \$50,000 in damages, in addition to attorney's fees and court costs.



Peterson, chief of the Fox Valley Metropolitan Police Department, served on the school board from 1992 until he resigned in 1996.

Little Chute School Supt. Bill Fitzpatrick said Wednesday that

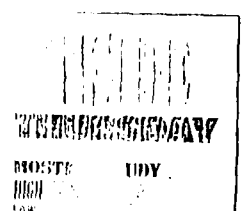
he could not comment on the suit because he had not yet received the summons.

Little Chute High School Principal David Hotz, who is cited in the suit as being the district "agent" responsible for the actions adversely affecting Brian Peterson, also said he has not seen the complaint and cannot comment on it.

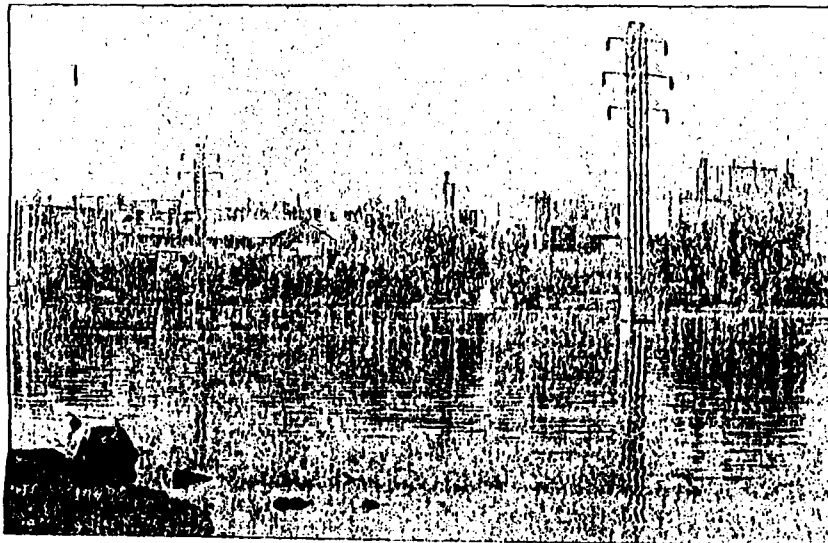
The lawsuit was filed Wednesday in Outagamie County Circuit Court by the family's attorney, Douglas Eyle of Dollenbeck, Rowland, Utzig & Eyle, S.C.

According to the complaint, the

Please see B11, BACK PAGE



## EPA: CLEANUP TOO SLOW



Post-Crescent photo by Michael Lombardi

THE EPA says the state has taken too long to clean contaminated sediments from the 39-mile stretch of the Fox River from the dams at Neenah-Menasha to the river's mouth at Green Bay.

## Agency says state has shown little progress in cleaning up Fox River

By Ed Cuthbert  
Post-Crescent staff writer

In a move applauded by environmentalists and decried by industry, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said Wednesday it will seek to place the lower Fox River on its Superfund list of hazardous waste sites.

The EPA said the state of Wisconsin has taken too long to clean contaminated sediments from the 39-mile stretch of river from the dams at Neenah-Menasha to the river's mouth at Green Bay.

David Ulrich, the EPA's acting regional administrator, said the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has been negotiating

This came out of the blue with no warning. This is a wild card, a complete surprise.

DENNIS HULTGREN  
of Appleton Papers

with seven paper mills responsible for much of the contamination since 1992.

"However, other than some recent demonstration projects in a very limited area of the river, progress has been slow," he said.

"To date, there has not been enough actual cleanup of the pollution."

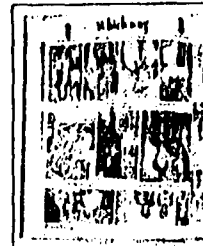
A paper mill spokesman in Appleton called the Superfund development "ominous."

"This came out of the blue with no warning," said Dennis Hultgren of Appleton Papers. "This is a wild card, a complete surprise. In most Superfund cases, things don't get done for years. I just hope this doesn't lead to a litigated solution, because then everyone loses."

Environmentalists, weary of the decade-long discussions that have taken place on the Fox, lauded the move, saying it would speed up the removal of PCBs from the river's mud, chemicals suspected of causing cancer and learning deficiencies in children and birth defects in wild

Please see EPA, A-14

## WHY BE NO?



NEENAH SCHOOL BOARD  
Roth called the avant-garde school's yearbook "ridiculous"

## Board men mad over yearbook he can't see

The Neenah yearbook co-editor defends the effort

By Duke Behrens  
Post-Crescent staff writer

NEENAH — The 1997 Rocket yearbook titled "Why Be No? The Wrath of School Board Men" roiled the Board of Education presentation of the book is

ing.  
The yearbook, which is printed on numerous pages, photographs are purposely printed on their side or upside down. The pictures of teachers are in reverse alphabetical order, the heading over district administrators is written backward and the heading over the school board is topsy-turvy.

"I think it's pathetic when people's titles are put upside down," Roth said. "I think it's disrespectful."

Roth said the yearbook staff overstepped its editorial license, and he told the advisers that any such action was unacceptable.

School board member S of Roth's sentiment. He said applied in the book might be inappropriate.

"I can't say it's offensive, highly unusual. I don't think the appearance or the

Butler said yearbooks should have a lifetime and should not be "I think there are certa

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Part 2

5/22/97

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1997

POST-CRESCENT, APPLETON-NEENAH

# RIVER: PCB contaminants studied

From A-1

mental Response, Compensation and Liability Act.

The NRCA is focusing exclusively on PCB contamination, although there are other contaminants in the river and bay.

This is the most comprehensive assessment of PCB movement in the environment ever conducted in the world," said David Allen, a technical expert for the Fish & Wildlife Service.

Allen identified the source of PCBs as the result of recycling and deinking of collection paper.

Scientists have determined that approximately 125 tons of PCBs were released by the polluter, and the two bodies of water contain 11 million cubic yards of contaminated sediment. Hartwig said there is no estimate yet for the cost of remediation, but there should be by the end of the NRCA process in 1997.

He said Allen said the law provides for no punitive damages, and all money recovered against the polluter must go to the restoration.

Hartwig said the Fish and Wildlife Service wants all involved

parties to agree to three common goals: restore the environment, compensate the public for lost use of the disrupted natural resources and maintain a healthy economy.

"We do not want to go to litigation, but we are determined that the river will be returned to its condition prior to PCB contamination," he said.

The paper mills, other polluters and the DNR have formed a group called the Fox River Coalition that has committed \$10 million to begin certain restoration projects.

One of them is a hot spot in the Fox River just above the Kimberly dam, and the other is below the De Pere dam near the Fort Howard paper mill in Green Bay.

The paper industry wants the Fish and Wildlife Service to join that effort, instead of creating the NRCA, which has the power to force assessments on each of the polluters to find the cleanup.

"We think that is the way that Fish and Wildlife should be focusing their efforts," said Dennis Hartwig, director of environmental and public affairs for Appleton Papers.

APPROXIMATELY 125 TONS OF PCBs were released by the polluter, and the two bodies of water contain 11 million cubic yards of contaminated sediment. Hartwig said there is no estimate yet for the cost of remediation, but there should be by the end of the NRCA process in 1997.

# GROUNDING: Air service not ready to fly

From A-1

several markets "that fail to meet the company's financial expectations," including Albuquerque, N.M.; Tucson, Ariz., and two points in Mexico. The company also will cease serving Richmond, Va., and Greenville, N.C.

The airline voluntarily grounded itself last Friday as the FAA said it allowed improperly trained people to repair its airplanes. Great Lakes officials initially said they hoped to have some planes back in the air

the steps for our comeback," said spokesman George Zimmerman.

Great Lakes, which does business as United Express and two other regional services, has defended its safety procedures and record.

When service does resume, it will likely begin on United Express routes serving O'Hare Airport in Chicago and the following cities: Lansing, Muskegon and Marquette, Mich.; Waterloo, Mason City and Spencer, Iowa; and Springfield, Ill.

Meanwhile, an aide to Rep. John Duncanson, R-Tenn., chairman of the Transportation Subcommittee,



Who could miss these headlamps? visionary styling, it also features side front doors, dual climate controls, a 8-speaker audio system, even cup holders. In this car, people will notice far more from.

 Mercedes

WVF

VOICE OF THE WISCONSIN CONSERVATION

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ONE DOLLAR

conservation

# Toxic Cleanup

## Seven Companies Will Pay \$10 Million For The Removal Of Chemicals From The Lower Fox River

BY ED CULHANE

The following article is reprinted with permission from the Appleton Post Crescent.

After a decade of talking, six Fox Valley paper mills and a data processing company have agreed to pay \$10 million toward the removal of toxic chemicals from the lower Fox River.

The money is a partial settlement of a claim against the companies by the State of Wisconsin, negotiated by the office of Atty. Gen. James Doyle.

"This in no way covers the total cost," said Jim Haney of the state Justice Department. "This is a partial settlement. It does not remove the final claims the state has against these companies or other companies."

Contributing to the settlement are Appleton Papers, P.H. Glatfelter in Neenah, Riverside Paper in Appleton,

S. Paper Mills in Menasha and Fort Howard in Green Bay. The data processing MCR Corp. was included because it once owned Appleton Papers.

The companies were responsible for discharging polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and other toxic chemicals into the river prior to and during the 1970s. PCBs have been tied to health problems



Deposit N, a PCB pollution hot spot targeted for study this summer, is located on the bank of the Fox River, along the south bank, in Kishwaukee. The Repap Paper Mill, shown in the photograph, is not responsible for Deposit N, which resulted from pollution migrating downstream.

in birds and fish and are suspected of reducing immunity in humans and increasing the risk of cancer. A recent study links moderate consumption of PCB-contaminated fish by Wisconsin women with reduced intelligence scores by their children.

"This is a remarkable agreement," said Gov. Tommy Thompson in a press release. "State and industry are stepping forward as partners to take responsibility for restoring the quality of our natural resources. This action exemplifies good corporate ethic by enabling immediate action on behalf of the river."

Environmentalists were less enthusiastic about the deal.

Rebecca Katers, executive director of the Clean Water Action Council of Northeast Wisconsin, said the money, which won't begin to cover the cost of a

meaningful cleanup, buys corporate polluters another two years of pain-free negotiations.

"We've been waiting for 11 years now since the remedial action planning process started," Katers said, "and we still don't have a comprehensive plan for the public to review a plan that will detail which areas will be cleaned up, how clean is clean, exactly how the cleanup will go if they are cleaned up at all."

The agreement calls for the \$10 million to be spent for studying and designing restoration projects in the river downstream of the dam at De Pere, where most of the pollution rests, and for actual dredging.

Part of the money will be spent to expand the conservancy zone at 1000 Islands Environmental Center in Kaukauna, upgrading a nature trail that will be paved, building a canoe launch and constructing an observation deck with a view of the river's nesting bald eagles. Some will be spent building a parking lot, hiking trail, observation decks and a fishing pier at the Point Au

Sable Wetlands.

"That money shouldn't be spent on parking lots," said Brett Hulseley of the Sierra Club. "Every penny is desperately needed for the removal of PCBs."

Like Katers, Hulseley called for a more public process.

Hulseley said the river cleanup will cost between \$100 million and \$300 million. Katers said it could cost as much as \$1.2 billion dollars.

The vast discrepancy in cost estimates is related to uncertainty about which technologies will eventually be used to treat the river sediment. The sediments could be capped on the river bed, dredged and buried in a landfill, shipped to a toxic waste disposal site or be removed and burned with air scrubbers.

State and federal agencies have been wrestling with the cleanup effort since U.S. and Canadian negotiators identified 43 toxic hot spots in the Great Lakes and agreed to remediate them. But a Remedial Action Plan that grew out of that process has not resulted in a cleanup.

In 1992, the State of Wisconsin formed the Fox River Coalition, a partnership between the state Department of Natural Resources and representatives of polluting industries. The coalition has focused its efforts on studies and on getting a pilot project off the

Continued On Page 11

**Weather Report**

For more information, contact your local weather bureau or call:

Green Bay (920) 834-3333  
 Appleton (920) 834-2294  
 Neenah (920) 834-3333  
 Oshkosh (920) 834-3333

### "Hall-of-Famer"



William "Bill" Peterburg will be inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame on April 18, 1997 at Sentry Theatre, Sentry Insurance Co., Stevens Point, WI. at 10:00 a.m.

**Notice**

April WVF Board of Directors meeting date change to:  
 April 16 and 17, Best Western, Stevens Point.

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# Wisconsin Elk Study Progress Report No. 12

**1996 Rut** The rut developed well this year. The three yearling bulls of the 1995 rut, now with 3X3 or 4X4 antlers at age two years, displayed more intense breeding behavior as indicated by their bugling and attendance to the main herd of cows. The two older bulls were each with single adult cows. The behavior and movements of the elk during this rut indicates that at least 16 cows could have been bred, portending significant productivity next calving season. The two calves that were born this year were still alive as of this writing. At least three youngsters from the 1995 calving are also known to be still alive. One of these, a yearling bull, was in the Springbrook region, southwest of Hayward during and after the rifle deer season. He was missing during last winter but returned to spend the summer with his mother (No. 21).

**1996 Deer Season.** The rifle and bow season passed without injury to elk. The herd was monitored intensively immediately prior to, during, and after the hunts. Deer hunting camps on the study area were visited prior to opening day with USDA-Forest Service personnel to remind deer hunters that elk were present. Hunters were also interviewed in the field throughout the season. All hunters were aware of the elk study in their hunting area and were exercising caution in identifying potential targets. Three identifiable groups of elk were monitored intensively, and two others periodically, during the deer season. Hunting activities, including drives and individuals on stands and still-hunting, caused an abnormal, relatively minor movement of only two bull elk. These bulls broke away from the main herd of 18 elk and moved to two areas approximately two miles to the south. They stayed in those isolated areas and then rejoined the original group the day after the close of the season. Hunter

density on the study area was determined by direct count and an index was formulated for future density determination. One hunter was aggressively nudged with the 5X8 antlers of adult bull 23 while he was on a stand early in the morning of opening day. He fired his rifle into the ground next to the bull causing it to leave. Neither the hunter nor the bull was injured.

**Movements.** Nearly all of the elk returned to the same general winter range that they had occupied during the winter of 1996-97. Cow 14 (The Hurley Lady), is still with the main herd of 18 elk which is within two miles of the release site. The same was true for their locations during the rut with the exception of bull 23 who spent the rut and deer season in the area of cow 21 this year. The elk also occupied the same summer range in 1996 as they did in 1995. This two-year pattern is an encouraging indication that their seasonal habitat needs are being met within the study area. Their route of travel between seasonal ranges was also the same this year. This created a potential hazard for motorists and the elk that summered north of Highway 77 as they moved four miles south to their winter range near the release site. The elk were in the vicinity of the highway for nearly two weeks where they were seen frequently by transient motorists and enthusiastic observers who visited the area often in anticipation of observing them. The congestion of parked cars constituted the greatest hazard. Wisconsin Department of Transportation is preparing warning signs to alert motorists in the area where the elk regularly crossed the highway.

**Logging.** Two major logging opera-

tions are in operation in the vicinity of elk at this time. The general reaction of elk to this activity is being monitored closely. Thus far, logging does not appear to be unduly influencing the behavior of the elk.

**Winter Food Habits and Condition.** Most of the elk have once again sought lowland conifer areas for winter quarters. White cedar and mountain maple are components of these areas that are preferred by the elk. Thermal differences between the interior of these conifer stands and open areas is significant. On January 16, 1997, when ambient temperature was -19°F in the open, it was -6°F inside the stand. Snow depths were 29.5 and 21.3 inches inside and outside of the conifer stands respectively on the same date. The bitter cold of last winter has not appeared thus far this year. Urine samples were collected in December and January this winter to gain an insight into current elk physiologic condition for comparison with last winter and to establish a base for the remainder of this winter. Results of the lab analysis are not yet completed.

**Habitat Use.** This is being determined for the first year of the study by means of a Geographic Information system using the USDA-Forest Service vegetation data base and our telemetry locations. We have cataloged 9,476 elk locations as of January 17, 1997. The relationship between elk-use areas and physical geographic factors can also be determined in this analysis.

**Crop Depredation.** Another amicable discussion was held with the landowners of the alleged pine tree depredation of last winter. They will continue to study the situation and decide on future action.

## Archery Hunters Set New Record With More Than 72,000 Deer Registered

### DNR Release

Archery deer hunters registered 72,392 white-tailed deer during the 1996 season in Wisconsin, setting a new harvest record for the bow season, which ran through December 31.

"This record reflects a large increase in antlerless deer shot by bow hunters in the Zone T deer management units, as well as an increased interest in archery deer hunting across the state," says Bill Mytton, deer and bear ecologist for the Department of Natural Resources.

The Zone T hunt, conducted in 19 deer management units in southern and eastern farmland areas, required both bow and gun hunters to earn a buck by first shooting an antlerless deer. This boosted the Zone T antlerless harvest during the bow season to 10,926, up from 1995 when 4,045 antlerless deer registered were registered from the same units. Statewide, archers registered 35,956 antlerless deer.

"The Zone T hunt was clearly the primary factor in increasing the antlerless harvest," Mytton says. "The antlerless harvest did not increase anywhere near as high in non Zone T units."

Hunters participating the muzzle-loader season, which ran December 2 through 6, registered 2,244 deer, down slightly from the 2,282 registered in 1995.

This puts the combined harvest from the firearm (gun and muzzle-loader) and archery seasons at 480,524, which Mytton says, is about what wildlife managers had predicted for the season.

For more information contact Bill Mytton at (608) 266-2194.

## Toxic Cleanup - Continued From Page 1

ground to demonstrate how one of the dozens of toxic hot spots, located near Kimberly, could be successfully remediated.

A coalition member welcomed the \$10 million settlement, although the money will not be spent upstream at Deposit N in Kimberly.

"This is going to enable the Fox River Coalition to make some headway in developing their strategy for the river," said Jo Mercurio, a DNR water resources specialist assigned to the coalition. "This is what everyone has been waiting for for 10 years."

Chuck Ledin, head of the DNR's Bureau of Watershed Management, acknowledged that there has been a great deal of impatience to see concrete action. He said the DNR initiated negotiations with the companies and then asked the Justice Department to join in.

"This is wonderful news," he said of the settlement. "We expect to be moving forward with the pilot project at Deposit N. This agreement will allow us to do a project on another part of the river. It's

going to allow us to get a lot of experience in terms of shaping a long-term strategy for the cleanup."

"Ten million is a drop in the bucket," Katers said. "It buys them two more years for a token amount of money. All these years of delay. There is a whole new generation of children being exposed to contamination. There are still people eating the fish, and they are not doing a good job of warning people away."

Industry representatives had a different characterization of the settlement.

"It's a lot of money," said Dennis Hultgren, an Appleton Papers spokesman, "and we don't know the extent of the damage or how much more it will cost."

The companies are committed to continuing negotiations with the state as the problem can be corrected, said Hultgren and Fort Howard spokesman Cliff Bowers.

"Putting claims aside," Bower said,

"this is an agreement. This is people saying this is step one and agreeing on the analysis of data."

It was unclear what effect the settlement will have on an environment damage assessment being conducted by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The Federal Government could assess damages against the companies, but the state of Wisconsin has sought to negotiate its own agreements.

DNR Secretary George Meyer praised the settlement.

"This agreement provides critical seed money," he said. "It helps get an important project started. We recognize federal efforts on behalf of the river and hope to bring federal, tribal and local governments into this effort at all levels of government are united in restoring one of Wisconsin's great natural resource treasures, the lower Fox."

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

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## The Wisconsin Trappers Association



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# FOX CITIES

PAGE B-1  
Friday, August 4  
1995

## Fox cleanup explored

■ Those attending a public meeting found there are more questions than answers

By Steve Wideman  
Post Crescent staff writer

The questions seemed simple.

How much will it cost to rid the Fox River of toxins and who is going to pay?

The answers weren't quite as easy.

"It depends how clean people want the river," Appleton Mayor Richard De Broux said during a panel discussion Thursday involving members of the Fox River Co-

alition. "There are a lot of people out there who say we've spent too much money already on the river and shouldn't spend another nickel."

The coalition, a group of public and private groups, including municipalities bordering the lower Fox River, is working with the state Department of Natural Resources to devise a plan to remove tons of toxins from a 39-mile stretch of river.

More than 100 people attended a two-hour question-and-answer session at Fox Valley Technical College's Bordini Center concerning ongoing plans to clean the river of heavy metals and cancer-causing substances such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

Many audience questions focused on public cost implications to remove pollutants from the river.

"Those are good, tough ques-

tions," said Outagamie County Executive Ronald Van De Hey, the panel moderator. He declared the meeting "open season" on coalition panel members.

"It's absolutely critical we play our cards face up," he said.

De Broux said municipalities, industry and the state could engage in court fights to see who should clean the river "but we'd be spending dollars in court rather than on the river."

De Broux said neither taxpayers nor industry can cover the cost of cleaning the entire river. In 1992, the DNR estimated the cost to cleanse the lower Fox of PCBs and other toxins at more than \$950 million.

"We've all contributed to the problem, whether we like it or not. We can point a finger at a certain company and say they put it there,

but we use their products," De Broux said. "I don't think taxpayers should bail out any industry or that the industry should pay for the cleanup by itself."

DNR spokesman Lee Liebenstein said the estimated price tag to remove 63,000 cubic yards of PCB-contaminated sediment from Little Lake Butte des Morts adjacent to the former P.H. Glatfelter landfill in Neenah stands at \$15 million.

The site, known as deposit A, is just one of 27 contaminated sites identified between Little Lake Butte des Morts and the De Pere dam.

Leibenstein said negotiations between the state and DNR over responsibility for cleaning Deposit A are sensitive, "but the department expects a large contribution from Glatfelter."

Please see **FOX**, B 2

202463

# Fox River cleanup status is reviewed

**From B-1**

"Glatfelter has agreed something should be done," Liebenstein said. "They are not pushing for no action."

He said the DNR's best plan to treat Deposit A is to build a coffer dam around the area, drain the water, excavate an estimated 63,000 yards of lake bed and transport the material by truck to a hazardous waste dump near New Berlin.

Liebenstein said planning to clean up Deposit A is on hold until a plan is developed to clean the entire river.

Liebenstein said it would cost billions of dollars to remove every molecule of PCBs from the river and said some pollutants will likely be allowed to remain in river sediment.

"We will let nature do its work," he said.

Panel member John Kennedy of the Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District said the coalition has not selected a preferred option to remove toxins from the river, so it doesn't have an estimate on costs.

"But if someone came in with an environmentally safe process, there would be no problem with money," he said.

Liebenstein said the final solution to cleanse the river will likely entail a blend of technologies, possibly including dredging and burying the sediment in a landfill or burning it, capping the affected lake bed to prevent release of the pollutants or introducing bacteria to "eat" the toxic substances. Such a bacteria test project is under way in Sheboygan.

Kennedy said there has been some work done on a genetically engineered "super bug" bacteria that devours PCBs, "but nobody's excited about using that on a large scale until it is proven."

DNR planner Jo Mercurio, who authored a coalition report on the planning progress thus far, said one problem is the constant shifting of pollutants within the river system. She said heavy rains in 1993 pushed a large amount of PCBs over the De Pere dam and into Green Bay.

"We're going after a moving target, so it's important we get started on the cleanup quickly," she said.

Mercurio said if no action was taken to remove the toxins, the river could cleanse itself to acceptable levels in about 120 years.

"If by magic we could do the work today, it would still take 10 years," she said. "Reality is really somewhere in between."

glatfelter's



# Lower Fox River cleanup will get a public review

From A-1

is a Superfund site," said Al Toma, assistant to the president of the Fort Howard Corp. "We're looking for cost-effective solutions not seen in federally driven processes."

If the coalition is successful, it could become a model for pollution cleanups throughout the Great Lakes, Toma said.

At stake is the future health of the Fox River and the waters of Lake Michigan and the well-being of the animals and people that live and around them.

Scientists have found more than 100 chemicals in the lower Fox River, the 39-mile stretch between Lake Winnebago and Green Bay. These include pesticides and heavy metals.

One of the polychlorinated biphenyls, or

PCBs, which most worry health officials. These decay-resistant chemical compounds, once used extensively in industrial processes, are called bioaccumulators because as they move up the food chain they are found in increasingly dangerous concentrations.

Certain Fox River fish and mallard ducks are considered unsafe to eat and the state issues annual health advisories identifying them. PCB levels in carp are so high that the commercial sale of the fish is illegal.

Scientists have linked toxins in the river to abnormalities in fish, wildlife and humans. It is now thought that PCB-contaminated fish, consumed in large enough quantities, can cause people to experience reproductive problems.

A treaty between the United States and Canada calls for toxic hot spots, such as the deposit in Little Lake Butte des Morts, to be

cleaned up, and Congress has mandated that the federal Environmental Protection Agency lead the Great Lakes remediation effort.

In Wisconsin, the EPA has agreed to allow the state Department of Natural Resources to administer the cleanup with the threat of federal intervention if the process stalls.

Jo Mercurio of the DNR's bureau of water resources management said that although river remediation technologies are in their infancy, the coalition has one great advantage. Because of a federally funded, experimental study in 1988, there exists more detailed information on sediment pollution in the Fox River than on any other body of water in the country.

The study showed that the Fox River is the largest source of PCBs polluting the waters of Green Bay.

The industrial use of PCBs was banned in

1977, but up to 96,000 pounds of the chemicals are still contained in Fox River sediments. The volume of sediment containing unhealthy levels of PCBs is estimated at between 7 and 9 million cubic meters.

Bruce Johnson of Fox-Wolf Basin 2000, an environmental group that seeks to identify affordable technologies for pollution remediation, said it is critical that the toxins be removed or immobilized before they are resuspended in the river's current.

"Our concern is that if nothing happens, opportunities will be lost," he said. "The material is flowing downstream, into the bay, where it can't be retrieved."

Among the solutions being discussed is a controversial plan to remove the worst sediments and bury them in an engineered landfill. Both Outagamie and Winnebago counties are on record opposing the disposal of PCBs in county-owned landfills.

DNR scientists say PCBs become immobile in an engineered landfill and would not threaten groundwater supplies, but nearby area residents fear contamination despite these assurances.

Another option would be to build containment structures around the toxins with a lake or river.

Robert Stadl, director of planning and zoning for Outagamie County, was asked to join the 35-member coalition at the onset. His past experience caused him to be skeptical about public-private partnerships.

"I thought, 'Well, here we go again.' But this one has been very positive. It continues to amaze me, that because of the PCB and others, the thing keeps moving forward."

In Appleton, opening remarks will be delivered by Mayor Richard DeBroox, and the meeting will be facilitated by Outagamie County Executive Ron Van De Hoven.

eventually, the present, treatment technologies will make the job of disposing of PCBs easier. But no quick fix is in sight, and the longer everyone waits, the worse the problem gets.

"We've been waiting for the past 20 years for a perfect solution and we've seen continuing environmental problems," Fitzpatrick said. "The time for the cleanup is now."

"The cost is going to shoot up astronomically, because you're talking about the difference between private enterprise and municipal enterprise, if you can catch my drift regarding the implications of cost disposal," he said.

Mistek fears that instead of pegging costs to what a public landfill would charge, a private operator

Marsden said he'd like to see the DNR construct its own landfill and not get PCBs "mixed up with other municipal waste."

Sticking to his original position, Fitzpatrick said a well-engineered and maintained landfill like the one in Outagamie County is perfectly capable of isolating PCBs from the environment, an argument the EPA only got around to accepting last

matic in discussing what could happen if nothing is done about PCBs in the Fox River, but his warning is clear.

"I believe inaction on the part of the state and the local stakeholders will cause the feds to move quickly on this," he said. "They're looking for concrete progress."

The "stakeholders" Fitzpatrick referred to are the local govern-

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1994

# Key lawmakers differ on plan

## ■ The question is whether PCBs could migrate from landfills

By Cliff Miller  
Post-Crescent Madison bureau

MADISON — Two of the state Legislature's key environmental lawmakers have different views on burying polluted river-bottom sludge in landfills.

Sen. Robert Cowles, R-Green Bay, said he believes polychlorinated biphenyls can be deposited

safely in properly designed landfills, but Rep. Spencer Black, D-Madison, isn't sure.

The two chair the committees in the Senate and Assembly that handle environmental issues. If the Department of Natural Resources gains permission from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to choose landfills for PCB burial, the committees have authority to oppose DNR action.

The state and federal agencies say putting PCB-polluted sludge from lake and river bottoms into landfills is the quickest and cheapest way of getting rid of the suspected cancer-causing chemical.

The chief question is whether PCBs could escape from landfills and pollute water supplies.

Cowles doubts this could happen. "To the best of my knowledge PCBs do not migrate," he said.

The Outagamie County Board's action last week opposing PCB disposal in the county's landfill was

prompted by opposition from residents who don't share the confidence some officials have in the safety of the disposal method.

Cowles echoed statements by DNR and EPA officials that getting the polluted sludge out of waterways is imperative to eliminate a major source of pollution.

Landfill disposal "is the only way we're ever going to do it," Cowles said. "I think we've got an educational effort on our hands on letting people know that science tells us that PCBs don't migrate."

He said he bases his belief on sources besides the DNR and EPA.

"I am not against it at this point," Black said. But he said three questions must be answered:

■ Under the Constitution, could the state restrict its landfills to

waste from within Wisconsin borders and refuse PCB sludge from other states while operating on a federal agency's authority?

■ Can the pollutant escape from landfills and invade water supplies?

"It is very poisonous and very persistent," he said. "There's always the claim that the newest landfills are state-of-the-art. They always leak."

■ How much sludge is involved?

"The potential volume of this material is large," Black said. "It could fill up a landfill."

The EPA is considering whether to give the DNR blanket permission to choose landfills to receive PCBs. Wisconsin Public Intervenor Thomas Dawson has challenged the EPA's legal power to pass so much of its authority to a state agency.



Cowles



Black

# County unwilling to take toxic muck

From A-1

even start with the disposal of an estimated 4 million cubic yards of PCB-contaminated river muck.

"I heard a slamming door," Outagamie County Executive Ronald Van De Hey said of the County Board's 35-1 vote last week to keep PCBs out of the county landfill.

"It would appear to me this action is very final. It's critical to say that, because the last thing I want to do is give (the DNR) some kind of hope that I don't believe is there."

To get a sense of how far the Fox Valley has to go in dealing with the PCB mess, it helps to remember what the DNR was after in Outagamie County. The agency wasn't asking the county to become the state's PCB dumping ground; officially, it was simply asking the county to consider opening its landfill to PCB-contaminated dredgings from a single, small demonstration site in Neenah.

Known as "Deposit A," the site has an estimated 63,000 cubic yards of PCB-contaminated muck, a mere fraction of the 4 million cubic yards believed to be in the river. If cleared of PCBs, Deposit A would serve as a model for cleaning up more than 30 other sites along the lower Fox that have been identified as PCB hot spots.

ments, waste treatment plants and industries along the Fox.

Fitzpatrick said if they do nothing and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decide to take enforcement action, everyone but the lawyers will lose.

"We have a real concern based on past large-scale enforcement efforts such as Superfund enforcement, where up to 40% of the money spent has been for legal fees," Fitzpatrick said. "I don't consider that a particularly useful way of restoring the environment."

When it got down to cases last week, however, Outagamie County showed more interest in preserving its landfill than in restoring the environment.



Van De Hey

Predictably, residents living near the landfill said they didn't want a PCB dump as a neighbor. Raising questions about the DNR's integrity, some residents either suggested or flatly declared that the DNR was plotting to turn the whole county landfill into a

massive PCB dump.

County Highway Commissioner Michael Marsden doesn't think in terms of DNR plots, but he made it clear that he would just as soon not have any PCBs in the landfill.

"It's a very precious commodity to Outagamie County and I don't want anything to happen to it," said

**"We've been waiting for the past 20 years for a perfect solution and we've seen continuing environmental problems. The time for the cleanup is now."**

*William Fitzpatrick  
water resources engineer*

August.

If Outagamie or some other area county can't be persuaded to open its landfill to PCBs, a private landfill like the Waste Management operation near Whitelaw in Manitowoc County could do the job. Fitzpatrick said the DNR has talked to private operators about handling PCBs, but he refused to elaborate.

Since the DNR doesn't have the power to force county landfills to accept PCBs, the private option may end up as the only option.

David Misterek, a solid waste management specialist with the DNR's area office in Oshkosh, said at a public meeting last week the problem with going private is that an already expensive undertaking could become even more expensive.

Misterek is afraid private operators will overcharge if they know

would peg his costs to the out-of-state shipment of PCBs, which could go as high as \$50 million just for the Deposit A cleanup. By contrast, it is estimated the cost would be \$10 million if the Deposit A dredgings were taken to the Outagamie landfill.

Some Outagamie County officials say they were caught by surprise when the DNR started talking about using the county landfill for PCBs, but Fitzpatrick said they shouldn't have been.

"This is not something that has come about in the last six months," he said. "We've been working on this for half a decade."

Fitzpatrick said the Legislature authorized the DNR to develop a PCB remediation plan in 1989, and Deposit A has been targeted as a demonstration cleanup site since 1992.

As recently as last year, Fitzpatrick said the Outagamie County Board authorized funding for the Fox River Coalition, a group of industrial and government representatives charged with developing proposals for removing PCBs from the Fox River. Outagamie County is represented on the coalition.

Fitzpatrick hopes to submit an official proposed plan for Deposit A next month, and he is hoping this time around the shock isn't what it was last month when the facts surfaced that the DNR is looking at

201201

## COMMENTARY

# On behalf of the Fox

## 'The real owners of the river have failed to speak

Recently, one of our sons described the trophy walleye he had caught and returned to the water. He could not keep the fish for fear of from where it had come and the toxins it contained.

Peter was fishing the Fox River at the De Pere dam.

I thought sadly to myself that again are we passing a legacy of contamination, pollution and toxins to yet another generation.

In my lifetime, I always have lived along the shores of Lake Michigan, Green Bay and the tributary streams.

My fondest memories are of a Victorian era house just south of City Park in Oconto where Green Bay was our back door. A property boundary creek provided suckers and smelt in season. Our Chicago relatives in the years before and early into World War II came to fish perch and net smelt. Often a door was taken from its hinges to create an extra table for the nighttime fish fries.

We children could wade far out into the Bay, enjoying its sandy expanse of shallow water. The nearby Oconto River was the site of an annual community Smelt Festival. Ice was harvested each winter from the river to cool the ice boxes of a populace without refrigerators. We youngsters would "filch" chunks of ice from the ice man's wagon and cool our thirsts as he made his summer rounds.

Dad's newspaper career took us to Marinette, the Menominee River and more enjoyable days along the Bay.

Another move took us to Two Rivers and then Manitowoc and homes within blocks of Lake Michigan. Our family saw lines of anglers on the breakwaters filling five-gallon pails with jumbo perch. We seined smelt in spring and hand-caught suckers working their way up the rivers flowing into the lake.

All that changed. It wasn't sudden but, like a cancer attacking healthy cells, our waters became overburdened with industrial, municipal

and farm wastes.

By the time I was in the seventh and eighth grades, the beach at Oconto's City Park was fouled with raw sewage and pollution from farther down the Bay. We could no longer wade the waters. The smelt carnivals were canceled for that reason and because of pollution riding the Oconto River from an upstream mill. The thought of sucking on a chunk of river ice was repulsive.

By the time I was graduated from college, the perch had all but disappeared from Lake Michigan waters. We were aware of new threats, among them, sea lampreys which had wiped out our lake trout. And, as a TV news director, I filmed one of our reporters standing chest deep in a pair of waders in the lake. As we panned back for a wide shot, he was surrounded with dead, decaying and dying alewives. That was the mid '60s.

The introduction of sport fishing species to the lake soon brought alewife populations under control. A new attraction had drawn attention back to Manitowoc and the communities up and down the lakeshore. By the time the '70s rolled around, there were new and ominous warnings. Anglers were warned about mercury, lead, PCBs and other contaminants in the trophies they

sought.

My wife and I, by now, had made our home in Appleton and relished the beauty of our Fox River, a beautiful river but good for little else. Members of my Boy Scout Troop provided canoes and paddlers for Rep. Tom Petri's once regular floats down river to De Pere with state, county and local politicians. The trips were to draw attention to the plight of the river and to inspect its 17 locks.

Those trips have long been over. Last fall, my sons and I attempted a similar canoe trip from Menasha to Wrightstown. It turned into one of those trips one would rather forget. In eight

hours, we fought barrier after barrier to our river and gave up at the Thilmany Paper Co. lock tired and dismayed.

We found the river cleaner than 10 years previous. Our oldest son, who worked in the environmental field for a paper company, commented that the water his firm put back into the river today was cleaner than that taken out to manufacture his firm's products.

But our Fox River today still is passing on contaminants and nonpoint pollution to Green Bay and ultimately Lake Michigan.

In my 60 years, I've come full circle. Now I follow with interest the posturing of the various entities involved in Fox River cleanup. The Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce and Industry establishing its river position; municipal huddle in meetings with their lawyers to determine how they will deal with the issue; paper companies are faced with cleanup costs and state and federal authorities attempt to tell us how the river should be addressed to remove PCB contamination; eliminate nonpoint pollution and close our locks.

In all of this, we, the real owners of the river have failed to speak. The Fox River is our river. It belongs to all people; those who live along banks; those who seek to enjoy its beauty; those who wish to ply its waters, fish and swim. The owners of the river are silent.

When all is said and done, the costs of the river cleanup will be paid by us whether in higher prices for paper products, user fees or federal, state, county and local taxes. No single entity will absorb the cost of river clean-up. The costs will be passed on.

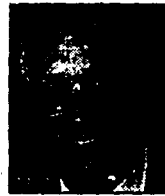
I, for one, do not want to pass on to my children another lifetime of befouled waters. Nor do I want our children to pass on such a legacy to our grandchildren. Posturing, legal prat and arguing over who will be responsible for cleanup or how it will be accomplished will do little to move forward. All parties must work together; establish the most cost effective, scientifically safe and soundly engineered methods possible.

For my part, and I hope I speak for many want - no, I demand - that our Fox River Great Lakes waters be unpolluted, void of contamination and open Menasha to the Bay available for all who wish to enjoy the gift of water the very life blood of our existence.

■ Roy Valitchka is a former associate editor of *The Post-Crescent*. He lives in Appleton and is involved in many community organizations.

guest  
viewpoint

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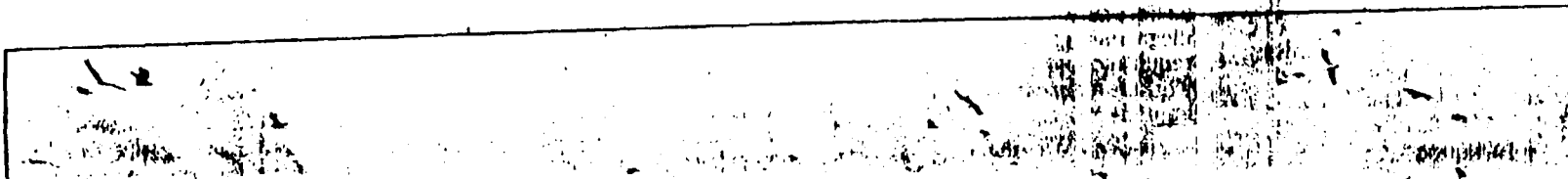


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# PCBs: Unwanted burden



Post-Crescent photo by Steve Apple

**THE OUTAGAMIE COUNTY LANDFILL** is a suitable disposal site for PCBs, according to the Department of Natural Resources.

## They can't stay in the Fox River, but nobody wants to take them

By James Meyer  
Post-Crescent staff writer

201303

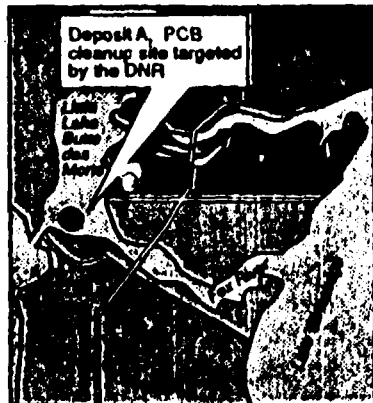
When the bald eagle returned to the Fox River Valley a few years ago, the event was hailed as an environmental breakthrough.

Here was dramatic proof that all the money invested in cleaning the Fox River over all those years was paying off. The national bird was back; for the first time in generations eaglets were being raised along the river's shores.

There's been just one problem: the eaglets are, quite literally, toxic.

Tests show they have alarmingly high PCB levels in their blood, as do many other bird and fish species living in and along the lower Fox.

The culprit here, polychlorinated biphenyls, is as familiar to most Fox Valley residents as the river itself. To many people in the valley, PCBs



Post-Crescent map by Mary Piersma

er's bottom.

At week's end, this much was known: Outagamie County doesn't want PCBs in its landfill, and the state Department of Natural Resources doesn't know where it will

### QUESTIONS, ANSWERS ON PCBs

#### WHAT ARE PCBs?

PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, are a man-made chemical compound once used widely in papermaking and other industrial processes. PCB production was banned in 1976, but the compound can remain in the environment for hundreds if not thousands of years. PCBs, which are present in the food chain, are a suspected animal carcinogen and have been linked to reproduction problems in animals and development and growth problems in children.

#### WHAT IS THE STATE DOING ABOUT PCBs IN THE FOX RIVER?

The state Department of Natural Resources, in cooperation with Fox River Valley industries, governments and municipal waste treatment plants, has identified more than 30 PCB "hot spots" on the lower Fox. DNR, working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and an industry-government group called the

lions of dollars. Hopes persist for the further development of PCB "destruction technologies," which could sharply reduce cleanup costs. For now, though, DNR officials are placing heavy emphasis on the relatively costly expedient of landfilling PCBs.

#### WHICH LANDFILLS WILL TAKE PCB-CONTAMINATED SEDIMENTS?

Again, no one knows. The Outagamie County Board voted last week to keep PCBs out of its landfill. Winnebago County has also rejected overtures to place PCBs in its landfill. One possibility is for the DNR to develop its own landfill. Another option, an especially costly one, is to truck PCB-contaminated materials out of the state.

#### WHO WILL PAY FOR THE CLEANUP?

Litigation could skew things, but for now area industries have shown a willingness to pay their share; however, what their share is remains to be seen. Municipal waste treatment

Which might explain why it came as such a shock when, in recent weeks, talk turned to where all those toxic PCBs are going to go once they are dredged from the riv-

■ **Lawmakers disagree on disposal: A-9**

site in Neenah in November.

**HOW MUCH WILL A COMPLETE CLEANUP OF THE FOX RIVER COST?**

No one knows, but educated guesses run into the hundreds of mil-

paying. Financing the cleanup is one of the key issues now before the Fox River Coalition.

■ **Compiled by Post-Crescent staff writer James Meyer.**

201302

OPINION:

# Pay close attention to series documenting Fox River pollution

The Fox River is the dominant physical feature of a Green Bay-Appleton area rapidly becoming more urbanized. The river is part of the area's heritage. It will play a major role in the region's future.

Because the Fox is so important, we ask you to pay close attention to River Renewal, a series of stories by environmental reporter Susan Campbell that begins today and will run through Thursday.

Her stories will look at the river through the eyes of those who live on its banks, catch its fish, monitor its composition and design its future.

Before whites came, the Fox was a vital transportation and trade route for Indian tribes. It served the same purpose as white settlers came to the area.

But abuse — the dumping of waste from sawmills, farms, factories and municipalities — turned the river into a sewer and residents away from its fetid waters.

Thanks to an array of local, state and national environmental initiatives, the river is dramatically cleaner and healthier today than a generation ago.



Fewer contaminants are dumped into it. More people have a higher regard for its condition.

But, as Campbell's stories will show, an improved Fox River is a work in progress. Much has been done. But the Fox remains a river in need of renewal.

In particular: Plans must be drawn to contain dangerous contaminants such as PCBs flushed into

the river years ago. Stronger efforts are required to reduce the runoff from farm fields and suburban backyards that is now the Fox's biggest problem.

Please pay attention to Campbell's stories. The Fox will be of increasing importance to the Green Bay-Appleton area in years to come.

An attractive river will draw new commercial and residential development to the old communities along its banks. A clean Fox will draw boaters and anglers. A healthy river will be a quality-of-life asset.

But a neglected Fox, a river whose health is shrugged off by those along its shores, will be such a liability that the region it defines will find prosperity elusive.

No Date - Newspaper

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**By Ed Culhane**

Post-Crescent staff writer

The need to remove contaminated Fox River sediments from contact with the river's current is both dramatic and urgent, the secretary of the state Department of Natural Resources said here Thursday.

Speaking at Lawrence University, George Meyer described the dangers to human health in frightening terms, and said those dangers will persist for hundreds of years unless action is taken.

PCBs that cling to animal tissue become more concentrated as they move up the food chain, Meyer said, resulting in deformities in birds that eat contaminated fish.

Even more alarming are studies that document both learning and behavioral difficulties in the children of mothers who eat PCB-contaminated fish.

The children are born sooner, have lower birth weights and smaller heads, Meyer said. They are three times as likely to have a lower average IQ and twice as likely to be up to two years behind in reading comprehension.

Follow-up studies show that these difficulties persist as the child ages. These children also show a pattern of hyper sensitivity to stress.

"We are dealing with a very harmful substance," Meyer told an audience of more than 90 people who crowded into a classroom on the university campus.

Questions from the audience showed broad support for the costly and lengthy cleanup of the Fox River proposed by state and federal regulators.

Meyer was challenged, however, by Bill Welch, president of the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Welch said much of the 80,000 pounds of PCBs lying in Fox River sediments are found in concentrations as low as 2.5 parts per million, less than the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has left behind after cleaning up some Superfund sites.

Welch has issued a position paper on behalf of the chamber opposing Superfund status for the Fox and arguing that extensive dredging of the river will come at a tremendous, perhaps unattainable, cost to area paper mills with little evidence that the money will be well spent.

He said 525 million tons of PCBs were released into the environment in the United States before they were banned 25 years ago.



"PCB oils were spread on roads to control dust," Welch said. "They are ubiquitous."

He said the primary study showing learning difficulties in children revealed an IQ loss of less than 10 points, and he questioned whether other toxins might have been involved.

"I don't think there is enough evidence to conclude from these studies that PCB contamination endangers human health," Welch said.

Meyer said experts on the health studies will be brought to the Fox Valley, perhaps in April, to appear at public meetings. He said the weight of scientific evidence clearly supports a finding that PCBs are dangerous.

Many of the PCBs referred to by Welch are found in land deposits, Meyer said, where they pose much less risk. PCBs tend to cling to soil.

"People don't generally go around eating contaminated soil," Meyer said.

But in the river, Meyer said, the PCBs are constantly being exposed to the food chain.

"The fish that are contaminated aren't eating sediments," Meyer said, "they are absorbing those PCBs in the water column."

Meyer said that on a good day (with calmer stream flows) the PCB contamination in the water column exceeds safety standards by a factor of 500. With the water churned by high flows or storms, Meyer said, the contamination skyrockets to 50,000 times the safety standard.

Although dredging may expose more highly contaminated sediments, Meyer said, that is not the point. Dredging still removes large amounts of contamination from the river.

Meyer said that unless the contaminants are removed from contact with the river, either through dredging or capping, the game fish in the river will remain unsafe to eat for another 235 years.

"The question is, can we lower that by a couple hundred years," Meyer said.

Meyer said he too opposed Superfund status, and he still hopes for a negotiated settlement with the seven paper mills identified as being responsible for the cleanup.

"For many reasons, that has not been successful," Meyer said of talks with the mills. "A major reason is fear of the cost."

If dredging is chosen as the primary cleanup strategy, Meyer said, the cleanup could take 10 to 15 years, and payments on the cleanup could take 20 to 30 years.

No firm estimates are available, but the cleanup could cost hundreds of millions of dollars.

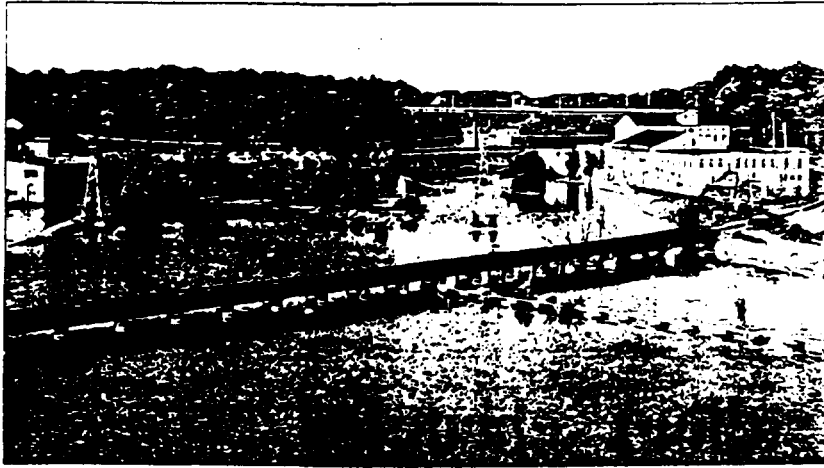
The alternative to a cleanup, however, is even more expensive, Meyer said. A Natural Resource Damage Assessment being conducted by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will compute damages for lost use of clean water and safe fish and assess those against the mills that discharged PCBs into the river for 20 years before the ban.

Those damages, projected into the future, will far exceed the cleanup cost, Meyer said.

"No matter what remedy is selected, it won't be cheap," Meyer said, "but we can't afford not to do it."

Public meetings center on ambitious cleanup plan

# Pollution solutions



**PUBLIC MEETINGS** will address efforts to clean up contaminated sediments in the Fox River

## LOWER FOX RIVER CLEANUP RANKING

● ● ●  
*"Our concern is that if nothing happens, opportunities will be lost. The (toxic) material is flowing downstream, into the bay, where it can't be retrieved."*

BRUCE JOHNSON,  
of the environmental group  
Fox-Wolf Basin 2000

LOW VALUE = HIGHEST PRIORITY

	1-5
	6-10
	11-15
	16-20
	21-26

Source: Bureau of Environmental Management



■ A public-private group invites the public to learn more about the largest cleanup effort ever in the Great Lakes region

By Ed Culhane  
 Fox Valley Journal

## PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

- ▶ **WHEN:** Thursday
- ▶ **WHERE:** Bordini Center at Fox Valley Technical College 1825 N. Bluemound, Appleton
- ▶ **OPEN HOUSE:** 6:30 p.m., featuring booths and informative displays
- ▶ **PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS:** 7 to 8:30 p.m. Featuring maps, photos and discussion about remedial investigations on the Lower Fox River, public safety and environmental precautions.

- ▶ **WHEN:** Thursday, Aug. 10
- ▶ **WHERE:** Holiday Inn Centre, 200 N. Main St., Green Bay
- ▶ **OPEN HOUSE:** 6:30 p.m., featuring booths and informative displays
- ▶ **PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS:** 7 to 8:30 p.m. Scientists, engineers and government regulators will answer questions.

A public meeting will be held to move thousands of pounds of toxic sludge from the lower Fox River to the largest municipal hazardous waste cleanup ever conducted in the Great Lakes state - Wisconsin's De Pere Dam in Appleton.

Planners are promising a "lived" event and a cleanup that will give area residents a chance to see the most important environmental cleanup project in Wisconsin. A similar meeting was held in Appleton in Green Bay.

The federally mandated cleanup of the Fox River is a 10-year project that will remove 100,000 tons of toxic sludge and other pollutants from the river.

The cleanup is a major environmental project that will cost \$100 million.

The idea was to have a public meeting to answer questions about the cleanup. The idea was to have a public meeting to answer questions about the cleanup.

The idea was to have a public meeting to answer questions about the cleanup.

The idea was to have a public meeting to answer questions about the cleanup.



202437

## EPA official who will decide fate of Fox defends his agency

By Bob Vitale  
Post-Crescent Washington bureau  
Washington

**B**utterflies, rainbows and bright blue skies adorn a Superfund promotional poster that hangs outside the office of

Timothy Fields.

Inside, the Environmental Protection Agency official who has run the program for the last 15 months paints an equally positive portrait with words such as "sensitive" and "concerned." What a far, far different picture it is than the one being painted in the Fox Valley, where it's sometimes hard to tell which some leaders think is worse: a 39-mile stretch of river tainted with hazardous toxins, or the federal program that's trying to speed its cleanup.

Superfund has been criticized locally as a boondoggle that could bankrupt businesses, stifle

economic growth and take even longer to rid the Fox River of pollutants that have been in its waters for 41 years already.

Fields, who will decide by the end of June whether to propose a Superfund listing for the river, says it's a distorted, outdated view.

"There is a lot of misinformation and misunderstanding of the real benefits Superfund can provide to communities," he says. "There's a real paranoia about Superfund listing that in many cases is unfounded."

Superfund, the shorthand title for what's officially known as the EPA's National Priorities List, was created in 1980 to locate, investigate and clean up the nation's worst hazardous waste sites. A total of 1,194 around the country — rivers, landfills, industrial sites and government installations — are currently on the list.

Delays and litigation are cited often by critics. EPA says 498 cleanups have been completed, but opponents say there are far

Please see **RIVER**, BACK PAGE



"There is a lot of misinformation and misunderstanding of the real benefits Superfund can provide to communities. There's a real paranoia about Superfund listing that in many cases is unfounded."

TIMOTHY  
FIELDS

Post-Crescent photo by Kristyna Wentz-Graff

**MEGHAN SCHELBLE**, 17, of Appleton sits along the banks of the Fox River at Lutz Park

## Superfund can be both blessing, curse

By Ed Culhane  
Post-Crescent staff writer

Superfund designation for the Fox River might be a godsend or it might be a disaster, but it wouldn't be the first time this area has experienced the dubious honor.

There are more than a thousand Superfund sites nationwide, and more than three dozen in Wisconsin, all sharing the distinction of being among the most polluted hot spots in the nation.

Of these, one is in the heart of Appleton, and another has threatened drinking water supplies in the Town of Harrison.

A third, in Sheboygan, involves 2 million cubic yards of PCB-contaminated river sediment, a large quantity but less than a fourth of what lies in the Fox.

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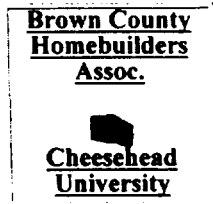
Green Bay News Chronicle

The leading voice of Green Bay and Packer Country

# THE GREEN BAY News-Chronicle

Monday, February 22, 1999

Select a page



## Labor leaders leery about Fox River cleanup

### Paperworkers union leaders are heading to Washington to lobby against Superfund

#### The News-Chronicle

A group of local labor union presidents plans to take petitions to Washington, D.C., next week to try to convince politicians not to make any decisions about the restoration of the Fox River until current scientific studies are completed.

But Clean Action Water Council, a local environmental group, would like to meet with them to discuss the scientific information related to the PCB cleanup in the Fox River.

The group is concerned about the polarization between labor and environmentalists, said Becky Katers, executive director of CWAC. "We should be allies," Katers said.

CWAC is proposing to meet with regional leaders of the Paper, Allied Industrial, Chemical and Energy union (PACE) next month so all parties can bring and share their scientific evidence.



their scientific evidence.

**FRONT PAGE**



**SPORTS**



**NEWS IN REVIEW**



**HEALTH:**



**ARTS &  
ENTERTAINMENT**



**OPINION**



**FEATURE**



**OUTDOOR NEWS**



**BIRTHS, DEATHS  
& MARRIAGES**

"Hopefully, we can all reach a common understanding about the issues and help to resolve any differences," Katers said in a release. "We know local workers want a clean river as much as we do - so let's work together to find a solution. Clean Water Action Council believes we can have both a clean river and a thriving paper industry."

The labor leaders from the Fox Valley and Green Bay area said Thursday they are leery about the possibility the Fox River could be placed on the national list of Superfund sites. The unions said their message to politicians is to slow down and listen.

Mill workers believe their jobs would be threatened by the Superfund designation, said Gary Dekeyser, president of PACE local 327 at the Fort James Corp. East mill, 500 Day St. Superfund would allow the federal government to come in and clean the site then charge the companies responsible for the polychlorinated biphenyls being in the river.

"Our jobs are being threatened as a result and every merchant who sells goods and services to paperworkers are being threatened," Dekeyser said. "Car lots, realtors and homebuilders, appliance and computer stores, printing companies big and small, loggers, truck and transport companies will be hurt by this rush to judgment."

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# DNR's dredge results anger Katers

The environmentalist says the organization has lied in many ways

2/10/99

By Melinda Naparalla  
The News-Chronicle

Area environmentalists do not trust the information released by the state Department of Natural Resources about its cleanup of PCBs from the Fox River at a deposit near Kimberly.

The DNR began dredging the area known as Deposit N in November but stopped the project because of icy conditions at the end of December. About 40 percent of the 3-acre deposit was removed, resulting in the removal of about 100 pounds of PCBs.

"We are really concerned with how they are portraying this," said Rebecca Katers, executive director of the Clean Water Action Council. "We were defrauded when we were told they would take out X amount of PCBs from Deposit N. How can we have any faith they'll do Deposit 56/57 correctly?"

Deposit 56/57 is a much larger area of the river near the former Fort Howard Corp. paper mill at 1919 S. Broadway, now a part of Fort James.

The DNR left behind 60 percent of the Kimberly deposit and made a major mistake by leaving contaminants exposed to the river, Katers said. Crews cut through the surface layer of sediment and exposed the most-contaminated soil, then removed the silt curtains that would prevent any sediment from leaving the area, she said.

"They've lied to us in many different ways," Katers said. "I don't think anyone should trust them, which is why we feel the federal government needs to come in. We no longer trust the state to do it right."

The federal Environmental Protection Agency is going through the lengthy process of deciding whether to place a 39-mile stretch of the Lower Fox River on the National Priorities List, making it eligible for cleanup through the Superfund program.

"We went there to remove contaminants from the river working under less-than-perfect conditions, and I think we did that quite successfully," said Bill Fitzpatrick, DNR project coordinator. "It was important to get started on the Fox. We took the first big step."

Fitzpatrick said the DNR is determining if it will return to Deposit N. The decision will be based on the amount of contaminants still there and the cost of the project.

Test results that will show the amount of contamination remaining after the dredging are expected by the end of February. Fitzpatrick said the results will assist in determining the cleanup plan for the entire river. Deposit 56/57 is on its own timeline, he said, but is expected to begin in mid- to late spring.

The two projects are intended to be demonstrations of dredging as a method of PCB removal, but Katers said the way Deposit N was handled makes it a bad example.

"This is not the kind of demonstration we needed to have," she said. "I'm afraid it's playing into the paper companies' hands."



# We need to watch for all types of con artists

As we happily skip our way through life, we are regularly besieged by the forces of darkness, oft in the form of con artists, grifters and scammers.

The list includes more than three-card monte dealers and used-car salesmen. We have to watch out for both on-the-phone and online hucksters, selling stuff we don't want;

**It was unethical for the paper industry to make such broad claims from such simplistic data.**

credit card peddlers; and the really evil, phony "investment counselors." I read the other day that these "investors" steal \$1 million per day from the rest of us.

Now, with some sadness, but no surprise, we have the paper industry acting as a con artist. Recently, the paper mills showed us a study in which they claimed that cancer deaths in the Fox Valley were *lower* than the

surrounding counties. This is another effort to counter *real* scientists who are concerned about the relationship between PCBs and cancer.

It was unethical for the paper industry to make such broad claims from such simplistic data. Ask some questions:

- Why did the paper mills avoid mentioning the relationship between PCBs and birth defects, reduced IQ in children or damaged immune systems?
- Why is Gov. Tommy Thompson's Department of Health and Family Services not

**Curt Anderson**

For The Green Bay News-Chronicle

conducting a study like the one by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, which found that Massachusetts residents exposed to PCBs had higher-than-expected levels of bladder, prostate and kidney cancers?

Another agency scam is the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' assertion that two mines can satisfy the two criteria in the "mining moratorium" law.

Nearly 200 years ago, Sir Walter Scott warned, "Oh, what a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive!" DNR Secretary George Meyer must have missed that English class, or Thompson has him over a barrel.

Meyer told reporters that the DNR had testified several times that *two* mines could satisfy the two criteria. This statement was shown to be patently false by state Rep. Spencer Black, D-Madison, who went back into the testimony from mine hearings and found that the DNR actually testified that *one* mine must meet *both* criteria.

It was clearly stated in the moratorium

that a mine would have to be operated for 10 years without polluting and closed for 10 years without polluting.

Thompson's Legion of Legislative Lap Dogs is working hard to make sure that The Mine Boys get their permit. Don't forget that the mining industry and its Morlock friends made huge donations to Tommy and other mining supporters. Now it wants the favor returned **BIG TIME**.

State agencies under Thompson have morphed from watchdogs on a short leash to watchdogs asleep to tail-wagging sled-dog collaborators.

I feel sorry for those staffers who are still trying to do what their agencies were set up for. That must be the job from hell.

Anderson, 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@tcl.com](mailto:chronicle@tcl.com).

**COLUMNIST'S PERSPECTIVE**

# Common sense can clean up the Fox

Let's assume it takes some brains and common sense to become the well-compensated chieftain of a big business.

So why would some smart, sensible people have stood before Congress and said there's no proof that cigarette smoking causes cancer and early death?

If they were telling the truth, they were the only people in America who thought cigarette smokers are taking no health risks, other than the astonished attorneys general who took the tobacco executives at their word and were shocked! shocked! at the publicly funded medical bills racked up by impoverished smokers.

Why would a paper company scientist suggest cancer death rates are lower near the PCB-contaminated Fox River than in the pristine woods and waterways of northern Wisconsin?

And why would a smart, sensible paper company scientist fiddle with a computer model so it seems to prove that the best thing to do with PCBs would be to leave them at the bottom of the river?

Yet, there it was on the front page of this newspaper: Appleton Papers had the temerity to imply PCBs aren't as bad as all that. And on the front page of the Post-Crescent in Appleton last week were allegations that seven paper companies were fiddling with the computer.

Three possible explanations occur to me.

One, my opening assumption was wrong, and it takes neither brains nor common sense to be the chief executive of a big corporation.

Two, big business bosses are evil people who take so much delight in making big bucks that they are willing to risk killing their customers and poisoning the air we breathe and the water we'd like to drink.

Three, they can't afford to be truthful because lawyers and politicians have conditioned us to search for someone to blame when something goes wrong and then bleed the guilty party dry.

If the tobacco companies admit they know why their prod-

ucts have been called "coffin nails" for more than a century, well, then, someone might get the bright idea to assess a penalty so onerous that the company may no

longer exist and the executives might have to scrape by on whatever they've managed to save.

If the paper companies take full responsibility for putting toxic

PCBs into a 39-mile stretch of the Fox River, someone might get the bright idea of having them foot the entire bill.

So they lie, or rather, (to paraphrase Boss Clinton) they give answers that may be legally true but withhold information. If the posse is looking to hang them, they're not going to supply the rope. (Come to think of it, that pretty much sums up Boss Clinton's lies and stonewalling.)

We're really not going to solve these problems by going to court and splitting legal hairs. We'll solve smoking deaths by saying, "You know, I took the chance that all those cigarettes over the years would kill me early, and by golly, it looks like

**We're really not going to solve these problems by going to court and splitting legal hairs.**

they will. It's my fault. Don't follow my example."

We'll solve the river mess by telling the companies, "OK, we know PCBs were legal when you put them in the

river, so all of us together are going to pay what it takes to clean the river."

Perhaps I'm being naive, but maybe the big company executives would respond, "I'm glad you feel that way, because we feel bad our predecessors put those deadly chemicals in the water, too, but we can't afford to clean the river ourselves."

Then we'd be on the same road working together instead of arguing about the basics in court. Only the lawyers could be unhappy with that scenario.

Bluhm, whose column appears here each Tuesday, is news editor for The Green Bay News-Chronicle. Call him at 432-2941 or write to him via e-mail at chronicle@tfc.com.



**Warren Bluhm**

The Green Bay News-Chronicle

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2/8/99

## Unions buy into paper industry's anti-Superfund propaganda

The lead article in the Feb. 1 issue of *The Green Bay News-Chronicle* (Page 1) about unions opposing Superfund shows just how low the Fox River's PCB polluters will stoop to shirk their responsibility.

Tired of repeating the same old lies, they've passed the propaganda baton on to the unions. Worker blackmail is a nasty thing. Statements made by Gary Dekeyser, Larry Reandeau and Donald Besaw ignore the history of environmental regulation.

Dekeyser's statement that 4,000 jobs are in jeopardy is irresponsible. There's not a shred of evidence to back it up. It's a scare tactic. We heard the same in 1972 when the Clean Water Act required mills to

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build waste treatment plants and again in 1985 when Fort Howard Corp. was required to clean its air emissions.

Reandeau calls for an economic impact statement but says nothing about the economic impact of poisoning our surroundings with PCBs. Edible fish, drinkable water and

swimmable beaches aren't part of his reasoning.

There is no way the paper industry will abandon the capital and experienced labor force it's accumulated here. What's unfortunate is the little gratitude it shows for what the area has given it.

Besaw criticizes the EPA for going ahead without doing the science. The EPA has successfully cleaned up 25 Superfund sites in Wisconsin. Hundreds across the country. It has the expertise and the science is there.

Industry will be allowed to do its own science because its big money buys influence in the governor's office and with the state Department of Natural Resources. It has hired its

own consultants to duplicate what has already been done in dozens of other Superfund sites.

The corporations and their unions say they want the river clean, but their actions show otherwise. We now know tens of thousands of dollars will be spent to send an industry delegation to Washington to lobby against Superfund and for delay. Once again, money that could go to clean the Fox River goes for just the opposite reason.

Seems the corporations, and now the unions, have no shame. They also have no class. They're concerned for their own necks only, and the rest of us be damned.

Stephen Abitz  
De Pere

Mail: The Green Bay News-Chronicle  
P.O. Box 2467, Green Bay, WI 54306-2467

E-mail: [chronicle@tbl.com](mailto:chronicle@tbl.com)  
Fax: 920-432-8581

2/4/99

REA

## Environmentalists want jobs, too

The Clean Water Action Council is *not* interested in shutting down paper mills in order to clean up the Fox River. We have friends, family and council members who work in the mills, and we enjoy the benefits of a strong economy as much as anyone.

The council has 20,000 members and contributors in Northeast Wisconsin, ordinary people from all walks of life who simply want to build a better future, and we know most paper workers love the outdoors and want clean water for their families, just as we do.

It's sad to see the corporations frightening paper workers into believing that "environmentalists" don't care about workers or the economy, as if "environmentalists" were somehow disconnected from the local community.

The council truly believes the river can be cleaned up while maintaining a thriving paper industry in the Fox Valley. Just look at the enormous worldwide financial assets of the five largest multinational corporations that put 98 percent of the PCBs in the river.

Cleanup costs will be shared by them and spread over several decades, with

financing. The Environmental Protection Agency repeatedly has said it will adjust the cleanup to ensure that the corporations will *not* be forced into bankruptcy. (If anything, the EPA may be too lenient.) The corporations have nothing to gain by closing profitable mills.

The corporations and state government have studied the Fox River PCB issue and delayed action for more than 20 years, while thousands of people in the region (including paper workers) and their newborn children have been exposed to dangerous levels of this toxic chemical. Further delays should not be tolerated.

The Clean Water Action Council urges workers to keep open minds and hear our concerns, before joining with corporate bosses against Superfund and river cleanup. We need the federal law for leverage to finally get a serious settlement from the paper companies. Please help protect the community we all share. Your jobs are not the issue.

**Rebecca L. Katers**  
Executive Director  
Clean Action Water Council  
Green Bay

The Green Bay News-Chronicle  
P.O. Box 2467, Green Bay, WI 54306-2467

E-n  
Fax

**Now is the time  
to get rid of PCBs** 2/3/99

MENASHA — I am amazed at the ignorance of those who say that polychlorinated biphenyls are no danger to human beings. Do they understand that PCBs are a hormone blocker like thalidomide?

Birds born of those who had ingested PCBs fail to develop parenting instincts, thus abandoning their nests. They fail to feed and take care of their young. Both male and female organs have turned up in whales while frogs have been found with extra legs. Children have developed lower IQs.

For more information about the PCB threat to our health and the environment, I strongly recommend *Our Stolen Future* written by Theo Colburn, a University of Wisconsin zoologist whose specialty is endocrinology.

Why have the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Natural Resources decided that PCBs must be removed from areas where more and more PCBs would otherwise be incorporated into our food chains? That decision was made because PCBs do not degrade so that once in a food chain they build up so that they pose an ever-present and increasing hazard.

The time to get rid of PCBs is now. If it requires the Superfund, so be it!

Thomas Hutt

**Meyer, George E**

From: Baker, Bruce J  
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 1999 2:16 PM  
To: Meyer, George E  
Subject: FW: media stories: economics and election issues

*Jim  
- Please  
for ~~send~~ to  
Dave  
which  
Thanks  
G*

From: Sadowski, Irene E  
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 1999 1:34 PM  
To: Alan Shear; Benita Zikste; Bruce Baker; Bruce Urban; Charles Hammer; Charles Ladin; Corrine Billings; David Grehore; Duane Schuettepelt; Edward Lynch; Erika Kuetmaier; George Baronow; Hirsch, Cynthia R.; James Rayburn; Kevin Kessler; Leonard Polczinski; Linda Meyer; Mark Giesteldt; Robert Behrens; Shari Eggleson; William Fitzpatrick; William Selbig; 'BRHANA BILL'; Chuck Wasmata; David Webb; 'david\_p\_alan@mail.fws.gov'; 'dcor@mail.wiscnet.net'; Jeff House; 'joan\_guilfoyle@mail.fws.gov'; John\_Lindsay\_GBEAR@hazmat.nosa.gov; Kathryn Evans; 'Tarry\_dean@mail.fws.gov'; Marty McHugh; Mick Hans; Robert Paulson; SUSAN PASTOR; Todd Soeka; Tom Nelson; 'youngmvr@hfa.state.wi.us'  
Subject: media stories: economics and election issues

FYI

<http://www.greenbaynewschron.com/index2.html>

# Unions will seek help from state lawmakers

## Paper companies and unions team to delay Superfund designation. Paper workers want a study of the economic impact of large-scale Fox River dredging

By Melanie Fonder  
The News-Chronicle

It's not that the seven paper mills that make up the Fox River Group do not want to clean up the PCBs they put on the bottom of the river over the preceding years and decades - but they say any dredging needs to wait until scientific results have been gathered.

To ensure their concerns are heard, the corporations have now joined with the Oregon-based Pulp and Paperworker's Resource Council, a national labor group with a goal of influencing environmental legislation that affects workers' jobs.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is expected to decide this year if it will put the Lower Fox River on its National Priorities List, making the river eligible for federally supervised cleanup under the Superfund program. The seven mills have been identified as potentially responsible for the PCB contamination and are expected to play a major role in paying for the cleanup.

Gary Dekeyser, union president at Fort James East - Fort James Corp.'s 500 Day St. plant - said the workers and the companies want the EPA to prepare an economic impact statement before it makes its final decision. "The EPA just out and out doesn't care about jobs," Dekeyser said. "I'm a fisherman, my

parents have a cottage on the bay, I want to retire on the bay - we want the river cleaned up."

But approximately 4,000 union members from the seven paper mills involved in the cleanup would have their jobs on the line if the EPA plan is too costly, he said. Local and state governments, Dekeyser said, have been willing to at least listen to the idea of waiting for a study assessing the economic impact of the 39-mile project.

"Locally, (legislators) are very receptive," Dekeyser said. "Once you get out of the local governments, there doesn't seem to be anyone listening." On Feb. 20, about a dozen representatives from the Fox River Group will travel to Washington, D.C., with 80 members of the labor group to appeal to Wisconsin legislators. Larry Reandeau, a representative from the Pulp and Paperworkers' Resource Council, said the Fox River Valley is at the top of its priorities list in Washington, D.C.

"We would like all of the Wisconsin legislators to sign a letter to the EPA asking for an economic impact statement," Reandeau.

Even though local government officials are willing to wait and work with the Fox River Group, Reandeau said the EPA could name the Fox a Superfund site regardless of the input from the paper workers.

"It's an agency that's supposed to be protecting you - you (the EPA) are set up to help the folks and why is it so difficult to work with you?" Reandeau said.

Because the EPA has never handled a project as large as the dredging of a 39-mile stretch of river, the Fox River Group and the Pulp and Paperworkers' Resource Council are also concerned about the results.

Donald Besaw of the United Paperworkers International Union said the level of PCBs in the Fox River has dropped since 1971. In the past few years, the decline has leveled off, he said.

"The best results of this might be to leave it alone and let Mother Nature take its course - but you won't hear the EPA say that," Besaw said. "It's hard to judge until the science is done."

The paper workers' union wrote a letter to the EPA during the Superfund public comment period in July, making much the same request the union members plan to make in Washington, D.C., later this month.

"We are asking the EPA to do additional studies on the conditions in the river during the cleanup process," the letter states. "We also ask that the EPA continue negotiating with the companies whose mills are affected and do additional work to establish that it can apportion the costs of this project so that it will not bankrupt the mills."

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<http://www.wisinfo.com/postcrescent/news/020299-8.html>

## County candidates get little notice

By Judy Mahoney  
Post-Crescent staff writer

Post-Crescent photo by Kristyna Wentz-Graff Outagamie County Executive candidate Toby Paltzer, left, fields a question at a forum Monday at Wilson Middle School as his opponents await their turns.

If attendance at Monday's forum is an indicator of interest, the toughest task facing four candidates vying for Outagamie County executive is getting out the vote.

Fewer than two dozen people showed up at Wilson Middle School in Appleton to hear John Baum, Thom Ciske, Toby Paltzer and Richard Schmidt in their first appearance together. The forum was sponsored by the Appleton Area League of Women Voters.

The candidates showed clear differences on whether to replace the Outagamie County Health Center. Paltzer and Ciske favor building a new center while Baum and Schmidt questioned the expense.



2/2/99

## Face the PCB truth

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Why have the federal Environmental Protection Agency and the state Department of Natural Resources decided that PCBs must be removed from areas where more and more PCBs would otherwise be incorporated into our food chains?

That decision was made because PCBs do not degrade; once in a food chain they build up so that they pose an ever-present and increasing hazard.

The time to get rid of PCBs is now. If it requires the Superfund, so be it.

**Tom Hutt**

Retired chemical engineer

Menasha

tomhutt@juno.com



2/1/99

## Stick to environmental facts

I couldn't help but laugh when I saw the lead headline in the Jan. 21 issue of *The Green Bay News-Chronicle*, "Paper Company report finds no PCB-cancer link."

That's a good one; what's next, PCBs are actually part of a balanced breakfast? This is just as blatant an untruth as the big tobacco companies trying to hide the fact that cigarettes are carcinogens.

This is a perfect example of just how far the area polluters are willing to go to avoid a Superfund cleanup of their toxic mess in the Fox River. I should hope that Fox Valley residents aren't willing to believe this garbage.

Let us all understand that the birds out on Renard Isle aren't crossing their beaks for the fun of it. There's also a reason why we can't eat any of the fish out of the Fox River, and that reason is PCBs.

Now let's look at the facts of that so-called "study." What they tell you

is that cancer deaths are lowering. Nothing is mentioned about the fact that incidences of cancer are on the rise.

Today, because of advances in medical care, cancer can be detected and treated before a person has to die from it. Although fewer people are dying from cancer, please don't be led to believe that it is due to the aroma therapy that is spewn out of the area smokestacks.

Shame on the *News-Chronicle* for giving this propaganda front-page headlines. Between this and Warren Bluhm rambling on about Star Wars, I'm beginning to wonder if your standards are slipping.

Something like this could be expected from the *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, but not from a paper that prints columns by informed, factual-based writers such as Curt Andersen and Mitch Bent. So let's try printing the facts from now on.

**Kyle Grass**  
Green Bay

# Paper companies, union team in hopes of preventing Superfund

2/1/99

cutives say  
workers' jobs  
are on the line

By Melanie Fonder  
The News-Chronicle

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Gary Dekeyser, union president  
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Please see PAPER, Page 4

4 Monday, February 1, 1999

## PAPER: Unions will seek help from state lawmakers

FROM PAGE 1

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costs of this project so that it will  
not bankrupt the mills."

# Whopper walleye

## Make the Fox one of the region's top fisheries

By Paul Walt  
For The News-Chronicle

**S**ean Duncanson hopes to etch his name in the Boone & Crockett record book—with a walleye.

The De Pere native, a professed white-tailed deer hunting addict, knows that fish don't qualify for the Boone & Crockett listings.

And no, Duncanson has never seen a walleye with antlers. But he has witnessed his share of lunker walleyes taken from the Fox River near Voyageur Park in De Pere.

Like many Northeast Wisconsin anglers, Duncanson is drawn to the lower Fox River by the prospect of hooking a once-in-a-lifetime fish.

"There are 30-inch-plus, 12-pound walleyes in here," Duncanson said last week as he jigged a minnow through the ice just north of the De Pere dam. "All I'm after is a big, Boone & Crockett walleye."

About 75 feet away, Mark Clayser of Neenah and Buddy Donaldson of Appleton huddled inside of a portable ice shack. Like Duncanson, the Fox Valley anglers were lured to De Pere in search of walleyes, but size is less of an issue for them.

"Sure, it would be nice to catch a big one," Clayser said as two more green lines signaling fish flashed on the electronic fish locator he had set up in a hole. "Size isn't that important. I just like to catch 'em."

Whether anglers are after constant action or a chance to boat a bruiser walleye, the stretch of the Fox River from the De Pere dam to the mouth near the Wisconsin Public Service Corp. Pulliam



Paul Walt / For The News-Chronicle

**JASON PRZEKURAT OF STEVENS POINT** puts a walleye into a weighing bin at the Green Bay Metro Boat Launch on May 10 during the Fox River Spring Walleye Classic. Large walleyes are found throughout the Fox and the bay, with the biggest ones generally being taken just after Christmas or from ice out to early June.

Power Plant and the adjacent waters of Green Bay offer some of the best fishing in the Midwest, according to Jerry Suda of De Pere, who runs three walleye fishing

tournaments a year on the Fox. "We're blessed to live here and have such a nice fishery," Suda said. "For size, I would rate it better than Lake Winnebago. I would

rate it second or third in the Midwest. Right now, you can't beat the size and quality of walleye fishing on the Fox River and lower bay."

Warm water discharges from the Pulliam plant and Fort James Corp. paper mill, coupled with bridge pilings and a rock reef installed by the state Department of Natural Resources, provide excellent habitat for walleyes, Suda said.

But the De Pere dam is the key, he said.

"Without the dam, there wouldn't be the concentration of fish," Suda said. "The fish would just keep going up the river."

The best spots in the Fox for walleye are from the dam north to the State 172 bridge and from the Tower Drive Bridge on Interstate 43 to the mouth of the river, Suda said.

Unlike some favorite fishing spots that yield hefty catches for only a few weeks of the year, the Fox holds hungry walleyes in all seasons.

"There's fish in there from January to the end of December," Suda said. "It's a year-round fishery."

Certainly, Suda acknowledges, some periods of the year are better than others.

Early ice, usually right after Christmas, is the best winter period for walleyes near De Pere. The best time for the rest of the year is from ice out through the first week of June, Suda said.

After spring spawning ends, many of the walleye move into the deeper waters of Green Bay. But they are hardly inactive or uncatchable, Suda said.

"The last three years have been

great for trolling on the bay," he said. "There are days you go out and you know they're there, but they just don't bite. But overall, it's great fishing."

As water temperatures cool in the fall, walleyes move back into the river, where anglers willing to forego bow hunting and waterfowling often cash in on spectacular fishing.

The only bad rap on the Fox River fishery is the pollution of PCBs that were released in the river by paper companies.

But some people, including Suda, say the impact of pollutants in the river is not as bad as environmental officials make it sound.

"Every year, you see a good new class of fish," Suda said. "With the PCBs, I don't think it's as bad as they say it is. For all these fish to be there, it's got to be OK."

Nonetheless, the DNR has issued a fish advisory recommending that people eat no more than one meal a month of walleyes less than 16 inches, one meal every two months of walleye between 16 and 22 inches and not to eat any walleye larger than 22 inches.

"I eat fish out of the Fox, but I wouldn't eat anything over 2 pounds," Suda said. "There's a lot of fish that come into the river for a month or two, then they go back into the bay. Those are clean fish."

But whether the walleyes are worthy of the frying pan or not is of little concern to most people who wet a line on the Fox. The thrill of the fight and the chance at a trophy fish keeps anglers coming back.

"The fish are there," Duncanson said. "And when they're biting, everybody is getting 'em."

**LETTERS COMMENT**

**Don't trust the DNR**

1/27/99

Strike one! Strike two! Strike three! You're outta here!

This is exactly what the people of Wisconsin need to say to the state and the Department of Natural Resources involved with the PCB cleanup of the Fox River. Yes, folks, they have proved to us again that they are unable to tackle the cleanup of the river.

The demonstration project on a PCB hot spot near Little Chute has recently been canceled due to the Fox River freezing over. Intelligent people of the Fox Valley, I ask you — do you plant a garden in December? Of course not! So why did the DNR start a demonstration cleanup project in the winter? It seems a little fishy to me.

I fail to believe the DNR ever planned on finishing this demo project, and officials are crossing their fingers in the hope that we'll all forget about this come springtime.

This is just another reason why we so badly need Superfund. The state and DNR cannot handle a project as immense and



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technological as the PCB cleanup of the Fox. If we fail to get Superfund, I can guarantee you we will fail at the cleanup of the river.

If you want things done right, we must speak out in support of Superfund. Write your local legislator. If we come together as a community, then maybe we can tell future generations that we have made a positive difference in our world, and so can they.

**Allen Sautter**  
Green Bay

man Affairs would run the election.

**WRIGHTSTOWN** 1/22/99  
**Board takes no stand  
on PCBs in landfill**

Wrightstown village officials won't stand in the way if Brown County accepts PCBs at the landfill that will be built in the town of Holland.

The Wrightstown Village Board on Tuesday briefly discussed the issue but took no position on it.

Board President Steve Johnson asked the trustees whether they wanted to oppose the transport of PCB-laden soil from the cleanup of the Fox River to the landfill site near the village.

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

— Staff reports



# Paper company report finds no PCB-cancer link

**Appleton Papers calls for "fact-based" decisions on river cleanup**

By Melinda Naparalla  
The News-Chronicle

A consulting company for Appleton Papers Inc. found that seven paper mills being held responsible for releasing PCBs into the Fox

River says it found cancer death rates in counties bordering the Fox River were lower than in many other areas of the state. But environmentalists say the report raises more questions than it answers.

Many people believe there is a causal link between PCBs and cancer, said Bill Van Den Brandt, manager of corporate communications for Appleton Papers. Using data from the state Department of Health and Family Services, the company said it deter-

mined three of the seven counties bordering the lower Fox River, including Brown County, recorded 144 to 188 cancer deaths per 100,000 people in 1996. The other four counties had between 189 and 232 mortalities per 100,000.

That compares with cancer death rates as high as 320 to 413 per 100,000 residents in Adams, Langlade, Florence, Vilas, Iron, Washburn and Burnett counties.

Please see PCB, Page 4

## PCB: Environmentalists have questions

FROM PAGE 1

The seven counties the paper company researched were Brown, Calumet, Outagamie, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Winnebago and Fond du Lac.

"As we move forward on removing PCBs from the river, let's make decisions fact-based," Van Den Brandt said. "We're not claiming to be medical experts."

The company wants to make sound decisions on the cleanup, and this is one more piece of the picture,

Becky Katers, executive director of the Clean Water Action Council, said the Appleton Papers report leaves many questions unanswered. "What kinds of cancer are they researching? Have the people lived near the river all their lives?" she

asked. "Have they consumed any of the fish?"

Katers said she would like to see a peer review of the company's findings. She also plans to wait until the federal Environmental Protection Agency finishes its findings regarding the health effects of PCBs.

"We don't trust the source of the source," Katers said. "We're tired of getting information through industry." Curt Andersen, president of the environmental group, said it's the counties beyond the Fox River that he is concerned about. The PCBs

are carried by the wind beyond the seven counties examined in the study.

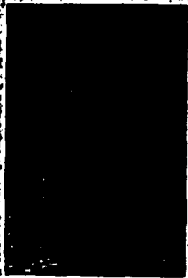
Appleton Papers cited the 1996 Wisconsin Cancer Incidence and Mortality report prepared by the state Department of Health and Family Services. According to the document, Brown County reported 754 cases of cancer in 1990 and 752 in 1993.

The most common exposure to PCBs comes from eating fish or shellfish from polluted water. Fish advisories are in effect for the Fox

River and Green Bay for most sport fish.

PCBs may be absorbed through the skin when a person touches the chemical, touches contaminated soil or bathes in contaminated water. People also can be exposed through breathing PCB-contaminated dust particles.

According to the Wisconsin Division of Health, PCBs may cause liver cancer in humans after several years of exposure. PCBs do cause liver cancer in laboratory animals.



## Where to bury PCBs still up in the air

**The proposed  
Sunnyview landfill is  
too close to residential  
areas**

1/15/99

Associated Press

OSHKOSH — A plan to bury toxic, PCB-contaminated muck dredged from the Fox River at the county's landfill has itself been buried.

The Winnebago County Solid Waste Management Board unanimously voted to cancel its application for a state permit that would allow Sunnyview landfill to accept

the most toxic PCB sediment from the dredging.

The board determined there were too many concerns about other chemicals contained in the sediment and the effect of the project on nearby property values.

Bill Fitzpatrick, in charge of the Fox River cleanup for the state Department of Natural Resources, said Thursday dredging ended around Jan. 1 because of the cold so the urgency of having a place to store the sediment is gone until next summer.

"We are going to continue to look to local communities to provide solutions," he said. "The PCBs are safer in a solid waste landfill than in the river."

About 1,000 tons of lower-level PCB-contaminated silt went to the Oshkosh landfill from the current dredging, and 2,000 to 3,000 tons of silt with higher levels of pollution were trucked to dump ground near Detroit, Fitzpatrick said.

"As we start looking at larger projects, the costs will become prohibitive for sending the material out of state," he said.

Dic Purtell, a town of Oshkosh resident and leading critic of the plan to put the high-level wastes in Sunnyview, was happy with the board's decision.

"This is a step in the right direction," he said Wednesday after the board's vote.

## LOCAL COLUMNIST'S PERSPECTIVE

# Thaw needed to melt paper mills' icy stupidity

Ice on the Fox River has shut down the dredging of "Deposit N" in Kimberly. Ice is threatening to tear up the silt curtains and is hanging heavily on the dredge itself.

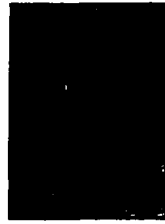
Somehow, the Department of Natural Resources and the Perpetually Responsible Parties, or paper mills, managed to start the dredging in late fall, seemingly without considering that ice could interfere with their operations.

**You may have heard the paper mills were footing the bill, but that's a big baloney sandwich.**

Most of us know that ice can be a problem in this area. Ask anyone who's had a dock sheared off and taken away, or a home-

owner on Lake Winnebago who watched as his house was knocked off its foundation or crushed as wind-driven ice piled up on shore.

The mills, not really wanting a successful



**Curt Anderson**

For The Green Bay News-Chronicle

demonstration of dredging, are not losing any sleep that this dredging has stopped. What really fries my keister is that they say they *may not* be coming back to finish in the spring.

That means they have exposed and left behind large areas of layered, contaminated sediments open to the erosion forces of ice and water.

Imagine a gooey, multilayered cake. As time passes, this cake, just by gravity alone, will start to slump and collapse into the area

where Big Aunt Elsie's portion was removed. That's how it is in the kitchen.

But in the river, when you add those erosion forces, you'll speed up the collapse, dispersing the contaminants downriver and in the air, making it likely they'll end up in your cheeseburger or Friday fish dinner.

Many people predicted the polluters would do whatever they could to make sure the test projects would fail. If those dredging projects don't work, then the mills could use the much cheaper method of leaving the sediments where they are, poisoning your children's food and air for the next 100-plus years.

How could they not know ice would mess up the dredging? I'll bet they were hoppin' mad when the river didn't freeze until late December.

You may have heard the paper mills were footing the bill for the two dredging projects, but that's a big baloney sandwich. The seven paper corporations have spent less than \$150,000 on the first dredging project, though

the DNR estimates the total costs of both of these demonstrations will be about \$4.5 million. (Estimates indicate they have spent more than \$150,000 on public relations malarkey.)

The \$4.5 million came out of your pocket so some paper mill executives can have more than one summer home, large yachts and whole barns full of Mercedes. That's *some* commitment they've made to the cleanup.

"Deposit N" must be completely dredged of its contaminated sediments in spring, if they haven't washed downstream by then. We can't let the corporations get away with this chicanery.

If they do, there will be no end to their magic tricks.

Anderson, 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@tnt.com](mailto:chronicle@tnt.com).



# County starts tackling PCB issue

**County Executive Nusbaum is willing to have county staff members meet with the state to "share information"**

**By Warren Bluhm**  
The News-Chronicle

Brown County Executive Nancy Nusbaum is willing to begin discussions about the best way to dispose of PCB-contaminated sediment from the Fox River — but that's a far cry from being ready to accept

the dredgings at the new county landfill in the town of Holland, she said Tuesday.

"These are community decisions that demand and deserve a great deal of discussion," Nusbaum said. "But we are nowhere near a decision of any sort."

The Winnebago County Solid Waste Board voted Friday to abandon plans to accept the dredgings at its Sunnyview Landfill, and several members cited what they viewed as the unwillingness of Outagamie and Brown county officials to follow their lead.

"We've essentially been in no position to talk because we haven't had a landfill," Nusbaum said. That

changed a month ago when the county finally reached an agreement with Holland town officials regarding conditions of the landfill siting.

George Meyer, secretary of the state Department of Natural Resources, wrote Nusbaum on Dec. 30 to suggest that state and county technical staffs meet "to share information and discuss possible options" now that Brown County is closer to siting its new landfill.

Nusbaum sent a return letter Thursday, telling Meyer in part, "I have always believed that Brown County must be a part of any successful solution if it is to benefit our taxpayers and water quality. I believe a meeting to discuss poten-



**Nusbaum**

"All I was saying was, 'I am always here and always ready to talk,'" she said.

The DNR recently completed a pilot project removing sediment from a "hot spot" in the Fox River

tial partnerships and solutions would be appropriate at this time."

But she said Tuesday her letter should not be interpreted as opening the door to PCB disposal in Holland.

near Kimberly that was believed to contain several hundred pounds of PCBs. A similar, larger project near the Fort James Corp. mill at 1919 S. Broadway was delayed until spring because of disputes over where to dispose of the sediment.

"I think the demonstration project demonstrates this is a full, complicated process including disposal," Nusbaum said. "This has forced us to face the complexities involved in cleaning up the river."

PCBs — polychlorinated biphenyls — are chemicals once used in paper production that were later found to be toxic. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency banned their use in the 1970s.

## COLUMNIST'S PERSPECTIVE

# Monsanto feeds an ungrateful world

AUSTIN, Texas — Monsanto Co., a naive and innocent little chemical corporation, was engaged in a benevolent scheme to make a better world through genetically engineered crops — practically without thinking of profit. Last year, the company offered its humanitarian products to what should have been a grateful peasantry around the world, but alas, unpleasant things began to happen.

In India, farmers torched Monsanto's plots of genetically engineered cotton. In Ireland, protesters sabotaged fields of genetically engineered potatoes. French farmers raided a cache of modified seeds, sprayed it with fire extinguishers and then urinated on it.

How can it be, you ask, that all over the world people are raising Cain about GMOs (genetically modified organisms) while in this country, we hear not one word? (Well, perhaps one or two — the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, in Monsanto's hometown, ran an excellent investigative article last month on the company's misadventures around the globe.)

Well, the rest of the world thinks we're making perfect fools of ourselves over the Monica Lewinsky scandal, too, so that just shows you how much the rest of the world knows.

In fact, you might have heard more about worldwide protests over GMOs if it weren't for Monica; the Center for Media and Public Affairs said the Lewinsky scandal got more network news air time last year than the combined total for the Asian and Russian economic crises, Iraq, embassy bombings in Africa, Middle Eastern peace, nuclear testing in India and Pakistan, and John Glenn in space.

But what exactly is the problem? If Monsanto can make vegetable seeds that are resistant to bugs, what's not to like?

Some of Monsanto's problems are traceable to greater European skepticism about science in general. And the continent just went through the experience of mad cow disease in which 11 million cattle had to be slaughtered.

One nightmarish product Mon-

santo plans to acquire is "The Terminator," a new genetic technology designed to render the seeds of crops sterile. It was invented to block farmers from

saving seeds, ensuring that they buy the genetically improved varieties. The official name is Technology Protection System, but it's known as The Terminator, and farmers,

who have been saving seeds and resowing for millennia, are terrified of it.

According to Agence France-Press, "Critics of biotechnology worry that seeding farmland with transgenic crops could spread genetic pollution, upset the balance of nature and release uncontrollable food allergens." Jane Rissler with the Union of Concerned Scientists told Agence France-Press, "The purpose of biotechnology is to increase the profits of the manufacturers by persuading farmers to use more

herbicides."

**If Monsanto can make vegetable seeds that are resistant to bugs, what's not to like?**

But aren't these fears just that — fears without evidence?

The problem is that Monsanto has a record.

The Post-Dispatch noted that the company

manufactured virtually all the PCBs in the United States until they were banned in 1976, and taxpayers are still shelling out to clean up PCB-riddled waste sites. Monsanto also manufactured Agent Orange, which is linked to cancer and reproductive problems in Vietnam War vets. And the company makes pesticides, which contaminate groundwater. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Monsanto is a "potentially responsible party" at 93 Superfund sites.

This is a company that has put its faith in technology before without bothering to properly research the consequences.

Monsanto, whose column appears here each Monday, is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, 1005 Congress Ave., Suite 920, Austin, TX 78701; e-mail: mollyvins@stateritegram.com.



**Molly Vins**

Creators  
Syndicate

# PCBs likely banished from Winnebago dump

**Silence from Outagamie and Brown counties is cited in the Solid Waste Board decision**

The News-Chronicle 2513

It looks as though tons of toxic PCB-laden sediment from the Fox River will not be buried in the Sunnyview Landfill in Winnebago County after all.

The Winnebago County Board had been considering allowing wastes from dredging to be buried in the landfill but now appear ready to drop the plan, after fierce opposition by residents and no support from paper companies.

Four of eight county Solid Waste Board members voted Friday to abandon the campaign, while four plan supporters asked for a delay to gather more information about the unpopu-

lar idea. Board member Jerry Konrad said he ditched the plan because he was tired of the silence from the companies and counties who would benefit.

"The question I have is should Winnebago County be out in front all alone?" he was quoted as saying in the Appleton Post-Crescent. "Other parties have more to lose (if Superfund goes through) than we do. ... I'd like to hear from Brown and Outagamie counties to see if they're willing to follow our lead."

The federal Environmental Protection Agency has proposed placing the lower Fox River on its National Priorities List, making it eligible for Superfund cleanup. A final decision is expected later this year.

Outagamie County, where factories and water treatment plants pump the most pollution into the river, has gone on record as saying it does not want PCBs in its landfill. Its County Board has remained quiet during Winnebago's debate.

Paper companies, which are likely to pay the bulk of the cost of an EPA-managed cleanup, also have kept out of the discussion.

"Speaking for ourselves, if disposal in a landfill were the way to go, we would be supportive of the least-costly method of disposal," Dan McIntosh, Appleton Papers executive vice president, told the Post-Crescent. He said his company's silence does not show a lack of support, but rather its opposition to a wholesale dredging of the river as proposed by the EPA.

His company is participating in demonstration dredging projects meant to gauge both technical aspects of the project and resident support. To go against popular opinion would be counterproductive to the goal of those projects, he noted.

The Solid Waste Board voted Friday to ask the DNR to delay its decision on a permit that would allow Winnebago County to legally bury toxic waste in its landfill.

# Fish advisories seen as key part of river cleanup

12/11/98

**Participants at a Thursday night session say the community needs to take an active role in cleaning the river**

**By Melinda Naparalle**  
The News-Chronicle

Questions from an estimated 40 people gathered at the Brown County Central Library on Thursday reflected the link between fish-consumption advisories and cleanup of the Fox River and Green Bay.

**"This is a fairly dramatic, wide-spread and long-term affect."**

David Allen, USF&WS on PCB pollution

Many questions concerned not just the advisories — the official topic of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services meeting — but related cleanup issues, such as Superfund.

"This site is somewhat of an unusual site," said David Allen, natural resource damage assessment manager with the service. "There (is a) high level of polychlorinated biphenyls and they are spread over a large area."

The fish-consumption advisory report is important to determine risk and health assessments, and designation for Superfund, Allen said. Super-

fund is a federal program targeting toxic sites that forces those who caused the pollution to pay for its clean up. Superfund has been discussed for the Fox, but so far test dredging projects paid for by paper companies along the river are being tried.

"Virtually all the sport fish in Green Bay had an advisory on them at one point or another," Allen said. The report validates that the advisories are necessary and levels of PCBs exceed levels considered safe to eat.

"This is a fairly dramatic, wide-spread and long-term effect," Allen said. "It's pretty unusual."

"The general public would admit the river needs to be cleaned up," said Claire Falk, who grew up near the Fox River. "It's not just anglers but the community itself that needs to clean up the river."

Curt Andersen, president of the Clean Action Water Council, said his concern is that the more PCBs flow into the bay, the harder it will be to remove them.

"What you're pointing out is a major concern," said George Boronow of the state Department of Natural Resources. "About 600 pounds of PCB-contaminated sediments are moving out into the bay a year. That's why we want to address the Fox River now, before it gets out into the bay."

Copies of the complete Fish Consumption Advisory Report are available on the Fish & Wildlife Service's Web site — [www.fws.gov/fr3pao/](http://www.fws.gov/fr3pao/) and click on hot news.

12/3/98

THE GREEN BAY NEWS-CHRONICLE

# Town wins dispute over Fox dredging

**A landfill in Winnebago County was supposed to receive some PCB-laden soils**

By Warren Bluhm  
The News-Chronicle

The pilot projects to remove PCB-contaminated sediment from the Fox River hit another roadblock after town of Oshkosh officials convinced a judge to block Winnebago County temporarily from accepting the muck at its landfill.

Circuit Judge William Crane scheduled a court hearing for Dec. 17 on the restraining order he issued Tuesday.

The landfill was to begin accepting sediment from a test

dredging project on the Fox River near Little Chute as early as today.

State Sen. Robert Cowles, R-Green Bay, said Wednesday that Winnebago County would not have been accepting the most contaminated sediment — that would be headed to a landfill near Detroit. In any case, he added, the PCBs would be safe in either landfill.

"This has been looked at," he said. "Once they're in the landfill, the PCBs adhere to the soil and don't

move. All that will happen is the landfill that takes it will make a lot of money on tipping fees."

The town's lawsuit claims that in accepting contaminated sediment, the county would break a 1991 agreement with the town regarding the acceptance of waste from outside of the county.

Town officials are also concerned PCBs put into the landfill could eventually escape into nearby water supplies and the air, putting residents' health at risk.

"It wouldn't be so bad, but they're being trucked right by other landfills on the way here," Town Board Chairman Gerald Frey said. "They'll be going right by Outagamie County's (landfill). At least we could all share the burden."

The state had planned to have the test dredging completed by Dec. 20.

The DNR has a January deadline to complete a feasibility study of the cleanup of the Fox River for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

PCBs were widely used in making carbonless paper and other products until the U.S. government banned their manufacture in 1977.

Studies have linked PCBs to cancer, reproductive problems and poor mental development in children.

The pilot project for the Fox River cleanup is a cooperative effort between the DNR and a coalition of seven paper companies identified as responsible for contaminating the river with PCBs.



Cowles

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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**THE COLUMNIST'S PERSPECTIVE**


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# Environment absolutely not an issue to skimp on

You have probably heard the term "cost effective" in recent stories about the Fox River cleanup and the Crandon Mine. This is also called expediency, which means a regard for what is political or advantageous, rather than for what is right or just; a sense of self-interest.

In other words, expediency is the cheap, quick-fix for a problem. We have many examples of expediency in our own area.

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## Got too much poison? Just add water! How clever!

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Recently, the state Department of Natural Resources announced it would like to spread low-level, PCB-contaminated sludge, that is, sludge that has PCBs

at less than 50 parts per million, on the farm fields that either grow the crops we eat or feed the cows, pigs and chickens we eat. The DNR wants to do this to help industry by keeping costs down. Are you kidding me? Is radioactive waste next? This is both expediency and gross stupidity.



## Curt Anderson

For The Green Bay News-Chronicle

Then we have mining interests in the state who are now promoting new and improved "magic bean" solutions to the problems of mining in a sulfide-ore deposit.

First they told us the mine would be safe. When we were unconvinced, they told us we were asking too much, so they tried to baffle citizens with horse dookey, while avoiding dealing with so many questions.

How much draw-down will there be from surrounding lakes when ground water is pumped out of the mine shafts?

Will lake levels and property values drop at the same rate?

What happens when you dump sulfuric acid-contaminated seepage water into the Wolf River to the tune of 720,000 gallons to 3 million gallons per day?

What happens to all the sulfur-bearing tailings when it snows and rains on top of them?

What happens to all the other heavy metals that are not removed from the effluent?

The Mine Boys want to just dig up the ore, dump the tailings into a big pile, pump the contaminated water into one of the nation's most pristine rivers and run away with the profits. They don't give a rat's hindquarters about the losses to others, whether it's land values, tourist businesses or the ravaged fish and wildlife habitat all along the Wolf River.

How ironic that those magic beans give off the same smell as sulfurous waters. Expediency and dishonesty.

Paper mills made several bad business decisions along the way by deciding that they would dump their poisons into the Fox

River. When these decisions were made, corporate executives hoped no one would notice, but we did.

Now they will spend lots of money taking the poison out of the river. Have they learned their lesson? Nope. These mills are still dumping all sorts of people-hurting chemicals into the river.

The way the laws are written, the mills are allowed to add water to dilute their poison. Got too much poison? Just add water! How clever!

Someday soon, they will be paying even more big bucks to clean that filth out of the river.

Expediency instead of civic responsibility. Expediency instead of sound business decisions. Expediency instead of ethics.

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Anderson, 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@fot.com](mailto:chronicle@fot.com).

THE  
GREEN BAY

# News-Chronicle

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1998

MONDAY **FOCUS**: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

## Major stories dominate 1998

Superfund, the arena and convention center projects, the Oneida, and downtown redevelopment will be in the headlines in 1999 and beyond

By Warren Bluhm  
The News-Chronicle

While it seemed national news was dominated by one story during 1998, so much happened locally this year that the staff of *The Green Bay News-Chronicle* was unable to settle on a "top-10" stories list.

As the time comes to sum up another four seasons of news and information, it became clear that any 1998 compilation of important local news stories that stopped at 10 would be forced to leave something out.

Instead of being arbitrary, we have instead chosen to review all 14 of the suggestions that emerged from an informal poll of News-Chronicle reporters regarding the

top news stories of 1998. They are presented here in what we believe are order of their expected long-term impact on Green Bay and Brown County.

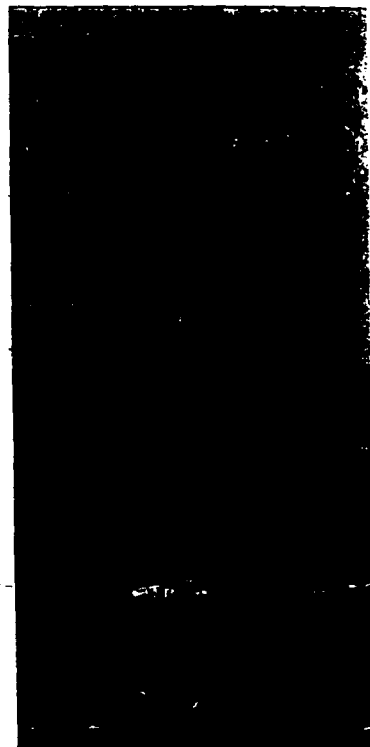
### SUPERFUND

After years of discussion, debate and relative inaction regarding the cleanup of the Fox River, during 1998 the federal Environmental Protection Agency proposed placing the entire lower portion of the Fox on the EPA's National Priorities List, more commonly known as Superfund.

The designation would make the EPA the major player in determining how tons of PCBs are removed from the sediment under the river.

During the official comment period, thousands of citizens weighed in on the subject, many more than the EPA usually receives about a Superfund nominee. Among them was Gov. Tommy Thompson, who said it

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H. Marc Larson / The News-Chronicle

FORT JAMES CORP. provides a backdrop for fishermen on the Fox River in this file photo. The cleanup of PCBs, from paper companies like the former Fort Howard, is the area's top news story for 1998.



# 1998: Hopes for new arena fluctuate wildly

**FROM PAGE 1**

was up to the state and private industry to determine the best course.

In the fall, work was to have begun on two demonstration projects, largely funded by the seven paper companies considered responsible for discharging the PCBs into the river. The goal of the projects would be to dredge sediment from two "hot spots" in the Fox, one designated Deposit N near Kimberly, and a larger area near the Fort James Corp. paper mill at 1919 S. Broadway in Green Bay, former home of the Fort Howard Corp.

But difficulties emerged finding landfills to deposit the dredge spoils where neighbors did not object. A facility near Detroit and the Winnebago County landfill were finally selected, but not in time to prevent a delay of the Fort James project until spring.

Meanwhile, work on the Kimberly project has taken longer than expected, and the plan is now to complete the demonstration next month. Also coming in 1999, a final decision on whether the EPA will indeed designate the Fox River as a formal Superfund site.

Meanwhile, one coalition of local environmentalists spoke up during the summer to remind the public that a decade ago, studies concluded there were at least eight obstacles to a fishable, swimmable river and bay — and PCBs were just one of the eight items on that list.

**MECCA UPS AND DOWNS**

Metropolitan Executives for a Convention Center and Arena had toiled for several years to come up

with a plan to replace the aging Brown County Veterans Memorial Arena in Ashwaubenon and expand the Regency Conference Center in downtown Green Bay.

An agreement was reached among the municipal leaders to build a \$40 million arena and \$12 million Regency expansion with a 30-year financing plan largely paid by an 8 percent tax on local hotel and motel rooms, with any balance to be funded through such private methods as the sale of naming rights and the lease of luxury boxes in the arena.

But the agreement was delayed by dissension among members of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, whose Radisson Inn hotel was expected to generate about 19 percent of the room-tax revenue needed for the plan to succeed.

Tribal members who opposed the project forced a General Tribal Council meeting to vote on the funding plan. During that Aug. 1 meeting, members voted 317-148 not to participate in the arena and convention center projects, effectively ending the tribe's involvement and sending MECCA back to the drawing board.

Arena supporters then scheduled a Nov. 3 referendum to ask county residents whether they still support the building projects — "as long as property or sales taxes are not used to fund them" — and the measure

passed by a 3-to-1 ratio.

The victory gave MECCA a sense of momentum and, this month, the group got a further boost when business owner and philanthropist Richard Resch, president of KI, agreed to provide

\$4.375 million in exchange for naming rights. The two facilities were christened the Resch Center and the KI Convention Center.

As 1999 begins, MECCA is confident the remaining \$8 million can be raised to assure groundbreaking for both projects early in the new year.

**THE ONEIDA NATION**

The Oneida Bingo & Casino operation is a national role model for Native American tribes. Proceeds from its gaming centers have been used to fund tribal social programs, and agreements regarding payments for services with other local municipalities have helped offset any losses incurred because of the tax-exempt status of tribal property.

Still, the future of the operation was in doubt if agreement could not be reached with Gov. Tommy

Thompson about the extension of the tribe's gaming compact, which was due to expire this year.

On the eve of a crucial May deadline, a group of municipal leaders traveled to Madison to lobby Thompson, citing the contributions of the Oneida to the local economy as the second-largest employer in Brown County.

Thompson came to the Oneida reservation two days later to sign a five-year compact extension, which includes an annual \$4.5 million "revenue-sharing" payment to the state, ostensibly to be used for local tourism and economic development efforts. In a side agreement, the state agreed to make the tribe a partner in water- and air-quality conservation decisions.

But applause was not universal among tribal members, some of whom cited the \$4.5 million gaming payment in voting against the arena and conference center. And controversy arose late in the year over what the state described as a "handshake deal" over cigarette taxes collected by the tribe.

State law requires that the Wisconsin Department of Revenue reimburse tribes 70 percent of state

excise taxes collected from the sale of cigarettes on reservations. But state officials claimed that during the compact talks, an informal agreement was reached to make the split 50-50.

Despite the absence of a written contract to that effect, the state began sending the higher refund checks back to the tribe effective Sept. 1 in a move one tribal official estimated would cost the Oneidas \$1 million a year.

Not long after the News-Chronicle broke the story in November, the tribe's Business Committee moved not to renew the contract of Artley Skenandore, general manager of the Oneida business operation. And the weekend before Christmas, tribal Chairwoman Deborah Doxtator took a six-week medical leave of absence.

As 1999 begins, Gary Jordan, vice chairman of the Business Committee, is serving as acting chairman. Much of the focus in the coming year will be on tribal elections in July. And the state was trying to arrange a meeting with tribal leaders to resolve the cigarette tax dispute.

**DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT**

In the middle of the decade, unsure footings under Green Bay's Main Street bridge forced its closing, and construction of a replace

Please see 1998, Page 5



Thompson

**WE BUY AND SELL**

**MOVE IN SPECIAL**



# Committee studies putting PCBs back in environment

**The alternative is dumping all PCB-contaminated sediment in landfills**

**By Melinda Naparalla**  
The News-Chronicle

Now that dredging of PCB-contaminated sediment from the Fox River has begun, at least on a trial basis, one critical question remains: What will be done with the dredged soil?

Brown County made a request to the state Department of Natural Resources asking it to develop criteria standards for contaminated sludge and soil to see if it could be applied on agricultural land.

Based on Brown County's request, the DNR created the PCB Soil Criteria Advisory Committee, made up of a group of technicians, engineers, environmentalists and government agencies.

The group met for the first time Tuesday and will be meeting again in February.

This is the first time the state has considered whether PCB-

contaminated waste could be put back into the environment and used, said Chuck Larscheid, port and solid waste director for Brown County and a member of the advisory committee. Currently there are no standards, and the committee's goal is to determine if PCB-contaminated soil can be used safely at any level.

The DNR has established standards for soil containing such contaminants as mercury, Larscheid said. By May, the advisory group hopes to have a decision that would be brought before the state Natural Resources Board and eventually the Legislature.

Work began last month on a pilot dredging project near Kimberly. For now the most seriously contaminated sediment will be landfilled near Detroit, and a Winnebago County landfill will accept much of the rest.

Part of the problem in determining whether to spread the soil outside of landfills is setting the criteria, said committee member Bud Harris, professor of land and water studies at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

"In my view, there must be the protection of human health and ecosystem health," Harris said. "It's a tall order."

Committee member Rebecca Ka-

ters, who is the executive director of the Clean Water Action Council, is alarmed at the concept of putting PCB-contaminated soil on farmland.

"Even though we have contaminated land, that's no excuse to spread more," Katers said.

Whether it's spread thinly or diluted, spreading the sediment over farmland would increase the PCB load that evaporates into the atmosphere, she said.

Katers said scientists have not studied what happens over time as erosion returns the soil to water bodies, she said. And the soil also contains other contaminants besides PCBs, she added.

Katers said the committee needs to look at every creature that would be affected by spreading out the soil taken from the bottom of the Fox, from earthworms to birds.

"There's so much we don't know," she said. "It's not simply writing a code. Do they have the staff to monitor this?"

Once the committee creates proposed rules for soil criteria, the Natural Resources Board will make a presentation and hold public hearings. The committee expects to have legislative approval in spring 2000.

## LOCAL COLUMNIST'S PERSPECTIVE

# Pay now for environment or pay more later

You get what you pay for. Quality is important in health, the environment, education and social services. In business dealings you can routinely hear the phrase, "Sharpen your pencil because I'm going with the lowest price."

The guy who goes for the lowest price never gets a quality job. The person who buys a Ford Escort should have an innate understanding that he will not get the same quality as the person who buys a Mercedes. It's common sense.

**Some elected representatives regularly sell out your right to clean water and air.**

And yet every week you see many pieces of furniture at the curb. A close look shows that this is just cheap furniture, bought under the guise of a bargain. "Three rooms of furniture for only \$399!" Most of us know that this stuff won't last, but somebody keeps buying it, saying they "can't afford better stuff."



**Curt  
Anderson**

For The  
News-Chronicle

But if they have to buy new furniture every three years, then in nine years they will have paid three times what they originally spent and they're about to spend that amount again. If they had bought good stuff, they could have spent less money and would still be using it 25 years later. This was no bargain.

It's the same with taxes. Right now, there's a pack of empty-suit senators and representatives who are calling for lower taxes.

We'd all love to have lower taxes, but we'd also hate to lose the services those taxes

pay for. For example, cutting funding for education could end up being more costly because of higher crime rates or a lower standard of living for everyone.

Taxes pay for environmental protection by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and others. This was done to protect everyone from bad neighbors who dump their pollution into the air and rivers.

You can be assured that when taxes are cut, first on the chopping block will be social services. Second will be environmental controls.

Some elected representatives regularly sell out your right to clean water and air to polluters who want to make more profit by skipping out on their responsibilities to their workers, neighbors and customers.

The easy way out is cheaper now, but much more expensive in the long run. Look how much the paper mills are going to have to spend to clean up the Fox River. It would

have been much cheaper to deal with the pollution when it was created. Penny-wise and dollar-foolish.

When you support candidates who cut funding for environmental regulation, you shouldn't be surprised when your own community is threatened with some horrible pollution problem.

Don't think that environmental groups are going to be able to save you. They're already working on a shoestring budget.

Call your federal and state representatives and let them know you want strong environmental regulations. The number for Congress is 1-888-723-5246; state senators and representatives can be reached at 1-800-362-9472.

Next time, vote accordingly.

Anderson, 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](mailto:chronicle@itol.com).

# Federal study verifies state fish advisory

The new report is interwoven with other aspects of planning for the cleanup of the Fox River and the Green Bay

By Melinda Naparalla  
The News-Chronicle

A recently completed Fish Consumption Advisory Report for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has confirmed the validity of state fish advisories posted for the Fox River and the Green Bay.

This report is the first of the factual findings for a federal Natural Resource Damage Assessment of the bodies of water, said David Allen, natural resource damage assessment manager with the Fish and Wildlife Service.

"The report confirms the fish consumption advisories are valid," Allen said. "It's a pretty important finding."

For many years the state Department of Natural Resources has issued regular advisories cautioning children and women of childbearing age to avoid eating certain fish taken from the river and bay because of the health risk.

The new report is interwoven with other aspects of planning for the cleanup of the Fox River and Green Bay, from the Natural Resource Damage Assessment to the river's proposed Superfund status.

Allen said the report marks a turning point for the Fish and Wildlife Service; now that it has the findings it can move ahead and complete other determinations for the bodies of water.

## FYI

### FISH ADVISORY MEETING

Federal and state officials will be among the speakers at a Fish Consumption Advisory Report meeting sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Brown County Central Library, 515 Pine St. For more information, call David Allen at 465-7407.

Continuing studies have explored how polychlorinated biphenyls are transported, where the highest concentrations of PCBs are in the river, how the chemical makeup of the PCBs varies from place to place, bird and fish injury reports, economic damage to recreational fishing, and the extent to which the public values

### ► PCB dredging full speed ahead: Page 9

economic restoration. Reports on some of these issues are expected to be completed by spring or summer next year.

Allen said in one way or another the service has been working on the fish consumption advisory report since 1994.

"We made a lot of progress this last year," he said. "We really analyzed a lot of the state's data."

The report has relevance to different projects, such as the computer modeling done to track how PCBs travel through the water system, he said. The models determine hypothetical cleanups and how long before the fish would be safe based on certain

variables.

One key model determined it would take more than a century before fish taken from the river and bay would be safe to eat if nothing is done. On the other hand, it shows that if a fairly complete cleanup were done, the fish could be safe to eat within 10 years, Allen said.

Food and Drug Administration regulations state that fish are considered unsafe to eat if the amount of PCBs stored in their fatty tissue exceeds 2 parts per million, he said.

Many states use the FDA standard as a trigger for fish consumption advisories, Allen said. Wisconsin and Michigan once followed the FDA but have switched to a risk-based analysis that uses factors such as what is the average consumption, how many fish are caught and how levels differ in different species to determine what is safe.

Where fish feed and their life expectancy are also factors, Allen said. A sturgeon, a bottom feeder with a long lifespan, is likely to have a higher concentration than a perch that lives two to three years.

People interested in the fish consumption report can learn more during a public meeting Thursday at the Brown County Central Library.

The meeting will concentrate on how the release of the Fish Consumption Advisory Report factors into the restoration process for the Fox River. Officials will also provide a detailed analysis of procedures and data used to determine tolerance levels in fish, Allen said.

Scheduled speakers include Allen and Bill Hartwig from the Fish and Wildlife Service, and Dr. Henry Anderson, chief medical officer for the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services.

# Fox River dredging continues

12/8/98

**A restraining order  
was removed after an  
agreement to accept  
low-level  
PCB-contaminated  
sludge in the landfill**

**Associated Press**

OSHKOSH — A landfill is ready for the first shipment of PCB-contaminated silt, after state and area officials resolved a dispute that threatened a dredging project on the Fox River, a state official said Monday.

"It is all a go," said Bill Fitzpatrick, dredging project manager for the state Department of Natural Resources.

A judge lifted a restraining order Friday that had blocked the state from hauling the sediment taken from the Fox River near Little Chute to the Winnebago County Landfill.

The order was issued last Tuesday after the town of Oshkosh sued the county, claiming that the placement of PCBs in the landfill would put local residents at additional risk of health problems.

The town, Winnebago County's waste-management agency and the DNR reached an agreement during a court hearing Friday to allow dumping of what the state calls low-level PCB-contaminated sludge in the landfill.

The agreement calls for the county to accept dried-out silt with PCB concentrations below 50 parts per million

from the project site, near Little Chute, authorities said.

That level is not considered toxic by state or federal standards.

Tons of contaminated muck with the highest concentration of PCBs are being shipped to a dump near Detroit.

Henry Sommer, the manager of the Winnebago County landfill, said Monday he was unsure when the first shipment would be delivered.

The DNR had said blocking the shipments could add \$1 million to the cost of the \$4 million project.

PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, were widely used in the making of carbonless paper and other products until the U.S. government banned their manufacture in 1977.

Studies have linked PCBs to cancer, reproductive problems and poor mental development in children.

The pilot dredging project is a cooperative effort between the DNR and a coalition of seven paper companies identified as responsible for dumping the PCBs into the river.

The dredging project attracted 170 people on Saturday for a tour and explanation of the process, Fitzpatrick said.

"There wasn't anybody who really objected to the project," he said.

Getting the dispute resolved was important for more dredging to be done in the future, Fitzpatrick said.

"We are expecting that local communities are going to participate in the restoration of the Fox River," Fitzpatrick said. "That has always been the state's position."

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# Officials assure PCBs will be safe in landfills

**Brown County has yet to be formally asked to accept PCB-contaminated dredge spoils**

By Melinda Naparala  
The News-Chronicle

Putting PCB-tainted soil in landfills may strike fear into neighbors, but local and state officials say there is not much reason they should worry about their health.

"PCBs don't travel in water," said Bruce Baker, the state Department of Natural Resources' Fox River project manager. "PCBs attach to sediment and we really don't expect the stuff to move. It's pretty remote (anything dangerous is) going to happen."

As pilot projects proceed in the Fox River near Kimberly and near the Fort James Corp. Broadway mill in Green Bay, much of the debate has centered on where to put the contaminated sediment once it's removed from the river bottom.

It's hard to strip PCBs out of the soil, Baker said, noting that the Fox

## FYI

### CHECK IT OUT

Public tours are scheduled at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday for citizens to view and learn more about the pilot dredging and treatment operation near Kimberly. The tours will start from the Little Chute Civic Center, 625 Grand Ave. Also, the DNR will discuss transport and disposal plans for PCBs at an information session to be held from 6-9 p.m. Tuesday at the J.P. Coughlin Center, 625 E. County Y in Oshkosh.

River has received the deadly chemicals for decades and the water has yet to move the contaminants out of the soil near where the polluting occurred.

The only place polychlorinated biphenyls have an effect is in the river, because they then can get into the food chain from there, Baker said.

"We make (landfill) systems so 100 percent of the function is to prevent leaks," said Charles Larscheid, port and solid waste director for Brown County.

If the county's new landfill in the town of Holland is approved by their respective boards, there are several measures being taken to ensure contaminants don't move into the water system, Larscheid said. He said, however, the county has not been formally asked yet to accept PCB-tainted soil from the river cleanup, but any decision to accept the dredgings would be made after consultation with the town of Holland.

A 5-foot clay liner plus a plastic liner would be installed at the bottom of the new landfill if constructed, he said. The site that was chosen already has its own 145-foot layer of clay. As liquid travels through the clay, PCBs are filtered out.

The county would install monitoring wells from which it would be able to take water and soil samples, Larscheid said.

The DNR plans a dedication ceremony today and tours Saturday for the dredging pilot project near Kimberly. The agency also is holding an informational meeting in Oshkosh on Tuesday to provide the public more information about plans to dispose of PCB sediments in the Winnebago County landfill.

## LAHEY'S VIEWPOINT



# LANDFILL: PCBs could end up there

FROM PAGE 1

waste department, so the county agreed to establish an area where municipal garbage trucks will transfer material to larger trucks for transportation to the landfill.

It would cost the county about \$3 million to construct and equip the transfer station, Larscheid said. Annual operation and maintenance costs are estimated at about \$567,000 a year.

## FYI

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

**Dec. 8:** Town of Holland Local Landfill Negotiating Committee, 8 p.m., Van Abel's Restaurant, County D in Hollandtown.

**Dec. 11:** Negotiating committee will meet with respective boards to discuss the recommended settlement.

**Dec. 15:** Holland Town Board will vote on agreement.

**Dec. 16:** Brown County Solid Waste Management Board votes.

Times and places to be announced except as indicated.

Brown County's waste management system is financed through user fees rather than taxpayers, he noted.

Tipping fee revenues would be divided so 80 percent is paid to the town and 20 percent is paid to the property owners adjacent to the landfill.

The county also agreed to advance the town \$200,000 of the tipping fee in four installments to be used for future landfill consulting costs, provide



H. Marc Larson / The News-Chronicle

THE CURRENT GREEN BAY LANDFILL in Ledgeview is shown in this file photo. It will reach capacity in three years.

\$350,000 to pay engineering and legal fees incurred by the town during negotiations, and offer property value protection to landowners within three-quarters of a mile of the limits of the landfill.

"We went in and got what I feel is a very good deal for the town," Marek said.

If approved by both boards, the new landfill is expected to begin operation around 2001. The current landfill in the town of Ledgeview will

reach capacity in about three years, Larscheid said.

The new landfill would have a 7.7 million-ton capacity and is expected to be in operation for about 15 years, he said.

The landfill would accept solid waste but not hazardous waste or pesticides. If out-of-town shipments were accepted, the town and the county would share any premium charged by the county on a 50-50 basis.

The landfill could accept PCB-contaminated sediment dredged from the Fox River during the river cleanup, but the town would receive a minimum of \$10 a ton or 25 percent of the landfill disposal fee.

"There is a tentative agreement not to bar the landfill from taking (sediment) if the opportunity comes up, though we have not been asked yet," Larscheid said.

Larscheid also said there would be town meetings concerning the matter

and state Department of Natural Resources rules concerning the dumping of PCBs would be followed.

"It's not a real big issue now," he said.

Steps will be taken with the construction of this landfill to ensure no contaminants reach the groundwater, Larscheid said, noting PCBs stay in the solid wastes and aren't removed by water.

"We think we've created two sets of winners with this," Nusbaum said.



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1998

# Lengthy landfill talks finally net agreement

**The settlement still needs approval from the town of Holland and Brown County**

**Melinda Naparalla**  
The News-Chronicle

After eight years of discussions, meetings and deliberations, the town of Holland and Brown County have reached a tentative agreement over the operation of the new county landfill within the town limits.

The agreement still needs to be approved by Holland's Town Board and the county's solid

waste board. The landfill would be placed on 350 acres just west of State 57 near Askeaton.

"It's not about ending a process, but it's a very important step in a process," County Executive Nancy Nusbaum said Tuesday. "We've reached an agreement we're ready to take to the boards. This is a major, major step."

Holland is financially satisfied with the tentative agreement, said George Marek, the town's attorney.

"This is not the type of business most communities embrace," Marek said. "It's protective of the goals of the community."

Under terms of the agreement, landfill traffic would use State 57 to Mill Road to the landfill,

the county would upgrade and widen Mill Road, and a transfer station would be established. Trucks would be used to transport garbage to the new dump and would not be taken by rail, as was part of earlier negotiations.

Also under the agreement, the town would receive a tipping fee of \$1.50 per ton of material dumped at the landfill, with an annual cost-of-living adjustment. Holland would receive a minimum annual payment of \$400,000.

"One of the town's main concerns was traffic on the highway," said Charles Larscheid, director of the port of Green Bay as well as the solid

Please see **LANDFILL**, Page 4



# Fox soil could be shipped south

**A public meeting is scheduled on Dec. 8 to discuss the latest plans to send the sediment to Winnebago County**

**By Warren Bluhm**  
The News-Chronicle

The public has until Dec. 26 to comment on plans to dispose of PCB-contaminated Fox River sediment in a Winnebago County landfill, according to the state Department of Natural Resources.

Under the plan announced Friday, the Sunnyview Landfill in the town of Oshkosh will receive dredged sediment from two pilot cleanup projects in the river, one near Kimberly and one near the Fort James Corp. mill at 1919 S. Broadway in Green Bay.

"We're pleased with the cooperation exhibited by Winnebago County," said DNR project team leader Bruce Baker. "Local cooperation is critical to finding a long-term cleanup solution for the whole river."

Winnebago County intends to contain the sediment in a portion of the landfill that is designed with multiple layers to isolate such waste, Baker said. Sunnyview will test any snow or rain that may soak through the landfill and otherwise closely monitor dredged materials.

DNR and county officials will host a public meeting about the transportation and disposal plans from 6 to 9 p.m. Dec. 8 at the J.P. Coughlin Center, 625 E. County Y in Oshkosh. The public will be able to comment and ask questions after presentations by DNR and county staff.

The disposal plans and related documents are available for public review at the DNR's Northeast Region headquarters located at 1125 N. Military Ave. Written comments can be sent to David Panofsky, Waste Management Prog-



File photo / The News-Chronicle

**FOX RIVER SEDIMENT CONTAINING PCBs will be shipped to a landfill in Winnebago County if a DNR proposal gains approval.**

ram, Wisconsin DNR, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707.

Work began earlier this month at the Kimberly pilot project, known as Deposit N. The Green Bay project has been delayed because of uncertainties regarding the disposal site.

An open house and tours of the project are

scheduled for Saturday, beginning at the Little Chute Civic Center, 625 Grand Ave. in Little Chute. Presentations will be given at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the civic center, then buses will take participants to view the dredge at Deposit N in Kimberly and tour a treatment facility in Little Chute.

Buses can hold up to 30 people for each tour and participants will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants also need to sign a liability waiver to enter the treatment site because of insurance requirements.

Crews plan to operate 24 hours a day to complete the project by the end of the year.

# Polluters tell lies, environmentalists tell truth

Looking back at recent history, I've noticed environmentalists have been absolutely on the mark in most cases. They've always been way ahead of their time, especially when you compare them to many elected officials.

One doesn't have to be Einstein to know environmentalists are right when it comes to the Fox River cleanup, or, actually, what is pretending to be a cleanup. Paper mills and others have been dumping their poisons into the river for years now.

## Count on your fingers all of the resorts along the Fox River. I know of none.

Thirty years ago it included large amounts of paper pulp, making it more visible than it is now. But now it's got that really dreadful chemical composition that makes it downright dangerous instead of just ugly and smelly.

If the mills had listened to citizens in the

1950s, they would not be in the pickle they're in now. Instead, they are spending thousands of dollars to tell us they "didn't know any better." Hogwash.

Want an example of how this pollution has affected our area? Count on your fingers all of the resorts along the Fox River. I know of none. Imagine how a clean river loaded with safe-to-eat walleyes and sturgeon could spur the economy all along the river.

Environmentalists were right when they tried to stop construction of those danged nuclear plants. When I think of all the crap

that those nuke people fed us way back in the late '60s, I roll my eyes when I think of how many people believed it.

"Too cheap to meter," they said. "No pollution," they said. And blah, blah, blah.

Environmentalists' real problem was that they didn't have the money to get out the truth about issues like this, but the nuclear industry did. And they still have lots of dough for pushing their propaganda down our throats, since the nuclear industry is royally subsidized by our tax dollars.

The problem of what to do with all the waste will be with us for the next 10,000 years. Environmentalists want government and industries to stop producing more radioactive waste until there is a safe way to deal with it, and not just a "cost-effective" way.

Nevada doesn't want it out there any more than you want it in your garage. Can't shoot it out into space because of the risk of having a rocket blow up. No Solution. No more production.

Our best argument against the nuclear industry is that it is *not* economically viable when you take into account all of the costs, including fuel production, repairs, storage, health, disposal and security for those 10,000 years.

Environmentalists are right on the Crandon mine issue. One of our best arguments is that there will be no economic benefit for Wisconsin from that mine.

You won't catch the Mine Boys giving us both sides of the ledger. After all, how stupid would they be if they admitted that the net effect of a Crandon mine would be to poison the fish in the Wolf River and, hence, cripple all the fishing-related small businesses along with them?

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](mailto:chronicle@itol.com).

**Curt  
Anderson**

For The  
News-Chronicle

## Grant available to monitor Fox River cleanup

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has announced the availability to community groups of a technical assistance grant for the lower Fox River Superfund site. The deadline for filing a letter of intent with the EPA is Dec. 12.

The grant provides up to \$50,000 to a qualified community group for hiring independent technical advisers to help interpret and provide comments on site-related information.

A group is eligible for a grant if its members are potentially affected by the lower Fox River cleanup.

The group must be incorporated as a nonprofit organization at the time the EPA provides the grant.

Ineligible groups include potentially responsible parties, academic institutions, political entities, and groups established or sustained by ineligible entities.

Since only one grant is awarded per site, other local groups affected

by the Fox River site are encouraged to consolidate efforts with the Clean Water Action Council of Northeast Wisconsin Inc., a community organization that has filed a letter of intent with the EPA. Call Executive Director Rebecca L. Katers, 920-437-7304, by Dec. 12.

Groups may also file their own letter of intent with the EPA by the

same date.

Letters of intent and questions about the grant should be directed to Denise Gawlinski, TAG Coordinator, U.S. EPA (P-19J), 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Ill. 60604. Phone 312-886-9859 or 1-800-621-8431. The fax number is 312-353-1155 and the e-mail address is [gawlinski.denise@epa.gov](mailto:gawlinski.denise@epa.gov)

## AN ENVIRONMENTALIST'S PERSPECTIVE

# Recommended sludge disposal toxic and invasive

Every now and then, my jaw drops when I see something really stupid about to happen. I speak of the Department of Natural Resources' proposal to spread "lightly contaminated" river sludge and sewage sludge on farmland and as roadbed. This is a mentally aberrant idea.

**Pesticides can be lethal to you, your children and your pets.**

The two types of sludge are only slightly different. River sludge contains the infamous PCBs; heavy metals; various pesticides; oil and gasoline; cow, pig and chicken residues; disease organisms; solvents; industrial chemicals; etc.

Sewer sludge contains all of that plus the poisonous gunk people put into their sinks and toilets to keep the drains clear or the porcelain clean. The only stuff in this sludge that is recommended for gardens and farms are the nutrients from



**Curt Andersen**

For The News-Chronicle

cow, chicken, piggy and people poo. All the rest is not good for us.

PCBs have been linked to all sorts of reproductive and developmental diseases. Heavy metals have been implicated in number maladies. Pesticides don't really understand that you are not a bug, a weed or a fungus. They can be lethal to you, your children and your pets.

We are already getting a steady dose of airborne toxins, thanks to power plants,

industrial processes, excess vehicular traffic and paper mills burning or drying their sludge, such as at GranTek in Green Bay.

Those guys will tell you that the PCBs are broken down by the high temperatures. What they don't tell you is that the chemicals recombine when they cool, resulting in dioxin, which is even more toxic.

Additionally, large amounts of PCBs rise to the river surface and evaporate, carried by the wind. When they travel over a cool spot, like a body of water, they may precipitate, or rain down to the ground.

When cows eat grass with PCBs on it (and boy they sure can eat a lot of grass), the PCBs are concentrated in their butterfat, which is then concentrated further into ice cream, butter and cheese.

So now we have our DNR trying to figure out how to help the paper mills and the sewage treatment facilities get rid of all that sludge. They want to spread it all over

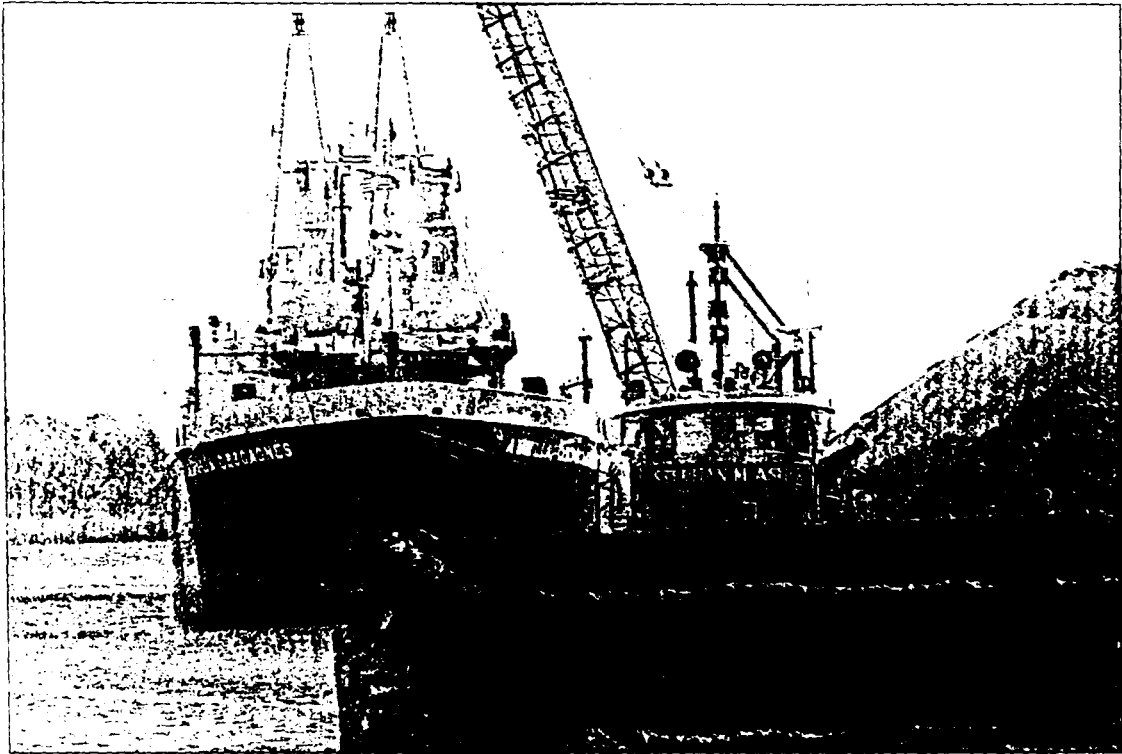
because it will be more economical for them to operate. *Insane*, but more economical.

Just so you know, the toxic sludge they dry over at GranTek is being used for so-called "inert" ingredients in fertilizer and pesticides, bulk in livestock feed, and kitty litter. Now you can have the contaminated waste right in your own home.

What we have is our rivers full of pollution, our air full of pollution, and now Gov. Tommy Thompson's DNR wants to frost this toxic cake by spreading still more contaminated gunk over farmland.

Stupid, stupid, stupid.

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@itof.com](mailto:chronicle@itof.com).



11/6/98

H. Marc Larson / The News-Chronicle

## Fox delivers riches to Green Bay

The shipping season is about to end for another year, but not before delivering some \$60 million and 1,100 jobs to the Green Bay area. That's the kind of impact generally associated with the Packers. Those kinds of benefits do come with some risk, though. "It can be dangerous in these currents," said one tugboat captain.

PAGE 5

# Green Bay cashes in on Fox

The Port of Green Bay is an economic engine for the east Wisconsin

By Linda Stolz  
The News-Chronicle

For more than 300 years, the Fox River has been a working river. The ships that grace its waters deliver many Green Bay-area residents their livelihoods.

As winter approaches, mountains of coal, salt and gravel are stored along the river banks like squirrels' nuts for the long season. The river will soon become quiet until spring, when the U.S. Coast Guard breaks the ice.

But each year, some 150 barges and freighters (both ocean-going and lake ships) pass through the port carrying nearly 2 million metric tons of cargo in and out of Northeast Wisconsin.

Charles Larscheid, Brown County port director, said an economic study revealed that water-borne commerce brings an estimated \$60 million and 1,100 jobs to the Green Bay area, rivaling the Packers' economic impact.

Anamax Corp., the largest local exporter, owns a dock on the Fox from which it exports tallow, an animal fat used in cosmetics, crayons, rubber and lubricants. By the end of the year, Anamax will ship more than 13,000 metric tons of tallow to Europe, said Mike Landenhorst, company resident.

Koch Materials, 1496 Byltsby Ave., received about 46,000 tons of asphalt by ship this year. Manager Mike Cerro figures it would take eight 18-wheelers and a full day to bring the equivalent of a shipload of asphalt, making it more economical.

LaFarge Corp. has received almost 300,000 tons of cement by ship this year. Jim Marquardt, the terminal manager, said he can't get it in fast enough.

"We bring in a lot of the cement here," he said. "In the summer, starting at 3 or 4 a.m., trucks come in — probably 100 trucks a day."



H. Marc Larson / The News-Chronicle

**THE SIGHT OF THESE BIG SHIPS** means big bucks for the Green Bay area. The economic impact of the shipping industry locally is estimated at \$60 million annually, according to the county's port director.

## TRICKY CURRENTS

The Fox River's unique currents can run either north or south, depending on wind and barometric pressure.

"Lake Michigan is like a huge mercury barometer," said Liel Osell, a tugboat captain who guides the big ships in and out of port. "Low atmospheric pressure presses down on the

lake, sending water into the estuaries and down river. The water flows down river if the pressure is low and up into the bay if it's high."

On Monday, Osell tagged the 639-foot freighter John J. Boland, carrying coal in from Sandusky, Ohio, toward the C. Reiss Coal Co. dock south of the Tilleman Bridge.

The 1,200-horsepower tug had to turn the Boland around in the dredged East River turning basin so that it arrived at the dock stern first to make unloading possible.

"It can be dangerous in these currents," Osell said. "The dolphins (bumpers) protect the bridges, though."

The Boland was in for just a few

hours to unload its cargo. Its captain, David Kortman, said self-unloading and mechanization has changed shipping. Sailors used to spend several days in port. Now it's several hours, no more than one or two days, depending on the cargo.

## THE SAILORS

The Canadian sister ships known as the Catherine and the Amelia Degagnes were in port this week to deliver pig iron at the Fox River Docks near the Tower Drive Bridge.

Daniel Martel, the Amelia Degagnes' French Canadian captain, agreed that time spent in port has been reduced dramatically over the years.

"You can take this as a joke, but years ago, the men would leave ship and go into town and drink at the bars," he said in a thick French accent. "They would maybe fight. They would look for women." He paused. "But, now the men cannot drink. They are not allowed to. They do not fight. And it's not safe to be looking for women like that anymore."

Kortman agrees, at least partly.

"The men can't go in bars and drink anymore," he said. "And now it seems that it's every man for himself. No one really gets to know each other anymore. It used to be fun."

Martel thinks it's better this way. And safer. He sees less rampant alcoholism now. It can get pretty isolating out on the lake. When asked what the principal form of entertainment is on board, Martel pointed to the television in the captain's cabin.

Since 1969, the Seafarer's Ministry of Green Bay has been staffed with volunteers who are on call to greet ships and sailors when they arrive.

Seafarer's chaplains bring videos and books on board for the sailors. They also bring knitted scarves and cookies, and offer spiritual guidance.

Volunteer Deacon Glenn Teske said his group provides an important ministry. He recalls the isolation and deprivation that sailors feel from his own six years in the Navy.

Teske said foreign sailors feel especially isolated because of language barriers.

"They need socialization and family type of contact," he said.

**READERS' COMMENT**

10/30/98

**Something fishy in Thompson's rhetoric**

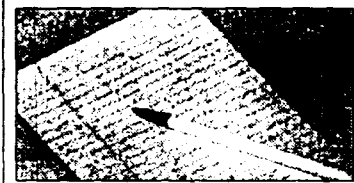
Gov. Tommy Thompson has wreaked havoc on Wisconsin's environment long enough. It's time we throw him out of office if we ever expect to clean up the Fox River successfully. Twelve years ago the cleanup should have begun. Yet not one PCB has been cleaned up since then.

Is it any surprise when we have a governor who receives enormous amounts of money from the paper and pulp industry and controls the Department of Natural Resources?

In Tommy's book, "Power to the People," he states, "Today the Fox River is safe for both people and fish."

I would like to ask why, after a recent walleye tournament on the Fox, did organizers put about 1,000 pounds of fish in a landfill rather than give them to local food pantries for fear the fish were too contaminated to eat? Is this Thompson's definition of safe?

Thompson's election opponent is Ed Garvey. He is a man who cares about our natural resources. Also,



Letters to *The 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 letters to the postal address, e-mail address or fax number listed at the bottom of this page.

Garvey wants to restore the autonomy and vitality of the DNR, clean up the Fox, and keep our environment and families healthy.

Believe that we, as a people, can make a difference. Go to the polls and vote for no more greedy politicians.

Do it for your children's future, if not for yourselves.

**Allisa Smith**  
Green Bay

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10/30/98

REAL

## Why would you vote for Tommy?

If you're concerned about the environment, such as the Fox River Valley and the Crandon mine controversy, why would you vote for Gov. Tommy Thompson?

If you believe in term limits and are concerned about total power being in one person's control, why would you vote for Tommy?

If you waited for your fair share of the tax-lottery credit but now found out you will not get the full amount, why would you vote for Tommy?

If you hunt or fish in Wisconsin, have seen these fees increase year after year and nothing being done to improve the quality of those sports, why would you vote for Tommy?

If you've wondered why our governor has never decreased the tax rates for the middle class but gives

breaks to large business, why would you vote for Tommy?

If you work in a factory and are concerned you could be replaced (or, should I say, relocated) while Wisconsin inmates now have your job, why would you vote for Tommy?

If you are an educator and you are the only state employee to have strict regulatory controls placed on your livelihood, why would you vote for Tommy?

If you've watched the governor dump millions into the baseball industry and the prison system, while you, the farmer and backbone of Wisconsin, have settled for chicken feed, why would you vote for Tommy?

I guess we all know who's left to vote for Tommy.

Gary Antilla  
Ashwaubenon

The Wisconsin Chronicle  
Green Bay, WI 54306



10/21/98

# PCB cleanup put on hold

**The Kimberly demonstration project moves ahead while the Green Bay pilot is stalled**

By Warren Bluhm  
The News-Chronicle

Preliminary work began for a pilot dredging project on the Fox River near Kimberly on Tuesday, even as officials announced that a much larger demonstration project in Green Bay has been delayed until spring.

"We will be out there as soon as we can in the spring," said Dennis Hultgren, director of environmental and public affairs for Appleton Papers and a spokesman for the Fox River Group. "We'd just rather do it this way than start in the fall, stop when it gets too cold and then restart in the spring."

The Fox River Group is the coalition of seven paper companies identified as responsible for PCB contamination of Fox River sediment. The companies pledged \$10 million for the two projects.

Bruce Baker, project team leader for the state Department of Natural Resources, said the timetable for the demonstration project near the Fort James Corp. mill, 1919 S. Broadway, was in jeopardy as soon as a landfill near Eau Claire was eliminated last month as a possible disposal site for the contaminated dredgings.

"This is a big project," Baker said. "And it just reached the point where we could not have completed it before winter."

Hultgren said the Fox River Group and the DNR will spend the interim working out remaining issues regarding disposal sites, handling and monitoring, and get the project underway as soon as possible in the spring.

Baker said he is at least encouraged by the start of the Kimberly cleanup project.

"This is real progress," he said. "There has been a lot of talk that no progress has been made, but this is real progress."

Bill Fitzpatrick, DNR project manager, said construction of on-shore facilities for the Kimberly project began Tuesday with surveyors laying out stakes on the Fox River bank along State 96 just west of Little Chute.

Eventually there will be access roads, parking areas, a visitor area and observation platforms to allow the general public to watch the progress, Fitzpatrick said. But he added there's not much to see yet.

"It probably will be mid- to late November before we start the sexy stuff," he said.

Water treatment equipment will be

brought to the site, along with a mechanical press and the dredge itself, Fitzpatrick said.

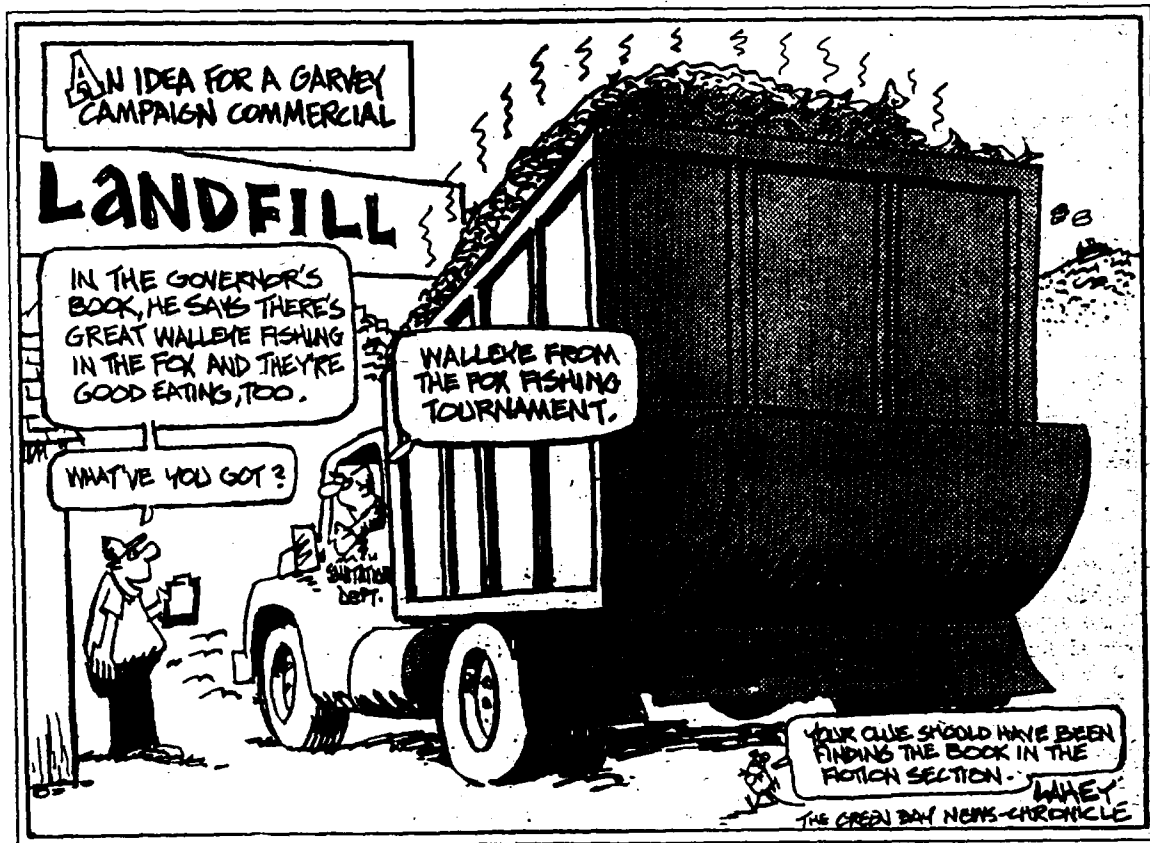
As the sediment is removed, it will be pressed to remove the water, and the water itself will then be purified before it is returned to the river.

The dried sediment, containing PCB concentrations of more than 50 parts per million, are planned for disposal in Wayne Disposal landfill, a privately owned landfill near Detroit, Fitzpatrick said. The Michigan site could not be used for the Green Bay demonstration project because a much larger amount of soil will be removed.

About 12,000 cubic yards of sediment believed to contain 400 pounds of PCBs will be removed from the Kimberly site. The public observation deck will be wheelchair-accessible.

"The idea is to allow people to get close to the work," Fitzpatrick said.

## LYLE LAHEY'S VIEWPOINT



## LOCAL COLUMNIST'S PERSPECTIVE

# Republican candidates' noses grow ever longer

It's astounding how much lying is going on in Republican campaign ads, especially after their flaying of Bill Clinton.

Mark Neumann has been telling half-truths since his campaign started. If those ads are half-truths, then they are also half-lies. Russ Feingold's record is so good,

Neumann has to fabricate. Are half-truths another "family value"?

## Are Mark Neumann's half-truths another "family value"?

Mark Neumann wants to represent us in Congress, yet he's had problems with his own career. He was a math teacher for four years and then became a home

builder. After building 20 homes in one year, he had made no money. Let's see ... a math teacher who can't figure out how to make money. And now he wants to work on the federal budget. Let's perish that thought!



**Curt Andersen**

For The News-Chronicle

Mark Green claims he wants to see the Fox River cleaned up, but argued that it "should be a local agreement." Is this guy so naive that he thinks local elected officials, currently bent over an economic barrel, are going to be able to dictate to the 800-pound gorilla paper industry, or is Green getting donations from the paper industry?

How come he had so many signs up *before* the primary race? Where's this guy getting all that money, Lester, and don't forget that "Green ain't green."

In the Oct. 16 gubernatorial debate on public TV, Gov. Tommy Thompson lied about his stance on the Crandon mine. The governor didn't even blush when he said, "There won't be an environmentally unsafe mine on my watch." Really? How about 10 minutes after your watch? How about 10 years after? How about 100 years after?

Also, if you're "on watch," aren't you supposed to be more vigilant, not looking the other way to let the kamikaze get to you? Pretty tricky talk, Tommy.

Thompson has been taking in so much campaign money that I picture him as Scrooge McDuck, diving into a mountain of cold cash in his money bin.

In case you were unaware, Thompson has formed a chummy little group. If you donate more than \$500 to his campaign, you get a nifty lapel pin with "The Governor's Club" on it. Thank goodness he didn't go with those tacky armbands. I'll bet

that next he'll have cool collar buttons, but instead of having an SS on them, they'll have a TT.

There will likely be some people on the bottom half of the economic spectrum who will vote for Republicans. That's so weird. That's like a chicken voting for Colonel Sanders.

Do everyone a favor and vote for *anyone* but Republicans this time. I have no problem with Republicans or anyone else having a different opinion than mine.

I do have a problem with the phony baloney propaganda that got them to their current level of tyranny, especially when it is tearing the fabric of our society.

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](mailto:chronicle@itol.com).

## COLUMNIST'S PERSPECTIVE

# Think welfare is only for the poor? Think again

**W**elfare: a benefit that someone gets without earning it.

Student loans and grants are forms of welfare. Students and parents may protest that they pay the loan back, but the costs of

**We subsidize the rich, and the rich are well aware of it, too. That's why they work so hard to keep the public in the dark.**

administration and defaulted loans are shared by all taxpayers. The public subsidizes both programs.

The only reason we have toxic waste in the Fox River is because our oily Department of Natural Resources and the lame city, county and state officials bent under the pressure of lobbying and campaign contributions, allowing the pollution so that the paper mills could be "more competitive." Cleaning up their effluence would

cost more, so once again citizens subsidize industry; but this time, it could be with your children's health, too, not just with your wallet.

Farmers get welfare through price supports, conservation tillage allowances, conservation reserve programs, cheaper gas for their tractors, etc.

Newspapers are subsidized by having little kids deliver papers for near slave wages. Some say it builds character, I say Mr. Gan-



**Curt Andersen**

For The News-Chronicle

nett is building a fortune on their little backs.

When I was in high school, the tax on \$1 million of annual income was 90 percent. The rates have dropped since then, but those millionaires never had to pay any of the high percentages because they had clever tax attorneys and CPAs to find loopholes for them.

Our high tax is always balanced by their tax dodging. We subsidize the rich, and the rich are well aware of it, too. That's why they work so hard to keep the public in the dark.

Big industries get tremendous utility breaks because we little people pay high rates for our electricity, while they pay lower rates. The more power they use, the less they pay per kilowatt hour. Industries always claim they believe in efficiency, but it's just a buzzword. Meanwhile, we subsidize industries.

City buses, trolleys and commuter trains are subsidized by tax dollars. More mass transit could really help alleviate rush-hour traffic, and even better, slow down urban sprawl caused in part by building more highways, which can make flooding worse. Flood damage repairs are subsidized with higher insurance rates.

That's two columns of tax breaks, subsidies and other forms of welfare. Some of the welfare is decidedly important to our way of life, but I was just fed up with the fat cats pointing at the poor, when it's the fat cats themselves who are really milking the system.

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@tcl.com](mailto:chronicle@tcl.com).

# Wildlife service searching for options for damage assessment

Public comments are being taken through Oct. 21

10/9/98

By Melinda Naparalla  
The News-Chronicle

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has released its "natural resources damage assessment" of the lower Fox River and Green Bay, and is asking for public comments.

The assessment is part of the same federal law that includes Superfund, but they are separate issues, said David Allen, the assessment manager for Green Bay for the FWS.

Superfund would be used to make the Fox River safe, while the assessment determines what additional work needs to be done to restore the environment to its previous condition before polychlorinated biphenyls — better known as PCBs — were introduced into the river, Allen said. This includes things like habitat restora-

tion and hunting enhancement.

The damage assessment calculates the value of the losses from the time the PCBs were released to the time they are gone, he said.

The assessment also looks at the primary polluted area near the Fort James Corp. paper mill at 1919 S. Broadway, Allen said. The service will study who's responsible for the pollution, how many PCBs were released and where, the economic impact, what injuries occurred to the land, water, fish and air, and possible restoration projects.

The trustees, who include representatives from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Menominee and Oneida tribes, have initiated restoration planning. It is the first time this has happened in the United States, Allen said.

"(The damage assessment) is an important step," said Rebecca Katers, executive director of the Clean

Action Water Council. "It's important for people to realize it's different from Superfund."

Katers said the council is planning to submit written comments on the addendum.

Natural resources damage assessment regulations require preparation of a restoration and compensation plan "that lists a reasonable number of alternatives for restoration, rehabilitation, replacement and/or acquisition of equivalent resources; selects one of the alternatives; gives rationale for selecting that alternative and identifies methodologies to be used to determine the cost of the selected alternative and the value of services lost to the public."

Anyone wishing to submit written comments or receive a copy of the addendum can write to: Frank Horvath, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 3 (attn: es/ec-nrda), B.H.W. Federal Building, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minn. 55111-4096.

## LOCAL COLUMNIST'S PERSPECTIVE

# Big Business knows welfare when it spends it

To jog our memories, a definition. Welfare: a benefit that someone gets without earning it. Let's start with subsidies.

The fuel subsidy is one that most of us take advantage of. Oil companies are given huge tax breaks so they can sell gasoline and

heating oil for a buck-something per gallon, instead of the \$4.25 in nearly every other nation.

**ADM's ethanol program would be dropped like a bad habit if the subsidy ended.**

Even if you don't drive, your income and property taxes are still subsidizing gasoline and the building of roads. If you do drive, the remaining \$3.25 just comes out of your

other pocket, the *income tax* pocket.

Airport construction, airplane fuel and the National Air Traffic Control system are subsidized with our federal tax dollars. Imagine how much your tickets would cost



**Curt Andersen**

For The News-Chronicle

if the airlines had to pay for all of this in its entirety?

Railroads used to be heavily subsidized but provided excellent service at reasonable rates. Europe still has an excellent rail system because gasoline there is so out-of-pocket expensive, and that makes trains competitive.

Archer Daniels Midland, the agribusiness megacorporation, gets hundreds of millions of dollars annually in federal subsidies to produce ethanol from corn, which they tell us is critical to keep our cars running right.

(Sure!) This program would be dropped like a bad habit if the subsidy ended. Oddly, industry folks are always telling us that the market should be the control system.

In Green Bay, the Fox River channel is regularly dredged so large ships can bring in raw materials and carry away finished products for paper mills, etc. This dredging is subsidized by our tax dollars, allowing the mills to make more money by being more "competitive."

Normally, the dredge spoils can be used around new homes for fill or in eroded areas in the bay; but this stuff is too toxic, so it costs millions of dollars extra to dredge it and store it, paid for with our tax dollars.

In the early 1970s, I was one of the many gullible folks who got sucked in by smarmy nuclear power industry propaganda. Industry representatives told us that the electricity from nuclear power plants would be "too cheap to meter," that the plants would be safe, that there would be no pollution. All fatuous poppycock.

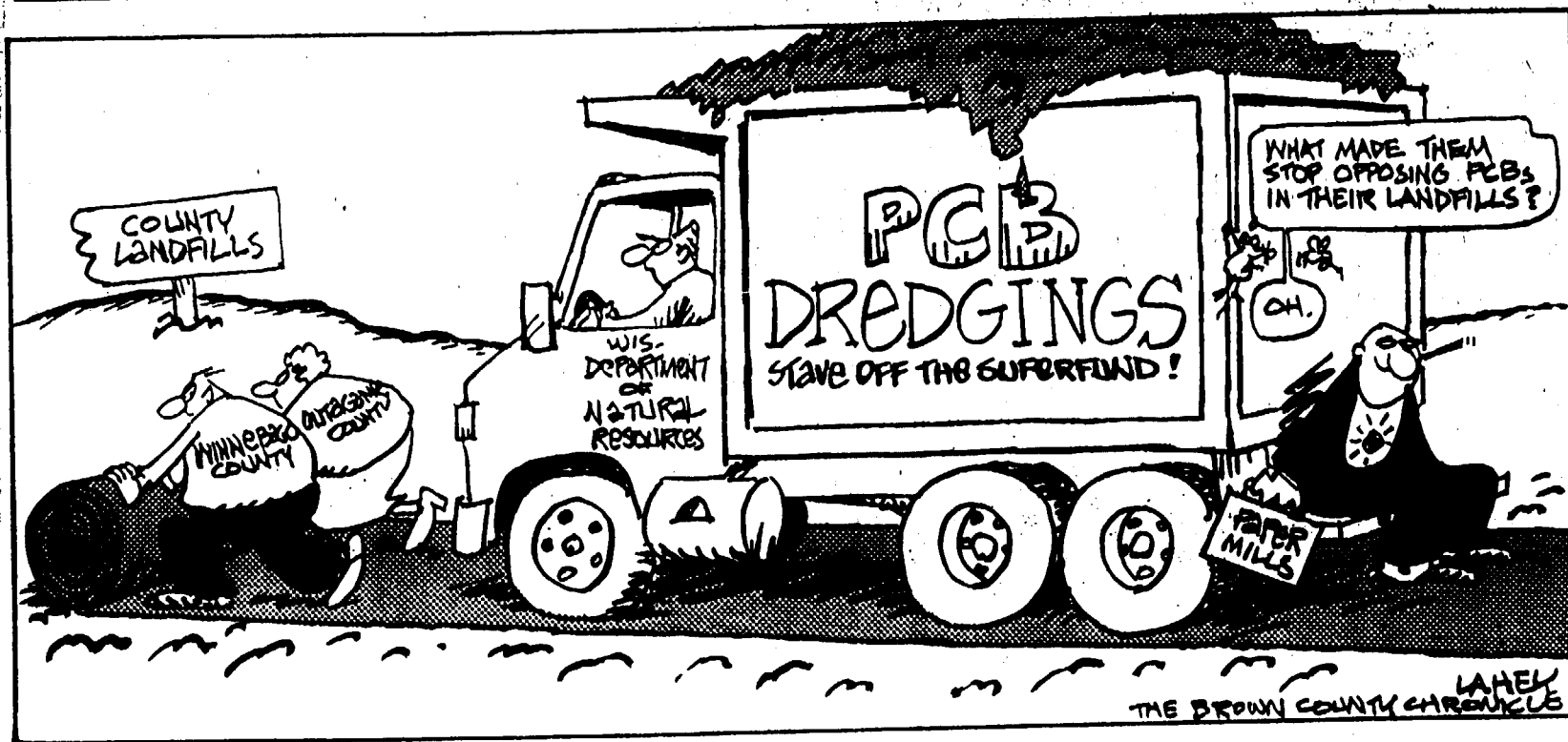
Nuclear power has been no bargain. It has been heavily subsidized (from your income tax pocket) since its beginnings. No rational person thinks the plants are safe, following one meltdown, many others leaking radiation into the air or water, and a storage cask explosion.

We'll have to deal with radioactive waste for the next 10,000 years. Those subsidies have made the nuclear industry fat cats filthy rich, while leaving us with radioactive filth.

When fat-cat fingers point at the welfare dollars that poor folks get, there are four indicting fingers pointing right back. We are *all* welfare recipients.

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](mailto:chronicle@itol.com).

THE WORLD ACCORDING TO LAHEY



October 3, 1998

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1998

# Public's thoughts about Superfund come loud, mixed

**Large blocks of residents both  
support and oppose  
the designation**

**By Melinda Naparalla**  
The News-Chronicle

In one month, the Clean Water Action Council collected almost 4,500 signatures on a petition supporting Superfund designation for the Fox River.

Monday was the deadline for public com-

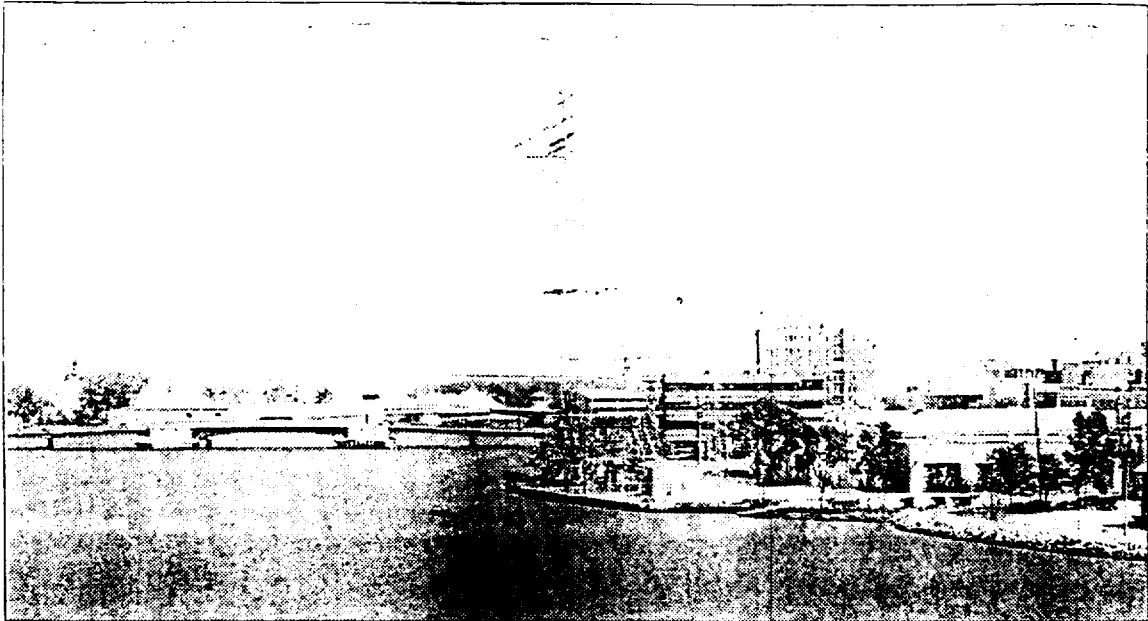
ment regarding the Environmental Protection Agency proposal to list the lower Fox River on the National Priorities List, more commonly known as Superfund.

"We're seeing a lot of public support in favor of Superfund," Rebecca Katers, executive director of the Clean Action Water Council, said Wednesday.

Listing the river would allow the federal government to take charge of the removal of PCB-contaminated sediment from the river.

Please see **FOX**, Page 4





H. Marc Larson / The News-Chronicle

WHILE NEARLY EVERYONE wants the Fox cleaned, just who should oversee the project is up for debate.

# RIVER: Both sides have supporters

## FROM PAGE 1

Members of the council gathered signatures from throughout Northeast Wisconsin. There was overwhelming support to clean the Fox River, said Kyle Strauss, the council's organizing director.

"We've ignored the Fox River too long," Strauss said. "It has to be cleaned up, if not for ourselves, for our children."

A network of high school students collected about 800 signatures.

"I think it's important for young people to be aware of their resources," said Ines Kinchen, one of the students.

The second-biggest single block of comments on the issue came from labor unions opposed to the designation, though.

Members of the United Paperworkers International Union locals 144 and 469 in Appleton fear Superfund would cause jobs to be lost.

More than 1,600 letters were sent to the EPA from UPIU members opposing Superfund.

The EPA has never answered questions about the economic impact of a Superfund listing, said John Cappell, president of UPIU Local 469.

The labor unions are not opposed to cleaning the river, but they are opposed to Superfund, he said.

If the federal government comes in, Cappell said it will end like a dredging project in Manistique, Mich., that he said was estimated to cost \$16 million and is now at \$25 million and counting.

"People need to step back and look at the total picture," Cappell said. "It could affect a lot of jobs in the Valley. The labor is concerned with saving jobs."

Katers said the idea of paper mills cutting jobs is economic blackmail.

"These are major corporations with large assets and enough financial backing to help with the cleanup,"

Katers said. "If the mills are operating profitably, why shut them down?"

Cappell said the unions want someone besides the federal government to oversee the cleanup.

"Letting the government go with Superfund is like letting your kid have your Mastercard. You have no control over the spending," Cappell said.

# Cash to fix Fox locks <sup>9/29/98</sup> moves ahead

BY BETH GORCZYCA  
PRESS-GAZETTE

The House of Representatives voted Monday to set aside \$640,000 to help restore the Fox River Locks.

The House approved the money as part of the Energy and Water Appropriations Act. The bill still requires Senate approval and President Clinton's signature.

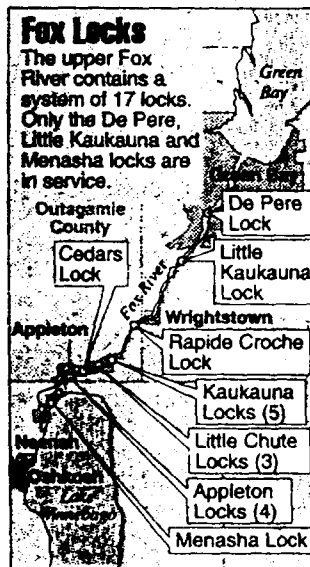
The money would help restore three working locks in De Pere, near Wrightstown and in Menasha.

The \$640,000 would be in addition to about \$14.8 million the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has offered to state and local governments to help pay for restoring the aging locks. The total project is expected to cost about \$19.2 million.

The rest of the project's cost, about \$3.76 million, will have to be picked up by the state and seven communities with locks along the river. However, representatives of the communities say they cannot afford their \$1.88 million share without asking taxpayers for help.

U.S. Rep. Jay Johnson, D-Green Bay, said the new federal money would help relieve some of the local burden if the state and communities decide to take over the locks.

"By securing an additional \$640,000 in federal funds this year and hopefully \$1 million next year to upgrade the condition of the locks, we can redo the total cost of the transfer and save money for



Press-Gazette

local communities 'back home,' Johnson said.

The original appropriations bill included \$1 million for the locks' restoration, but the amount was decreased after the Senate's version of the bill did not include similar funding.

The money would be available only if the communities and state agree to take over the system from the Corps of Engineers. The corps has been caretaker of the 17-lock system since 1984.

The corps determined this year that the lock system no longer serves a commercial navigational purpose.

In August, the corps chief said the system should be filled in unless local governments agree to take it over for recreational purposes.

Filling in the locks would cost about \$9.2 million.

## BRIEFLY

IN YOUR AREA

From Green Bay  
News-Chronicle staff

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

#### **Fox Locks funding OK'd by House**

WASHINGTON — The U.S. House of Representatives Monday approved an additional \$640,000 to help push forward the transfer of the Fox River locks system to the state of Wisconsin from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The funding is in the Energy and Water Appropriations Act, which passed 389-25, said U.S. Rep. Jay Johnson, D-Green Bay.

The new funds are in addition to \$14.8 million the corps has already committed for the \$19.2 million transfer project, Johnson said. The balance must come from local and state sources.

# County will discuss local PCB disposal

9/30/98

Winnebago and Outagamie counties signal they may landfill river dredgings

By Warren Bluhm  
The News-Chronicle

With a Winnebago County Board committee vote Monday to enter negotiations with the state Department of Natural Resources, the focus of the debate over disposal of PCBs has shifted to local landfills.

The Legislative Committee voted 10-4 to encourage the Winnebago County Solid Waste Management Board to negotiate with the DNR about accepting PCB-contaminated dredge spoils from the Fox River at its county landfill.

And Outagamie County Executive Jane VandeHey hosted a meeting with representatives from the DNR and Winnebago and Fond du Lac counties to open discussion of the issue.

"This is exciting because our message from this area two or three years ago was that the counties were not interested in accepting any PCBs in their landfills," said Duane Schuettpelz, DNR water quality standards director.

Brown County Solid Waste Director Charles Larscheid said the county would be willing to take a look at any plan.

"We haven't been asked," Larscheid said. "But it would be our responsibility to evaluate whether we should be involved in accepting the dredgings."

Limited capacity at the county's east landfill would make it difficult for Brown County to be involved at this point, Larscheid said. And talks with the town of Holland for siting a new landfill remain at a sensitive stage.

VandeHey's meeting with the DNR signals Outagamie County's possible willingness to accept dredgings from two pilot cleanup projects funded by the Fox River Group, the coalition of seven companies that acknowledge responsibility for discharging PCBs into the river.

Schuettpelz said the DNR can probably proceed with the smaller of the projects by the end of the year, removing about 10,000 tons of sediment from the river near Kimberly.

But a larger project, the removal of 70,000 tons near the Fort James Corp. Broadway mill, may take longer, he said.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

9/22/98

ANOTHER NEWSPAPER'S OPINION

# Fox sludge not wanted there

One of the biggest complaints directed toward those who work in government is they don't listen to the people who elected them or pay their salaries.

We gladly report that criticism isn't always valid, and we have a story with a happy ending for the Chippewa Valley to share with you.

The state and Superior Services of Milwaukee announced earlier this month that some 92,000 tons of PCB-tainted soil slated for disposal in Superior's Seven Mile Creek Landfill will not be shipped to the dump in the town of Seymour after all. The soil was to be dredged from several rivers in the Fox Valley, particularly the Fox River, that years ago were harmed by industrial pollution.

This was to be the first step in a major cleanup of the Fox and other rivers in that part of the state in which millions of tons of sediment containing toxic pollutants are to be removed.

Chippewa Valley opposition to the plan surfaced as soon as it became clear what was happening. And as the groundswell grew in preparation for a meeting, state officials decided to scrap the plan (and the meeting) and will try to come up with some other disposal site.

At the top of the list of people deserving credit for stopping Eau Claire from becoming a destination point for contaminated soil are the concerned citizens who let it be known they would not take this decision lying down. State Rep. Rob Kreibich, R-Eau Claire, said it was the most emotional issue

he has been involved with during his five years in the Legislature. People can make a difference.

But sometimes public involvement can only take you so far. The decision to halt the project ultimately came from the governor's office. Gov. Tommy Thompson and one of his top advisers, Department of Administration Secretary Mark Bugher, had two choices — weather the storm and stick with the original plan, or recognize the arguments being made in the Chippewa Valley and start over. It's to their credit they listened and reacted in our favor.

**Now the issue goes back to the Fox Valley where it belongs. That doesn't eliminate the problem for anyone.**

No doubt it helped that Bugher is an Eau Claire native who pays special attention to the Chippewa Valley. Call it politics if you want, but the bottom line is the Thompson administration listened to the people, and that, after all, is what democracy is all about.

Now the issue goes back to the Fox Valley where it belongs. That doesn't eliminate the problem for anyone. PCBs and other sources of water, soil and air pollution are not an issue limited to any part of the state or nation.

We can relish this particular "victory," but the broader lesson is we need to be diligent to protect the environment all the time, not just when we perceive an imminent threat.

But for now, to all who played a role in responding to this issue so important to the Chippewa Valley, a heartfelt thank you.

**Leader-Telegram, Eau Claire**

**News-Chronicle**

**Frank A. Wood: Publisher**

**Patrick J. Wood: Assoc. Publisher**

**Tom Brooker: Editor**

**Warren Bluhm: News Editor**

**Tom Gund**

9/21/98

**READERS' COR**

**PCBs not the only problem in Fox River**

On Sept. 10 a letter written by William A. Hartman, representing P.H. Glatfelter Co., a paper company with a mill in Neenah, appeared in both Green Bay newspapers (Page 11 in *The News-Chronicle*).

Mr. Hartman said, "... the paper industry as a whole has made great strides in reducing the impact of their facilities on the environment." If you believe this, there's a bridge over the Fox River sewer that I'll soon be completing. I'll sell it to you cheap!

On Sept. 10 I participated in one of a number of news conferences hosted by environmentalists concerned by the amount of toxins, other than PCBs, that are being dumped into our air, water and land.

Among the materials we made available was the SARA Toxic Release Inventory, published by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Page 9 of the report contains this statement: "Taken by industry group, paper and allied products accounts for over 70 percent of reported water releases."

This statement has nothing to do with PCBs. It involves 154 toxic chemicals reported to the DNR by the polluters. The plant reporting the largest total releases to the water was Fort Howard Corp. of Green Bay (now Fort James Corp.), with reported releases of 1.4 million pounds.

Fort Howard was the top emitter in the state by a margin of almost 1 million pounds.

This does not include the thousands of tons of phosphorus Fort Howard dumped into the river with the approval of the DNR.

The Fox River is now the top receiver of toxins in the state, replacing hundreds of miles long the Wisconsin River. So, the next time you hear a paper mill representative or a Chamber of Commerce official bleating about the re-suspension of PCBs caused by Fox River dredging, consider the source.

The report that I quoted was issued by the DNR. Request a copy. If the DNR cannot supply one, contact the Clean Water Action Council; we'll see that you get one.

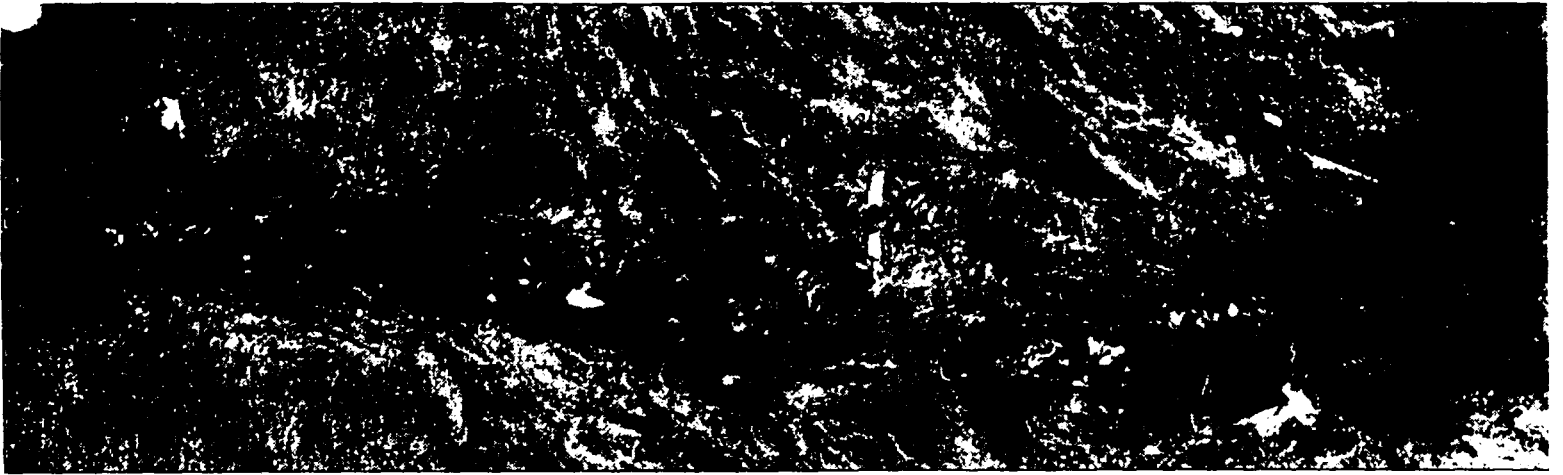
**Bob Schmitz**  
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9/17/98



OFFICIALS INVESTIGATE THE SITE OF A Wisconsin-owned twin-engine airplane that crashed near Tomah, about 100 miles northwest of Madison Wednesday morning. Killed were pilot Jon Sherman and two DNR employees, Dale J. Patterson and Michael D. Witt.

# State plane crashes, killing 3

The veteran pilot and two DNR employees perished

Associated Press

MADISON — A state-owned airplane crashed into a cranberry bog near Tomah on Wednesday, killing the pilot and two Department of Natural Resources employees.

The pilot reported smoke in the cabin at about 7:30 a.m., declared an emergency and tried to reach Volk Field near the Monroe County town of Oakdale or the airport in neighboring Tomah, Gov. Tommy Thompson said.

The plane crashed 15 minutes later near Oakdale, about 100 miles north-

■ DNR continues cleanup: Page 6

west of Madison.

Killed were pilot Jon Sherman, 52, and DNR employees Dale J. Patterson, 49, and Michael D. Witt, 48, both section chiefs in the Bureau of Watershed Management. Patterson and Witt were on their way to Siren in northwestern Wisconsin for a watershed management meeting, Thompson said.

Thompson described Sherman as a "meticulous flyer" and said all three were dedicated public servants.

DNR employees gathered at agency headquarters in Madison to grieve, Natural Resources Secretary

George Meyer said.

Plumes of smoke could be seen from as far as 10 miles away at the Volk Field Air National Guard base, National Guard Master Sgt. Leo Clark said.

The National Transportation Safety Board and state officials were investigating.

Patterson, chief of the DNR's water quality modeling section, worked for the agency for 25 years and was instrumental in developing computer models for cleanups of the Fox and Wisconsin rivers, Meyer said.

Patterson's method of mapping pollution in the Fox River 20 years ago is now used by many states, Meyer said.

"When he started, there were only carp in the Fox River. Now we've got

some of the finest walleyes," Meyer said.

Witt headed the specialized discharges section. In his 24 years with the agency, Witt oversaw complex permitting procedures that determined how much waste paper companies and other industries could discharge into waterways.

Witt was known by colleagues and the paper industry to be a firm but fair regulator, Meyer said.

Sherman, a former state trooper and Milwaukee police officer, was a pilot for the state since 1985. He was a helicopter pilot in the Vietnam War.

Wednesday's crash is the first fatal incident involving a state-owned airplane since the early 1970s.

## LOCAL COLUMNIST'S PERSPECTIVE

# Like all despots, 'Toxic Tommy' has his admirers

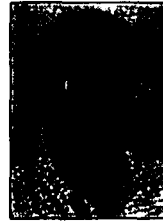
The other day I was speaking to an acquaintance on the forbidden topic of politics. She had seen the huge sign on the back of my truck that says, "So long, Toxic Tommy! 12 years of tyranny is too many!"

She said she was going to vote for Thompson. I said, "You're a teacher and you're going to vote for Thompson? It's your livelihood!" She said, "Yup. I don't like what he's doing about education but I do like what he's doing about the welfare problem."

I remembered a similar phrase was said, with a twist, in the past: "I don't like

what Herr Hitler is doing with the labor unions, but I do like what he's doing with the Jewish problem."

The irony is that we really don't have any more of a "welfare problem" than Germany



**Curt  
Anderson**

For The  
News-Chronicle

had a "Jewish problem." In both cases we have instead a "power problem." This time, the bad guys have chosen a small group that can't fight back, because they have no money.

Thompson, to stay in power, has had to convince the public, by broadcasting the same kind of propaganda about welfare recipients, that they're all lazy or undeserving.

While he is pointing at the welfare recipients (the red herring), he has begun a campaign of unbelievable environmental destruction that rewards his friends in the

road-building business, the paper industry, the nuclear-power industry, the real-estate developers and others — his big-time campaign contributors.

If Thompson is re-elected, the Crandon mine will go in. That's a "fer sure." He already knows how he's going to get around the mining moratorium law. If you don't believe that, then why is the Department of Natural Resources still working on the permitting process?

If Thompson is re-elected, the Fox River cleanup will be akin to a riverbank wipe-down with Pine-Sol. That will please the weasels who dirtied it, but we will still not be able to eat the fish or use the river for recreation without danger.

If Thompson is re-elected, we will still have at least one, probably two, aging and dangerous nuclear plants on Lake Michigan. Both plants are accidents waiting to happen. Lake Michigan is the source of our drinking water. We depend on it for tens of thousands of jobs and recreation for millions of us. The lake is a big draw for tourism.

If Thompson is re-elected, he'll continue to usurp power from branches of state government until he and the corporate profiteers who have soiled this state run the entire show.

Over the last 10 years, residents of Wisconsin have been flocking to join environmental groups because of their concern about the cavalier treatment of the environment. I realized the other day that all of this environmental abuse was the fault of one man, Tommy Thompson.

He has repeatedly said he's an environmentalist. (Gag!) C'mon, Tommy. Tell us the truth. I guess you know you can't get re-elected if the public knows your real plans.

We need a governor who's a decision-maker, not a wheeler-dealer.

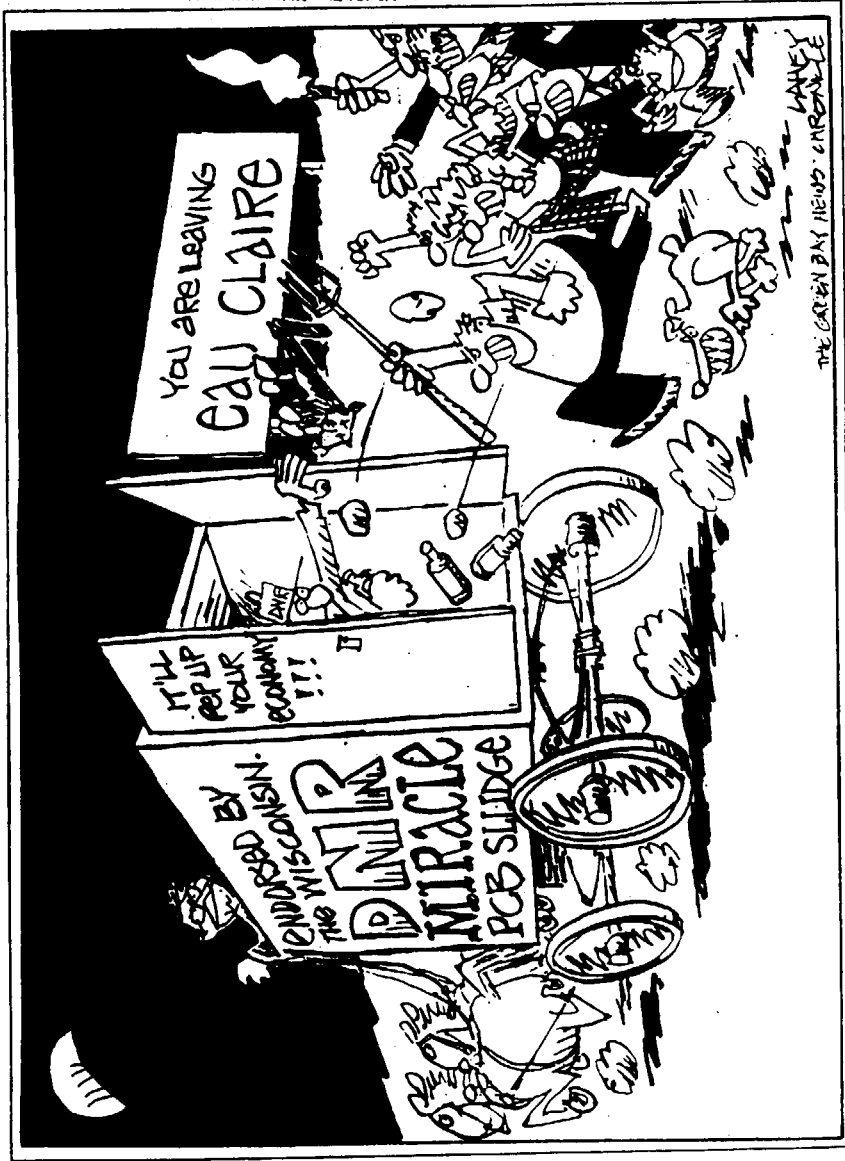
Anderson, whose column appears here each Wednesday, is a lifelong resident of the Green Bay area and a small-business owner. He served in the Navy during the Vietnam era. He teaches part time at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College and is president of the Clean Water Action Council. Write to him via e-mail at [chronicle@itol.com](mailto:chronicle@itol.com).



# OPINION

10 Wednesday, September 16, 1998

## LYLE LAHEY'S VIEWPOINT



# PCB dump site withdrawn

Plans fall through to locate  
dredgings from the Fox  
River in Eau Claire County.

9/15/98

PAGE 3

THE GREEN BAY NEWS-CHRONICLE

## LOCAL

Tuesday

# Fox pilot projects in limbo after Eau Claire opposition

**With no landfill for  
PCBs, contaminated  
sediment may have to  
stay at the river  
bottom**

By Nick Wood  
The News-Chronicle

Unless a new dump site for PCB-contaminated Fox River dredgings is found soon, two cleanup projects scheduled to begin this fall could be canceled.

"Certainly I think (the pilot projects) are in jeopardy at this point," said state Department of Natural Resources project leader Bruce Baker.

Faced with intense local opposition, the state Monday dropped a plan to bury about 100,000 tons of PCB-contaminated river sludge at a private dump near Eau Claire, an administrator said.

Mark Bugher, secretary of the state Department of Administration, said the state has asked Milwaukee-based

Superior Services to withdraw its bid of \$80 per ton to dispose of the dried-out, contaminated sediment, some of which would come from the Fox River.

The company announced late Monday that it has withdrawn the bid.

"Local feedback is always a factor in the decision on these projects," spokesman Jeffrey Remsik said.

Last week, DNR Secretary George Meyer said the state would stop the project only if its environmental review determined there were technical or environmental problems.

But Bugher said Monday that local concerns as well as technical data may be considered in deciding whether to sign the contract.

Bugher's announcement surprised several DNR officials, including Dave Lundberg, waste program supervisor for the DNR's West Central region.

"We stand behind our position that the material could have been safely landfilled in this landfill or any other landfill in the state of similar con-



Meyer



Bugher

struction," he said.

But there was no public support, with many people feeling the Eau Claire area should not be the dumping grounds for waste from the Fox Valley, Lundberg said.

Bugher acknowledged there will probably be local opposition to any potential landfill site. Because communities closer to the Fox River have a greater interest in its cleanup, there may be less public opposition closer to home.

Superior's Hickory Meadows Landfill near Chilton is scheduled to

open this fall. The 59-acre landfill will meet DNR requirements for PCB disposal.

But that landfill is not an immediate option, according to Baker and Jerry Raeder, general manager of remediation for Superior.

"We really don't have Chilton as a formal option right now," Baker said.

Raeder said Superior is currently negotiating with local officials for disposal of regular garbage there.

As to what will happen next, Lundberg said, "I don't know if there is a 'plan B' at this point."

Darrell Bazzel, the DNR's deputy secretary, said the agency would continue to explore options and wants to go forward with the \$10-million dredging project for the Fox River slated to begin this fall.

"Certainly, looking at the Eau Claire situation, I would agree it would be somewhat challenging finding a repository for the waste as part of a long-term cleanup," he said.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

# Toxic chemical discharges into the Fox River continue

While discharges are down, a new report shows that there's still a long way to go

By Melinda Naparalla  
The News-Chronicle

9/11/98

Brown County was the second most polluted county in Wisconsin with 3.1 million pounds of toxins released in 1996, and the former Fort Howard Corp. paper mill was the largest polluter by far, according to a report released by Green Bay environmentalists Thursday.

Members of the Clean Water Action Council discussed the report by the Wisconsin Public Interest Research Group on toxic chemical releases into Wisconsin waterways.

WisPIRG's report, "Troubled Waters," analyzed discharges as reported by industries for the Toxic Release Inventory compiled by the state Department of Natural Resources, as required by the federal Community Right to Know Act.

The TRI outlines information about the amount of toxic pollution that large manufacturing plants and government facilities release into the environment each year. The federal act requires monitoring of 578 different chemicals.

The Clean Water Action Council localized WisPIRG's report by focusing on Northeast Wisconsin and the Fox River.

There were 1.5 million pounds of toxins released into the Fox River in 1996, according to Rebecca Katers, executive director of Clean Water. She said 94 percent of the toxins came from the Fort Howard Corp., 1919 S. Broadway St., which has since merged with James River Corp. to become Fort James.

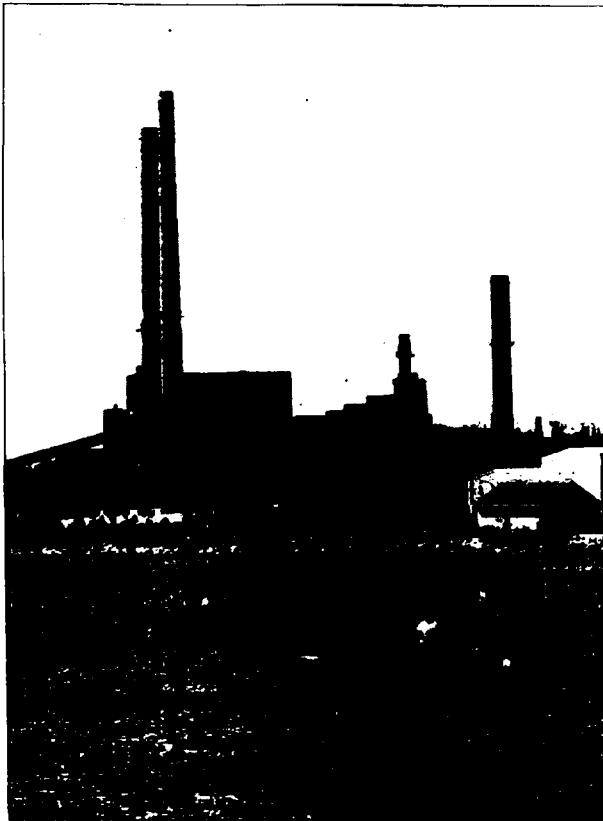
The 1996 TRI reported the largest amount of discharges to water was from Fort Howard, with reported releases more than 1.4 million pounds, almost all of which consisted of nitrate compounds. The company ranked second in total toxins by releasing 2.6 million pounds in 1996.

This is only the tip of the iceberg, Katers said. The companies reporting to the TRI are on an honor system and report the chemical discharges themselves, she said.

Katers said the WisPIRG report calls for thresholds of zero for substances like mercury, lead and PCBs and development of stricter standards. Technologies exist to discharge pure water, but companies aren't even close to that level of discharge, she said.

"I've seen the terrible results of dumping in the Fox River," said Bob Schmitz, who said he has lived in Green Bay for 76 years.

There used to be more frogs, swallows and martins living along the river, he said.



H. Marc Larson / The News-Chronicle

THE FORT JAMES MILL, 1919 S. Broadway (formerly Fort Howard Corp.), is signaled out in a pollution report by the Wisconsin Public Interest Research Group.

Katers said most people believe industries are cleaning up, but there is still a problem because in some industries released toxins are increasing.

The pulp and paper industry is the largest discharger in the state, releasing 13 million pounds of toxins, Katers said.

Katers said some of the information may be misleading because some nonpoint pollution is released into the air.

The reporting facilities listed in the inventory — those that manufacture, process or use more than 10,000 pounds per year of at least one of a number of toxic chemicals — are legally allowed to release certain levels of pollutants under operating permits that set emission limits to protect public health.

The toxic inventory report states companies in 1996 reported releasing 43 million pounds fewer toxic emissions into the environment than were reported in 1987.

Wisconsin manufacturers and other reporting facilities released 12.5 percent less toxic pollution to the environment in 1996, dropping from

33.6 million pounds in 1995 to 29.4 million pounds.

The U.S. Congress' Office of Technical Assessment estimates that the inventory accounts for only about 5 percent of all toxic releases to the environment nationwide, Katers said.

A look at the amount of chemicals dumped in Wisconsin water bodies between 1992 and 1996:

- Wisconsin River: 4,045,075 pounds
- Fox River: 3,379,636 pounds
- Lake Michigan: 215,902 pounds
- Flambeau River: 207,708 pounds
- Newton Creek: 57,876 pounds
- Little Lake Butte Des Morts: 40,600 pounds
- Menominee River: 39,649 pounds
- Kankapot Creek: 36,800 pounds
- Twin River: 15,853 pounds
- Yahara River: 11,015 pounds

Source: Wisconsin Public Interest Research Group.

WISCONSIN  
MENASHA

9/11/98

### PCB program will be televised

WLUC-TV Channel 11 will drop its Thursday night network programming to telecast most of "The ABCs of PCBs," a three-hour public forum about the cleanup of the Fox River scheduled for 6-9 p.m. Sept. 24 in the fieldhouse at the University of Wisconsin Center, Fox Valley, Midway Road in Menasha.

Invited speakers include biologists, engineers and administrators from state and federal environmental agencies and the paper industry. Field technical experts will take questions from the public.

The event is being organized by the Appleton League of Women Voters.

9/10/98

## READERS' COMMENT

### Work together, not apart, to reclaim Fox River

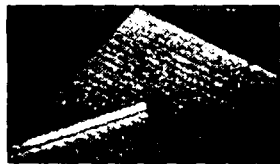
For the past several months I have read with interest the numerous articles and letters that pertain to the Fox River PCB issue. Because it is my job to deal with environmental issues on a daily basis, I feel compelled, if not obligated, to speak out.

As a "working river," the Fox has had to endure the strain from industrial and municipal discharges, as well as agricultural runoff, which sometimes caused unforeseeable and unforeseen effects to the river.

While the paper industry and the community at large have been increasingly more environmentally conscious, some environmental problems persist from several decades past. Sediments contaminated with PCBs are a case in point. There is no debate that this situation needs to be assessed and addressed properly.

What appears to be lost in the debate is the fact that the paper industry as a whole has made great strides in reducing the impact of their facilities on the environment. This is a continuing effort that is taken seriously.

More information on these accomplishments can be



Letters to *The 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 letters to the postal address, e-mail address or fax number listed at the bottom of this page.

obtained from the Wisconsin Paper Council, as they are summarized in the annual Pollution Prevention Partnership, or P3, reports that are issued early each year.

Everyone should remember that industry is not just an inanimate object — it is made up of everyday people who live in this community. Overall, the paper industry in Wisconsin employs more than 50,000 people statewide and more than 26,000 in the Fox Valley area. Do not for one minute be misled into believing that we care any less about the Fox River, or any part of

our environment for that matter, than do those who belong to the environmental activist organizations.

The Fox River PCB issue is a complex problem whose solution will require careful evaluation of scientific issues, engineering difficulties and economic reality. To arrive at the solution, we will also need to seriously consider the economic implications associated with the remedial actions selected and what impact they will have, not only on the paper industry, but the local communities as well, as those actions are being undertaken.

It is not an issue that will be solved with name calling and mistrust.

A gentleman named Lombardi once said, "People who work together will win, whether it be against complex football defenses, or the problems of modern society." Perhaps it's time that the environmental groups begin to acknowledge the good things that are being done right now to help improve the river for future generations to enjoy.

**William A. Hartman**  
Environmental Manager  
P.H. Glatfelter Co.  
Neenah

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20-432-8581 | Web: www.greenbaynewschronicle.com

# Chilton landfill fits PCB bill

A new landfill near Chilton could be the logical disposal site for Fox River PCB dredgings 9/10/98

By Nick Wood  
The News-Chronicle

Town of Chilton officials believe that millions of tons of PCB-contaminated dredgings from the Fox River will soon be headed their way.

"A lot of us have a feeling of what's going to happen," said Ann Lintner, Chilton town clerk. "If all those PCBs are coming out of the Fox River, it's only logical that it's going to come our way."

Superior Special Services, the company picked to dispose of contaminated sediment from two pilot cleanup projects this fall on the Fox River, is building a 59-acre landfill in the town of Chilton in Calumet County.

Lintner has been closely involved in the negotiation process for more than a year.

Scheduled for completion as early

as this fall, the new Hickory Meadows Landfill is 35 miles south of Green Bay.

According to Gary Bartels, Superior's project manager for the landfill, the facility would be acceptable for PCB disposal under state Department of Natural Resources regulations.

Superior is currently negotiating an interim agreement with the town of Chilton and Calumet County that would allow the company to continue construction of the landfill while the parties hammer out a final agreement about operating hours, tipping fees, and town benefits.

Bartels said Superior intends to haul garbage, construction debris and special wastes to the facility from around Northeast Wisconsin. Once full, the landfill will rise 125 feet above the surrounding farmland.

Disposal of PCBs is not on the table at this time, Bartels said.

But Lintner said Superior negotiators have talked openly in the past about the possibility of disposing PCB-contaminated sediment in the landfill.

"We're very aware that they want (PCBs) there," Lintner said. "They don't want to talk about it now because they don't want (the issue) to

bog down garbage negotiations."

Chilton Town Chairman John Schwartz said the interim contract prohibits PCB disposal at the site, but the issue will be revisited separately.

"(PCB disposal) has not been talked about a lot because it has not been a part of the (interim) agreement," Schwartz said. "I don't think we're informed enough to make a decision."

The DNR has accepted Superior's low bid of \$80 per ton to dispose of up to 92,000 tons of PCB-contaminated sediment from the Fox, Sheboygan and Manitowoc rivers at its Seven-mile Creek Landfill near Eau Claire. A public hearing on that plan is scheduled for Sept. 16 in Eau Claire.

Jerry Raeder, general manager in charge of remediation for Superior, said that at this time the company has no plans of hauling sediment from the pilot projects to Chilton.

But if the pilot projects lead to a full-scale cleanup of the Fox River, it would not be wise to spend money hauling sediment across the state, according to Bill Fitzpatrick, DNR project manager for the pilots.

"If we're dealing with a considerable volume (of contaminated sedi-

ment), it makes sense to reduce the disposal cost and use money for removal and treatment (of sediment)," he said.

From an engineering standpoint, the most cost-effective way to dispose of huge amounts of sediment would be to landfill them in the clay banks of the river itself, Fitzpatrick said.

But from a political standpoint, that may not sit well with property owners.

Fitzpatrick estimates there are 11 million cubic yards of contaminated sediment in the 39-mile stretch of the Fox River from Lake Winnebago to Green Bay.

The Hickory Meadows Landfill will have a capacity of 7.5 million cubic yards, which would be big enough to store more than half of all the contaminated sediment in the river.

But Bartels cautioned that it is premature to talk about whether the Chilton landfill would ever be used for large-scale PCB disposal.

"At this point it's all speculation," Bartels said. "It doesn't do anyone any good to speculate."

# Council sets new rules for taking dredge spoils

Eau Claire's wastewater treatment plant won't accept landfill runoff

9/10/98

Claire's wastewater treatment plant won't accept landfill runoff that contains the chemical pollutant PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls.

The landfill runoff, also known as "leachate," is shipped by tanker truck from the landfill to the treatment plant. The sludge then can be disposed of by spreading it on area farmland.

Eau Claire council members are seeking to have state and federal officials reconsider the plans for dumping Fox River sludge in the landfill.

George Meyer, secretary of the state Department of Natural Resources, met with area leaders Tuesday.

Associated Press

EAU CLAIRE — City officials have moved to tighten policies on dealing with contaminated dredge spoils from rivers in eastern Wisconsin.

A disposal firm plans to bury the river sludge in a landfill in the town of Seymour, near Eau Claire.

A resolution passed Wednesday by the City Council states that Eau

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From: Green Bay News Chronicle, Wednesday, September 9, 1998



## Thompson does little to improve Fox River 9/9/98

GREEN BAY — Methinks the DNR doth protest too much. Gov. Tommy Thompson and his DNR staff have flatly denied any connection between large campaign donations from the paper industry and the DNR's total inability to get tough with Fox River polluters.

But look at the history. DNR staff spent three years, from 1989 to 1992, preparing for legal enforcement actions to hold the polluters accountable. They hired new staff with nationwide expertise in Natural Resources Damage Assessments. They sent 26 staff people to special training sessions. But they also wrote memos acknowledging that when the DNR was all ready to go to court, it first had to ask for Thompson's permission.

That permission was never granted. Instead, the three-year effort ended with no action, the special new DNR staff were assigned to other departments in the DNR, and a cozy little committee was set up to waste the next six years looking for "voluntary solutions" with the polluters.

Now Thompson is doing everything in his power to keep the federal government from enforcing a river cleanup. After 12 years of inaction, he actually claims with a straight face that the state can do the job more quickly and efficiently. In fact, according to Thompson, his "leadership" already brought about a total cleanup of the river. He wrote a book in 1996 claiming, "Today the Fox River is safe for both people and fish."

Good grief. All this would be funny if it weren't for the thousands of children and the wildlife who have been exposed to toxic PCBs during the many years of this farce.

Kyle F. Strauss, Green Bay

# DNR chief urged to slow sediment-shipping plan

ASSOCIATED PRESS

9/9/98

EAU CLAIRE — County and state representatives on Tuesday urged Wisconsin's top environmental official to slow a process that could bring hundreds of tons of PCB-contaminated sediment to the county.

However, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has set a January deadline for completing a dredging study for removing the sediments from eastern Wisconsin rivers, said George Meyer, state Department of Natural Resources secretary.

Hazardous materials in the sediment from the Fox River, the Sheboygan River and tributaries of the Manitowoc River include polychlorinated biphenyls.

PCBs are industrial chemicals that are classified as probably cancer-causing to humans and have been linked with developmental problems and lowered IQs in children exposed to higher levels in the womb, typically by mothers who ate tainted fish.

The dredging study is a way to determine the best cleanup methods for the Fox River, officials have said.

Meyer said that just because contaminated sediment may come

to Eau Claire County as part of the study, local officials shouldn't assume the final solution would be to ship all the contaminated sludge from the Fox River Valley to Eau Claire.

Superior Services of Milwaukee has been picked to dispose of about 92,000 tons of contaminated sediment, and the company planned to bury the sediment at the Sevenmile Creek Sanitary Landfill in the town of Seymour.

The sludge could be shipped beginning in October, but Meyer said that if DNR staff concluded there were environmental problems at Sevenmile Creek, the disposal would not go on.

County Board Chairman Howard Ludwigson said the PCBs may not leak immediately, but he was concerned what would happen 20 or 30 years from now.

DNR experts say PCBs bond tightly with soil particles and are not expected to leak through the landfills.

Meyer said it was not unusual for wastes to be shipped to other parts of the state or out of state.

"I understand the emotion of this issue. It's a fairness issue. Why should Eau Claire take someone else's waste?" Meyer said.

## Lower eagle reproduction blamed on lack of food

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ASHLAND — Bald eagles living along Lake Superior raise fewer young than those nesting on inland lakes because less food is available for them, researchers say.

A study by University of Wisconsin and state Department of Natural Resources researchers found the problem to be environmental, rather than due to feeding on contaminated fish as some had thought might be the case.

No eagles nesting on Lake Superior produced young from 1970 to 1976, but since then, numbers of eagles and other birds of prey have been on the rise. There were 108 occupied eagle territories in Wisconsin in 1993, compared with 645 last year, the report said.

Over the course of the eight-year study, researchers found that eagles on the big lake raised 23 percent fewer chicks than inland nesters.

9/9/98

**ASHLAND**

**Less food on hand  
for bald eagles**

Bald eagles living along Lake Superior raise fewer young than those nesting on inland lakes because less food is available for them, researchers say.

A study by University of Wisconsin-Madison and state Department of Natural Resources researchers found the problem to be environmental, rather than due to feeding on contaminated fish as some had thought might be the case.

# DNR secretary urged to slow down on sediment-shipping plan

Associated Press

EAU CLAIRE — Wisconsin's top environmental official should slow a process that could bring hundreds of tons of PCB-contaminated sediment to the county, local representatives said.

However, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has set a January deadline for completing a dredging study for removing the sediments from eastern Wisconsin rivers, George Meyer, state Department of Natural Resources secretary, said Tuesday.

Hazardous materials in the sediment from the Fox River, the Sheboygan River and tributaries of the Manitowoc River include polychlorinated biphenyls, industrial chemicals that are suspected of causing cancer.

Through the dredging study, officials hope to determine the best methods for a larger cleanup of the

Fox River, which has been polluted by paper companies along the river, Meyer has said.

Meyer said just because contaminated sediment may come to Eau Claire County as part of the study, local officials shouldn't assume the final solution would be to ship all the contaminated sludge from the Fox River Valley to Eau Claire.

Superior Services of Milwaukee has been picked to dispose of about 92,000 tons of contaminated sediment, and the company planned to bury the sediment at the Sevenmile Creek Sanitary Landfill in the town of Seymour.

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Meyer said it was not unusual for wastes to be shipped to other parts of the state or out of state.

"I understand the emotion of this issue. It's a fairness issue. Why should Eau Claire take someone else's waste?" Meyer said.

However, Eau Claire businesses rely on being able to ship wastes elsewhere, he said.

Rep. Rob Kreibich, R-Eau Claire, said the Chippewa Valley was at risk of becoming the "sludge valley" of the Midwest, and the project was proceeding too fast, without enough local questions being answered.

Kreibich said he would try to get the EPA to back off on its January deadline for the feasibility study.

A public meeting to discuss Superior Services' plans is set for Sept. 16 in Eau Claire.

## LOCAL COLUMNIST'S PERSPECTIVE

## Thompson's film biography gets eXXon rating

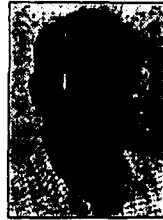
Scott McCallum, rumored to be our current lieutenant governor, (though who would know?) escaped from his chains in the basement of the governor's mansion recently and made his way to Green Bay to harp about the Environmental Protection Agency.

**His speech finished, McCallum was recaptured and returned to his dank cell in the governor's mansion.**

cell in the mansion.

It's just as well, as he was spouting pure horse dookey. It's the same dookey that "Toxic Tommy" Thompson and his stooges have been foisting on us since EPA's threatened Superfund designation got them off

With spittle flying and one eye staring out into space while the other twitched nervously, he babbled on about how Superfund would waste money. That finished, he was recaptured and returned to his dank



**Curt Andersen**

For The News-Chronicle

their collective ample butt, to conjure up more wild stories to entertain us.

McCallum was here just to get us used to his face, to prepare us for Gov. Thompson's absence during his run for the presidency in 2000. Fightin' Bob La Follette must be spinning in his grave.

The paper industry said PCBs weren't dangerous; nobody bought that phony baloney. They tried to tell us that PCBs were buried under layers of "clean sediment." Any 4-year-old who's built a sand castle at the water's edge and watched as the water ate away at the base knows better than that.

They tried to tell us that hydraulic dredging doesn't work, that it scatters the PCBs downstream with the sediments. They even had a cartoon made to prove it. A cartoon that amused some. It angered even more, that the paper industry believes people are that gullible.

Now they're telling us that the sediments will be "properly" dredged and dried and brought to a "safe" landfill. Safe? How about putting it in a landfill next to your house?

Now they're telling us that all those "industry" consultants were hired randomly and that there is no connection to the donations made by those firms to the governor's campaign fund. It is little help to us that the Department of Natural Resources, now defanged and wholly owned by Toxic Tommy, no longer has the money or staff to stop the snaky business being carried on by the governor.

The public intervenor's office was emasculated and dumped into the DNR, the agency it was set up to watchdog, where,

desiccated, it would cease to be of any use to anyone, except, of course, Toxic Tommy's bought friends — the paper industry, the insurance industry, the mining industry and the real-estate industry, to name but a few. The best friends that money can buy.

Why hasn't Wisconsin's Justice Department done something about this abuse of power? Why hasn't Tommy been charged with encouraging and accepting bribes? Oh, that's right. The ethics board is made up of Thompson appointees.

When the smoke has cleared and the dust has settled and Thompson is back in Elroy for good (actually, "bad"), his story will make a Pulitzer Prize-winning book and movie. Don't let your kids see it. It will be eXXon rated.

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@itof.com](mailto:chronicle@itof.com).

9/8/98

READERS' COMMENTS

## Politics put above a clean Fox River

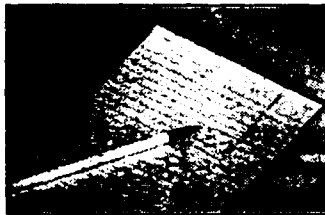
Methinks the Department of Natural Resources doth protest too much.

Gov. Tommy Thompson and his DNR staff have flatly denied any connection between large campaign donations from the paper industry and the DNR's total inability to get tough with Fox River polluters.

But look at the history. DNR staff spent three years, from 1989 to 1992, preparing for legal enforcement actions to hold the polluters accountable. The DNR hired new staff with nationwide expertise in natural resources damage assessments.

It sent 26 staff people to special training sessions. But memos were written acknowledging that when the DNR was ready to go to court, it first had to ask for Gov. Thompson's permission.

That permission was never



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granted. Instead, the three-year effort ended with no action, the special DNR staffers were assigned to other departments, and a cozy little

committee was set up to waste the next six years looking for "voluntary solutions" with the polluters.

Now Thompson is doing everything in his power to keep the federal government from enforcing a river cleanup. After 12 years of inaction, he actually claims with a straight face that the state can do the job more quickly and efficiently.

In fact, according to Thompson, his "leadership" already brought about a total cleanup of the river. He wrote a book in 1996 claiming, "Today the Fox River is safe for both people and fish."

Good grief. All this would be funny if it weren't for the thousands of children and the wildlife who have been exposed to toxic PCBs during the many years of his farce.

**Eyle E. Strauss**  
Green Bay

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Green Bay, WI 54306-2467

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9/5/98

## Restore Wisconsin to 'pre-Tommy' conditions

GREEN BAY — I'm disappointed the media allowed Gov. Tommy Thompson and the paper industry to simply deny, without question, serious conflicts of interest that threaten the Fox River PCB cleanup. The media should research issues independently and report the truth.

Remediation Technologies Inc. (RETEC) is the company Thompson's DNR hired to do the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study for the river cleanup.

RETEC is a subsidiary of Thermo Remediation, a Thermo Electron company. Thermo Electron also owns Thermo Fibertek, which owns 12 companies that manufacture paper machine accessories, process equipment, recycled fiber equipment and water management systems for paper companies, especially paper recyclers (like those that polluted the Fox River).

At least two of the 12 companies serve paper industries in the Fox River Valley: Thermo Wisconsin Inc., maintains its central manufacturing and laboratory facilities in Kaukauna, and specializes in drying technologies and incinerators used in the paper industry. Thermo Fibergen operates GranTek Inc. in Green Bay, which processes Fort James Corp. waste sludge. Fort James is one of the largest PCB polluters of the Fox River.

How can RETEC be trusted to write an honest plan requiring paper companies to pay enough to clean the river and fully protect public health, wildlife and the environment? It's obvious RETEC's contract is connected to the \$155,000 the paper industry gave Thompson for his re-election campaigns (and millions more from paper industry allies).

Since Thompson took control of the DNR, we've seen a series of unusual DNR decisions like this one. And because Thompson eliminated the public intervenors at the same time, citizens have no independent investigators we can trust. It's time to stop the corruption and restore Wisconsin to "pre-Tommy" conditions.

Rebecca Leighton Katers,  
Green Bay

The Leading Voice of Green Bay and Brown County

# News-Chronicle

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1998

## EPA: Waiting on Fox like 'Russian roulette'

The project manager...  
could cost \$540 million...  
some 80 percent of...  
river's PCBs

...in earnest a year from now — unless  
an agreement is reached between the U.S.  
Environmental Protection Agency and the  
Brown County mills potentially responsible  
for the spill.

...representatives of the EPA were at the  
Brown County Central Library, 515 Pine  
St., on Wednesday to answer resident  
questions about its proposal to fix the Fox  
River and site.

By Rick Wood  
The News-Chronicle  
The battle over how to fix  
PCB contamination in the Fox River

Please see PCB, Page 4





# Small crowd questions DNR cleanup techniques

**The agency needs a discharge permit before a pilot project can proceed**

By Melinda Naparalla  
The News-Chronicle

Few people turned out to comment at a public hearing Tuesday night on a wastewater discharge permit sought by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

The permit is needed to begin dredging of PCB-contaminated sediment in the Fox River. It would allow the DNR to discharge 720,000 gallons of treated wastewater back into the river each day.

## FYI

### **SUPERFUND HEARING TONIGHT**

Representatives of the federal Environmental Protection Agency will answer questions from 6-9 p.m. tonight at the Brown County Library, 515 Pine St., regarding the agency's proposal to list the Lower Fox River as a Superfund site. Concerned citizens can meet one-on-one with EPA representatives to ask questions and learn how to submit comments on the proposal. If the Fox River becomes a Superfund site, the EPA would initially fund the cleanup, then try to recover costs from the Fox River Group - a coalition of seven paper companies identified as responsible for discharging PCBs into the river.

Funding for the project is from the Fox River Group, a coalition of seven paper companies identified as potentially responsible for PCB contamination.

The DNR showed a short video of dredging in Michigan and the techniques used there to avoid stirring up sediments in the water.

Rebecca Katers, executive director of the Clean Water Action Council, said the video was misleading because the video showed hydraulic dredging while the DNR plans to use a different, "swinging ladder" dredging technique that she said may upset more sediment.

"We are concerned about this project and the permit because of the variances of the permit," Katers said. "We consider this part of the sweetheart deal between (Gov. Tommy) Thompson's DNR and the polluters."

Bob Schmitz of the Wolf River Watershed Alliance questioned whether substances other than PCBs could be released in the wastewater, such as ammonium nitrate.

Bruce Robertson, DNR water resources engineer, said he didn't know how much ammonium nitrate would be released until the calculations are completed.

"I'm opposed to what you call 'treated' water," Schmitz said.

Robertson said the water and the two dozen substances in it would be monitored on a weekly and daily basis.

"Tonight's public hearing is far too late," Katers said. "Money controls the situation and if you don't have enough money you don't have proper cleanup."



PHOTO BY PHILIP G. CROON / THE NEWS-CHRONICLE  
MICKEY MARICQUE OF GREEN BAY views the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources video as part of a public opinion forum on a permit it is seeking to dredge the Fox River.

This is the first of several permits and an example needs to be set, Katers said. If the DNR is lax here, she said, then there may be a lax process throughout the clean up.

Katers also said not enough of the contaminated sediment would be re-

moved and the part that is removed may release more PCBs into the river.

The DNR plans to dig a hole in the affected area to remove contaminants, but Katers said this would cause side sediment to fall into the hole and release more PCBs.

"I think this is a publicity stunt to make the state look good," she said.

The DNR and the Fox River Group are scheduled to begin dredging in October near the Fort James mill if the permit is approved.

Sept. 2nd is Good Neighbor Day!  
We'll give you a dozen roses



## Thompson's DNR cannot be trusted

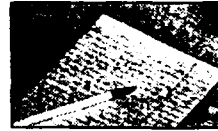
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It's time to stop the corruption and restore Wisconsin to "pre-Tommy" conditions.

9/2/98

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Green Bay News-Chronicle

## Many residents ignorant of threat of PCBs 9/2/98

GREEN BAY — Once again I feel frustrated at the ignorance and apathy of a majority of Fox Valley residents. If I hear one more person say that dredging will "stir" up the "clean" sediment and uncover the PCBs I will scream.

First of all, there is no magical cap of clean sediment covering the river bottom. Secondly, if you have ever driven over Tower Drive Bridge the day after a storm, you can plainly see that the river gets stirred up through natural processes on a regular basis.

Ignorance of this local threat wouldn't be so bad if these people didn't keep spewing their misinformation in the local papers. Get the facts, folks. Get out of your house and away from the TV and go to a public meeting. These are held for a reason. Then maybe you would see what was really going on instead of pulling crap out of thin air.

Sarah Statz, Green Bay

**READERS' COMMENT**

**River cleanup critics  
spew misinformation**

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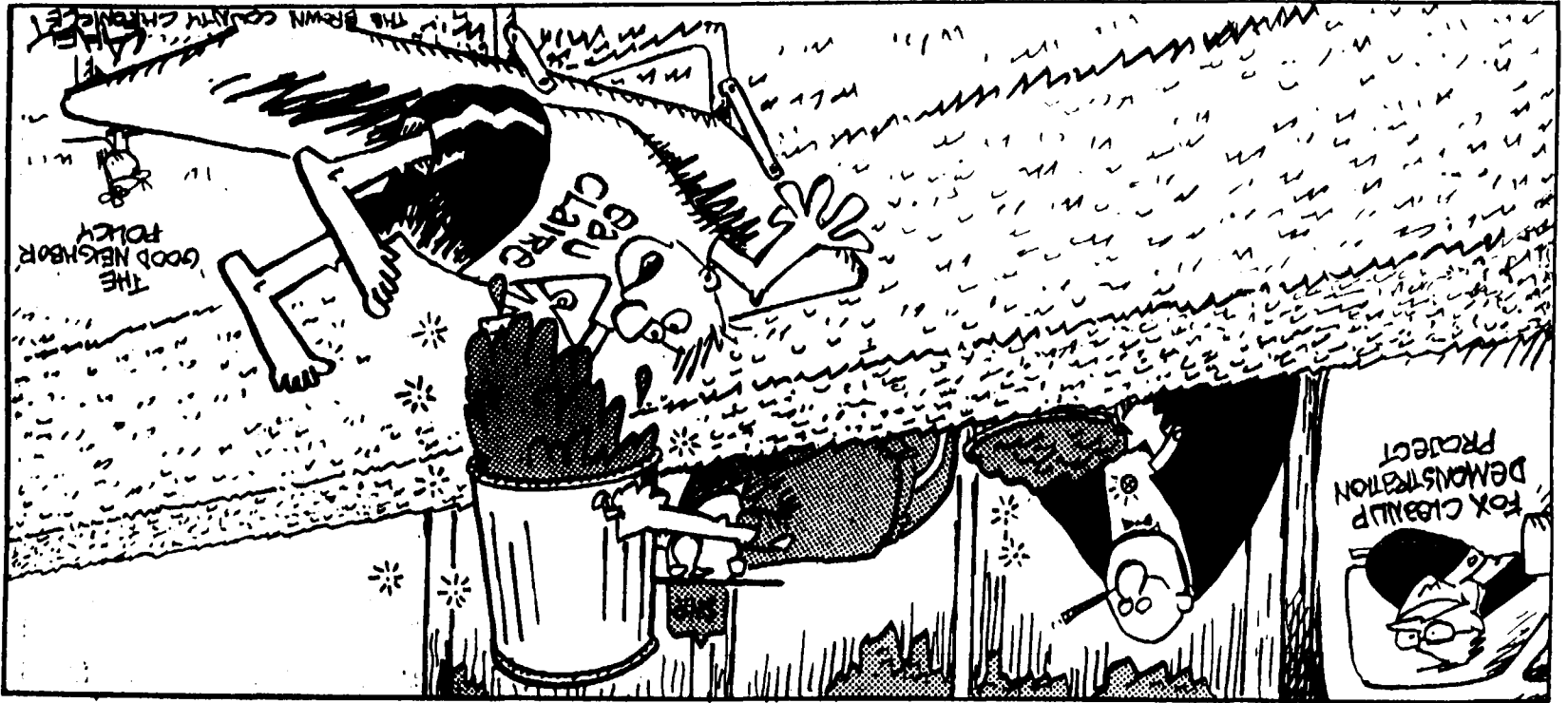
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**Sarah Stutz**  
Green Bay



**THE WORLD ACCORDING TO LAHEY**

8/28/98

# Burying of PCBs sparks concerns

8/28/98

ASSOCIATED PRESS

EAU CLAIRE — Concern is growing about a plan to bury up to 100,000 tons of PCB-contaminated river sludge, some from the Fox River, at a privately owned dump ground near Eau Claire, officials said Thursday.

It's a "not-in-my-backyard-type deal," said Eau Claire County Administrator Tom McCarty. "We know they are dangerous. The county board chairman has personally come forward and said, 'I don't think it is a good idea.'"

The county board has taken no formal action on the matter, but Chairman Howard Ludwigson has invited the area's state legislators to a breakfast meeting next month to talk about the issue, McCarty said.

Sediments containing polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, what environmentalists have called "toxic sludge," are now scheduled for burial at a Superior Sewerage Inc. dump in the town of Seymour near Eau Claire.

The PCBs are to be removed from silt dredged from Manitowoc River tributaries near New Holstein, the lower Fox River near Green Bay and the Sheboygan River, according to the state Department of Natural Resources.

Milwaukee-based Superior Services bid \$80 per ton to dispose of the dried out, contaminated sediment.

PCBs were widely used in the making of carbonless paper and other products until the U.S. government banned their manufacture in 1977.

Until two years ago, Eau Claire owned the town of Seymour landfill, McCarty said. "We no longer have a real voice in what may be accepted or not accepted at the landfill."

But legal options may be explored, McCarty said.

Besides the emotional issue of accepting someone else's garbage, some people in Eau Claire County worry about possible ground water contamination and the long-term safety of having PCBs buried nearby, McCarty

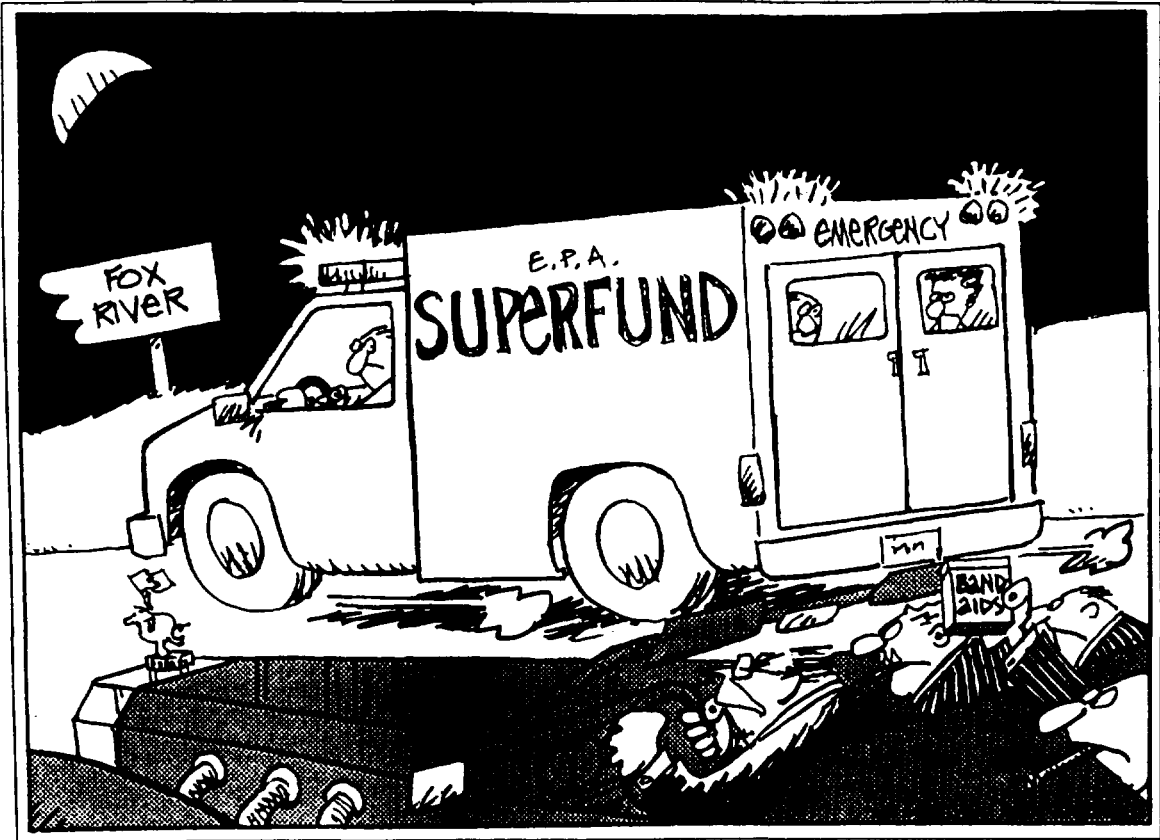
## PCBs/Landfill safe, DNR says

### What's next

From B-1

There is also worry that taking contaminated soils in certain areas to the landfill for waste disposal will adhere to soil particles and get into the water table. The best science suggests PCBs will adhere to soil particles and not leak out, Lundberg said. A public meeting to discuss Superior Services' disposal and transportation plans is set for Sept. 16 in Eau Claire. Another concern is running the trucks over the roads. You are going to hammer our roads. Who is going to pay for that? McCarty said. Alan Albee, general manager of the landfill, has said his company was confident the facility was adequately designed to properly contain the material. Dave Lundberg of the DNR said a 1986 agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency allowed the DNR to dispose of PCB-contaminated soils in certain areas. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposes to list the Fox River as a Superfund national priority cleanup site. The public has until Sept. 28 to submit written comments on the EPA's criteria for proposing the river for Superfund designation. To submit comments, note the site name — Wisconsin's Lower Fox River — and provide one original and three copies to: Docket coordinator, U.S. EPA Headquarters CERCLA Docket Office (5201G), 401 M St. S.W., Washington, D.C. 20560. Comments also may be e-mailed in ASCII format to: [superfund.docket@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:superfund.docket@epamail.epa.gov)

LYLE LAHEY'S VIEWPOINT





# DNR: Concerned residents oppose cleanup management

**FROM PAGE 1**  
...ing it. I don't trust you at all, and nobody that's been following this should trust you either.  
The cleanup is a cooperative effort between the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Fox River Group, a coalition of the seven paper companies identified as potentially responsible for contaminating the river with PCBs.  
The Fox River Group pledged \$8 million for the test project in January, 1997, shortly after the federal Envir-

onmental Protection Agency first said it may list the Fox River as a Superfund site. A 60-day comment period is currently underway regarding the EPA proposal to list the river.  
Although there were many questions about the partnership, representatives of the DNR, the paper companies and the engineering firm in charge of cleanup focused Wednesday on explaining the cleanup process.  
Dredging will begin in October to remove 8.8 million tons of sediment from the Fox River near the Fort

James mill at 1919 S. Broadway, according to Bill Fitzpatrick, DNR project manager. The sediment is estimated to contain 33 tons of PCBs, a toxic chemical once used in the manufacture and recycling of carbonless paper.  
Fitzpatrick said the contaminated sediment will be vacuumed up with hydraulic dredging equipment. The 9-acre test area near the bank will be separated from the rest of the river by a silt curtain to prevent escape of PCBs agitated by the dredging.  
The spoils will be pumped to a

building on shore where they will be separated from the water, dried, and taken to a landfill. The water will be treated on site and pumped back into the river.  
Fitzpatrick said the test project is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.  
Information gathered from the test project will be used to decide on the best method for cleanup of the entire river, said Mark Reimer, a lawyer for Fort James and representative of the Fox River Group.  
"It became very clear very fast that

there were huge data gaps," Reimer said. "Before we can speak intelligently about cleanup (of the entire river) we need to bridge those gaps."  
The test project was designed to fit within the \$8 million budget given by the paper companies. The bed of contaminated sediment stretches continuously for seven miles from the De Pere Dam to the mouth of the river.  
Within that stretch, the test site is a considered a PCB hotspot, with concentrations of up to 700 parts per million. It contains about 3 to 5 percent of the PCBs in the river.

**Mistrust greets DNR Over Fox Cleanup**

Details of a pilot project are unveiled at a hearing Wednesday

By Nick Wood  
The News-Chronicle  
8/27/98

The long-awaited first shovel of contaminated mud is scheduled to be dredged from the Fox River this fall, but a public hearing Wednesday was dominated by questions about the removal process and concerns about the partnership that developed the project.  
"I strongly support the cleanup of the Fox River," said Robert Schmitz, "but I'm extremely opposed to the group that's..."  
Please see DNR, Page 5

# Scientists want voice on Fox

The focus on PCB contamination of the Fox River is too narrow, according to researchers

By Nick Wood  
The News-Chronicle

A group of local scientists with extensive knowledge of the Fox River and its problems says it has been shut out of cleanup negotiations.

Ever since the threat of federal Superfund listing prompted the state to cut a deal with seven paper companies identified as potentially responsible for PCB contamination in the river, the group says their opinions have fallen on deaf ears.

Members of the Green Bay Remedial Action Plan's Science and Technical Advisory Committee say the result is that discussion of how to clean up the river has focused too narrowly on PCB contamination.

"We need a wider conversation," said Bruce Johnson, a member of Fox-Wolf Basin 2000, a coalition of industry and environmental groups, during an interview at *The News-Chronicle* in Green Bay.

He and others in the coalition feel the addition of the Environmental Protection Agency and its Superfund designation will only lead to court battles.

He said the atmosphere has moved away from cooperation and toward polarization as each side gears up for the eventual court battles about who pays for cleanup after it's done.

"The PRPs (potentially responsible parties) will get the bill, but you can bet they're going to come looking for others to pay it," Johnson said.

Instead of fighting lengthy and expensive court battles to decide who will pay, the group feels the most cost-effective cleanup requires vol-



Philip G. Olson / The News-Chronicle

**BOB LEMAY, RIGHT, OF GREEN BAY LISTENS attentively as Bill Fitzpatrick of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources gives**

**detailed plans Wednesday at the Brown County Library on the cleanup of PCBs in the Fox River.**

untary cooperation among scientists, industry, government, and environmentalists.

He and other members of the RAP are pushing the Justice Department and the EPA to allow an independent mediator to help all interested parties develop a cooperative cleanup settle-

ment that addresses all issues.

"We don't want (paper companies) fighting every step of the way in court," Johnson said. "That money is not well spent."

In addition to spending money on cleanup instead of lawyers, a cooperative approach would also

bring attention back to the big picture, said H.J. "Bud" Harris, chairman of the natural and applied sciences department at the University of Wisconsin Green Bay. Harris has studied the problems on the Fox River for 25 years and has authored much of the available research.

Harris said the PCB contamination is only one of eight major problems identified by the RAP in its 1986 study of the Fox River system. Other problems that are not being addressed include high concentrations of heavy metals, such as mercury, and filling of wetland and shoreland.

# Environmental information network looks for stewards

A new coalition wants to recruit volunteer coordinators from every county

8/27/98

By Melinda Naparalla  
The News-Chronicle

A group of environmental and conservation groups is looking for people interested in working to create a statewide network of information.

The Wisconsin Stewardship Network is a collaboration of about 100 local conservation, environmental and fishing/hunting groups searching for county "stewards" to gather and share information on key environmental issues.

The network was established two years ago to communicate with the public about key issues like the cleanup of the Fox River and the Crandon mine, said Rebecca Katers, executive director of the Clean Water Action Council.

The network now wants to find representatives from each of Wisconsin's 72 counties, she said. The ste-

wards gather information about group meetings, sponsored events, and issues facing their areas and post it on the Internet on the network's Web site, [www.wsn.org](http://www.wsn.org).

Volunteers are asked to donate a couple of hours a week, Katers said. "We rely on them as the eyes and ears of the county," she said. "We'd like to have one person in each county we can definitely count on."

The stewards communicate with other environmental and conservation groups as well as bringing the information they receive from the network back to their county, Katers said.

"We want to share what we learned and bring it back to the grassroots," Katers said.

The Web site covers a range of issues from water issues to endangered species.

Katers said the interesting part of the network is finding out what issues are important to people in different parts of the state.

In northern Wisconsin, issues involving Lake Superior generate emotion, while the southeastern part of the state is more concerned about ur-

ban pollution, Katers said.

But the cleanup of PCBs from the Fox River and plans to build a zinc and copper mine near Crandon have generated statewide interest, she said.

"People are realizing the statewide ramifications of some of the issues," Katers said.

Stewards also learn about the legislative process and when is the most valuable time to write lawmakers about key issues.

The network currently has signed up about 15 stewards, and Katers is talking with candidates in Brown and Door counties this week.

"We're trying to do a lot more outreach," Katers said. "We're looking to bring the broader outdoor community together to learn how issues affect the outdoors."

Those interested in becoming a county steward can contact Becky Katers of the Clean Action Water Council at 437-7304, Bill Kordus of Twin City Rod and Gun Club at 920-722-1576 or Jim Wise of EC-COLA at 715-453-3676.

# McCallum lashes out at EPA, Superfund for wasting money



Warren Bluhm / The News-Chronicle

**LT. GOV. SCOTT MCCALLUM SPEAKS** on his opposition to the Environmental Protection Agency's designation of the Fox River as a Superfund site Tuesday at *The News-Chronicle* offices in Green Bay. McCallum said he opposes government intervention because the EPA's history on cleanup projects is "horrible."

**Wisconsin's second-ranking executive says turning to the EPA won't save the Fox River**

By Warren Bluhm  
The News-Chronicle

Wisconsin Lt. Gov. Scott McCallum asked the federal Environmental Protection Agency on Tuesday to back off of its proposal to list the lower Fox River on the National Priorities List for cleanup under the Superfund program.

McCallum announced he had sent a letter to the EPA in an address to the International Tissue Symposium II, hosted this week by Paper Converting Machine Co. of Ashwanbenon.

"Once Washington takes over, it becomes a bureaucratic nightmare," McCallum said. "The EPA track record in cleaning up contaminated sites is horrible."

The river has been nominated for federally funded cleanup of its PCB-contaminated sediment, and a 60-day comment period is now in progress before the federal agency makes its final determination.

"If you really want to clean up the Fox River, you don't turn it over to the EPA," McCallum said in an interview with *The News-Chronicle* prior to his speech to the paper industry group. "Some \$30 billion has been spent on 1,300 (Superfund) sites. Of that, only 500 sites have been com-

pleted nationally."

The lieutenant governor said the Congressional Accounting Office has estimated of every \$1 spent on the Superfund program, only 45 cents actually goes toward site cleanup.

"Wisconsin can take care of the cleanup more efficiently and get a better return for our dollar by handling it ourselves," McCallum said.

He acknowledged that the threat of the Superfund listing has forced paper companies and the state back to the negotiating table, but he added that the idea that talks were stalled may have been more of a perception than a reality.

"I do know the DNR and EPA were concerned because it appeared to them that the paper companies were stalling," McCallum said. "From the paper companies' perspective, they thought others were holding it back, because the agreement was fast-tracking some of these permits so they could get the demonstration projects underway before the ice forms and before the snow flies."

The seven companies identified as potentially liable for the PCB cleanup contributed \$10 million toward pilot projects this fall at two PCB "hot spots" on the river, including an area near the Fort James paper mill at 1919 S. Broadway.

An estimated 500 paper industry representatives from 25 countries are attending the tissue symposium at the Radisson Inn, 2040 Airport Drive. The three-day conference concludes today.

Two remarkable statements were made last week regarding environmental issues facing the state of Wisconsin.

## Warren Bluhm

8/25/98

The News-Chronicle

One was the widely reported statement of Bill Tans of the state Department of Natural Resources. The man who is reviewing the Crandon mine applica-

tion was asked by an Associated Press reporter about Rio Algom's abandoned mine location in Quebec, a site that continues to cause trauma to the environment.

Tans said he didn't know much about it and that anything Rio Algom may have done outside of the United States is fairly irrelevant.

That's a remarkable thing to say in light of Rio Algom's stated desire to dig into Wisconsin's north woods and extract zinc, copper, and all sorts of interesting minerals. Leaving behind what?

The other remarkable statement made last week went unreported until this moment. Thursday, a coalition of environmental groups released a report that sug-

gested among other things, that Gov. Tommy Thompson has unduly politicized the state Department of Natural

Resources and made sweetheart deals with polluters.

When News-Chronicle reporter Melinda Naperalla called Thompson for Governor campaign spokesman Bob Wood for comment, she was put on hold. Then the gentleman on the other end came back and said Wood was referring all such calls to DNR Secretary George Meyer.

When the DNR chief is supposed to speak for the Thompson for Governor campaign, even people who have been doubters must pause and ask if the office has been unduly politicized.

Bluhm, whose column appears here each Tuesday, is news editor for The News-Chronicle. Call him at 432-2941 or write to him via e-mail at [chronicle@tnt.com](mailto:chronicle@tnt.com).

# PCB sediment finds new home near Eau Claire

The withdrawal of the previous contractor had put the disposal in limbo

By Warren Bluhm  
The News-Chronicle

The company that submitted the second-lowest bid has been recommended to receive the contract for landfilling PCB-contaminated dredgings from the Fox River.

The proposed contract with Superior Services comes after the low bidder, Browning Ferris Inc., withdrew its bid earlier this month.

Superior intends to use its Seven-mile Creek Landfill near Eau Claire to dispose of up to 100,000 tons of dried PCB sediments from the demonstration projects, one at the Fort

James paper mill at 1919 S. Broadway St., and the other in Kimberly.

The contract also includes sediment removed from unrelated projects in Sheboygan and New Holstein.

A public comment period began Sunday and will continue until Sept. 23 while the DNR reviews Superior's disposal plan. If final approval is granted, licensed haulers could begin transporting waste in October.

The DNR and Superior Services plan an open house and public information meeting Sept. 16 in Eau Claire County to take comments and answer any questions from the public.

"We'll work very closely with local officials and neighbors to make sure any concerns are addressed," said Dave Lundberg, a DNR waste management supervisor for the state agency's west central region.

Lundberg said state regulations

make Wisconsin landfills a safe place for the PCB-laden sediment and added that because the PCBs adhere tightly to the dried sediment, it is not likely they would end up in leachate, the rainwater and snow melt that can run through landfills.

"We don't expect to find any PCB's in the leachate because of how our landfills are designed and because PCBs stick to the sediments," Lundberg said. "Superior will still have to check the leachate regularly just to make sure, and if PCBs were ever found in the leachate, they would be removed through treatment."

Superior Services would receive \$80 per ton for disposal of the sediments, in line with DNR estimates. In fact, the \$62 per ton bid received from BFI came as a surprise. The company cited an uncertain, changing regulatory atmosphere when it withdrew the bid.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 1998



H. Marc Larson / The News-Chronicle

**ALONG A BANK OF THE FOX RIVER**, fishermen enjoy afternoon angling Thursday near downtown Green Bay.

## Activists say Thompson accepted political payoff

The governor denies that his judgment on PCB cleanup in the Fox River is clouded by more than \$46,000 in campaign donations from seven area papermakers.

PAGE 3



# ACTIVISTS: THOMPSON AND THE DNR DENY DONATIONS, FOX CLEANUP

**The DNR denies paper industry donations to Thompson affected Fox River cleanup decisions**

By Melinda Nencoff  
The News-Chronicle

"I don't think that is even remotely accurate," said Bruce Baker, deputy administrator for the Division of Water. "We've been pursuing this for a number of years. Nothing has changed in our effort for the cleanup of the Fox River."

"Clearly it's little more than a political campaign stunt," said Kevin Keane, Thompson's press secretary.

## He said it ...

"Today the Fox River is safe for both people and fish. The river is one of the best fisheries for trophy walleyes. And one of the best fishing spots is just down the river from International Paper's Nicolet facility." — Gov. Tommy Thompson from his 1996 book, "Power to the People," quoted Thursday by the Natural Resource Accountability Project.

Representatives of Gov. Tommy Thompson, the state Department of Natural Resources and the seven paper companies involved in cleanup of the Fox River denied Thursday allegations of corruption from a coalition of six environmental groups.

The Natural Resources Accountability Project released a report Thursday documenting what it said are links between large campaign donations to the governor and long delays in the river cleanup.

Rebecca Katers, executive director of the Clean Water Action Council, said Thursday's "DNR Watch" would be the first of a series of reports documenting Thompson's political control of the DNR.

"We feel the report shows a clear pattern of abuse," said Katers, the report's author.

Coalition representatives said Thompson is defending the seven companies because employees from six of them contributed to his campaign from 1990-1997, including \$32,335 from Fort James Corp., formerly Fort Howard Corp. They also accused him of using the DNR to delay cleanup of PCBs in the Fox River because of the contributions.

The governor is the one who is out front to get the river cleaned up, he said.

"The governor wants the Fox River cleaned up and he knows the paper mills have to be a part of it," Keane said.

Keane said the Sierra Club and many of its members have donated money to Barbara Lawton's campaign for lieutenant governor and financed at least two Democratic Party political action committees.

"They have no regard for the facts and the record," Keane said. "It only hurts them."

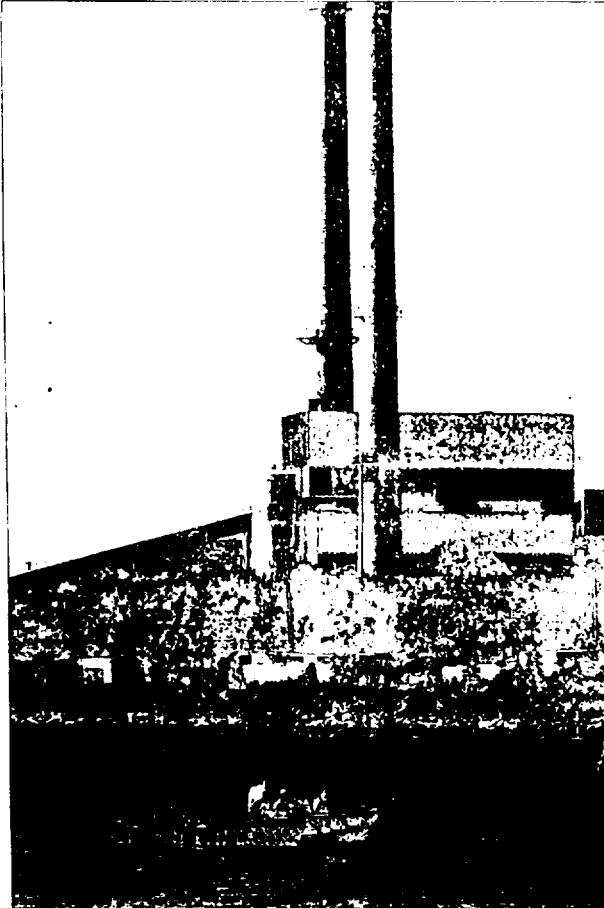
David Lee of P.H. Glatfelter, spokesman for the seven mills, said political donations are to support candidates and are not presented as payments for anything. He added that he wasn't aware of the specific contributions cited by the coalition.

At a Thursday morning news conference at the mouth of the Fox River, Katers said the DNR has tried to do the right thing several times and has been halted by Thompson.

Katers said Thompson's interference has included cancelling a state Natural Resource Damage Assessment of the river, creating the Fox River Coalition with representation from 14 paper companies and none from environmental groups in 1992, and removing the authority of the Public Intervenor Office to sue the state in 1995.

The coalition said paper companies and industry executives donated \$155,553 to Thompson's campaign fund from 1990-1997.

"The foxes are watching the henhouse. It's your henhouse and Gov.



H. Marc Larson / The News-Chronicle

**THE FORT JAMES CORP. PLANT PROVIDES a backdrop for anglers Thursday along the Fox River. Of area paper companies, Fort James has donated the largest amount of money to Gov. Tommy Thompson's political cause, \$32,335 since 1990. Local environmentalists charge the governor has slowed PCB cleanup in the river because of paper-makers' contributions.**

Thompson loves chicken," said Curt Andersen, president of the Clean Water Action Council. "We have an extremely vindictive governor who punishes those against (him) and rewards those for (him)."

Steve Abitz said Thompson stands for three things: tyranny, taxes and toxins.

"He's a crook. He's a liar. He's a corporate lackey," Abitz said.

The report described the companies' agreement to pay \$10 million for demonstration cleanup projects as a "sweetheart deal" that allowed the companies to choose the consultants for technical work on a state damage assessment.

By promoting the deal, Thompson created a fixed game so the paper industry could escape and not receive an honest appraisal of damage to the river, Katers said.

Keane replied that Thompson wasn't involved with the selection of the consultants.

Baker said the industry are contributing the technical portions of the assessment because the DNR doesn't have the staff.

"If we saw a conflict of interest, we would raise the issue," Baker said. "I don't think anyone is shy about that."

The DNR must grant approval of all the proposals from the consultants and wouldn't approve one it believed was biased, Baker said.

The environmental groups called for restoring the political independence of the DNR by having its chief appointed by the state Natural Resources Board, not the governor. It also wants the public intervenor's watchdog authority restored.

## Green Paper for the Gov

Contributions given to Thompson/McCallum election campaigns since 1990 by the seven paper companies held responsible for the Fox River PCB cleanup.

COMPANY	DOLLARS
Fort James	32,335
Mis. Tissue Mills	4,995
AT&T (MCR Cdrb.)	4,394
U.S. Paper Mills	3,000
Diversified Paper	250
Episcopal Papers	100
A. S. S. Paper	0
All others (AM)	110,479
Average of all	3,050

Source: Wisconsin Campaign Finance Database  
Chart: News-Chronicle



Friday, August 21, 1998 3



From Green Bay  
News-Chronicle staff

GREEN BAY

**Superfund meeting  
set by EPA**

A public information session about the proposal to designate the Fox River as a Superfund site will be held at 5 p.m. Sept. 1, at the Brown County Library, 515 Pine St.

The session is sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which plans to designate the river as a site for cleanup.

## LOCAL COLUMNIST'S PERSPECTIVE

# 'Toxic Tommy' should steer his ship elsewhere

Let's have a little look-see at the record of our governor, Tommy Thompson. He's gotten some nasty nicknames over the years, and he's deserved them.

When he was in the Assembly, he was called "Dr. No" because he always said "No!" to any bill that would restrict business interests because of environmental concerns.

**The governor is like the brat who wants his allowance without doing his chores.**

and tourism for a huge portion of its income.

Toxic Tommy was born connected at the wallet to the big polluters. The paper industry, for example, has contributed more than \$150,000 to his campaigns recently, and they know for sure things will go their way now that they have greased his palm.

He later became "Toxic Tommy" and "Tommy Toxin" for the same reason. This is not a man who should be at the helm of a state that depends on its environment



**Curt Anderson**

For The  
News-Chronicle

After being absent for the last 12 years, Tommy has come back to show "leadership" in the Fox River cleanup. From his point of view, two things must happen. First, he must be re-elected so that the paper industry can drag out the phony negotiations until the end of time. Second, the paper industry must spend even more money to get him re-elected.

How nice that they can work together! (Oddly enough, Toxic Tommy claimed in his book that he had already cleaned up the river, when he did *nothing*.)

Toxic Tommy recently said the federal

government should stay out of Wisconsin's business. He's like the brat who wants his allowance without doing his chores. He didn't waste any time going for federal disaster relief. He's all "take" and no "give."

Helping the paper industry are Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce, the state's largest business lobby group, and various chambers of commerce. The paper mills are big-time members. Recently, the Fox Cities Chamber of Horrors had the gall to tell us that PCBs weren't dangerous (yeah, right). Yet, various Fox Valley county boards have voted to *not* allow any PCBs in their landfills. If the PCBs aren't dangerous, why not?

At an Outagamie County Board meeting, when Clean Water Action Council members attempted to present information about the proposed cleanup, we were told to "go back to your own county." The *Post-Crescent* in Appleton the next day published an article calling us "outsiders."

This same group now wants to send their PCBs off to a landfill in Washburn County in northwestern Wisconsin. Apparently, the

Outagamie County folks only like outsiders when they can dump toxic waste in their laps.

Is your well one of those that gets its water from the aquifers that come from northwestern Wisconsin? Could these yokels in the Department of Natural Resources, the governor's office, the paper industry and the chambers of commerce get any dumber? We are hoping to clean up the Fox River, not just move the toxic crud into another freshwater source.

We need a governor who's higher up on the food chain. I voted for Toxic Tommy once. Like many others, I would do anything to go back in time and take back that vote. Garvey for governor!

Anderson, 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](mailto:chronicle@itol.com).

## **'Paper mill 'volunteers' don't seem too anxious to act**

We have been following with interest local reactions to the Environmental Protection Agency's proposal to list the Fox River as a Superfund site. As usual, the paper mills are crying "foul" and bustling around having closed-door meetings with the governor about how they can "voluntarily" clean up the mess they dumped in our river.

If they are so fired up about the voluntary approach, why has it taken the threat of a federal cleanup to get them to the bargaining table?

The EPA's process for choosing Superfund sites involves, by law, citizen input. When our governor met recently with the seven "responsible parties" (paper mills) behind closed doors, we thought it was possible that his purpose didn't have as much to do with concern for the river ecology as it did with pandering to special interests that have contributed thousands of dollars to his re-election campaign.

Call us cynical, but people like us don't have that kind of access to the governor for obvious reasons.

Fox Valley residents do have access to the EPA. Tell them that you want the federal government (our government) to help us clean up the Fox River. Don't wait for the paper mills and Tommy Thompson to make deals for us.

Send one original and three copies to Docket Coordinator, Environmental Protection Agency, CERCLA Docket Office (5201G), 401 M St. SW, Washington, D.C. 20560. You may also e-mail comments in ASCII format to [superfund.docket@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:superfund.docket@epamail.epa.gov).

**Ann Catharine Miller**  
**Jerome L. Miller**  
Suamico

8/11/98

# Fox cleanup sent back to square one

**A new company must be found to dispose of PCB-laden material from the river's bottom**

By Brian M. Kerhin  
The News-Chronicle

Two pilot projects to clean parts of the Fox River later this year are in jeopardy after the pullout of a company slated to dispose of the PCB-contaminated sediment extracted from the river's bottom.

Browning-Ferris Industries had won the contract to dispose of the material to be dredged from PCB beds in Green Bay and Kimberly. BFI planned to haul the sediment to a landfill in Washburn County, about 100 miles north of Eau Claire.

But the company withdrew its bid Friday, citing uncertainties regarding environmental regulations, said

Lee Liebenstein, contaminated sediment team leader for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

The schedule had called for sediment to be removed from the river starting next month at a site in Kimberly and in late fall near the Fort James Corp. Broadway mill in Green Bay.

But since the DNR process for approving new projects takes at least 60 days, it appears less likely the Fox River dredging can be done this year.

"We've lost some time here," Liebenstein said, but "we've really committed ourselves to showing some progress in 1998."

BFI's bid was \$62 per ton to dispose of 100,000 tons of sediment from the Fox River and two other projects. The next lowest bidder was Superior Special Services at \$80 per ton.

The higher figure is actually closer to what the DNR

Please see **PCB**, Page 4

## PCB: Disposal company backs out

FROM PAGE 1

expected. Still, with limited funds available, the projects' budgets were developed using the BFI disposal costs.

Other state funds should be available to make up the \$2 million difference if the DNR now goes with Superior's bid, Liebenstein said.

Superior proposed holding the sediment at landfills in Horicon or Eau Claire.

But if the DNR cannot complete the public review process in time to get work done this fall, the long-awaited demonstration projects might be delayed until next year.

If that happens, the disposal contract could be rebid in its entirety, Liebenstein said.

Brown County had previously discussed bidding for the disposal contract but did not submit an offer. It would consider bidding if the opportunity arises again, said Charles Lars-

cheid, Solid Waste Director.

The state permits PCB-laden sediment to be placed in properties that are designed like Brown County's landfill.

The current landfill is almost full, however, and the county is still negotiating with the town of Holland to host a new facility near State 57 and Mill Road.

Holland residents have raised some objections to accepting PCBs.

The leading voice of Green Bay and Packer Country

THE GREEN BAY **News-Chronicle**

### Local news at a glance

### The week in review, August 31 to September 5

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- Back to the main page
- Weather report

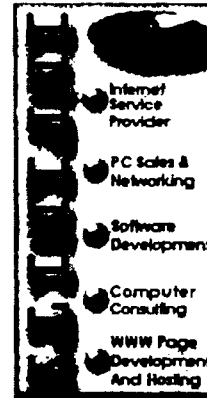
**EPA: Waiting on Fox is risky**  
Representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency were at the Brown County Central Library this week to answer resident's questions about it's proposal to list the Fox River as a Superfund site. A voluntary cleanup is still possible, but the EPA and Fox River Group - The coalition formed by the seven paper companies involved - are a long way from agreeing on fundamental issues. Jim Hahnenberg, EPA Superfund project manager said that in his estimation, waiting to clean up the site could be risky.

#### Government aids Fox River Trail

The Brown County Parks Department has received a \$395,600 grant from the federal government to build a proposed trail along teh Fox River from Green Bay to Greenleaf. The grant would cover about 80% of the estimated \$495,500 cost, which would follow an abandoned Wisconsin Central Railroad right of way.

#### Our Town Who to stay

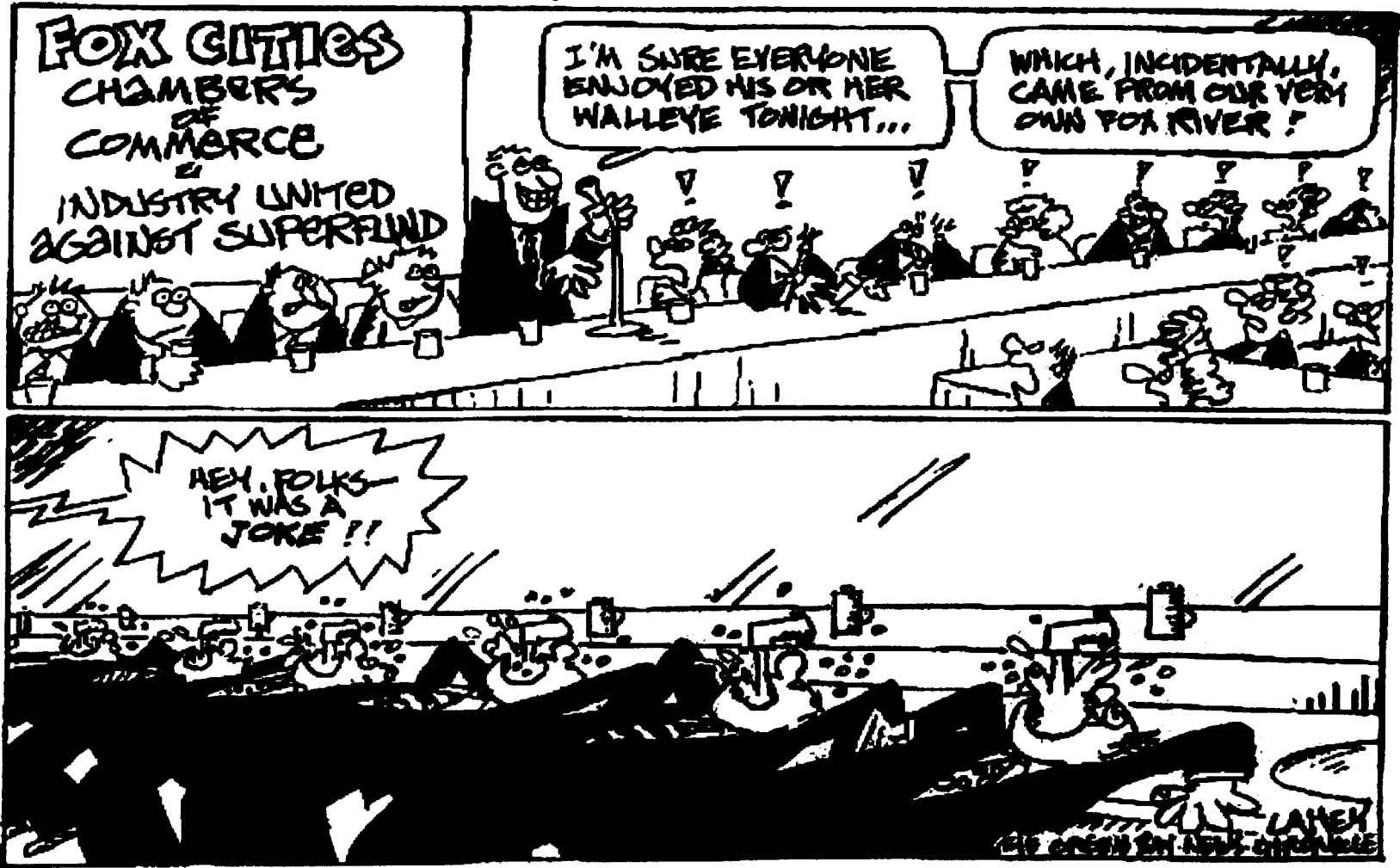
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Week of August 2, 1998 - Green Bay News Chronicle

GREEN BAY  
THE

# News-Chronicle

The Leading Voice of Green Bay and Brown County

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 1998



H. Marc Larson / The News-Chronicle

**GARRETT HANSON PULLS IN A WHITE BASS** while catch-and-release fishing along the Fox River at Voyageur Park in De Pere on Monday. Releasing fish caught from the river is recommended during fish advisories but those warnings often go unheeded by Southeast Asians.

## Fish advisories fall on deaf ears of Asians

Consuming what is caught out of the Fox River can be dangerous during times when the DNR has posted fish advisories. Those warnings, however, are often ignored, not heard or not believed by Southeast Asians.

PAGE 5

# Culture, diet cause Asians to often ignore fish advisories

**Environmentalists reach out to warn Southeast Asians about contaminated fish**

By Patti Zaring  
The News-Chronicle

Many Southeast Asian people continue to fish in contaminated waters because they don't understand or trust warnings not to eat their catch.

"People, they come to me, they say, 'Americans lie because they don't want us to eat fish,'" said Vaughn Vang, a guidance counselor for the Green Bay School District who also has formed a local advisory board for Southeast Asian immigrants. "But I told them (about fish advisories). Most of them listen to me when I tell them about chemicals in the river."

**"People, they come to me, they say, 'Americans lie because they don't want us to eat fish.'"**

Vaughn Vang  
guidance counselor, Green Bay School District

Those chemicals are polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), which have been found in high levels in certain fish in the Fox River and Great Lakes. Research has shown that elevated levels of PCBs hinder the development of fetuses in the womb and can lead to lower IQs and hampered cognitive development in young children.

Because fish are a mainstay of their diet, many Asians are reluctant to give up fishing, Vang said.

The DNR has issued warnings urging pregnant or nursing mothers, especially, to avoid eating fish from PCB-contaminated waters. Advisories list five types of fish found to be risky and how often each type may be

consumed safely.

Local environmentalists are trying to reach members of the Southeast Asian population, many who fish every day.

"We had a gentleman who wondered if we were trying to take away his right to fish," said Dan Holcomb, public health coordinator for the state Department of Health and Family Services, who spoke at a forum about the DNR advisory in Appleton this spring before 200 Hmong.

"I understand how they feel. I'd probably feel the same way if I'd just come to a new country and was told I couldn't eat something I depend on," he said.

To win them over, specialists must gain the trust of elders within the Southeast Asian community, Holcomb said.

"If they don't think it's good, no one will show up (at information meetings)," he said.

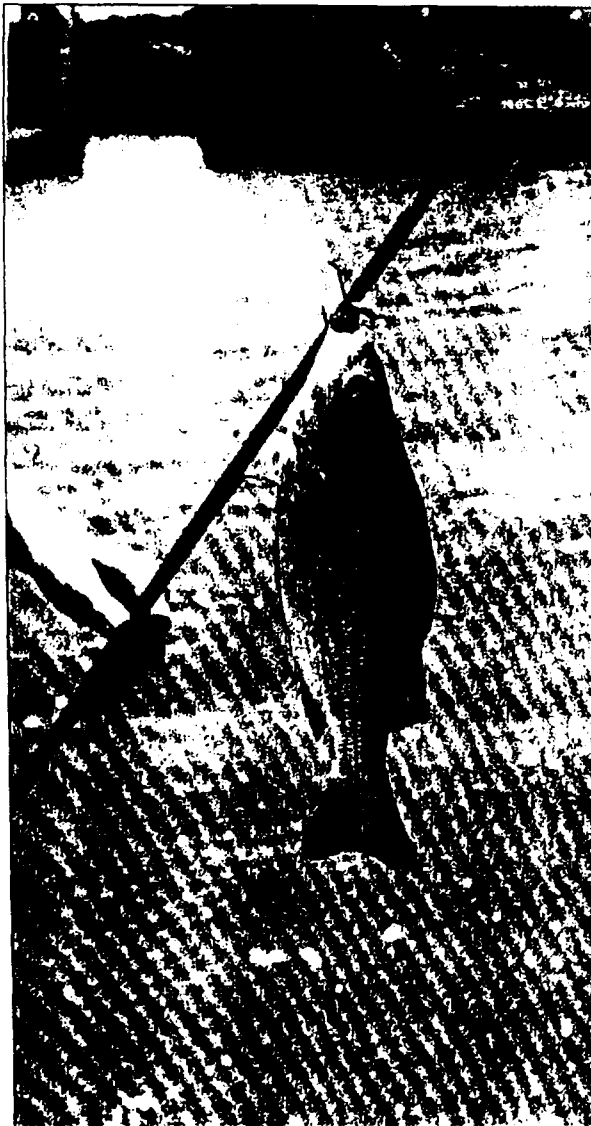
Research shows 80 percent of Southeast Asians in the Great Lakes area are unaware of PCBs, he said. The Wisconsin Asian population seems to be better educated, he said, although no studies have been conducted.

Southeast Asians eat fish from the Fox River and other waterways at higher rates than average Brown County residents, noted Kathy Huntowski, a nutritionist for the University of Wisconsin-Extension. Her office is seeking a grant to hire a part-time bilingual educator to work with the Asian community.

"For (Asians, fish possibly laced with PCBs) are a very normal meal," Huntowski said.

John Hermanson, a local environmentalist whose wife works with the Asian population as a teacher for the Green Bay School District, calls the news that Asians mistrust advisories "scary."

"I hate to see people even more disadvantaged because of that. It's hard enough to break the language and cultural differences, let alone eat these fish that have real potential to hurt people," he said. He approached Sierra Club executive director Eric



H. Marc Larson / The News-Chronicle

**A WHITE BASS TAKEN** from the Fox River is displayed at Voyager Park on Monday. Pollution in the Fox has raised levels of PCBs in some fish to an unsafe level. Transmitting this message to the local Asian community has proven a difficult task. "We had a gentleman who wondered if we were trying to take away his right to fish," said Dan Holcomb, who spoke at a DNR advisory forum.

Uram about lending his group's help.

Uram said he is designing a pamphlet to be shared with Southeast Asians and plans to work with a local Asian-language radio program. The DNR also has developed a colored map to help Asians understand what fishing spots to avoid.

Jim Amrhein, DNR fish contaminant specialist, said he steers Asians toward fish that can be eaten safely at least once a week. He tells them to reject fish the DNR says shouldn't be consumed more than once a month. The state also has held seminars showing Asians safer ways to fillet

and prepare fish, Holcomb said.

The DNR doesn't produce written advisories for Asians, Amrhein said, because many older Asians don't read and there are many variations in the written language.

Instead, he verbally explains the advisory and often encourages local Southeast Asians to travel to Lake Winnebago to fish in cleaner waters.

"You can't just say, 'Do you eat a lot of fish?' Or 'Don't eat a lot of fish,' because often they don't understand," he said. "But if you take the time to explain, they're usually willing to make changes."



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THE  
GREEN BAY

# News-Chronicle

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 1998

Wednesday, July 1, 1998 3

## BRIEFLY IN YOUR AREA

From Green Bay  
News-Chronicle staff

NEENAH

### Superfund decision due next week

The Environmental Protection Agency will decide next week whether the lower Fox River will be added to the national priority list, according to the Appleton Post-Crescent. If the Fox River receives a spot on the priority list, it may eventually receive a formal Superfund listing.

David Ulrich, acting administrator of the EPA's regional office in Chicago, said the decision should be made by the middle of next week, the Post-Crescent reported Tuesday.

Repeatedly I have read comments that the Fox River is a local issue and we should leave its cleanup in the hands of state and local government officials. I am wondering if people who feel this way know where the water from the Fox flows to.

What we dump into our river affects Lake Michigan and, by extension, the entire Great Lakes ecosystem. Other communities around the lakes must also be concerned about their uses of their rivers. This is especially an issue for us, however, since the Fox River is responsible for 70 percent of the PCBs that end up in Lake Michigan.

Superfund designation was proposed by the federal government in 1992, but the Environmental Protection Agency agreed to let the state of Wisconsin handle it. That was seven years ago and nothing has been done.

## READERS' COMMENT

### Proceed quickly with Superfund for Fox River

More than 10 years ago a Remedial Action Plan was instituted, and still the river is being "studied."

It would not be a stretch to say the Fox is one of the most studied rivers in the United States. And yet, no cleanup has been completed.

What are we waiting for? Superfund provides an opportunity for us to improve our area and to eliminate many of the health risks posed by a contaminated river. The state has shown that it is, at best, reluctant to make a decision.

Even if a Superfund cleanup took 10 years to complete, that would be better than another 10 years of hand-wringing or another 10 years of denying that we have a problem.

Mary Campbell  
Green Bay

## COLUMNIST'S PERSPECTIVE

## Get off your duff— our future depends on it

In my June 18 megaletter (Page 11), I wrote, mocking Warren Bluhm's quote, that "No compelling argument seems to exist why I should continue to support a paper that prints (Bluhm's) horse dookey." I claimed that I would end my subscription.

Now a compelling argument does exist. I have been offered the opportunity to do this weekly column for *The News-Chronicle*. I have accepted because it will give readers a chance to hear the side of the story that has been missing from both Green Bay newspapers.

Because I was a *News-Chronicle* subscriber since its inception, I tended to push hardest on this newspaper to get it to do real, hard-hitting, balanced reporting about issues that affect our community at large.

I will continue to focus on the environment and campaign finance reform. What's sad is that many of these issues shouldn't be partisan at all. They should be matters of



**Curt Andersen**

For The  
News-Chronicle

common sense. Alas, they remain partisan.

As a former Republican, I had always believed that "fiscal responsibility" was our motto. Since President Reagan's election, however, there has been a not-so-subtle shift to the right-wing fragment of the party. The fragment that believes that any resources out there are to be used up, no matter the cost to society.

The fragment that holds that *its* beliefs are the only ones to be taken seriously. The

fragment that has recently convinced us, (me too, for a little while) that welfare queens living high on the hog were the cause of all of our financial woes, when really, it was Ronald Reagan's massive and inane military spending that put us an extra \$3 trillion in debt. Fiscal responsibility, indeed!

In the early 1900s, it took Republicans such as Wisconsin's Bob LaFollette and Theodore Roosevelt to turn the old Republican Party from its payola-steeped past into a fiscally responsible party by the 1950s.

If the Republicans are not now going to step up to correct their current failings, then it falls to the Democrats and the independents to correct the mess in Washington and Madison.

People have been saying for almost 20 years that they don't like the direction the county is going in. So what do they do? They don't vote at all because of contempt for the system or they vote for the right

**If the Republicans are not now going to step up to correct their current failings, then it falls to the Democrats and the independents.**

wing, which guarantees that it will continue to go in that same direction.

Those who don't vote had better get up off of their keisters this time, or it will take us decades to fix what this current group of legislators is royally messing up.

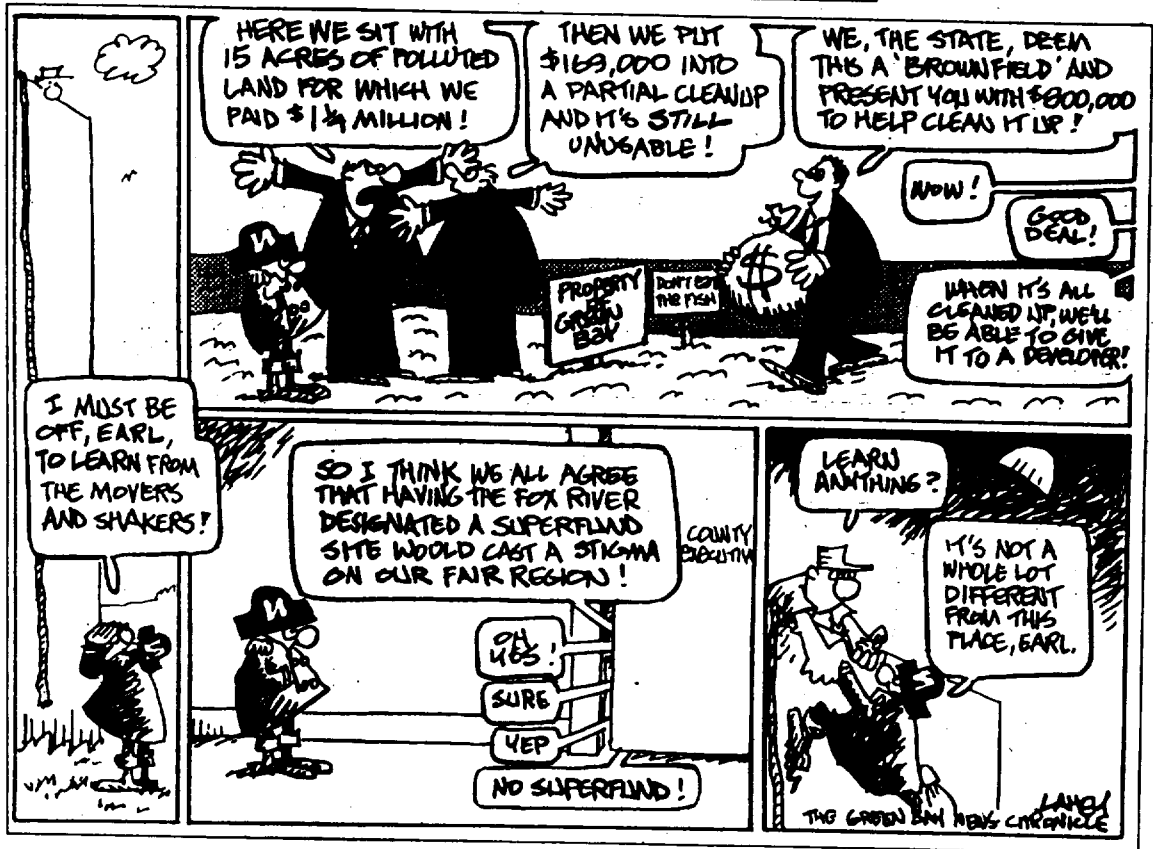
Andersen, whose column appears here each Wednesday, is a lifelong resident of the Green Bay area and a small-business owner. He served in the Navy during the Vietnam era. He teaches part time at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College and is president of the Clean Water Action Council. Write to him via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

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LEYLE LAHEY'S VIEWPOINT

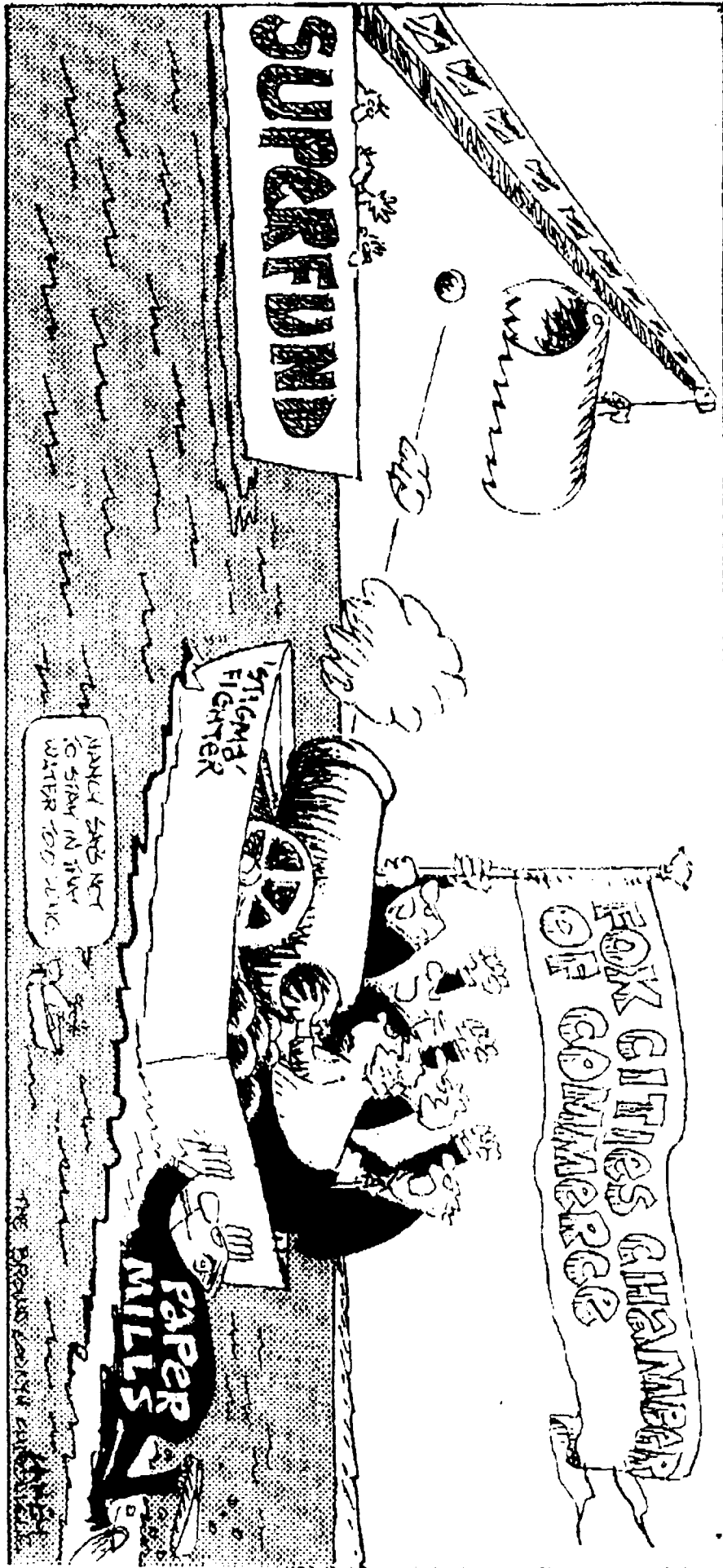


**The World Acquiesces to Lies**



July 4-5, 1998

News - Chronicle



LYLE LAHEY'S VIEWPOINT

WHEN THE SCOUTS ASKED TO HEAR A SCARY STORY, LITTLE DID THEY REALIZE WHAT THEIR SCOUTMASTER, AN EXECUTIVE WITH A VALLEY PAPER COMPANY, WOULD TELL THEM...



THE SUPERMONSTER!

DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS?  
IT'S...

IT IS BIG AND IT IS THE MOST HORRIBLE THING YOU HAVE EVER SEEN AS IT SITHERS INTO THE RIVER!



Green Bay News-Chronicle  
7/7/98

**READER'S COMMENT**

**Don't let politics get in way of cleaning the Fox River**

After reading the report in the June 25 issue of *The News-Chronicle* (Page 5) about possible Superfund designation for the Fox River, I am troubled by the stand taken by our county executive, Nancy Nusbaum. She obviously opposes Superfund designation for the river, which would finally begin the removal of PCBs.

The Superfund law was created by Congress in 1980 to speed the cleanup of the nation's worst hazardous waste sites. The law allowed the Environmental Protection Agency to clean the sites first and assess blame and damages later. The law later evolved to encourage the EPA to reach settlements with companies responsible for the contamination.

Finding the responsible parties doesn't seem to be the issue here. The issue is how and when the Fox will be cleaned up.

The paper companies are doing a media blitz to persuade the public that Superfund status for the Fox will create a cleanup plan that may cause further water contamination and health hazards.

When did these companies get so environmentally and socially responsible? How did these same companies that didn't know or pleaded stupidity to the fact that PCBs were toxic contaminants suddenly gain such knowledge and expertise as to the best means of cleaning up the Fox?

It is a known fact that PCBs are carcinogens. The human body can absorb PCBs in its fat cells ingested from contaminated water or fish. Nursing mothers can pass a high concentration of PCBs to their children. Studies have also indicated lower IQs in children who ate a steady diet of PCB contaminated fish.

It was suggested that giving Superfund status to the Fox would create a stigma. Apparently caramel-colored water, the swishing tails of thousands of red horse and carp, as well as bad smell aren't stigma enough.

Wouldn't visitors to this area leave with a more positive view of the community knowing the local public takes an affirmative stand on its environment?

It was suggested almost 25 years ago that a penny or two be added to the cost of a roll of tissue to offset any future cleanup costs caused by the dumping of contaminants into our rivers. The idea had its usual opponents.

It was suggested that we allow the Department of Natural Resources, the federal government and the paper companies to set a timetable for the cleanup. This has been discussed for a dozen years already.

Are the paper companies waiting in hope of anti-environmental candidates, such as U.S. Rep. Mark Neumann, R-Janesville, to get elected to the U.S. Senate and weaken the EPA?

It happened with our own DNR, which now does little more than issue hunting and fishing licenses.

The EPA is well aware of cleanup methods, and in due time will make its recommendation. I urge the Brown County Board not to put the cart before the horse and make any resolution that will prolong the start of cleaning up the Fox.

It is time to set our sick river on the road to recovery.

**James Spice**  
Ashwaubenon



# County Board pushes federal cleanup of Fox

7/7/98  
The EPA could announce this week it will seek a Superfund designation for the Fox River, the project manager says

By Brian M. Kerhin  
The News-Chronicle

Taking the opposite stance of a sister panel, the Brown County Board's Executive Committee voted Monday to encourage a federal Superfund cleanup for the Fox River.

The 5-2 vote gives the full board two different committee recommendations on a resolution that supports a negotiated settlement between government agencies and seven paper companies.

The Planning, Development and Transportation Committee voted 3-1 June 24 to endorse the resolution. The County Board votes July 15.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is considering adding the Fox River to the National Priorities List — better known as Superfund. That would make the river eligible for cleanup by the federal government, which could bill the seven paper companies now identified as potentially responsible for PCB contamination in the river sediment.

Project manager Jim Hahnenberg said an announcement on the EPA's

**"We can stick our head in the sediment and keep it there, or we can follow a logical course (to Superfund)."**

Sup. Pat Collins member, Brown County Executive Committee, on his belief that the cleanup of PCBs in the sediment of the Fox River is inevitably heading to designation by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on the National Priorities List — known commonly as Superfund

intentions could be made this week, but he does not know what the recommendation will be.

If the agency does go the Superfund route, an extensive evaluation process, including a public comment period, would begin. But a proposed listing would not necessarily mean a cleanup would be imposed.

"A settlement really is the preferred route," Hahnenberg said. "(Superfund) listing is a measure of last resort."

But frustration with years of delay caused several supervisors to encourage the EPA to go ahead and clean the river.

"That's our gold," said Sup. Tim Hinkfuss, referring to the financial importance of the paper industry in the area. "We need to do as much as possible to protect it."

Sup. Pat Collins questioned the credibility of the paper companies.

"We can stick our head in the sediment and keep it there, or we can follow a logical course (to Superfund)," Collins said.

David Lee, mill manager for P.H. Glatfelter in Neenah — one of the seven potentially responsible paper companies — urged the committee to endorse the resolution calling for a negotiated settlement. The EPA is too committed to dredging and everyone should wait for results of two demonstration projects planned for later this summer, he said.

"It is still a significant question if dredging does more harm than good to a river," Lee said. "What's the rush?"

But Sup. Dean Reich said the companies are trying to delay progress on the river, and he urged the EPA to proceed.

Sup. Robert Wilmet voted against the motion because he said the EPA would do what it wanted anyway.

Wilmet and Sup. Pat Schillinger voted for the resolution, while Hinkfuss and Reich were joined by supervisors Keith Watermolen, Dave Hansen and Lucy Bunker in opposition to the resolution.

The other six paper companies involved are Fort James, U.S. Paper Mills, Riverside Paper, Wisconsin Tissue Mills, NCR and Appleton Papers.

News-Chronicle

LOCAL

# Superfund for Fox still up in the air

**A public update on a major study of the Fox River will be held July 21 in Appleton**

**By Brian M. Kerhin**  
The News-Chronicle

If the Fox River is going to be designated a Superfund site this week, local officials are unaware of it yet. Last week, David Ullrich, acting administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regional office in Chicago, said an announcement should come by today.

But several local and state officials — even two from the EPA — said they do not know when it might happen.

Meanwhile, a public informational meeting has been scheduled for July 21 in Appleton to outline a key study that will set the stage for the river cleanup.

The EPA is considering adding the Fox River to the National Priorities List — better known as Superfund. That would make the river eligible for cleanup by the federal government, which could then bill the seven paper companies deemed potentially liable for the PCB contamination in the river sediment.

While EPA normally notifies members of Congress about proposed listings before it tells the general public, U.S. Rep. Jay Johnson, D-Green Bay, said Tuesday he has not been notified.

Paul Vornholt, assistant to Brown County Executive Nancy Nusbaum, said he expects the river will be proposed for listing, but he does not know when.

"I was expecting (the announcement) yesterday or today," he said Tuesday afternoon.

The only reason the river might not be listed is the precedent it could set: no site has ever been added to Superfund over the objections of a governor. Gov. Tommy Thompson has opposed the listing, Vornholt noted.

The state Department of Natural Resources, which is conducting the Superfund background study for the EPA, also has not been notified, said

Erika Kluetmeier, public affairs manager.

Phil Hoffmann, the federal agency's congressional liaison, said EPA headquarters in Washington, D.C., will make the announcement — but the regional office has not been told when or how an announcement would be made.

EPA project manager Jim Hahnenberg told a Brown County Board committee Monday he did not know when the announcement would come.

As the speculation about the river's official status continues, the DNR continues work on the Remedial Investigation-Feasibility Study. The July 21 public hearing will give citizens a chance to get an update about the study.

## FYI

### A STUDY WITH IMPACT

A public hearing on the DNR's Remedial Investigation-Feasibility Study for the Fox River will be held at 6:30 p.m. July 21 in Harper Hall at Lawrence University's Music and Drama Center, 420 E. College Ave.

When completed early next year, the study will outline problems and include recommendations about how to clean the Fox River.

EPA and DNR staff will present the study timeline and respond to questions. Draft reports are expected to be finished this fall. At that time, public comments will be solicited and incorporated, Kluetmeier said.

While not the main subject of the meeting, the demonstration cleanup projects scheduled for this summer in Kimberly and Green Bay may also be discussed, she said.

The seven paper companies deemed potentially liable for placing PCBs in the river are Fort James, U.S. Paper Mills, NCR, Appleton Papers, Riverside Paper, P.H. Glatfelter and Wisconsin Tissue Mills.

## LOCAL COLUMNIST'S PERSPECTIVE

# Officials strangely silent in Superfund process

It's amazing what you learn when you attend meetings of area city councils, county boards and their assorted committees.

At a June 25 meeting of the Brown County Planning, Development and Transportation Committee, Clean Water Action Council

## Something smells ... but for once it's not the Fox River.

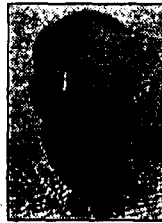
members testified in favor of a Superfund designation for the Fox River. Sup. Eugene Schmitz stated he had never seen the federal government do anything right.

We've heard this sort of grousing before.

People have always

liked to point fingers at "those other guys" who can't do anything right. But how about World War II? How about the moon landing? How about the Clean Water Act?

Sup. Schmitz forgets that *he* is a member of the Brown County Board, which, along with the Green Bay City Council, is partially



**Curt Andersen**

For The News-Chronicle

responsible for the toxics in the river because it has never told the mills to stop the polluting, which continues unabated.

County Executive Nancy Nusbaum, one of the officials who has allowed this to happen, testified at this meeting and managed to "misstate" 15 different points. Since she's never called us for information or clarification, I have to wonder where she's getting all her misinformation.

What is really disappointing is that in spite of months of uproar about Superfund,

none of the committee members knew how the Superfund program works, and yet each was willing to vote against it, except for Sup. Dean Reich.

In De Pere, the City Council voted unanimously and without discussion for the resolution against Superfund. Normally, any issue would take at least some discussion, but on this issue it voted "unanimously and without discussion." Why?

Something smells ... but for once it's not the river.

Sup. Pat Moynihan had the scruples to abstain from voting because he works for the paper industry. Sup. Pat Schillinger voted in favor of the resolution, even though he gets his check indirectly from the paper mills through the Green Bay Area Chamber of Commerce.

Ken Bukowski, the Brown County corporation counsel, told me it was OK. I say it smells like conflict of interest.

Sup. Schillinger anointed us with his

opinion that a local agreement would work better for all parties, because the feds won't be messing things up. Then he admitted that the public *won't* be a party to the details of the paper industry agreement. It will be a paper industry decision, and citizens will have no say in *what* gets done *when*.

And all this time these same guys were telling us that the Environmental Protection Agency would stifle local input.

Sup. Schillinger also admitted that the Chamber of Commerce did not poll its members regarding the resolution. Is that some more of the "local input" those guys talk about?

Sniff, sniff ... what's that smell?

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@itot.com](mailto:chronicle@itot.com).

READERS' COMMENT

7/9/98

Local initiative not best solution for cleaning up Fox

Brown County Sups. Tim Hinkfuss and Dean Reich have shown courage and wisdom in refusing to be stampeded into opposing Superfund designation for the Fox River.

Some elected officials oppose federal action because of a bias they have and probably because of scare tactics being used by the industries responsible for the PCB problem in the river.

While local initiative is desirable when effective in achieving the objective, it is not always the more reliable solution. Civil rights and environmental protection have been expedited by some prodding

and assistance from the federal government.

Little progress was made to control pollution of our surface waters by the paper and pulp industry until the federal government became involved about 30 years ago. Before then, state agencies were powerless to deal adequately with the problem due to the political clout of the industries and the threat of losing manufacturing jobs in Wisconsin.

When federal water quality standards were adopted, we began to see progress, and now the Fox and East rivers have a more pleasant aroma, and walleyes are in the

Fox. But we can't eat the fish due to a persistent PCB problem.

History ought to give us some help in deciding whether federal involvement and Superfund designation can be helpful. The water quality of the Fox River and the Green Bay is too important to this area to permit subjective, biased attitudes to determine how we proceed to deal with the problem.

The people are entitled to hear all of the arguments and know how the decision is made. Cliches about the federal bureaucracy are not helpful in such deliberations.

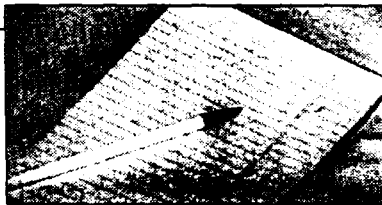
Len Montle  
Suamico

Last resort action — Superfund designation — is needed

The problem with a voluntary approach to cleaning up the Fox River is that this has been the idea since at least 1986, and nothing has been cleaned up. Plans for river cleanup by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources have been discussed since the mid-'80s.

This effort, known as the Remedial Action Plan, was undertaken by the DNR, local chambers of commerce, industry leaders and local governments. This approach has obviously gotten us nowhere since the hows and whys of cleaning up the river are still being debated.

In 1992, the DNR established the Fox River Coalition to institute a "cooperative, voluntary cleanup." Made up of similar



Letters to *The 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 letters to the postal address, e-mail address or fax number listed at the bottom of this page.

groups as those involved in the Remedial Action Plan, this coalition also has yet to produce any results.

Anyone who has studied a little

bit of economics understands that there is a time and a place for such "command and control" strategies — generally, as a last resort. This is what we have come to. It is obvious that the cooperative approach to finding a solution to clean up the Fox River has led nowhere and was rife with conflicts of interests.

The Fox River was also the subject of one of the earliest pollution permit trading programs, which also failed miserably.

We have reached the point where last resort action, such as Superfund designation, must be taken.

Meredith Schafer  
Ashwaubenon

FRIDAY, JULY 10, 1998

# EPA: List Fox for Superfund

**The threat of a federal  
cleanup of the river  
could spur negotiations,  
officials hope**

**By Brian M. Kerlin**  
The News-Chronicle

The Fox River should be added to the Superfund list, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said Thursday.

The announcement triggers a comment period that could lead to the Fox River being placed on

the National Priorities List and then an EPA-directed cleanup of the river, with the tab sent to the

**Complete  
coverage:  
Pages 4-6**

seven paper companies deemed responsible for putting

PCBs in the waterway.

More importantly, however, the decision by the EPA's Tim Fields should restart negotiations toward a voluntary settlement to clean the river, many officials

Please see **FOX**, Page 4

# FOX: Potential listing may turn out to be a plus

FROM PAGE 1

7/10/98

said Thursday.

The optimism stems from the EPA's willingness to include in its plans results from the two demonstration cleanup projects planned for this summer. With the EPA prepared to keep the river off the Superfund list if it appears a negotiated settlement is possible, the situation appears still brighter.

"It looks as though there really might be room for a wonderful compromise here," said Brown County Executive Nancy Nusbaum.

The threat of the federal government stepping in and forcing cleanup may be just the hammer needed to encourage negotiations, which haven't been held since November, she said.

"I think there's no harm at all in having the threat of listing," she said. "We know ultimately it could be listed."

U.S. Rep. Jay Johnson, D-Green Bay, said the announcement was expected.

"It gives a clear and unmistakable message to the parties involved to get back to the bargaining table and voluntarily decide how best to clean the Fox," he said.

Brad Fitch, spokesman for U.S. Sen. Herb Kohl, D-Wisconsin, praised the EPA for showing some flexibility.

A negotiated settlement would decrease the chance the issue will end up in court, where resources would get spent on lawyers, not the river, Fitch said.

"I still believe that designating the Fox River a Superfund site should only be a last resort," Kohl said.

Not everyone was happy with Thursday's announcement, however.

## FYI

### RIVER INFO ON-LINE

Two Web sites with background information on the Fox River cleanup are available. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has a site at [www.epa.gov/region5/foxriver](http://www.epa.gov/region5/foxriver). The group of seven paper companies deemed potentially liable have a site at [www.foxriver.org](http://www.foxriver.org).

Gov. Tommy Thompson blasted the EPA for proposing the listing. The announcement marks what is believed to be the first time the EPA has proposed a site over the objections of a governor.

"Superfund is a widely documented failure that causes more problems than it solves," Thompson said. "The state can do a better and quicker job of cleaning the river without a Superfund designation."

"This is just another example of the EPA and federal government stepping in and micromanaging state matters — and ultimately making matters worse," he said. "This is the height of Washington arrogance."

Susan Sylvester, administrator of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' water division, does not necessarily believe the EPA's statement that it will incorporate results from demonstration projects. She also does not believe the EPA may not formally list the river.

She said the best answer is a state-led cooperative cleanup that could have resulted in a deal by year's end.

"Working cooperatively has been working," she said.

But with the EPA's announcement, Sylvester is not sure an

acceptable deal can be reached.

The Fox River Group — the seven companies deemed potentially liable — comprises Fort James Corp., U.S. Paper Mills Corp., NCR, Appleton Papers Inc., P.H. Glatfelter Co., Riverside Paper Corp. and Wisconsin Tissue Mills.

The group's response statement also expresses skepticism that the EPA might wait with the formal designation. The companies also call on the EPA to consider all technical data before making any decisions on the river's fate.

Although the Fox River Group statement advocates a negotiated settlement, it does not make a specific commitment to return to the negotiating table.

Efforts to reach a spokesman for the group were unsuccessful.

Dan Theno, of Fort James, called the EPA's announcement "disappointing but not unexpected." He declined to comment further.

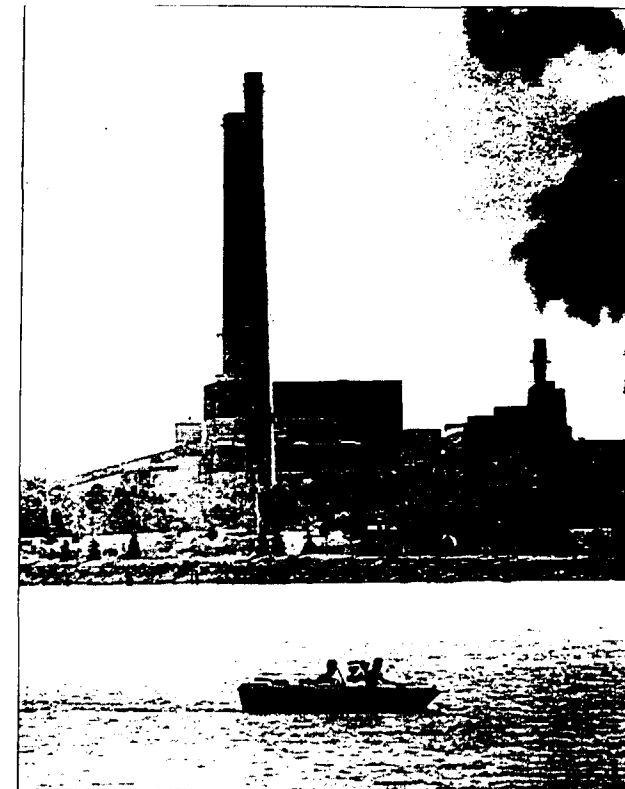
Tom Olson, president of U.S. Paper Mills — the other Brown County mill among the seven — could not be reached for comment.

The governments and companies should not be in a hurry to reach a settlement, however, said Rebecca Leighton-Katers, executive director of the Clean Water Action Council.

A settlement that does not adequately cover the costs or provide for a sufficient cleanup would not be acceptable, she said. Therefore, the results of the EPA's feasibility study should be the basis for talks, she said.

Thursday's announcement does open a public comment period — which she says should be used extensively.

"People need to express their opinion. If this is what people want, they need to show it," Leighton-Katers said.



H. Marc Larson / The News-Chronicle

**FORT JAMES CORP. SETS THE BACKDROP for boaters cruising Thursday on the Fox River.**

THE GREEN BAY

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# An EPA official speaks about the Fox

## The News-Chronicle

Excerpts from letters sent by Tim Fields, acting assistant administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, to various state and federal officials Thursday:

"I ... want to communicate my decision to propose the Fox River site to the National Priorities List and my rationale for that decision ...

"The draft Hazard Ranking System score for the Fox River contamination site is 50, based on surface water, sediment and fish tissue contamination with PCBs. The HRS is an objective, mathematical model EPA

uses to compare sites ...

"Any site scoring above 28.5 on a 100-point scale is eligible to be proposed to the NPL ... The score of 50 puts the site in the top 25 percent of NPL sites by score ...

"After considering issues raised by the Wisconsin Congressional delegation and other concerned parties, I have approved inclusion of the Fox River in the next NPL proposal ... This was a difficult decision, given the state of Wisconsin's views ... but it is my belief that the best and most efficient way to ensure cleanup of the Fox River is through proposal to the NPL.

"My major reason for this decision

is that the site poses very serious human health and ecological risks which are not being adequately addressed ...

"My second concern is that proposal is needed to ensure the PRPs (potentially responsible parties) fully meet their cleanup responsibilities. Although it is true that some studies have been undertaken and a demonstration pilot is ongoing, I do not believe this is sufficient progress to forestall NPL proposal, given that this contamination has been known for many years and the PRPs have been negotiating with the state for more than five years. There is still no commitment for a comprehensive ap-

proach to a whole river cleanup.

"I believe NPL proposal will provide the needed incentive for the PRPs to negotiate more seriously with the state and EPA ...

"My third reason for proceeding with proposal is ... both the federal government's trustee and the Oneida and Menominee Tribes believe their concerns are not being adequately addressed. Cultural damages related to the tribe's uses of the tributaries to the Fox River and the Green Bay are not considered in the plans of the Fox River Coalition or the state ...

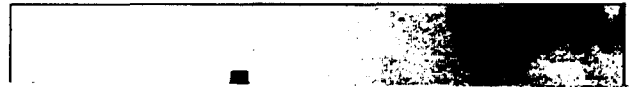
"I want to assure both you and the state of several points.

"First, EPA intends to integrate data available from the demonstration pilot (scheduled for late this summer) into the Remedial Investigation-Feasibility Study ...

"Second, EPA will not proceed immediately to make a final listing decision ... EPA will allow ample opportunity for Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the paper companies to develop a final cleanup plan before considering whether to finalize the site on the NPL.

"The primary goal of the EPA is to achieve a successful cleanup of the Fox River."

## FOX: Potential listing



# Superfund proposal begins long process

**The public will get two chances to comment as the Superfund process moves along**

By Brian M. Kerlin  
The News-Chronicle

The bureaucratic process in the wake of the proposal to add the Fox River to the Superfund list has two separate but related tracks, according to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency project manager Jim Hahnenberg.

The immediate process is the proposal to add the river to the National Priorities List. The other — the Remedial Investigation Feasibility Study — is already underway and is arguably more important, he said.

Because the entire process must wait for the study — and because the EPA really would prefer not to add sites to the Superfund list — the proposal process that began Thursday is a bureaucratic step, he said.

"It is really the RIFS that's the heart of the matter," Hahnenberg said.

The EPA would prefer a negotiated settlement, he said. The study will provide a solid base for negotiations, which have not been held since November.

Unless the companies are willing to write a blank check, a deal now appears unlikely, Hahnenberg said. But the completed study will provide something to negotiate and could spur

a settlement.

Thursday's announcement by the EPA does not automatically add the river to the list. Rather, as soon as a formal notice is published in the Federal Register, any concerned party — governments, the paper companies and the general public — will have 60 days to comment.

Remarks should not focus on how the river should be cleaned, but rather the need for cleanup, severity of contamination and if EPA involvement is

## FYI

### YOUR CHANCE TO COMMENT

Public comments on the EPA's proposal to add the Fox River to the Superfund list will begin as soon as the official notice is published in the Federal Register.

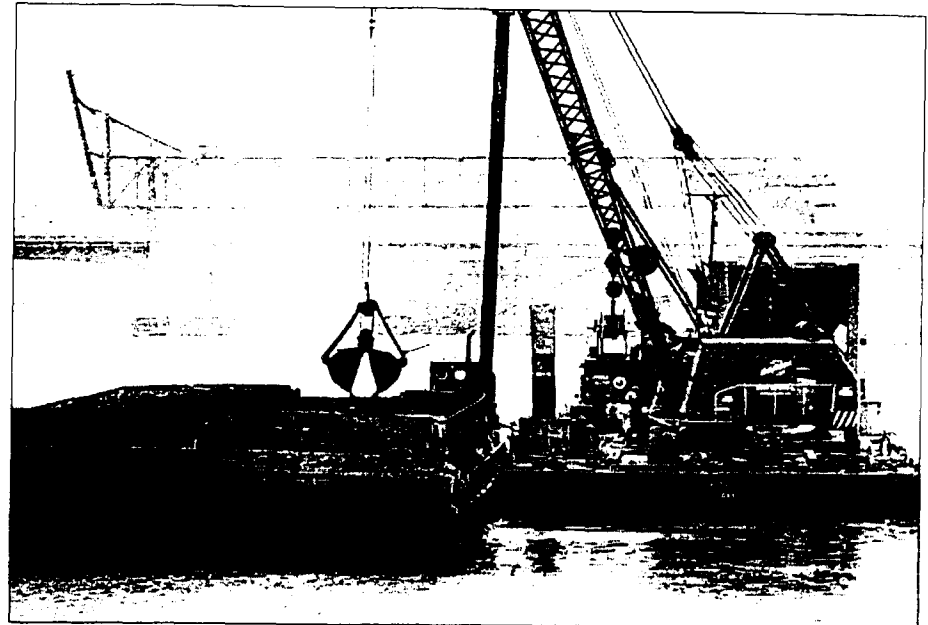
The address to which comments can be sent will be part of the publication, expected in the next week.

warranted, Hahnenberg said.

Documents supporting the EPA's preliminary decision will be made available for review.

After the comment period closes, the EPA will review the public's remarks, provide written answers to substantive questions and make a decision whether the river should be formally added to the list.

An immediate decision, however, is not expected. The Fox River could meet the criteria, but if the seven potentially responsible paper companies continue to negotiate in good faith, the actual listing could be de-



H. Marc Larson / The News-Chronicle

**DREDGING ON THE FOX RIVER** is shown in this 1988 file photo. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency project manager Jim Hahnenberg says cleanup on the river must wait for the completion of a preliminary study, which also allows time for local parties to reach a settlement.

layed, Hahnenberg said.

Because no actual cleanup work could begin until the Remedial Investigation Feasibility Study is completed, waiting for actual listing is not problematic, he said.

Under the direction of the state Department of Natural Resources, the

scientific study examines the scope of the problem along the 39 miles of river from Lake Winnebago to the Green Bay and will suggest cleanup alternatives and their costs.

A tentative plan should be completed by January. The public will

then have at least 30 days to comment on the specific plan.

Sometime next summer, the EPA could create a "record of decision" with its final recommendations. Only at that point could work designating cleanup begin, Hahnenberg said.



# EPA move pleases river users

**"It's a shame to see the river like this," says one recreational user** 7/10/98

By Melinda Naparala  
The News-Chronicle

The announcement that the Fox River may be added to the Superfund list had boaters and anglers who use the river saying it can't happen soon enough.

Green Bay resident Steve Ryan has been keeping his boat docked at the Holiday Inn City Centre, 200 Main St., for six years. He said Thursday he has never seen the river as bad as it is right now.

Within a matter of four days, he saw algae bloom dominate the shoreline.

"I feel very strongly about it," Ryan said. "I want it cleaned up and I want it cleaned up immediately. I don't want it dragged out any longer. The paper mills' intent is to draw out the cleanup process as long as possible for their financial benefit."

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is considering adding the Fox River to the National Priorities

List — better known as the Superfund. That would make the river eligible for cleanup by the federal government, which could then bill the seven paper companies deemed potentially liable for the PCB contamination in the river sediment.

**"I think it's getting worse. It would be great if the government helped out."**

George Bethke

on the EPA's proposal that the Fox River be added to the National Priorities List

People interviewed as they used the river for recreational purposes reacted positively to the news Thursday.

"It's always been a problem," Green Bay resident George Bethke said. "I think it's getting worse. It would be great if the government helped out."

Most people think twice about jumping into the Fox River because of what they would be jumping into and how polluted it is, Ryan said. Steps need to be taken to clean up

the river, said Mike Roznowski, Holiday Inn City Centre marina dockmaster.

"I don't think anyone in their right mind would eat a fish out of here," Roznowski said.

People are more worried about the chemicals than the algae, Roznowski said. The algae gets this bad every year, he said.

"Somebody has to do something," said Jake Jukkala of Appleton. "It's a shame to see a river like this. You can't eat the fish."

Jukkala moved to the area a couple years ago from Alaska and was launching his personal watercraft from the Green Bay Metropolitan Boat Launch at the mouth of the river. He was only traveling the Fox until he reached the Bay.

"At least they're on the right track," said Jukkala.

Jill Donlevy of Green Bay would also like to see the river cleaned up.

"I would never swim or jet ski in the river," she said. "Although its cleaner than it used to be."

"If it gets on the Superfund list, then everyone else will know how bad it is," Chuck Donlevy said as he docked his boat at the Boat Launch Thursday.

# What harm, if any, do PCBs actually cause?

**The human health dangers of PCB lie in eating the fish**

By Brian M. Kerlin  
The News-Chronicle

Why is the Fox River the focus of such attention by state and federal agencies?

Polychlorinated biphenyls, usually called "PCBs."

It was legal to discharge PCBs into the river from the 1950s until they were banned in the mid-1970s. PCBs were used to produce carbonless copy paper. When other mills recycled the paper, they also reprocessed and discharged the hazardous chemical.

Scientifically speaking, a PCB has multiple chlorine atoms — hence the "poly" — in the shape of a ring — hence the "phenyl" — and there are two or more of the rings — hence the "bi," said Jim Hodgson, biology and environmental science professor at St. Norbert College.

Thus, the PCB is a compound of

many chlorines linked to rings attached together in the center.

A person swimming in the river and ingesting the water is not in the greatest danger from PCBs. The concern comes when the chemical is absorbed by animals and, eventually, people as it works its way up the food chain, said Hodgson, a member of the Remedial Action Plan's Science and Technology Advisory Committee.

PCBs are known to cause abnormalities, birth defects, retardation and other reproductive problems in wildlife — and it is suspected that extensive exposure to PCBs has the same effects in humans.

Taking the PCBs out of the river is the best way to protect nature, wildlife and humans, Hodgson said.

"If we're going to err, we should err on the side of nature," he said.

In nature, PCBs degrade very slowly even if they lie dormant in sediment in the river's bottom.

"Taking them out and putting them in a landfill is safe. PCBs will bond together with clay particles," he said.

# Papermakers are culpable — but why these seven?

## The News-Chronicle

Of the dozens of paper mills and other industrial polluters along the Fox River, just seven are "potentially responsible parties" in the eyes of the state and federal governments.

Although a recent report by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources identifies more than 30 po-

tential sources, seven have been targeted because of the amounts of PCB-laden material they handled.

The seven are NCR, P.H. Glatfelter Co., Fort James Corp. (specifically the former Fort Howard mill), Appleton Papers Inc., Wisconsin Tissue Mills, U.S. Paper Mills Corp. and Riverside Paper Corp.

The first five companies on the list accounted for more than 98 percent of

the PCBs discharged into the river, according to the "Fox River and Green Bay PCB Fate and Transport Model Evaluation," released by the DNR last month.

Although some municipal water treatment plants were high dischargers, they have not been targeted because they only acted as conduits for wastewater generated by the mills, according to the report.

# PCBs and the Fox River: A history of contamination

## By Brian M. Kerhin

The News-Chronicle

Here is an outline of the developments that led to Thursday's announcement that the Fox River will be proposed for listing on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency National Priorities List.

■ **1950** — National Cash Register Co. develops a method to use PCBs in carbonless copy paper. It produces the paper, and many other mills use recycled paper containing PCBs.

■ **1971** — The paper industry begins to voluntarily phase out of PCB use.

■ **1972** — The Clean Water Act is passed by Congress; industry begins upgrading equipment and pollution emissions decrease as a result.

■ **1977** — The use of PCBs is banned by the EPA.

■ **1980** — Congress enacts the "Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act," commonly known as Superfund.

■ **1986** — The Remedial Action Plan is formed, with the goal of deve-

loping a local solution to pollution problems in the lower Fox River and Green Bay.

■ **1992** — Industry and various paper companies create the Fox River Coalition to seek a voluntary way to clean the river.

■ **1993** — An EPA-sponsored Mass Balance Study tracks how PCBs move in the Fox River and between the air and water.

■ **1994** — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service begins work toward possible Fox River remediation through a "Natural Resources Damage Assessment."

■ **1995** — Progress by the Fox River Coalition is cited by the DNR as the reason to delay a demonstration cleanup project at Little Lake Butte des Morts in Neenah.

■ **1996** — The lower Fox River is submitted by the DNR as a high-priority waterway under the federal Clean Water Act.

■ **1997** — The state and seven paper companies announce the companies will pay \$10 million for a demonstration cleanup project in Green Bay and habitat restoration.

— USF&WS files notice of intent to sue through the NRDA process. The NRDA is soon put off indefi-

nitely while negotiations continue.

— The EPA announces it will take an active role in seeking cleanup of the Fox River.

— The Fox River Coalition announces tax money will be the primary source used to pay for a second demonstration project in Kimberly.

— The EPA announces the DNR will conduct a Remedial Investigation-Feasibility Study, a study normally supervised by the potentially responsible polluters. The seven companies protest the decision.

■ **1998** — A state-imposed deadline passes without a "global" agreement among the various interested parties.

— The DNR says the highest level of PCB concentration in the river is more than 700 parts per million, nearly double the previously accepted estimate.

— Municipalities throughout the Fox Valley and Green Bay area begin considering resolutions opposing the Superfund process.

— Fox River is not recommended as an "American Heritage River" by a federal panel.

— EPA announces it will formally propose the Fox River be added to the Superfund list.

The leading voice of Green Bay and Packer Country

THE GREEN BAY

# News-Chronicle

Monday, July 13, 1998

Sports  
update

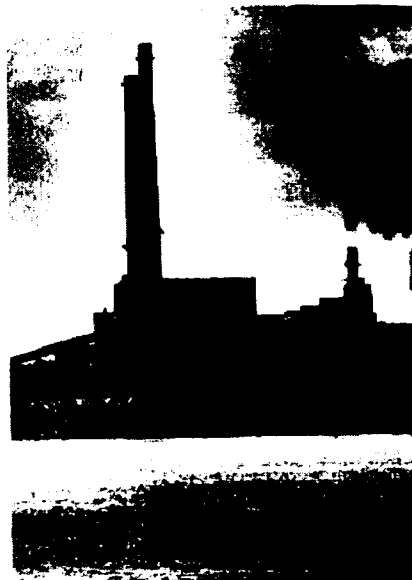
## EPA: List Fox for Superfund

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Fort James Corp. sets the backdrop for boaters cruising Thursday on the Fox River. (H. Marc Larson / The News-Chronicle)

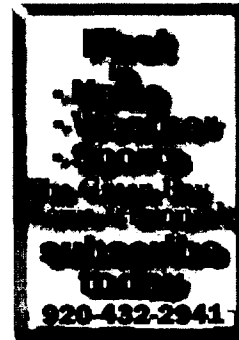
### Announcement creates a window of opportunity for a negotiated settlement to clean up the Fox River

By **Brian M. Kerhin**  
The News-Chronicle  
Fox River proposed for  
Superfund

The Fox River should be added to the Superfund list, the U.S. Environmental Protection

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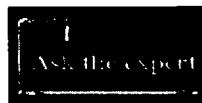
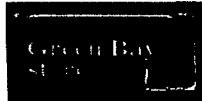
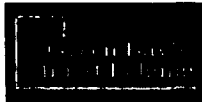
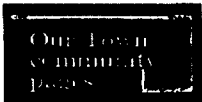
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**READERS' COMMENTS**  
 News-Chronicle readers' reactions to the latest Packer news appear in the guest book.



**Environmental Protection Agency said Thursday.**

The announcement triggers a comment period which could lead to the Fox River on the National Priorities List and an EPA-directed cleanup of the river, with the bill sent to the seven paper companies deemed responsible for putting PCBs in the waterway.

More importantly, however, the decision by EPA's Tim Fields should restart negotiations toward a voluntary settlement to clean the river, many officials said Thursday.

The optimism stems from the EPA's willingness to include in its plans results from the two demonstration cleanup projects planned for this summer, and the EPA's willingness not to actually add the river to the Superfund list if it appears a negotiated settlement is possible.

"It looks as though there really might be room for a wonderful compromise here," said Brown County Executive Nancy Nusbaum.

The threat of the federal government stepping in and forcing cleanup may be just the hammer needed to encourage negotiations, which haven't been held since November, she said.

"I think there's no harm at all in having the threat of listing," she said. "We know ultimately it could be listed."

U.S. Rep. Jay Johnson, D-Green Bay, said the announcement was expected.

"It gives a clear and unmistakable message to the parties involved to get back to

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the bargaining table and voluntarily decide how best to clean the Fox," he said.

Brad Fitch, spokesman for U.S. Sen. Herb Kohl, D-Wisconsin, praised the EPA for showing some flexibility.

A negotiated settlement would decrease the chance the issue will end up in court, where resources would get spent on lawyers, not the river, Fitch said.

"I still believe that designating the Fox River a Superfund site should only be a last resort," Kohl said.

Not everyone was happy with Thursday's announcement, however.

Gov. Tommy Thompson blasted the EPA for proposing the listing. The announcement marks what's believed to be the first time the EPA has proposed a site over the objections of a governor.

"Superfund is a widely documented failure that causes more problems than it solves," Thompson said. "The state can do a better and quicker job of cleaning the river without a Superfund designation.

"This is just another example of the EPA and federal government stepping in and micromanaging state matters - and ultimately making matters worse," he said. "This is the height of Washington arrogance."

Susan Sylvester, administrator of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' water division, does not necessarily believe the EPA's statement that it will incorporate results from demonstration projects and may

not even formally list the river.

She said the best answer is a state-led cooperative cleanup, which could have resulted in a deal by year's end.

"Working cooperatively has been working," she said.

But with EPA's announcement, Sylvester is not sure an acceptable deal can be reached.

The Fox River Group - the seven companies deemed potentially liable - are Fort James, U.S. Paper Mills, NCR, Appleton Papers, P.H. Glatfelter, Riverside Paper and Wisconsin Tissue Mills.

The group's statement also expresses skepticism that the EPA might wait with the formal designation. The companies also call on the EPA to consider all technical data before making any decisions on the river's fate.

Although the Fox River Group statement advocates a negotiated settlement, it does not make a specific commitment to return to the negotiating table.

Efforts to reach a spokesperson were unsuccessful.

Dan Theno, of Fort James Corp., called EPA's announcement "disappointing but not unexpected." He declined to comment further.

Tom Olson, president of U.S. Paper Mills - the other Brown County mill among the seven - could not be reached for comment.

The governments and companies should not be in a hurry to reach a settlement, however, said Rebecca Leighton-Katers, executive

director of the Clean Water  
Action Council.

A settlement which does not adequately cover the costs or provide for a sufficient cleanup would not be acceptable, she said. Therefore, the results of the EPA's feasibility study should be the basis for talks, she said.

Thursday's announcement, which she praised, does open a public comment period - which should be used extensively.

"People need to express their opinion. If this is what people want, they need to show it," Leighton-Katers said.

#### **FYI**

Two websites with background information on the Fox River cleanup are available.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has a site at [www.epa.gov/region5/foxriver](http://www.epa.gov/region5/foxriver)

The group of seven paper companies deemed potentially liable have a site at [www.foxrivergroup.org](http://www.foxrivergroup.org)

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# DNR ups Fox River PCB count

**The papermakers believe the figures are based upon "questionable assumptions"**

Associated Press

APPLETON — Industry discharged far more chemicals into the Fox River than originally thought, according to initial results of a state Department of Natural Resources analysis.

However, a group of paper mills questions the findings.

The DNR now is estimating that six paper mills along the river discharged between 420,000 and 825,000 pounds of PCBs, a now-banned industrial chemical suspected of causing cancer, into the Fox River in the period beginning in 1954 and

ending in the mid-1970s.

Previous estimates, based on analysis of river sediments, had put the total at 250,000 pounds.

Where those chemicals are now — in the river, the waters of Green Bay and Lake Michigan — has yet to be determined.

The business of determining the best cleanup plan and its cost has taken years of research and has compelled the state Department of Natural Resources to develop state-of-the-art computer models that incorporate both stream hydrology and molecular biology.

The money used to develop the models came from industry, with significant contributions from federal grants.

However, the Fox River group, which includes seven paper companies that could pay for cleanup, said findings from the analysis are preli-

minary and one of many items to be considered in determining how to clean up the river.

"Upon initial review we (the Fox River Group) believe the estimates of the historical discharges to the river are too high and are based on a series of questionable assumptions," the group said in a statement read by Dave Lee, manager of the P.H. Glatfelter Co.'s Neenah mill.

"More important, the report's estimates of PCB releases are not consistent with what we already know about the amount of PCBs in the river and the (Green Bay) from actual measurements."

Bruce Baker, deputy administrator of the state Department of Natural Resources, said the computer models do work.

"We are absolutely convinced that we don't have to make any changes to the model," Baker said. He added

that a final draft of the modeling analysis will be available within weeks.

Among other findings in the analysis, was that more than 98 percent of the PCBs discharged by the end of 1971 were due to the production of carbonless paper and the deinking of paper scraps that resulted from that production.

Last week, an official from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said the river could be named a Superfund site because state officials have shown little progress in cleaning up the river in east-central Wisconsin.

Many Wisconsin officials, including Gov. Tommy Thompson, have opposed naming the river a Superfund site. Thompson says the state can clean up the waste faster and cheaper than the EPA can.



7/14/98

# With disposal site in place, scope of PCB cleanup now in sight

**About 5 percent of the PCBs in the Fox River will be removed in this summer's demonstration**

**By Brian M. Kerhin**  
The News-Chronicle

Call it "backwards math." Now that a disposal site has been found for material to be dredged from the Fox River in Green Bay later this year, project designers can figure out exactly how much river bottom can be removed.

The state Department of Natural Resources announced Friday a landfill in Washburn County — about 100 miles north of Eau Claire — has won the contract to store spoils from two Fox River cleanup demonstration projects.

One project, at a site dubbed Deposit N, is in Kimberly. The other, Deposit 56-57, is just north of Fort James Corp.'s Broadway mill, 1919 S. Broadway.

Neither project has been awarded a blank check. That's particularly true for Deposit 56-57, where the seven paper mills deemed potentially responsible for polluting the river with PCBs have committed \$7 million for the project.

With the disposal costs known, designers can now work backwards to determine how much material can be removed and treated, said Bill Fitzpatrick, DNR project manager.

"We're still (far) from the final design," he said. "But we estimate we will remove 2,000 to 3,000 pounds of PCBs — about 5 percent of all PCBs in the river."

About 60,000 cubic yards of material will be removed from Deposit 56-57. After the sediment and water are separated, the water will be treated and the contaminated dirt will be stored in the Washburn County landfill.

The two projects will test hydraulic dredging, where the material is vacuumed off the river bottom in a process the DNR says is much cleaner than the typical mechanical-scoop dredging used for maintaining the Fox River shipping channel.

"As a first step, this is going to be outstanding for the river system," Fitzpatrick said. "I think there's going to be a lot of good lessons coming out of this."

At Deposit N, about 12,000 cubic yards of material and 400 pounds of PCBs will be removed from a site near Sunset Beach.

Koester Environmental of Evansville, Ind., has been awarded the \$2.5 million contract to clean Deposit N. Work in the river should begin in September, Fitzpatrick said.

The Deposit 56-57 project is further behind, but dredging should begin this fall, he said. A public informational meeting on the Green Bay project is tentatively scheduled for mid-to-late August.

Information from the two projects is expected to be incorporated into the Remedial Investigation-Feasibility Study the DNR is performing for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as part of the Superfund process.

The seven companies are Fort James, U.S. Paper Mills, NCR, Appleton Papers, Riverside Paper, Wisconsin Tissue Mills and P.H. Glatfelter.

**READER'S COMMENT**

**Prove that dredging  
for PCBs does more  
good than harm**

News-Chronicle

Over the last few months I have read many letters to the editor written by people who seem to feel endangered by the mere presence of some PCBs in the mud of the Fox River bottom.

They also imply that the seven paper companies involved had done something illegal and should be punished for their "sins of the past." Don't they know it was the paper companies themselves that blew the whistle on PCBs and voluntarily stopped putting them into the sewer system way back in 1971 (27 years ago)?

Until that time, the mills were acting just as responsibly as are St. Norbert College and Lawrence University in dumping E. coli into their respective sewer systems, as they do at the present time.

If, after 27 years, the PCBs are still present in the mud of the river bottom, I'd say that's good evidence that they are entombed and should remain there.

The proposed dredging is something that the Sierra Club, et al., should oppose, but I haven't seen any of the activism that resulted in a mining moratorium up in Crandon.

In that case Exxon only wanted to remove zinc and copper ore from dry deposits, where the process water or tailing would be under control, impounded and treated before returning it to the Wolf or Wisconsin rivers.

The moratorium required Exxon to provide proof that the proposed process has been used successfully elsewhere for some number of years.

Why not apply the same safety requirements to the mining of PCBs from the Fox River? After all, the dredging process is really an underwater open-pit mining operation, and I say put on a moratorium for some number of years and then require the pro-dredge people to show proof that this dredging system has worked in a flowing river without doing more harm than good.

If the PCBs are still potent or "poisonous," we could hope that they would kill the lamprey eels or the zebra mussels, but alas, even the fish-eating eagles near Kaukauna are thriving.

The dredging would surely disrupt the habitat of the native Wisconsin salamander. If other places can prevail in saving snail darters, spotted owls and kangaroo rats, we should do the right thing and save our mud puppies.

**Don Krabbe**  
Seymour

## LOCAL COLUMNIST'S PERSPECTIVE

# Misinformation mucks up river cleanup issue

What a difference a week makes. As I write this, news of the Superfund listing is all over our beloved *News-Chronicle*.

Last week I had the easiest job ever. I stood at a mall entrance and asked people to sign a petition demanding Superfund status

**Groups are already busy trying to undermine the real effectiveness of the Fox River cleanup.**

for the Fox River. In two hours, I got more than 60 signatures with only two people declining. Public support for Superfund is tremendous. Now the real work begins. Speaking of Superfund, it was a pleasure to attend a meeting of the Brown County Executive Committee on July 6. Chairman Tim Hinkfuss showed what it takes to properly study an issue *before* a vote. He invited Jim Habnberg from the Environmental Protection Agency to speak to the committee.

Mr. Habnberg cleared up a number of

misconceptions about Superfund. He also brought two videotapes. One was the paper industry animation (cartoon), widely seen on TV news about two months ago, that showed what *they* called a "hydraulic dredge" chewing up the river bottom with the entire mass of sludge flowing down river, a shameless misrepresentation of what actually happens.

The other tape was an EPA underwater video from a PCB cleanup site in Manistique, Mich. This tape clearly showed how the dredge ground up the sludge and sucked it away cleanly. It then showed how the



**Curt Anderson**

For The News-Chronicle

water was separated from the sand and dewatered, leaving a much smaller amount of toxic sludge to deal with.

The Clean Water Action Council and the EPA will have this video available for viewing at public meetings to come. It's a "must-see."

These videos tell us a lot. The EPA tape showed us that the "horrors" of hydraulic dredging were nonexistent. The paper industry cartoon showed us that they thought we wouldn't recognize a ringer when we see one.

Supervisors Lucy Bunker, Pat Collins, Dave Hansen, Tim Hinkfuss, Dean Reich and Keith Watermolen asked both Habnberg and paper industry representatives some excellent questions. These questions proved embarrassing for the paper industry, and rightly so.

Even as you read this, certain groups are already busy trying to undermine the real effectiveness of the Fox River cleanup by announcing a suitable landfill site near Ashland.

We should be outraged that, once again, the DNR is pushing for only *moving* the PCBs to a landfill instead of breaking sown the PCBs into individual chemicals so that the problem is done with forever.

Why is the DNR pushing for this "solution"? Because it's cheaper. But that's only in the short term. In the long term, it will have to be dealt with again, when the landfill leaks and it has ruined yet another watershed and our precious groundwater itself. DNR uses the term "cost-effective". False economy!

It is absolutely imperative that you get off your hiney and get to some or all of the meetings that will be coming up. It is your input that will make Superfund work. Come. Learn.

Anderson, 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@itof.com](mailto:chronicle@itof.com).

## LYLE LAHEY'S VIEWPOINT



Supporters of the recently signed mining moratorium law want to see that it is properly enforced.

Forty organizations and 25 state senators and representatives have signed a letter to Department of Natural Resources Secretary George Meyer urging him to stop the permit process of Nicolet Minerals Co. until it provides proof of environmentally

no example mine has been shown in the more than 60 days since the bill was signed into law, said Ken Fish, treaty rights and mining impacts director for the Menominee Nation, at a news conference Wednesday in Green Bay.

Nicolet Minerals Co. is attempting to obtain permits for a copper sulfide mine near Crandon.

tees the agency needs to study the project.

"There's nothing whatsoever in the mining moratorium law to stop processing the permits," Druckenmiller said.

Wisconsin Citizens Action talked to more than 300,000 households across the state and found that, ultimately, they want proof, said Dave

Nicolet Minerals says it is currently screening mines in the U.S. and Canada to find an example mine, which should be presented to the agency by this fall.

"We're taking a very serious approach to meeting this test," company spokesman Dale Albert

Becky Katers of the Clean Action Council said Gov. T

## Learn more about Superfund

Two meetings will be held in the next two weeks regarding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposal to add the Fox River to the Superfund list.

► An overview of the Remedial Investigation-Feasibility Study is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at Lawrence University's Harper Hall, 420 E. College Ave., Appleton.

The RIFS is the background study that will create a list of cleanup alternatives and their price tags.

► A forum titled "Perspectives on PCBs and Public and Ecological Health" is scheduled for 7 p.m. July 27 at Liberty Hall, U.S. 441 and County CE, Kimberly.

Scientists from two government agencies will discuss current scientific evidence of health effects associated with exposure to PCBs.

# Board accepts Superfund

**Supervisors killed a resolution encouraging a voluntary Fox River cleanup**

By Brian M. Kerlin  
The News-Chronicle

The Brown County Board effectively agreed Wednesday that the federal government should get involved in the cleanup of the Fox River.

After 2½ hours of debate and public comment, the panel voted 18-5, with one board member abstaining, to kill a resolution that opposed a Superfund designation for the waterway and encouraged a voluntary cleanup settlement by Jan. 1, 2000.

The five supervisors voting for the resolution — or to oppose the designation — were Eugene Schmitz, Merlin Vandercplas, Kevin Kuehn, Pat Schillinger and Robert Wilmet. Sup. Pat Moynihan abstained because he works for a paper mill.

Last week, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposed listing the river on the Superfund list to help spur a PCB cleanup. That announcement triggered a 60-day public comment period.

The vote drew criticism from County Executive Nancy Nusbaum, who predicted afterward if the EPA's track record holds true, no sediment will be cleaned up for 15 years.

"This board is the only one that has not seen the problems of an EPA Superfund listing," she said, referring to votes by municipal and sewerage district boards throughout the Valley endorsing the resolution this board defeated.

EPA involvement should be wel-

comed, said Sup. Guy Zima.

"If the feds are willing to put up the money, let's get with it. Let's get it done!" he said. "Let those that had the super profits pay for the cleanup somewhere down the line."

Schillinger said the county should go on record in support of a state-led voluntary settlement.

"If we can encourage a negotiated settlement, then the paper companies are going to pay," he said.

But Sup. Pat Collins argued the 12 years of waiting for the state Department of Natural Resources and seven companies to reach a deal is long enough.

"The longer we wait, the more this stuff leeches in the Bay," he said.

Kuehn said eliminating PCBs in and of itself will not make the river pristine. He advocated a more holistic approach in which nonpoint source pollution and water clarity issues are also addressed — outside of Superfund.

Efforts were made to split the resolution into as many as three parts, but were rejected after the board heard comments from the public, including representatives from the EPA, DNR, Clean Water Action Council and Fort James Corp.

A motion to refer the resolution back to committee failed on a 16-7 vote, with Moynihan again abstaining.

As Nusbaum said, the board's vote was the latest in a series of positions taken by local governments. On Tuesday, for example, the Outagamie County Board voted 32-6 to oppose Superfund.

The seven potentially responsible paper companies are Fort James, U.S. Paper Mills, NCR, Appleton Papers, Riverside Paper, Wisconsin Tissue Mills and P.H. Glatfelter.

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Sports update

## WPXG-TV (Channel 14) signs on

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At the controls- Dean Laitinen, master control supervisor for WPXG-TV Channel 14, works the programming board at the new PAX NET affiliate's office, 975 Parkview Rd., Ashwaubenon. WPXG went on the air locally Thursday morning.. (Paul Wait / The News-Chronicle)

### The Green Bay market's seventh free television station started broadcasting Thursday

**By Paul Wait**  
**The News-Chronicle**  
ASHWAUBENON - Even the infomercials on WPXG-TV are family friendly.

With a lineup loaded with program-length commercials and a smattering of promotions for its parent network PAX NET, WPXG-TV (Channel 14) signed on to Northeast Wisconsin airwaves Thursday.

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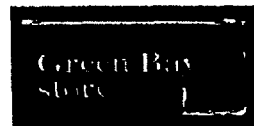
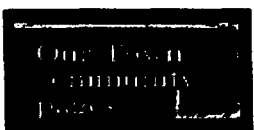
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**READERS' COMMENTS**  
 News-Chronicle readers' reactions to the latest Packer news appear in the [guest book](#).



The new station will feature syndicated, family oriented shows like "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman" and "Life Goes On" when PAX NET's 80-station network launches national programming Aug. 31, said station manager Mitch Lambert.

Until then, viewers can expect to see a lot of pitches for food processors and exercise equipment, he said.

But not all infomercials make WPXG's cut.

"Even with the infomercials, we're not going to carry anything that's not family friendly," Lambert said.

The station plans to carry "Worship and Praise TV," a show with religious messages set to music, from midnight to 5 a.m. daily, and will have one locally produced program, a show about the criminal justice system called "Fox Valley Crime and Justice."

WPXG's effort to fill a G-rated program niche has been nine months in the making.

Paxson Communications, PAX NET's parent company, based in West Palm Beach, Fla., purchased its broadcasting license from a Milwaukee-based company. The transmitter was erected north of Pulaski in May. The control room and offices were set up in the new Parkview Plaza building, 975 Parkview Rd., Ashwaubenon. Finally, the Federal Communications Commission gave its final approval.

And Thursday, both Lambert and master control supervisor Dean Laitinen were thrilled with the reward of transmitting the station's first shows.

"Everybody's been anxious," Laitinen said. "The closer we got to broadcasting, the more excited everyone got."

"We plan on staying on from now until eternity," Lambert proclaimed.

Laitinen is confident the new network will be embraced by Northeast

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[Gift ideas for Packer fans.](#)

Wisconsin viewers.

"I think viewers are ready," he said.  
"People are out there saying, 'I want a station I can put my kids in front of the TV and not have to worry about it.' "

Potential local advertisers have responded well to the network's concept, Lambert said.

"Some of the major advertisers are interested in buying time with us next year, and some have bought for this year," he said.

WPXG is not on cable television locally yet because Paxson Communications is still negotiating with Time Warner Cable, but Lambert said the station will be carried on all local cable companies by Aug. 31.

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# News-Chronicle

## Local news at a glance

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- Weather report

#### **Fox cleanup deal near**

An agreement to guide initial cleanup work on the Fox River is close at hand, according to state Department of Natural Resources Secretary George Meyer. Meyer wouldn't say whether the pact would be for future study or actual cleanup beyond two demonstration projects planned for this summer. Gov. Tommy Thompson has been pushing for a voluntary settlement so the river can avoid becoming a Superfund site, as proposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

#### **New bridge sparks debate**

An adhoc committee reviewed options for the new De Pere bridge this week \_ expected to be built in 2006 - but made no recommendation. Options include a new two-lane bridge between Main and Charles streets for east-bound traffic, while a new two-lane bridge for west-bound traffic would replace the existing Claude Allouez Bridge. Another option is a new four-lane bridge between Main and Charles streets, or a new bridge along the existing pathway.

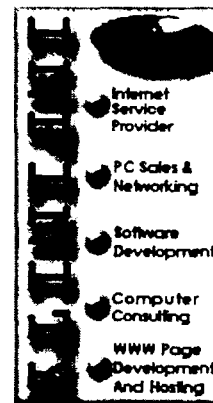
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**Maybe the Fox isn't  
safe for any of us.** 7/21/98

Editor, *The Post-Crescent*:

I am thoroughly confused.

For the past decade and more, I have read about and watched the steady improvement of the Fox River. Now I learn that this beautiful river is underlaid with cancer causing PCBs. And because Mother Nature cannot solve this problem, or so we are told, we must solve it ourselves.

The solution is to dredge the river - Little Lake Butte des Morts as well, since this is also a part of the Fox River - dry the sediment, then truck the stuff to Sarona, where it will be made harmless.

Why is this sediment harmless in Sarona, but deadly here?

The difference is that in the Valley the PCBs get into the food chain; in Sarona they do not because the runoff from the sediment can be easily treated in the local wastewater plant.

So we are told. Apparently, this sediment cannot be safely treated here.

Should we now call this river "The Beautiful Fox" or should we call it "The Deadly Fox?"

I don't really know, but for certain we should not drink its water; we should not eat fish that come from it; we should not swim in it; we should not eat ducks or deer that drink it.

It may not even be safe to breathe the air above it!

For safety's sake, and before it's too late, it might be good for all of us to move out of here.

If we don't, one way or the other, it's going to get us.

**Giles Clark,  
Menasha**

MUTH EDITOR,  
New London

7/21/98  
**LET RIVER BE:** Regarding the Fox River Superfund, let's throw money at it and see if it gets better. Isn't the river cleaner than 15 years ago? Mother Nature probably will clean up our mess better than we ever could. Every year, she buries the contaminated soil deeper with the erosion from the river banks. Let's not stir up the river bottom and the bring the PCBs back into today's circle of life.

**Bill Feldkamp,  
Kaukauna**

# Citizens question FOX cleanup at hearing

Those in attendance questioned everything from terminology to how clean the river will be

By Brian M. Kerhln  
The News-Chronicle

APPLETON — Class was in session Tuesday night and the subject was the cleanup of the Fox River.

Nearly 150 people filled a Lawrence University lecture hall to learn about various cleanup efforts, ask questions and offer their comments.

Betty Bernard Schaber of Appleton chastised paper companies for not participating in the discussion and also criticized several area counties for refusing to

accept PCB-contaminated river sediment at their landfills.

"It's our money. It's our land. It's our public use. And we need to get it fixed," Bernard Schaber said.

Despite the chance to offer general comments, however, most of the open session was spent picking the brains of officials from the state and federal agencies that sponsored the meeting.

Some questions were basic, such as "What's a data point?" The answer: Any bit of information, such as a measurement of PCBs at a certain depth of sediment at a certain point on a particular day, said Paul Putzier, of Remediation Technology, the firm conducting the Remedial Investigation Feasibility Study of the river.

Please see FOX, Page 4

## FOX: DNR says a cleaner river would generate millions

FROM PAGE 1

So far, more than 100,000 data points have been gathered, he said, making the Fox River one of the most studied waterways anywhere.

David Tummert of Appleton questioned the standard of returning the river to the point that there can be unlimited fish consumption. He said that is not important to him.

David Allen of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said his agency is examining any impaired uses for humans, fish and wildlife.

Bob Paulson of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources said one study indicated more than \$640 million in recreational spending would be generated by a restored river.

On the best day, water at the mouth of the Fox River shows PCB levels exceeding water quality standards by more than 1,500 times. On the worst day, standards are being

exceeded by 50,000 times, Paulson said.

Other questions regarded possible historic artifacts on the river bottom, definitions of technical terms, clarification of the various government programs, studies on human health effects of PCBs and possible cleanup methods.

No decisions on how the river will be cleaned have been made beyond this year's two demonstration dredging projects at locations in Green Bay and Kimberly. But Paulson said the DNR does have a guiding philosophy:

"We don't want to go into a spot and leave something worse behind," he said. "That's a no-brainer to us."

Most of the presentation Tuesday specifically explained the Remedial Investigation Feasibility Study, or RIFS, being performed by the DNR and Remediation Technology.

RIFS findings, expected early

next year, will be used as a basis for Superfund cleanup decisions and, in all likelihood, negotiations with the seven paper companies deemed potentially responsible for polluting the river with PCBs.

The RIFS, however, is just one part of the two-track Superfund process underway.

Citizens will have 60 days to comment on the actual U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposal to list the Fox River as the Superfund site, once the official notice is listed in the Federal Register. That could happen any day.

Last week, the Brown County Board voted in favor of Superfund; before that, Outagamie County voted against it.

The seven potentially responsible parties are Fort James Corp., U.S. Paper Mills, NCR, Appleton Paper, Riverside Paper, Wisconsin Tissue Mills and P.H. Glatfelter.

## LOCAL COLUMNIST'S PERSPECTIVE

## Spirit of Superfund works to our benefit

A hearty "thank you" for the work done by the Brown County Board on July 15 regarding the Superfund.

It was a surprise victory to those of us who have worked so hard to get the Fox River cleaned up. It was reassuring to watch the workings of government, discussing the pros and cons of various paragraphs of a curiously worded resolution that said, basically, "Go away, Superfund."

In the end, those supporting Superfund were Sups. Baenen, Bunker, Clancy, Collins, Haefs, Hansen, Hinkfuss, Johnson, Kaye, Krueger, Reich, Schadewald, Schmitt, Simons, Vander Leest, Watermolen, Williquette and Zima.

Thank you all for representing Brown County and the future of the Fox River.

**After getting booted and hissed in Outagamie County, it was a joy to have no limits on free speech in Brown County.**



**Curt Anderson**

For The News-Chronicle

After attending the Outagamie County Board meeting on July 14, and getting booed and hissed for having the nerve to want more than one minute to speak, it was a joy to have no limits on free speech in Brown County.

Especially troubling in Outagamie County was the rude behavior of several board members, including one man who told us to "go back to your own county," in spite of the fact that the polluting done in his area is now in our area.

This is like the troublesome neighbor whose immense dog does his immense business in your yard. When you go over to

complain or to suggest some easy ways to get his dog's project out of your yard, he makes you out to be the troublemaker, which of course, is always easier than actually taking responsibility.

As with the De Pere City Council, these folks had already made up their minds about the issue, so we were just keeping them from getting home early (perish the thought that they would actually have to spend more time on this topic.)

When a woman from Appleton asked to speak at the Brown County Board meeting, she was graciously allowed to speak, was not booed or hissed, had no catcalls directed at her, and her comments were welcome and insightful.

I have been busy on Fox River cleanup issues for the last six years, certainly not a record like Becky Leighton-Katers, who's been at it for 12 years, and Bob Schmitz, who's been at it for more than 40 years, and others who have devoted their adult lives to this concern. Collectively, and with others, we have attended many hundreds of hearings, meetings and summits regarding

Fox River cleanup and clean water in general.

It was disappointing that there were no familiar faces on Outagamie County's Board from any of those hearings, yet the majority voted against Superfund despite their lack of experience.

Superfund is already working for us. The Environmental Protection Agency gave \$1.6 million to the Department of Natural Resources to conduct a feasibility study of cleanup options and more dollars to help pay the cost of the demonstration projects this fall.

The EPA and DNR have together spent more than \$20 million locally to document PCB contamination. The spirit of Superfund has been here for some time to our benefit.

Godspeed, Superfund.

Anderson, 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](mailto:chronicle@itol.com).

# Beyond the publicized, dangers in Fox abound

PCBs are the biggest risk to wildlife and human health in the Fox River, a consultant said

7/23/98

By Brian M. Kerhin  
The News-Chronicle

There more than 300 chemicals floating in the Fox River and buried in its sediment.

Pesticides, lead and arsenic are present at levels many times those known to cause harm to humans or wildlife, according to Tim Thompson of Remediation Technology Inc., a Seattle firm working on the river.

Thompson's duties focus on risk assessment, one part of the Remedial Investigation-Feasibility Study, which is expected to be the basis for any cleanup.

Despite the risks from other chemicals, polychlorinated biphenyls — commonly known as PCBs — are considered the biggest problem.

"The risks from PCBs far exceeded anything else we found in the Fox River," Thompson said.

How much more?

Instead of levels perhaps 30 times the known risk for arsenic and 50

## Want to learn more about PCBs?

> A forum is scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday at Liberty Hall, 800 Eisenhower Drive, Kimberly — just east of the intersection of U.S. 441 and County CE.

Scheduled to speak:

- > Theo Colburn, World Wildlife Fund;
- > Chris De Rosa, U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry;
- > Donald Tillitt, Environmental and Contaminants Research Center;
- > J. Milton Clark, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

times the known risk for the pesticide DDE, the Fox River's concentrations of some forms of PCBs are as many as 1,000 times the known risk level, he said.

The greatest risk to humans is eating fish caught in the river, Thompson said. PCBs work their way up through the food chain and accumulate in the fatty tissue of fish.

Swimming in the water, drinking a bit of the water or simply being near the water do not present major hazards, he said.

7/23/98

## Region scrambles in fight against toxic sediment

**The U.S. and Canadian governments need to keep their commitment to the Great Lakes, official says**

By Brian M. Karlin  
The News-Chronicle

Green Bay and Fox Valley residents are not alone in pushing for cleanup of the Fox River.

Susan Bayh, U.S. representative to the International Joint Commission, said this week that cleaning contaminated sediment throughout the Great Lakes needs to be a higher priority of the United States and Canadian governments.

The IJC is a multinational organization established in 1909 to handle water disputes involving the two countries. Bayh discussed its Ninth Biennial Report on Great Lakes Quality during a conference call with reporters.

Bayh said the lakes face three major challenges: removing contami-

nated sediment, reducing air pollution and enacting land-use controls.

"There isn't as much action as we'd like to see (in cleanup efforts)," Bayh said.

The IJC is asking both governments to make specific recommendations by the end of next year regarding steps they will take to fix the problems.

Bayh said it is good that state and local governments are increasingly active in resolving water issues.

"(But) that does not relieve the federal governments of responsibility to see (the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement) enacted," she said.

Bayh did not specifically discuss the Fox River. The U.S. government has begun to play a more active role recently, with the Environmental Protection Agency proposing to add the Fox to the Superfund list.

The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement was adopted in 1972 and is currently up for review by both governments.

## LOCAL COLUMNIST'S PERSPECTIVE

## You don't know what you got till it's gone

*"Don't it always seem to go that you don't know what you got till it's gone ... pave paradise and put up a parking lot, cut all the trees and put them in a tree museum ..."*

And the song goes on — Carole King's song.

My brother Louis Clark III says that Joni Mitchell wrote this song.

**Does it matter who makes the Fox all clean and sparkling as long as you and the fish can live with it?**

He's a writer. Writers think they know everything. Does it matter who wrote the song if you can sing it?

There is our star, the sun, and more than 200 billion stars in our galaxy, and 25 galaxies in our cluster, and millions more galaxies in our universe. That's a lot of stars.

Meanwhile, back on Planet Earth, there is Morning Star. She just turned 10 and knows more about the history of American Indians in North America than I learned in my anthropology class at St. Norbert College.

There were other important history lessons at St. Norbert in the old days, like the Packers using the dorms for summer



**Yvonne Mathvler**

For The News-Chronicle

camp and we fans (and serious summer school students) lining up in the cafeteria behind them just to get a glimpse.

"Yvonne, did you know that the people of the Sanquintime tribe disappeared from here?" She likes to hear me say, "No, I didn't know that, Morning Star."

Knowing something I don't know makes her smile.

I spent 30 minutes trying every sideways, up-and-down, in-and-out way to stick a little piece of plastic back into my computer printer. Morning Star asked for a flashlight, waved me off and plinked that plastic piece in place and it worked. She smiled really big.

Morning Star is the only daughter in a big family, and her parents, Keith and Terry Skenandore (and I love them for this), share her with me from time to time, for they know that my grandchildren are out of state.

But Morning Star decided I was not another grandmother in her life and said so. "I have Grandmother Mary and my other grandmother. You, you can be my friend."

I am honored; I hug the word "friend" in my head. A brain warmer.

"My brother Elton says that I was born 'uneven' because I think about things that other kids don't think about," Morning Star says. There's something else about her that is interesting, more interesting than knowing more; it's seeing more than I do. Morning Star can see what can't be seen.

When she and I were coming east on State 172 from Oneida and on the bridge, Morning Star looked over the Fox River and said, "I wonder what the river looked like before all the people came and put the bad stuff in it?"

All I remember about crossing the Fox when I was a kid (living in the country in Oneida, "going to town" was an adventure) is that I liked the way the bridge hummed in the part that went up when the big ships passed through the water. It was exciting to see a ship with Finland or Japan painted on the side and think about people from far-away countries coming all the way to Green Bay.

And how did they get here? I thought about the bridge and the boats and what's on

and over the river; I never thought about the river or what's in it, except for the fish.

It's summer, and Morning Star is busy eating more popsicles than Popeye ate spinach. She is biking, painting (already decided to be an artist), swimming, playing with the other kids. Morning Star is a normal, healthy and beautiful young child.

But Morning Star can do something more interesting than wonder about the Fox River; she can get an old woman to hear her and see what she could not see before.

Thank you, Morning Star, my friend.

I can see the Fox River, all clean and sparkling. Young and old, the human tribe (wouldn't want it to disappear) needs the water in the Fox River. Does it matter who makes the Fox all clean and sparkling as long as you and the fish can live with it?

"Don't it always seem to go that you don't know what you got till it's gone ...," by Carole King or Joni Mitchell. My brother and I always disagree on anything that doesn't matter. He lives on the Wolf River, and that's another river story.

Mathvler, whose column appears here each Thursday, is a lifelong resident of Oneida whose ancestry in the tribe is traceable to the mid-1700s. As a grandmother, she is a tribal elder which, she says, allows her to know everything and eat before others. Write to her via e-mail at [chronicle@itot.com](mailto:chronicle@itot.com).

N-C Superfund 7/23/98  
breakthrough?

Gov. Tommy Thompson is announcing a meeting that could lead to a cleanup settlement.

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# Fox River cleanup talks to pick up today; meeting place is still a mystery 7/23/98

**Negotiations hosted by the governor today would be the first since November**

By Brian M. Kerlin  
The News-Chronicle

APPLETON — Gov. Tommy Thompson will host "lots of groups" today as negotiations resume regarding the cleanup of the Fox River.

While he would not say exactly who will attend the session, Thompson suggested Wednesday the invitation list includes everyone who should be there.

Presumably, he means the seven paper companies deemed potentially responsible for PCB contamination of river sediment, the state Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and two American Indian tribes.

The governor would not say where or when the talks would take place, saying half jokingly that revealing that information would cause the media to sit outside the door.

Thompson, who has blasted the EPA's call to put the river on the Superfund list, wasn't sure how optimistic to be about the chances of

reaching a negotiated deal.

"Call me (tonight)," Thompson said. "I can't tell you how close we are until we start negotiating."



Thompson

News of the first negotiations since November probably would have pleased the Fox Valley municipal leaders who gathered at Kaukauna's Riverside Park. Only a few hours before Thompson's announcement, the group signed a resolution calling for a voluntary settlement.

"We want everybody to get back to the table and get the job done," said Ashwaubenon Village President Ted Pamperin.

Although the settlement process is out of the municipalities' control, Appleton Mayor Tim Hanna is confident the communities' concerns will be heard.

"Hopefully, our collective voice is louder than an individual voice," Hanna said.

Neeah Mayor Kenneth Harwood said the resolution had been misinterpreted as being anti-Superfund. The resolution recognizes Superfund as a

last resort, but he said it should not get that far.

"It's time they stopped fighting, get together and get a plan we're all comfortable with," Harwood said.

Some environmentalists have criticized a negotiated settlement because it could result in less public input than the Superfund process.

But because of the strong possibility that a Superfund cleanup would end up in court, a negotiated settlement is preferable, said Dan Alesch, president of the Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District.

Outagamie County Sup. Patricia Stevens proposed another method to keep the public and local officials informed and involved: a monitoring committee.

She suggested a multicounty panel with members of the public, elected officials and activists to keep tabs on the talks and, eventually, the cleanup.

Representatives from more than a dozen communities and sewerage districts passed the resolution, including Ashwaubenon, Howard and Green Bay. The Brown County Board rejected a similar resolution. The full Green Bay City Council has not voted.



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THE GREEN BAY

# News-Chronicle

## LAHEY

*A Sampling of last week's cartoons*



Second cartoon | [Third cartoon](#) |



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# Fox River cleanup meeting could yield interim deal <sup>7/24/98</sup>

Talks among Gov. Tommy Thompson, seven paper companies and government officials could result in an agreement if good-faith talks continue.

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THE GREEN BAY NEWS-CHRONICLE

LOCAL

Friday, July 24, 1998 3

## Fox cleanup deal near

**DNR Secretary Meyer says the parties are "very close to a meeting of the minds"**

By Brian M. Kerlin  
The News-Chronicle

An agreement to guide initial cleanup work on the Fox River is close at hand, according to state Department of Natural Resources Secretary George Meyer.

Meyer was one of several officials from various government agencies and the Fox River Group — the seven paper companies identified as responsible for polluting the river with PCBs — who met in Madison Thursday at the behest of Gov. Tommy Thompson.

The governor met separately with the two sides and then brought the parties together for a brief time, said Kevin Keane, the governor's spokesman.

Although the ultimate goal is a global settlement with all of the regulatory bodies involved in the process, the immediate goal is an interim deal that would guide work for a year or two, Meyer said.

"There are some concepts we need to set down on paper. We are close to a meeting of the minds on this issue," he said.

Meyer would not say whether the pact would be for further study or actual cleanup beyond two demonstration projects planned for this summer.

Depending on how the Thursday's agreements are received by all parties upon further review, announcement of an interim deal could be made in the next two weeks, he said.

Thompson has been pushing for a voluntary settlement so the river can avoid becoming a Superfund site, as proposed recently by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Meyer believes a deal can be achieved.



File photo / The News-Chronicle

**FISHERS CROWD THE FOX RIVER** in this 1988 file photo. With the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency close to intervening in the removal of PCBs in the Fox, local government and paper company representatives convened Thursday in Madison at the behest of Gov. Tommy Thompson.

"This is an 'if' — and I underline 'if.' If the same kind of discussion can continue in good faith by all parties, it greatly increases my optimism this issue can be resolved," Meyer said.

Lynn Wilk, spokeswoman for the Fox River Group, had no details about what happened.

"We're not putting any statements out," Wilk said.

Two of the Fox River Group negotiators are from the two impacted companies with mills in Brown County: Thomas Olson, president of U.S. Paper Mills in De Pere, and Mark Reimer, an attorney for Fort James Corp. Neither returned messages asking for comment.

Oneida Tribe Chairwoman De-

borah Doxtator attended the meeting for about 90 minutes. She said there was a good discussion of what the agencies want out of a cleanup, the cleanup options and who was going to pay for it.

"I believe we're all on the same page," Doxtator said. "The cleanup can be accomplished, and the paper mills can stay in business at the same time."

Thursday's talks were the first negotiations since the governments put an offer on the table in November. Although the meeting was "pretty encouraging," in Meyer's words, it's not surprising talks have waited this long, he said.

First, Thompson is just getting ac-

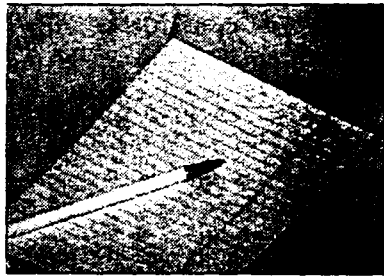
tively involved in the talks. His shuttling between the two groups was a factor in Thursday's progress, Meyer said.

Second, the DNR, EPA and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service are all getting closer to making decisions about the Fox River's future. The timeframe itself creates an urgent scenario for dealmaking, he said.

The companies legally dumped as much as 825,000 pounds of PCBs into the Fox River beginning in the 1950s. After research linked the chemical compounds to health problems in wildlife and humans, the industry began to stop using PCBs. The U.S. government banned them altogether in the early 1970s.

7/24/98

Letters to *The 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 letters to the postal address, e-mail address or fax number listed at the bottom of this page.



## Get out of the way of Superfund

It must be an election year. "Governor for Life" Tommy Thompson has forgotten his motorcycle for the moment and decided he's serious about cleaning up the Fox River. He's been utterly useless for 12 years, but now he means business.

Thompson protested the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund proposals as "the height of Washington arrogance" because the federal government, after years of waiting, has said it is ready to do the cleanup and would like public comment on the proposal.

Perhaps Thompson doesn't realize that while the state has wasted 12 years playing footsie with the paper industry, public health has suffered from river pollution. At least the feds seem to understand what's at stake. An added bonus is that the feds will host public hearings and take public comments, which Tommy's Department of Natural Resources has never done.

Thompson says the state can do the cleanup "faster and cheaper." But again, what does this mean?

Are we going to get a cut-rate, sloppy cleanup that only pleases the paper industry? Heaven help us. The paper industry has given big bucks to Tommy's re-election campaigns.

Thompson also said "the state can do a better and more efficient job of cleaning the river without a Superfund designation."

Theoretically, of course, this is true, but where is Thompson's proof? The only action we've seen has been the result of pressure from the federal government.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has delayed its legal actions for a year and a half, giving the state even more time to find solutions, to no avail. The Superfund proposal also gives more time, but the truth is that serious negotiations stopped last November. So Thompson's claim that he can achieve a voluntary settlement anytime soon seems weak at best.

Time is up, Tommy. You had your chance and blew it. Please get out of the way and stop objecting to Superfund.

**Robert Schmitz**  
Green Bay

## Thompson can't be trusted

Local leaders claim they want local control of Fox River cleanup, so they're trying to block Superfund and allow cleanup decisions to be made by one man in Madison who controls the Department of Natural Resources.

This one man and his partner have received more than \$150,000 in "donations" from the pulp and paper industry for re-election campaigns between 1990 and 1997. He's also gotten \$645,000 from lawyers and lobbyists, and \$325,000 from insurance representatives who are anxious to avoid environmental liabilities.

Does this man represent the people of the Fox Valley or the polluters? Examine his record. He's had 12 years to clean up the river and hasn't even started. Before this year, he hasn't seemed interested.

Local officials have rushed to pass anti-Superfund resolutions, claiming they support a "local solution." But what's local about it? The resolutions call for a "negotiated settlement" between this Madison man and industry, but the settlement is completely undefined. The resolutions set no bound-

aries for cost, cleanup methods, disposal sites, health standards, schedules, etc.

Even worse, no public input is required, so local residents are shut out of the debate.

The resolutions are a "blank check" for the man in Madison to do what he wants, regardless of local concerns. Even local elected officials are shut out of the negotiations.

Last year, the man from Madison approved a surprise deal and binding contracts with the paper industry, settling for less than 1 percent of river cleanup costs and giving corporations unusual control over so-called "cleanup demonstrations."

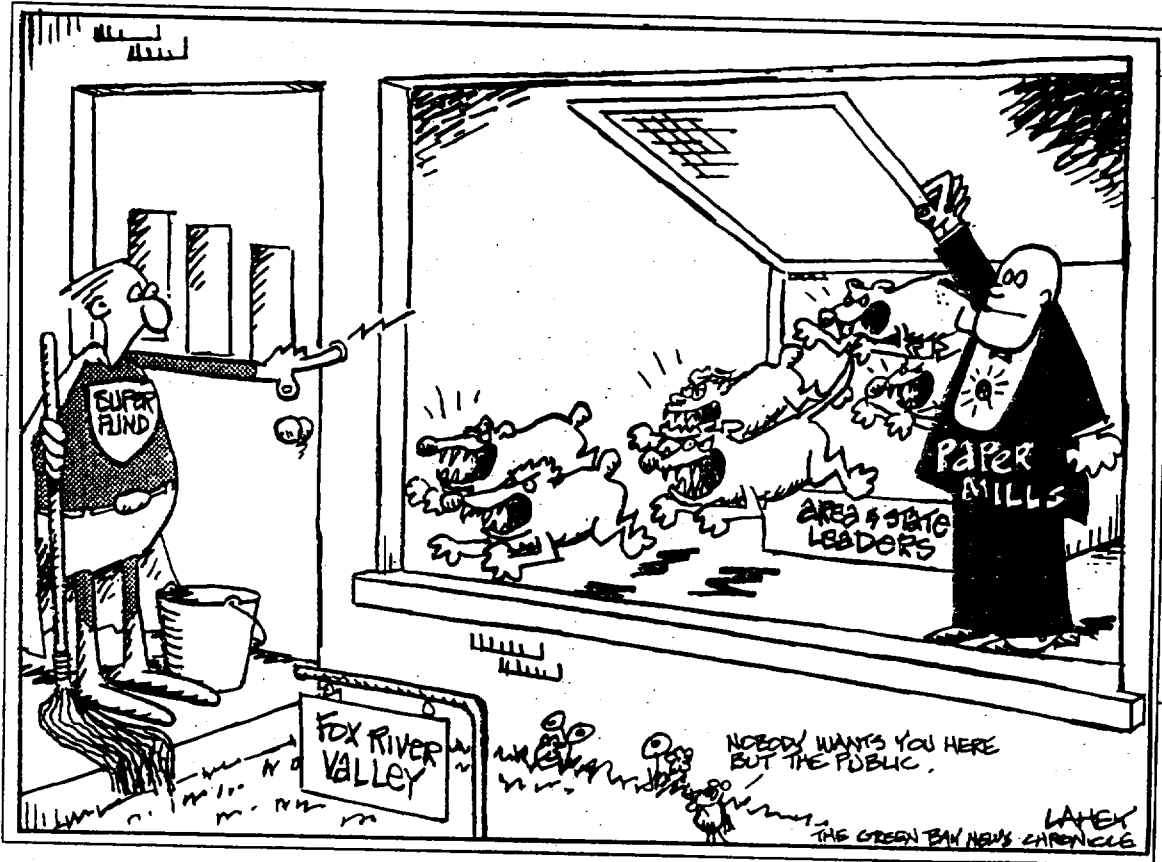
He made this sneaky deal without consulting local governments, local residents, legislators, Congress members, tribes or any agencies of the federal government. Is this who we want making all the decisions?

We need the federal Superfund, which guarantees true local involvement in the planning and decision-making.

Gov. Tommy Thompson can't be trusted.

**Rebecca Katers**  
Green Bay

## LEWIS LANEY'S VIEW



# Board right on Superfund

Last week the Brown County Board of Supervisors did a strange and laudable thing. When push came to shove for a vote on a resolution telling the federal government not to list the Lower Fox River as a Superfund site, the supervisors, by an 18-5 vote (one abstention), pulled the cork on that resolution and let it sink to the same depths as have tons of PCBs (poly-chlorinated biphenyls) that were discharged, legally albeit, into the Fox River by a number of paper mills along the Fox from Neenah to Green Bay.

It was a surprising move for a governmental body that all too often has been a compliant accomplice with and for the powerful paper industry in the Fox River Valley. On more than one occasion, all industry had to do was say "Jump," and the Board's only question was "How high?" But not any more.

Several supervisors had the intellectual honesty and dexterity to see through a B.S.-laden industry video on the "effects" of dredging the Fox to remove PCBs. Supervisor Pat Collins summed it up best when he spoke at last week's county board meeting and said with regard to that video,

"It's a bald-faced lie that they put forth to the people of Brown County and the Fox River."

Hear, hear!

Supervisor Guy Zima had an even more pointed comment about the anti-Superfund resolution, saying, "Are our elected officials so indebted to campaign contributors that they have to mouth such nonsense?"

And Supervisor Tim Hinkfuss, speaking before the county Executive Committee (which questioned the resolution seeking avoidance of Superfund status for the Lower Fox River), noted that "the river is our gold." Exacto-nundo, Mr. Hinkfuss!

The Fox River has been one of Wisconsin's most abused na-



**Mitch Bent**

Outdoor columnist

tural treasures. Its waters have been defiled by industrial and municipal discharges and urban runoff. Its wetlands have been filled in and destroyed. Its channel has been altered at taxpayer expense for the benefit of a few businesses under the social welfare program called AFDC, i.e., Aid For Dependent Corporations.

Yet the river has maintained a semblance of life throughout the years despite the atrocities rendered unto it. Cleanups forced by the Federal and state governments from the 1970s on have helped to clear up some of the aquatic blemishes. Fish restocking efforts by the Department of Natural Resources and groups like Muskies, Inc., and the Great Lakes Sport Fishermen's Association have brought back walleyes, spotted muskies, smallmouth bass, white bass and other species in tremendous numbers.

Despite all of this, the pernicious problems of chemical contamination from PCBs and other toxins have bedeviled the aquatic ecosystem of the Fox River.

While fish are plentiful, eating them is not recommended, because contaminant buildup in their flesh poses health risks to humans. Such a fishery, no matter how bountiful in numbers, is not a healthy one.

Paper industries responsible for depositing the PCBs into the Fox River and the DNR have been struggling to concoct a plan to clean up the witch's brew of contaminants in the river for a long time. Their "working

together to find a common solution" approach for the Fox cleanup has produced little progress to date, as to be expected. The DNR is a neutered regulatory agency, thanks to being made a political pawn of Governor Tommy Thompson vis-a-vis Republican approval of the 1995-97 biennial budget bill. Tommy is the polluters' lead cheerleader, and they scratch his back at election time with copious campaign contributions.

To whit, His Majesty made another of his typically ignorant comments when asked recently about having Superfund status for the Lower Fox. With intellectual acuity matched only by the likes of L'il Abner, Tommy grunted something to the effect that "da federal gummint should keep its big nose outta our bizness." Yeah, we've really made progress on the Fox cleanup without Superfund, haven't we?

The road to having Superfund status applied to the Lower Fox River is yet to be traversed. A 60-day comment period will give the affected public — not just the wealthy polluters — the right to comment on the process. There have been, and will continue to be, information sessions available to learn more about the contamination in the Fox River and how it can be corrected. Citizen input is being sought, and no doubt it will be given.

For the average person who lives by or uses the Fox River appears to have awakened from an extended attack of somnambulation, thanks to aggressive information dissemination on the Fox River's problems by groups like the Clean Water Action Council. The caterwauling and whining of the polluters is falling increasingly on deaf ears.

And the brave action last week by 18 Brown County supervisors, who told the polluters and the Chamber of Commerce to stick it

in their collective fannies with regard to that anti-Superfund resolution, attests quite loudly to that fact.

## LOWER FOX FORUM

A presentation on restoring the Lower Fox River, with perspectives on PCBs and public and ecological health, will be made Monday, July 27, 7 p.m., at Liberty Hall, 800 Eisenhower Drive, Kimberly (east of the Highway 441 and County Trunk CE intersection). The forum is sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Menominee and Oneida tribal nations. The public is encouraged to attend.

## NEW BOATING LAW

Starting Aug. 1, personal watercraft ("jet-ski") users will be required to slow down within 200 feet of lake shorelines, and all boat operators under the legal drinking age face penalties if they consume any alcohol.

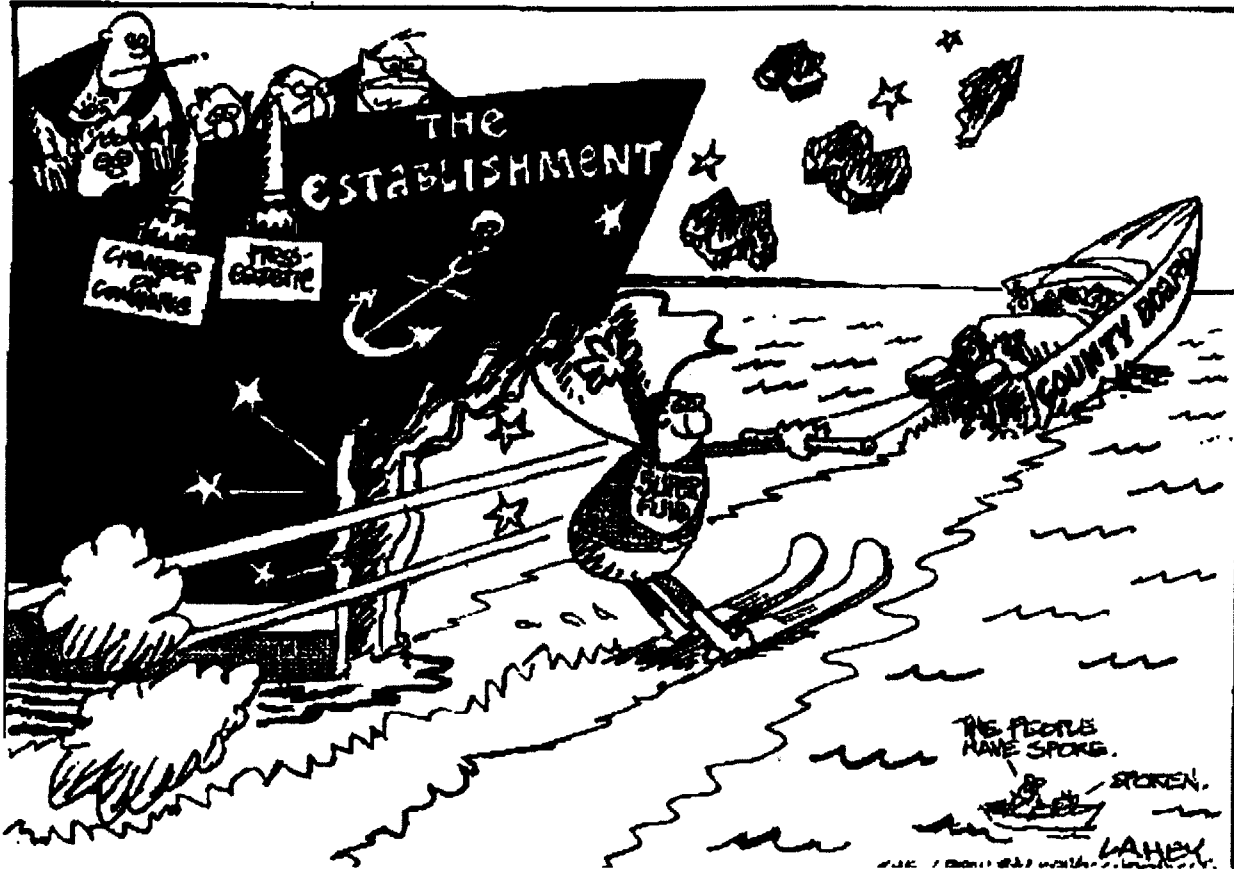
The 200-foot safety zone is intended to protect swimmers, canoeists and others using areas near shorelines. Too, the rule was made to reduce damage to aquatic plants and fish habitat that high-speed use of jet-skis has been shown to cause.

The new rules pertaining to operating a boat while under the influence of alcohol entail stiffer penalties for third and fourth violations, as well as making it illegal for anyone under age 21 to consume alcohol while operating a boat.

On average, 200 people are cited annually for operating a boat while intoxicated. In 1997, 14 of the 29 boating fatalities in Wisconsin involved alcohol.

## PIFL raps Ecklund on

BOY LEGS



Green Bay News Chronicle, week of July 26th, 1998

## LOCAL COLUMNIST'S PERSPECTIVE

# Big Industry benefits at our expense

**W**e humans break a law of nature all of the time without much thought. It's called the Law of Unintended Consequences. We do things without thinking how there might be a downside to some new idea that tickles us now.

**We can't let industry dodge this bullet by just hauling the toxic sludge up to the Ashland area.**

As an example, let's look at an idea that Big Industry really liked in the early 1970s. It wanted Congress to cut its tax rate.

That's a simple idea. Congress said, "But then we won't have enough revenue to provide services

that citizens demand." Big Industry said, "With all the increases in salary and big spending in research and development, there will be more revenues and business will boom." Once again, a simple idea with down-to-earth logic.



**Curt Anderson**

For The News-Chronicle

So Congress did cut taxes for industry. It has done it several times now. Industry paid about 22 percent taxes in the early '70s. Citizens paid about 8 percent. Now citizens pay 22 percent and industries pay 8 percent. There is one reason your taxes are higher now.

Obviously, Big Industry has fared much better with the lower taxes. But there is a dark side to this rosy picture: Citizens carry the tax burden now, after we made Big Industry wealthy with the sweat of our brows.

What is our reward for this service? These companies are so rich that they can now skew everything that Congress does with the dreaded "Lobbyist Effect," something citizens can't afford.

The promised investments in R&D have evaporated and these companies are investing instead in foreign countries where labor rates are low and governments will gladly look the other way while industries dump poison into the air and water. Some reward. But then, no good deed goes unpunished.

I recently saw a map that showed all the toxic waste sites around the Great Lakes. Most were in the United States, strung along the southern shores of the lakes, and the east and west shores of Lake Michigan.

Because all of the sites were marked with dots, it reminded me of a string of pearls. I thought about how polluting industries have treated citizens of this country like proverbial two-bit whores, and that our pay for this bad date was that cheap string of pearls they've left us on the lakeshores.

It is for this reason that we citizens must take charge of the Fox River cleanup. We can't let industry dodge this bullet by just hauling the toxic sludge up to the Ashland area.

We have to understand that if we can morally justify hauling this filth up there, then those folks have every right to haul their filth down here. Treatment is the only *responsible* way to really clean up this sludge.

Please be sure to attend meetings and to take advantage of other opportunities to comment. If you are not sure when these meetings will take place, call the Clean Water Action Council at 437-7304 for information.

Anderson, 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](mailto:chronicle@itol.com).

# Fox makes Federal Register

The public comment period on the proposed Superfund listing is expected to start today 7/28/98

By Brian M. Kerlin  
The News-Chronicle

The bride is the Fox River. The groom-in-waiting is Superfund.

The minister would be the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, making an age-old request: "If anyone knows of any reason these two should not be joined, speak now or forever hold your peace."

A formal notice is expected to be published in the Federal Register today, setting in motion the public comment period regarding the EPA's proposal to add the Fox River to the National Priorities List.

While the notice was expected

Monday, it was not released, said EPA's Sue Pastor.

The comment period is scheduled to last 60 days, until about Sept. 28.

If the Fox was added to the National Priorities List, federal dollars could be used for cleanup, with the EPA billing the seven paper companies identified as potentially responsible for putting PCBs into the river.

Comments should focus on whether the river needs the EPA's attention, the severity of damage and the need for cleanup, according to EPA project manager Jim Hahnenberg.

Comments about possible cleanup methods, the paper companies' liability and other items associated with the cleanup itself should wait for later in the process, he said.

One representative of the paper-makers waited until Monday to return calls about Thursday's talks. And even then, he did not offer information.



## Arrogance comes our way from Madison

Finally! Our governor has announced that he will be hosting negotiations regarding Fox River cleanup. After 12 years in Madison, Tommy Thompson has realized that there might be something wrong with the "pristine" Fox River.

Now our only problem is that Thompson would not divulge where the meeting would be, or who would be attending. He added that everyone will attend who "should be there."

That's funny — if he would want credit for cleaning the river, wouldn't he invite the media and the public? Certainly a governor who respects and cares for the people would involve the media and public in important negotiations and not hide in secret, private places.

Our governor, however, who truly deserves the nickname "Toxic Tommy," seems to be doing everything in his power to avoid cleaning the Fox. Of course, I might even do the same thing if I was paid \$150,000, which is how much the pulp and paper industry has donated to his campaigns during the last seven years.

The federal Superfund program, which is specifically designed to clean up toxic polluted messes such as the Fox, has been called the "height of Washington arrogance" by Thompson.

The only arrogance I can see, is the hypocrisy and ignorance that is floating our way from Madison.

7/29/98

**Kyle Strass**  
Green Bay

of.com | Phone: 920-432-2941  
Web: www.greenbaynewschron.com

CHRONICLE

# EPA group requests Superfund comments

You can submit four  
copies in writing or  
e-mail once

7/29/98

The News-Chronicle

Docket Office (5201G), 401 M Street  
S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460.

Comments may also be e-mailed to  
s u p e r -  
fund.docket(at)epamail.epa.gov.

The public comment period is now  
open regarding the U.S. Environmen-  
tal Protection Agency's proposal to  
add the Fox River to the Superfund  
list.

Comments should be submitted  
before Sept. 28. The EPA asks parti-  
cipants to note the site name — Wis-  
consin's Lower Fox River — and to  
include four copies of comments.

Remarks should be sent to: Docket  
Coordinator, U.S. EPA CERCLA

The EPA plans to hold meetings to  
explain the Superfund process and  
answer questions, although none  
have been scheduled yet.

Detailed information on the prop-  
osed listing is available at the Brown  
County Library, 515 Pine St., and the  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's  
reading room, 1015 Challenger  
Court.

Information is also available on the  
EPA's Web site at  
[www.epa.gov/region5/foxriver](http://www.epa.gov/region5/foxriver).



**Check out our Web site!**

[www.greenbaynewschron.com](http://www.greenbaynewschron.com)



# Fate of Fox River will not wait, say treaty supporters

The U.S. and Canada should be held to their promise to improve water quality, speakers say

By Brian M. Kerhin  
The News-Chronicle

With an eye on anything which might help force cleanup of the Fox River, speakers at a hearing Tuesday in Green Bay urged renewal of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

The treaty between the United States and Canada was first adopted in 1972 but is up for renewal and possible renegotiation this year.

An organization called Great Lakes United is holding 10 hearings around the Great Lakes basin and will forward comments to both governments. When the treaty was renewed in 1987, the GLU hearings were considered one of the public's best chances to comment.

"Let's keep the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement intact without any amendments or changes and I think we'll be doing a great thing," said Bob Schmitz.

People cannot rest on their laurels after the state passed the mining moratorium, said John Hermanson.

The fate of the Fox River in particular hangs in the balance. While there is much interest in economic de-

velopment along the river, the problem of its PCB-laden bed must be solved.

"There's a lot of potential here to go one way or the other. It's important the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement be a force and that it continues," Hermanson said.

Although the pact calls for zero discharge of toxic substances and their virtual elimination, several speakers said progress on cleanup across the five-lake system has been too lax.

"I hope they make the standards tougher because at the rate we're going, we're not getting anywhere," said Laura Manthe.

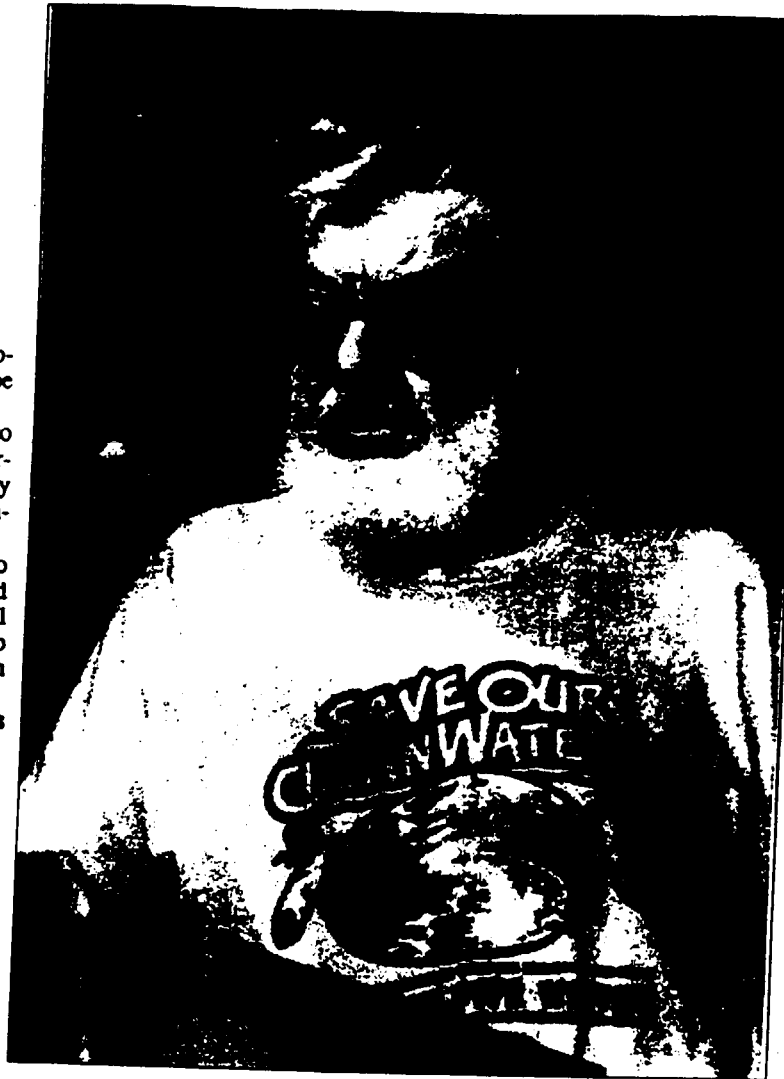
St. Norbert College science professor James Hodgson represented the Remedial Action Plan, a public-private partnership working to restore the Fox River and Green Bay to a fishable, swimmable, drinkable state.

But in the RAP's 12 years, no beneficial uses have been fully restored, he said. And while nonpoint-source pollution must be prevented, Hodgson feels bio-accumulating pollutants such as PCBs must be the top priority.

"Aggressive remediation should begin immediately at selected deposits," Hodgson said.

Hydraulic dredging with landfilling of the sediment remains the most viable option, he said.

Hodgson said the standards contained in the Great Lakes Agreement should remain, but the language re-



H. Marc Larsen / The News-Chronicle

**BOB SCHMITZ TESTIFIES AT TUESDAY'S** public forum in Green Bay on the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. The treaty between the U.S. and Canada was first adopted in 1972 and is up for renewal and possible alteration.

garding implementation must be strengthened.

Although many speakers focused on the Fox River, other aspects of the ecosystem cannot be ignored, said Bill Willers, who called for an end to

excessive deforestation to improve water quality downstream.

The U.S. and Canadian governments are expected to announce the process for the agreement's reauthorization within a month.

## BRIEFLY

IN YOUR AREA

From Green Bay  
News-Chronicle staff

### ASHWAUBENON

#### Youth ice rink gains approval

The Ashwaubenon Village Board gave preliminary approval Tuesday to a proposal for an ice center that would be built by the Green Bay Youth Hockey Association.

The association has asked the village to donate 10 acres of land in the southwest business park for a \$3 million center with two sheets of ice. The GBYHA still needs to raise the money.

The vote was unanimous.

### GLENMORE

#### Farming accident injuries kill woman

A 43-year-old woman died Tuesday from injuries she received in a farming accident.

Barbara J. Klika, 4440 Church Road, apparently was thrown or fell from the tractor she was operating and run over by a wheel, according to Lt. Craig Kohlbeck of the Brown County Sheriff's Department.

### DOOR COUNTY

#### Wildfire threatens wildlife refuge

Six fire departments in Northern Door County and fire crews from the state Department of Natural Resources spent several hours Tuesday battling a wildfire in and

# Don't eat the fish

6/23/98



H. Marc Larson / The News-Chronicle

**ERIC URAM OF THE SIERRA CLUB POSTS** a fish consumption advisory notice at Voyageur Park in De Pere during a news conference Monday. The club wants to keep the public informed on the state Department of Natural Resources' advisories. Eating fish taken from many area waters during the advisories, which are triggered by high levels of pollution, could cause health problems, especially for pregnant women and children.



Gary Baseman - June 20-21, 1998

# Fox fails to net commendation for Clinton list

**The effort in applying to be an American Heritage River has been worth it, says a supporter**

By Brian M. Kerlin  
The News-Chronicle

The Fox River has not made the list of waterways being recommended for designation as an "American Heritage River."

A special advisory committee has sent the list of 10 rivers to President Clinton for a final decision.

An organization called Fox River Forward had coordinated the local application, with Appleton Mayor Tim Hanna serving as president.

"I didn't expect that we would be on the list since we weren't being discussed at the last meeting," he said.

The goal was to find rivers that stand out in the areas of natural resource and environmental protection, economic revitalization, and historic and cultural importance.

Fox River Forward's application was strong in all areas, Hanna said, and he does not know why the Fox was not picked — although the ongoing debate about how to clean up the river may have hurt.

Despite the disappointing news, all is not lost, he said.

"We have created some partnerships in a process which will go on for some time," he said. "I think we have made good progress and we will continue to make good progress. That's the way we do things in Wisconsin."

U.S. Rep. Jay Johnson, D-Green Bay, agreed the process has been worthwhile, even if efforts to make the list failed.

Communities sought the designation for 126 rivers, including a handful in Wisconsin. The upper Mississippi did make the list.

Choosing just 10 was a difficult task and another panel might have easily recommended a different set, said Dayton Duncan, chairman of the American Heritage Rivers Initiative Advisory Committee.

"We believe strongly that the President's initiative is already a success, because the simple call for nominations brought communities together and injected new energy into their river restoration efforts," Duncan said.

The 10 which were recommended include the Connecticut; Detroit; Hanalei in Hawaii; Hudson in New York; New in North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia; Rio Grande in Texas; Potomac in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia; St. John's in Florida; Upper Mississippi in Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin; and Willamette in Oregon.

## Locks project gets boost from funding

**The federal share may eventually be boosted to \$16.8 million**

By Brian M. Kerlin  
The News-Chronicle

Additional funds for repairs to the Fox River locks were endorsed Wednesday by a U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee.

If approved by the full House, Senate and president, \$1 million would be given to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1999 for work on the 17-lock system between Lake Winnebago and De Pere, said U.S. Rep. Jay Johnson.

Despite needing several more approvals, getting the funding into the bill at the subcommittee level is usually the most crucial step, he said.

The corps has agreed to turn control of the system over to the state, thus creating a regional commission that would operate the locks.

As part of the tentative deal, the corps would pay the state \$14.8 million. The \$1 million is additional money to be spent before the transfer to fix the century-old system.

Another \$1 million might be available for repairs in 2000, which would bring the federal contribution to \$16.8 million, Johnson said.

The deal also requires local governments to ante up \$2.65 million, but officials have not yet discussed how such contributions will be divided.

Only three locks — De Pere, Little Kanaboa and Menasha — are currently operational.

# Superfund opposition continues

6/18/78

The News-Chronicle

Another local unit of government has endorsed a resolution calling for a voluntary settlement for Fox River cleanup to avoid a federal Superfund designation.

The Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District board Wednesday adopted the resolution unanimously, said executive director Paul Thormodsgard.

"I think it can make a difference. It especially represents a strong local voice if we're all of a like mind," he said.

The GBMSD joins the De Pere Common Council and the Wrightstown Village Board, which adopted the measure Tuesday.

# De Pere resists Superfund status for Fox

6/17/98  
The EPA and paper mills should reach a voluntary cleanup deal for the Fox River

By Brian M. Kerlin  
The News-Chronicle

Two city councils took different actions Tuesday regarding a resolution that calls for a voluntary settlement, rather than a federal Superfund designation, to resolve questions about Fox River cleanup.

The Green Bay City Council Advisory Committee delayed discussion until its next meeting, which has not been scheduled.

But the De Pere Common Council voted unanimously and without discussion to endorse the resolution, said administrator Kevin Brunner.

The resolution asks the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, state Department of Natural Resources and seven paper companies — identified as potentially responsible for polluting the river with PCBs — to reach a negotiated settlement and avoid Superfund if possible.

De Pere has a vested interest in the project because it operates a wastewater treatment plant. Officials from some plants have expressed concern that, if Superfund proceeds, the paper companies might sue them because they also discharged into the river.

The Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District board is scheduled to vote on the resolution today.

Although many local communities are considering the resolution, it remains to be seen how much good it will do.

Jim Hahnenberg, project manager for the EPA, noted Gov. Tommy Thompson and the state Department of Natural Resources have already raised objections to Superfund, but the EPA could announce it will formally propose the Fox River for the list within the next few weeks.

While any input is appreciated, the municipalities' input may be early, Hahnenberg said.

If the river is proposed for Superfund, the review process will take several months and will include a formal public comment period, he said.

Besides, Hahnenberg said, the resolution calls for exactly what the EPA wants — a voluntary settlement.

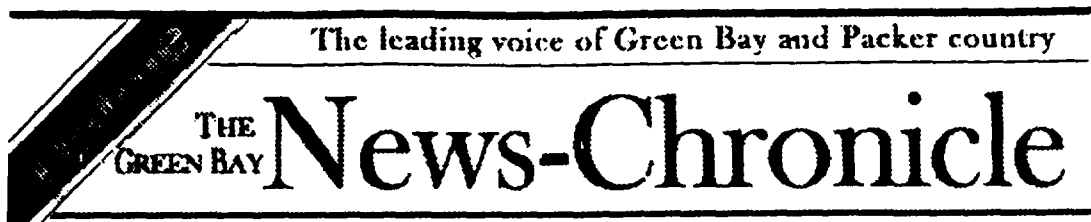
"We're not interested in making this a Superfund site if it can be cleaned up in some other way," he said.

Although no negotiations have been held with the seven paper companies since November, Hahnenberg said the lack of talks does not make a Superfund listing more probable.

Instead, there are not substantive issues to discuss until the EPA has a better idea of what it wants for the cleanup. Negotiations can then commence, he said.

The EPA could still propose the Fox River for Superfund. However, if enough progress is being made toward a settlement, the agency would probably hold off on formally adding to the program, Hahnenberg said.





## Local news at a glance

### The week in review, June 7 to June 13

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- [Back to the main page](#)
- [Weather report](#)

#### Local interests fight Superfund

Local governments and sewerage districts may join area counties in fighting the designation of the Fox River for Superfund federal cleanup funds. The funding would go for PCB cleanup. Local paper companies say the process would be too long and costly.

#### Oneida arena vote July 11

The Business Committee of the Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin has set a vote July 11 on approval of funding plans for a new Brown County arena and convention center. The vote is the final one on using room taxes to pay for the facilities. The Oneida vote is key due to the large revenues from the Oneida Radisson Inn. All other participating governments have approved the plan, which will pay for an arena and expansion of the downtown Regency Convention Center.

#### Survey shows hunger concerns

A new local survey found about 40 percent of Green Bay lower-income residents - most of them in inner-city areas - are hungry and worried about finding food. The Brown County Food and Hunger Network compiled the numbers. Among plans to fight the problem: a summer breakfast program at Howe, Nicolet and Fort Howard schools which will feed about 700 children.

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# Local interests get in line to oppose Fox Superfund

**Rational self-interest takes precedence in the Fox River PCB-cleanup debate**

By Brian M. Kerhin  
The News-Chronicle

A group of municipalities and sewerage districts is considering joining area counties in opposition to a proposed federal Superfund designation for the Fox River.

For the sewer service providers, the vote is more than a position statement — it is a matter of self-interest.

"Anybody who's involved as we are with the river would be subject to litigation," said Paul Thormodsgard, executive director of the Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is considering listing the Fox River on its National Priorities List, also known as Superfund, which would make the river eligible for federal government-run cleanup of PCB-laden sediments.

The seven paper companies deemed potentially responsible for discharging the PCBs have criticized the Superfund process as taking too

long and costing too much.

The Winnebago, Outagamie and Brown county boards are considering separate resolutions opposing the designation.

"We're very concerned that this problem be taken care of in the most cost-effective and expedient manner," said Carl Weber, De Pere public works director.

The fear is if Superfund proceeds, the seven paper companies — currently the only ones targeted as responsible for polluting the river with PCBs — could turn around and sue sewerage districts on the grounds that wastewater treatment plants also may have discharged some of the carcinogenic chemicals.

Like other municipal and state leaders, the sewerage districts would prefer a voluntary settlement between the paper companies, the EPA and other agencies, Thormodsgard said.

Weber was city engineer in Waukegan, Ill., when two Superfund projects were proceeding — one of which was a PCB cleanup in the city harbor.

There was much frustration with the process and slow pace of the work, not to mention the stigma the designation gave the city, he said.

**"Anybody who's involved as we are with the river would be subject to litigation."**

Paul Thormodsgard  
executive director,  
Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District

The districts have been meeting for several months to develop the joint resolution, Thormodsgard said. The GBMSD board considers the resolution at 10 a.m. Wednesday at the district office, 2231 Quincy St.

De Pere's Personnel and Finance Committee endorsed the resolution this week. The full Common Council votes at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

In addition to the GBMSD and city of De Pere, the resolution was developed with the cities of Appleton, Neenah and Menasha, the village of Wrightstown, and the Heart of the Valley, Neenah-Menasha and Grand Chute-Menasha West sewerage commissions.

The Town County Board Planning, Development and Transportation Committee will discuss Superfund at its June 24 meeting.

## Superfund is best hope for Fox

I am writing this letter in support of the Superfund designation of the lower Fox River.

With the DNR and state politicians dragging their feet on this issue, it is time for the people of the area to take a stand. Why should we put up with polluted water and tainted fish? So certain companies can profit at the expense of our Fox River?

These companies will not go out of business if they are forced to pay for a cleanup. Fort James Corp. has been investing billions of dollars in China, Russia and Turkey to expand its operations. This money should have been spent here, in the Fox Valley, since it was the working men and women of Green Bay who earned that money.

We cannot expect these companies to voluntarily clean the Fox. We have waited 12 years for results and have only studies to show for it.

It is time we take action; bring on the Superfund, so maybe someday your grandchildren will be able to bring a walleye home and eat it without fear of PCBs.

**Kyle Strass**  
Green Bay

Mail - The News-Chronicle  
Green Bay, WI 54306-2

# FOX locks need local funds

The earliest repairs on the Fox River locks could start is probably 2001

By Brian M. Karlin  
The News-Chronicle

**GRAND CHUTE** — If the Fox River lock system is to be repaired and reopened, a coalition of local governments will have to reach an agreement on how to pay for its share of the project.

With a tentative deal putting \$14.8 million in federal funding and \$2.65 million in state money on the table, a matching \$2.65 million from local governments is the only piece left, Harlan Kiesow, director of the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, said Tuesday.

State and federal officials discussed specifics of their agreement with about 30 leaders from throughout the Fox Valley. The plan was met with both optimism and skepticism.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers owns the century-old system but will cede it by 2007 unless a deal transferring control is reached, said Lt. Col. Tom Haid, head of the COE Detroit district.

The corps is willing to pay the state to take over the system, but not the entire \$19.3 million bill for needed repairs, he said.

The state is willing to pick up half of the nonfederal share, but only if local governments and other interests contribute the other half, said Department of Natural Resources Secretary George Meyer.

"The counties and municipalities need to figure out where they want to go with this financially," Meyer said.

Menasha Mayor Joe Laux proposed a coalition of municipalities — and not just those immediately adjacent to a lock.

People around Little Lake Butte des Morts, Oshkosh, Fond du Lac, or even further upstream around the state would use the restored system, Laux said. But getting money from those communities may be difficult, he said.

Laux suggested a tax-incremental financing district along the length of the river — the area he said would most benefit from reopening the locks.

Appleton Mayor Tim Hanna said he liked the idea of such a river district tax structure.

"It's an excellent way to leverage our resources," he said. "But we need state authority."

It would be harder for affected counties to come up with the money because the state has imposed tax levy caps against counties, but not municipalities, said Brown County Executive Nancy Nusbaum.

De Pere planning director Bill Patzka said no community would endorse anything until they have more details regarding where the money would come from.

Another meeting will be held in a few weeks for the leaders to formulate a plan, but Nusbaum said the best way to gauge support from communities — especially those which do not have locks — may be simply to ask.

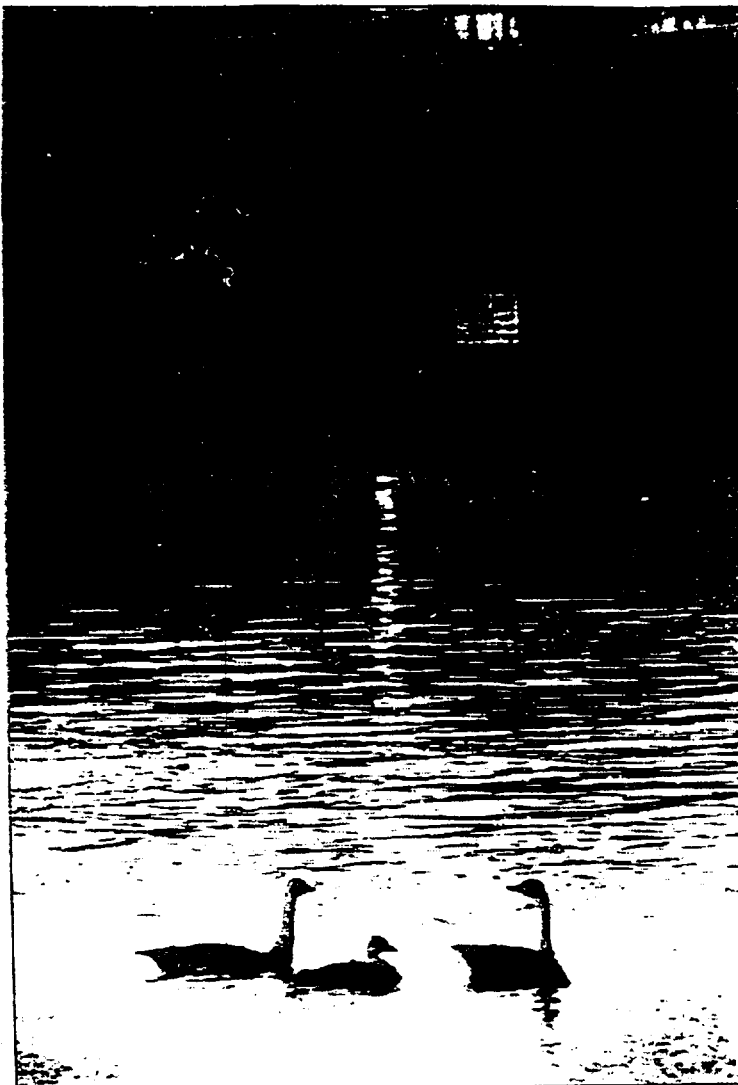
"If there's not local interest, maybe we should just walk away," Nusbaum said.

Given the surge of interest in the river recently — from cleanup of its bottom to boaters using its surface — the question is not simply financial, she said.

"It's much more a matter of 'Is this something that is valued?'" Nusbaum said.

User fees would cover operational expenses, but significant money is needed to repair and reopen the locks, Kiesow said.

If approved, the deal would end more than 13 years of on-again, off-



H. Marc Larson / The News-Chronicle

**CANADA GEESE SWIM** in front of a Fox River lock in De Pere, one of many needing repair funding. In this June 2 photo.

again talks regarding the future of the locks, although changes would not be seen immediately, he said.

Federal money might not be available for three years, and the local governments would be asked to pay their shares over seven years. Reconstruc-

tion could start by 2001 and be finished by 2008, Kiesow said.

If no deal is reached, the corps will continue toward deauthorizing the system, filling in the locks and selling the sites, which would probably be completed by 2007, Haid said.

## LOCKS: Supporters hear seven-year price tag

From A-1

the \$4 million figure sometimes bandied about.

That's because the \$4 million figure was based on a formula that would not only renovate the locks but create an endowment to maintain them for 50 years. The DNR now is using a formula based on a 25-year endowment.

"It was a conscious decision to look at the reality of the money out there," said DNR spokesman Ron Fassbender. "The reality is, that wad of \$3 million to \$5 million isn't there."

With the \$375,000-a-year figure, "I think we're getting to where it's becoming a manageable dollar amount," Meyer said.

Not wanting to rile taxpayers, local elected officials are stressing that the local share could come from many sources - industry, tourism, boaters, non-profit "friends" groups - not just government budgets.

"There are a lot of ways to skin this cat," said Appleton Mayor Timothy Hanna. "It doesn't necessarily have to fall on property taxpayers."

The burden shouldn't rest just with those communities with locks, said Menasha Mayor Joe Laux.

"That's where our stumbling block has been all along," he said. "I don't have the ability to tax a region."

He suggested the group look at a tax-increment financing district that would bring in paying partners up and down the river. Assessing the counties around Lake Winnebago and the Fox River also would be fair, he said.

The corps owns the navigational system but no longer considers it economically viable. State and local supporters view the locks as valuable from a historic, tourism and recreational standpoint.

Under a recently reached deal, the corps has agreed in concept to pay Wisconsin close to \$15 million if the state takes over ownership of the 17 locks between Menasha and De Pere.

The state would add \$2.65 million to the funding package, as would local entities, bringing the total cost of restoration and the 25-year endowment to around \$20 million.

"The concept is right, I think. It's reasonable," said Brown County Executive Nancy Nusbaum.

Three locks currently are operational. Under the agreement, all but

one could be reopened to river travel. The Rapide Croche lock near Wrightstown would remain closed as a sea lamprey barrier.

While its negotiations with the state continue, the corps is proceeding with the complicated formal process of abandoning the locks if the deal falls through.

"It's not necessarily my job to come up with the best alternative. It's my job to come up with the lowest-cost alternative," said Lt. Col. Thomas Haid of the corps' district office in Detroit. "Our process has determined that the lowest cost to the nation would be to fill these locks in."

Congress would have to de-authorize the locks, then provide funding for filling them in - a process that likely would take years, he said.

Local supporters are looking at a busy summer and fall of meetings. Meyer told them Gov. Tommy Thompson needs to have a strong financial commitment from them by January.

The goal still is to have a finalized agreement with the corps ready by the end of this year, Meyer said.

2/19/92

# Board committee delays discussion on Superfund for Fox River cleanup

**The merits of federal involvement in the cleanup of the Fox River will be discussed June 24**

By Brian M. Kerhin  
The News-Chronicle

About a dozen people hoping to discuss the possible Superfund designation for the Fox River left a Brown County Board meeting disappointed Monday.

The board's Executive Committee delayed discussion of the potential action by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency until July 6.

The delay is so the board's Planning, Development and Transportation Committee can discuss the issue

first, at its June 24 meeting.

County Executive Nancy Nusbaum wants the board to go on record against handling the river cleanup through Superfund, a controversial federal program designed to clean environmental hotspots.

The Winnebago County Board has already adopted a similar resolution, and the Outagamie County Board could vote tonight.

Rebecca Leighton-Katers, executive director of the Clean Water Action Council, said the board should wait before taking a stance.

If the EPA proposes listing the Fox River under Superfund, acceptance of public comments would be part of the process before the river could be added to the list. The board should comment at that time instead of opposing the idea now and possibly preventing a public debate on the matter,

she said.

■ The committee unanimously endorsed the idea of changing the county's logo to a design which includes a picture of the courthouse dome.

The current logo depicts a farmer plowing near a waterway, which is an illegal agricultural practice.

The full board votes June 17.

■ The board voted unanimously to make the position of deputy treasurer a management job, thus removing it from the union.

Teamsters Local 75 does not oppose the move, said Human Resources Director Jim Kalny.

The last deputy treasurer, Barbara Berger, was fired after irregularities in bank deposits and receipts were linked to her. District Attorney John Zakowski is considering possible criminal charges.

# Superfund talk tops board's agenda

The merits of federal involvement in the cleanup of the Fox River will be discussed today 4/8/98

By Brian M. Kerhin  
The News-Chronicle

The flexibility — and temperament — of the Brown County Board's Executive Committee will be tested today.

Several issues which could spark long and heated debates are on the agenda for the meeting: cleanup of the Fox River, the Ten Commandments referendum, and the problems in the Treasurer's Office.

■ A measure asking the County Board to go on record opposing a possible Superfund designation for the Fox River is before the committee.

The boards in Winnebago and Outagamie counties have already endorsed similar resolutions.

The federal Environmental Protec-

tion Agency is considering adding the PCB-laden Fox River to the Superfund list, which would make it eligible for federal cleanup funds.

Opponents of that plan say the Superfund process is too costly and takes too long.

■ A Nov. 3 referendum asking voters if a replica of the Ten Commandments should be posted on the lawn of the courthouse has already been approved.

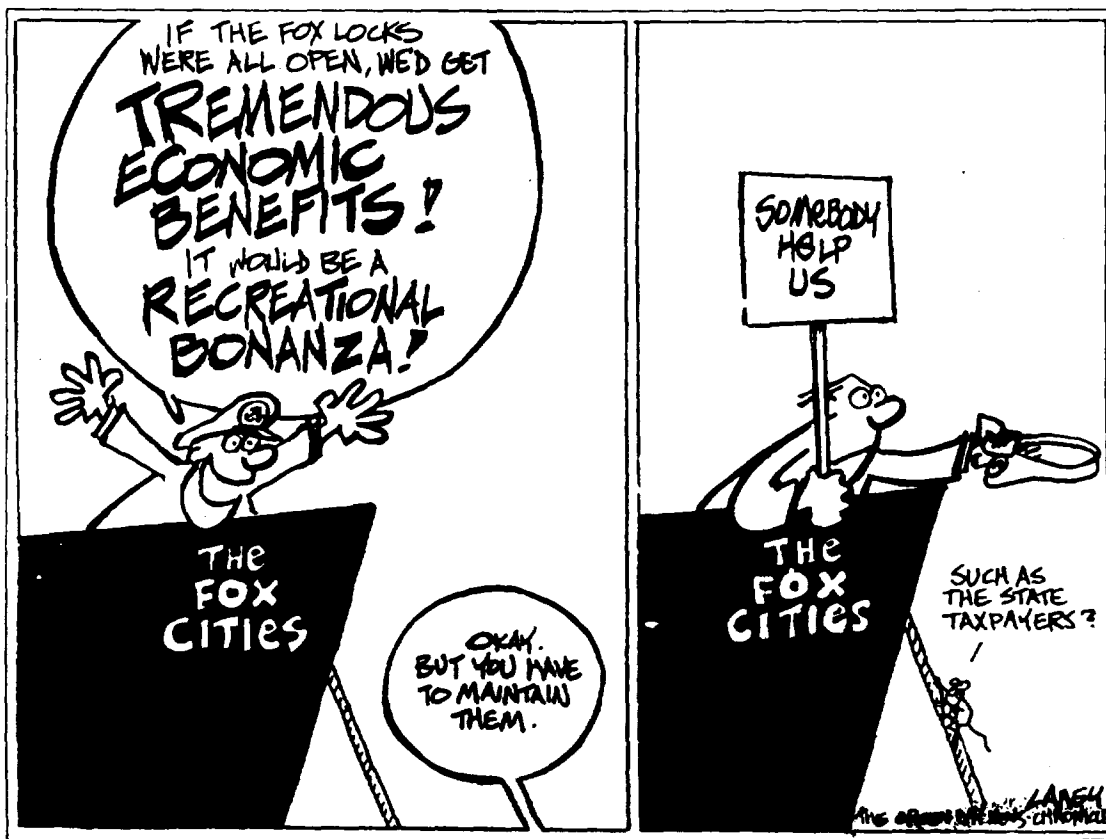
Three local religious leaders, however, are asking the County Board —

which has turned over one-third since then — to reconsider the idea.

Also Monday, tenets backer Denis Pape — the Menominee, Mich. man who leads the Christian Family Association of Michigan and Wisconsin — will hold a news conference to discuss the referendum.

■ In the wake of deputy treasurer Barbara Berger's firing, the committee will consider making her replacement a part of management, taking the job out of a union.

## LYLE LAHEY'S VIEWPOINT





# State takeover of Fox locks nears

Local governments may have some control — and fiscal responsibility — under a proposed deal

6/3/98

By Brian M. Kerlin  
The News-Chronicle

A tentative deal has been reached for transfer of the Fox River locks system to state control.

The agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sets the stage for practically the entire 17-lock system to be reopened for boat travel between Lake Winnebago and Green Bay, according to Harlan Kiesow, executive director of the East Central Regional Planning Commission.

The corps owns the century-old system but

because of the lack of commercial traffic on the river, it wants to shut the locks down or hand over the keys.

Only three locks are currently operational — Menasha, Little Kaukauna in Wrightstown and De Pere.

The federal agency had offered to pay area governments about \$14 million to get rid of the system but local officials balked because of estimated repair costs of \$19.2 million.

The tentative deal calls for the federal government to pay at least \$15 million, Kiesow said.

The state would own the locks and have ultimate responsibility for the system, but a regional management commission with local government representatives could be created to operate it.

Please see **LOCKS**, Page 7

THE GREEN BAY NEWS-CHRONICLE

LOCAL

## **LOCKS:** Room remains for local help in the project's restoration and maintenance

### **FROM PAGE 1**

Municipalities might be asked to contribute financially as well.

"There will be a role for local government for some participation in restoration and some participation in maintenance," Kiesow said.

Local support could also mean help from private sources, including industry. User fees, donations, grants and tax dollars — including hotel and motel room taxes — have all been mentioned as possible funding sources.

De Pere Planning Director Bill

Patzke said the city is interested in keeping its lock open, but the City Council has said it does not want to pay for it.

The city may be willing to offer services to assist in lock maintenance, however, Patzke said.

The tentative deal will be reviewed by municipal officials Tuesday. The final wording of a contract with the corps could be completed by the end of the year, Kiesow said.

Legislative approval would be required for both the deal with the corps and the creation of a management commission, he said.

Restoration of the system might not include travel by water all the way on Lake Winnebago to the Green Bay, however.

The Rapide Croche dam and lock, just across the Brown-Outagamie county line, is sealed with a barrier to prevent sea lampreys from getting to inland waters. The barrier will remain in place.

While a boatlift allowing boaters to make the complete trip has been proposed, separate fund-raising would be needed to build and maintain it, Kiesow said.

# Fox phosphorus output subject to public debate

**Opponents say a permit modification would allow "massive dumping"**

**By Warren Bluhm**  
The News-Chronicle

Fort James Corp. already appears to be meeting a mandated goal for phosphorus discharges into the Fox River, according to Gary Kincaid, a Department of Natural Resources wastewater engineer.

However, the company wants a one-year extension of the July 1 deadline for reaching the limit of 1 part per million of phosphorus because it may occasionally exceed that level and doesn't want to be in non-compliance, Kincaid said.

A hearing is scheduled tonight to take public comment about Fort James' request for an interim pho-

**FYI**

**ON INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION**

A hearing on Fort James Corp.'s request for modification of its discharge permit to allow an interim phosphorus limit of 2 parts per million is scheduled for 6 p.m. in the second-floor council chambers of Green Bay City Hall, 100 N. Jefferson St.

sphorus limit of 2 ppm until June 30, 1999, when the company's current discharge permit expires.

The permit is for the former Fort Howard paper mill, 1919 S. Broadway.

"Their 12-month rolling average is 0.9, so they're already there," Kincaid said. "They're probably going to continue at that level but they're not certain they always can, so they're asking for an extension of about 12

months before implementation of the limit."

The hearing was requested by the Clean Water Action Council and the Brown County Conservation Alliance.

"The public assumes industrial pollution is fully controlled, but the Fort James permit shows that massive dumping is still allowed into the Fox River by the Wisconsin DNR," said Rebecca Katers for the Clean Water Action Council.

Kater's statement said the proposal would allow Fort James to dump up to 57,870 pounds of phosphorus into the Fox River along with other pollutants.

While the hearing officer will provide the opportunity for information and input from the public, the phosphorus discharge limit is the only issue under consideration tonight, Kincaid said.

5/27/98 The News-Chronicle is on the Internet at: [www](http://www.foxriver.com)

# FOX: Process pays off despite not earning honor

FROM PAGE 1

environmental protection, economic revitalization, and historic and cultural preservation — either because of great accomplishments or great need.

While no new federal money was expected, the designation could have meant new access to existing programs or private money, Sandman said.

Area communities created an organization called Fox River Forward! to coordinate the application efforts. Appleton Mayor Tim Hanna, who was the group's chairman, said even if the Fox River is not selected, the yearlong effort has already been fruitful.

"We opened lines of communication that haven't existed before. We've already accomplished a lot ... and there's a desire to keep the orga-

nization to go forward," Hanna said. "We've all learned something we can use as we move forward."

Although cleanup of the Fox River is obviously the top priority for the region, there are many other issues that must be addressed, including the Fox River locks, the river's potential to draw tourists and development along the water, he said.

The application process and Fox River Forward! brought together advocates of various issues dealing with the river, and continued cooperation can only mean good things, regardless of Clinton's decision, Hanna said.

Because no decisions were made Tuesday, however, Sandman said the Fox River could still be one of the 10 designees. The committee said it was not ruling out any river at this point and the list of 20 will not be finalized until another meeting later this month.

# Fox likely not 'Heritage River'

While the river likely won't receive the designation, Appleton's mayor says the effort has already paid off

By Brian M. Kerlin  
The News-Chronicle

An advisory committee has narrowed the search for semifinalists for the American Heritage Rivers project, but supporters of that designation for the Fox River are apparently on the outside looking in.

Last year, President Clinton announced he would designate 10 "American Heritage Rivers" to provide federal assis-

tance to help communities alongside them. The American Heritage Rivers Advisory Committee met in Washington, D.C., Monday and Tuesday to review 126 applications. It was supposed to narrow the list to 20 to send to the president, who will make the final decision.

At the end of the hearing, the committee was still reviewing as many as 30 to 35 rivers — but the Fox was not among them, according to Todd Sandman, spokesman for U.S. Rep. Jay Johnson, D-Green Bay, who supported the effort to include the Fox.

The goal was to find rivers that stand out in the areas of natural resource and

Please see FOX, Page 4

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READERS' COMMENT

Chamber uninformed on PCBs

Bill Welch, president of the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce, is the new mouthpiece for the seven Fox River PCB polluters.

His recent statements concerning the cleanup are half-truths and whole untruths.

With real remediation about to begin on this most serious environmental problem, Welch's corporate bias and scientific ignorance are a disservice to Fox Cities communities.

The chamber says there is not enough evidence to conclude that PCB contamination endangers human health. Wrong! Notwithstanding the hundreds of studies linking PCBs to deformed frogs, birds and mammals in the river and bay, evidence linking PCBs and other chlorinated hydrocarbons to human health problems is factual and growing daily.

In the last two years the Environmental Protection Agency, Physicians for Social Responsibility and dozens of other researchers have published articles in Scientific American, British Medical Journal and numerous other peer review, scientific journals. These studies have linked PCBs to human can-

cers and reproductive and hormonal dysfunction.

Welch has either not done his homework or chooses to ignore the evidence.

The chamber's contention that PCBs are ubiquitous and therefore too dispersed to recover is misleading. The world production balance sheet on PCBs shows 30 percent unaccounted for. The remaining 70 percent are either in landfills, in sediments or still in use.

The 40 to 50 tons still in the Fox River are inventoried, localized and are the primary PCB source into Lake Michigan. Removal now will decrease risk to human health for everyone living around Lake Michigan.

The chamber predicts that if polluters are held responsible for paying for the cleanup, catastrophe will result for the companies, their employees and local communities. This scare tactic, used often by industry, is worker blackmail.

If you took everything the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce knows about PCBs and put it in a thimble it would rattle like a BB in a boxcar.

Stephen Abitz  
De Pere

## TODAY'S CLOSE-UP: FOX RIVER CLEANUP

## Balanced river plan must consider all options

So much has been said and written about the need to improve the health of the Fox River, one can easily get lost in the maze of issues that face all of us who live and work in the Fox Valley.

How did the river reach its present condition? What are the risks involved? Who should oversee the cleanup? While no one can argue with the fact that there are PCBs (and many other contaminants) in the river, the real question we face: What is the most sensible way to deal with this problem?

Recently the Science and Technical Advisory

Committee of the Green Bay Remedial Action Plan called

for a measured, step-by-step approach in dealing with the Fox River.

This committee comprises 24 scientists from around the state. They hold positions of authority with the Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District, the Center for Great Lakes Studies, St. Norbert College, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute, Fox/Wolf Basin 2000 and many others.

While the committee says that "ignoring the (PCB) problem is not acceptable," they concede that "there is large uncertainty in distinguishing the risk/benefits to humans, fish and wildlife under alternative action and no-action scenarios. Given these uncertainties ... we recommend that a balance be sought between the benefits of sediment remediation" and other restoration alternatives.

The committee has taken a stance for a broader

By Jeff Johnson / Guest Commentator

approach — an approach that looks at all of the alterna-

tives and doesn't focus exclusively on massive dredging along 39 miles of the Fox River.

The scientists correctly point out that "There is a large uncertainty in distinguishing the risk/benefits to humans, fish and wildlife" associated with dredging the Fox River. In other words, the scientific models cannot predict the increased risk to humans and wildlife when the river bottom is stirred up.

In their statements, the scientists also recommended that "all remediation and restoration efforts should be implemented in stages" and that "to be most effective, remediation of selected deposits (such as 56/57 and N) should begin immediately," and should include "a rigorous and quantitative monitoring effort" ... to assess "the dredging's (sic) efficacy."

This makes real sense. In fact, this is the essence of the Jan. 31, 1997 agreement the Fox River Group made with the state of Wisconsin.

**Current EPA and DNR plans have things backward. They propose to make a decision on a cleanup plan at the end of 1998 — even if the data from the project is not yet available.**

The \$10 million agreement included \$7 million for the design, implementation and monitoring of a sediment restoration project at deposit 56/57. This demonstration project will provide important information regarding large-scale restoration projects in the Lower Fox River.

Doing the project to demonstrate the effectiveness of dredging — before making any overall decision — would seem to be consistent with the sound recommendation of the Science and Technical Advisory Committee.

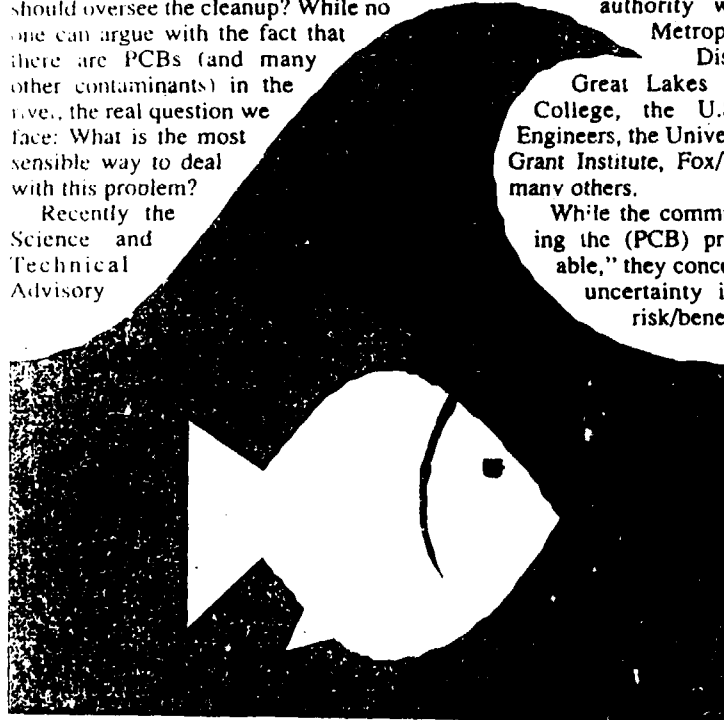
Unfortunately, current Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Natural Resources plans have things backward. They propose to make a decision on a cleanup plan at the end of 1998 — even if the data from the project is not yet available.

The demonstration project should be done this summer so that the data it yields can help us make a responsible decision about which

method — or methods — will be best for the river.

A balanced, step-by-step approach that will look at all the options for the Fox River — that's the committee's recommendation, and it makes all the sense in the world.

Johnson is director of public relations at Wisconsin Tissue. Write to him in c/o Wisconsin Tissue, P.O. Box 489, Menasha, WI 54952; phone: 920-725-7031.



# River cleanup debate rages

**Active cleanup of the Fox River is needed, despite paper company arguments, state and federal officials say**

By Brian M. Kerlin  
The News-Chronicle

DE PERE — Despite improvements in the health of the Fox River, plenty of work — and forced government action — remain, officials from several environmental agencies say.

Wisconsin's waters — particularly the Fox River and Green Bay — was the focus of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters' 128 annual conference Friday at St. Norbert College.

## THE BACKGROUND

Although much of the discussion centered on how best to clean up the river, researchers set the stage by describing the problems.

Val Klump of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Center for Great Lakes Studies said nutrient loading and sediments are the river's greatest problems.

And with contaminants flushing into the Green Bay — where they will be much more difficult to recover — land runoff prevention needs attention and river cleanup must begin.

"Some of these problems will only get worse with delay," Klump said.

Bud Harris, a longtime University of Wisconsin-Green Bay researcher of PCBs in the Fox River, said society must begin placing an economic

value on natural resources and the ecological services they provide.

## PAPER INDUSTRY'S VIEW

As the discussion turned to the Fox River cleanup, a consultant for the seven paper companies deemed responsible for the contaminants spoke first.

Mark Brown of Blasland, Bouck & Lee said the government agencies have a predisposition for dredging the river and its 8 million cubic yards of sediment.

But because the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has never

**"I don't think that river can recover naturally in a time frame that's honest and fair. Dredging is not rocket science. It works in many places around the Great Lakes."**

David Ullrich  
EPA

supervised a project of that size, decisions here should wait for results from the two demonstration projects planned for this summer, Brown said.

Most of the PCB-laden sediment is below the De Pere dam. And 85 percent of that is more than 1 foot below the river's bottom.

Brown suggested a combination of natural attenuation — doing nothing — and letting Mother Nature flush the system — and in-place capping should be used to clean the river.

He also questioned the effective-

ness of the dredging projects already underway.

"Current science does not do just service to how the Fox River will be restored," Brown said.

## GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Several government agencies — including the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, EPA and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service — are working on Fox River cleanup.

USF&WS's David Allen said most of the decrease in PCB levels in the last 25 years can be credited to the federal Clean Water Act. But natural progress has leveled off recently.

For example, herring gull eggs still have PCB levels of 30 to 40 parts per million. By comparison, a PCB level of 2 ppm triggers a do-not-eat warning for fish.

Along the same lines, the DNR's Bob Paulson said the PCB concentrations in the water column at the mouth of the Fox River have not dropped since 1989. Current levels average 18,000 times the agency's acceptable cancer-risk figure, he said.

Paulson said Brown is correct in saying most of the sediment is more than a foot below the surface. However, most of it is also less than 3 feet down, making it ripe to be stirred up and returned to the water, Paulson said.

Removing the contaminants is the only way to guarantee it does not cause more harm to fish, wildlife and humans. And because the Fox River provides more than half of the PCBs in Lake Michigan, cleanup is more than a local issue, he said.

Dredging the entire river is not feasible and will not be done, Paulson

predicted.

However, leaving the fate of the Fox River to natural methods is unacceptable, said David Ullrich, regional administrator for the EPA.

"I don't think that river can recover naturally in a time frame that's honest and fair," he said. "Dredging works. Dredging is not rocket science. It works in many places around the Great Lakes."

In addition, government officials said the paper industry's argument about the size of the project is just a smoke screen because the entire river will not be dredged at once; a series of smaller cleanup projects are expected.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

At this point, the struggle is between a voluntary agreement and cleanup vs. a forced effort, probably through the EPA's Superfund process.

U.S. Rep. Jay Johnson, D-Green Bay, urged the parties to reach a voluntary settlement, preferably sooner than later. But Johnson would not rule out the appropriateness of using Superfund at some point.

Allen said the best answer probably will not be known until next year, after the USF&WS finishes its Natural Resources Damage Assessment, after the demonstration cleanup projects are done and after the EPA's Remedial Investigation-Feasibility Study is completed.

The EPA will continue its push to have the Fox River declared a Superfund site, noting the mere threat of the action has prompted accelerated activity toward cleanup in the last year, Ullrich said.

## BRIEFLY

IN YOUR AREA

From Green Bay  
News-Chronicle staff

## GREEN BAY

### Stabbing suspect in court today

The suspect in a multiple stabbing incident is expected to make his first appearance today in Brown County Circuit Court.

The Green Bay man, 40, is accused of stabbing and slashing three men and two women during a fight early Saturday at the Cannery bar, 319 N. Broadway.

One victim John Fontaine, 62, remained in fair condition Sunday night at St. Vincent Hospital. The other four were treated and released after the incident, which was reported at 12:04 a.m. Saturday.

## GREEN BAY

### Crossing closing today

The railroad crossing on Deussen Street just west of the closed Main Street bridge will itself be closed for repairs this week, beginning at 7 a.m. today.

All motorists wishing to get to the Neville Public Museum and other buildings east of the tracks must use Museum Place from Walnut Street.

The crossing is scheduled to be reopened to traffic by 5 p.m. Friday.

## BELLEVUE

## LOCAL BUSINESSES HAVE PROFITABLE QUARTERS

# Profits rise at Fort James, P&G

**BRIEFLY**  
IN THE WORLD OF BUSINESS  
Compiled from News-Chronicle wire services

**BANKING**

**Mellon tries to block BNY deal**

NEW YORK — Mellon Bank Corp. sought an injunction to block Bank of New York Co.'s \$22.9 billion unsolicited takeover bid, charging the company used inside information gained from failed merger negotiations last year.

Mellon, in papers filed in U.S. District Court in Pittsburgh, said Bank of New York "misappropriated confidential and non-public information" gathered during merger talks with Mellon that broke down in December. It asked the court to block Bank of New York from buying Mellon shares.

Bank of New York called the suit "groundless" and "a needless distraction from the offer."

**SETTLEMENTS**

**CoreStates will pay feds \$3.7 million**

PHILADELPHIA — CoreStates Financial Corp. said it will pay \$3.7

**Fort James has cut expenses since the Fort Howard-James River merger**

**Bloomberg News**

RICHMOND, Va. — Fort James Corp.'s said first-quarter profit rose 26 percent as the nation's largest tissue maker continued to reduce costs following and prices for most of its products rose.

The company, which makes Brawny paper towels and Dixie cups, said profit before charges rose to \$122.2 million, or 55 cents a diluted share, from \$97.2 million, or 43 cents. The results matched the average estimate of analysts surveyed by IBES International Inc.

Fort James, formed in August when James River Corp. acquired Fort Howard Corp., has been lowering costs by merging operations of the two companies. It reduced the cost of making goods to 69.2 percent of sales from 70.3 percent a

year earlier. Also, prices for its retail tissue products rose as much as 2 percent from a year earlier, said spokeswoman Celeste Gunter.

"What's really going to be the growth engine is the tissue business, and the results there were good," said Kathryn McAuley, an analyst at Brown Brothers Harriman & Co.

The effort to combine the companies is progressing as expected, said Chairman and Chief Executive Miles Marsh, who forecast "meaningful year-over-year improvements in the balance of the year."

Richmond, Va.-based Fort James is also getting higher prices for most of its products compared with year-earlier lows, a trend that's has boosted profit at most paper-products companies.

Earlier in the quarter, it announced plans to boost prices for its retail paper towel and tissue products in the U.S. by 4 to 6 percent, which are now being implemented.

Operating profit at the North American consumer products unit rose to \$214.4 million from \$204.6 million on a slight decline in sales.

**Price increases make another solid quarter possible at P&G**

**Bloomberg News**

CINCINNATI — Procter & Gamble Co.'s fiscal third-quarter profit rose a better-than-expected 9.1 percent as it raised prices for Bounty paper towels, Charmin bathroom tissue and popular brands.

The world's largest maker of household products said net income rose to \$961 million, or 65 cents a diluted share, from \$881 million, or 59 cents, in the year-ago period. Revenue rose 1.3 percent to \$8.88 billion to \$8.77 billion.

The company raised prices 6 percent to 10 percent on Charmin, Puffs tissues, and Era and Cheer laundry detergent, among other products. That boosted revenue and the company was able to increase unit sales in North America by 1 percent. Competitors like Kimberly-Clark Corp. quickly followed.

"Since most companies are matching their prices, in the fourth quarter Procter & Gamble isn't going to lose sales to lower-price rivals," said Carol Warner, Prudential Securities Inc. analyst who rates the stock a "buy."

Sales of individual products rose 3 percent. Product sales were hurt because some competitors delayed raising their prices for a month or so, stealing some sales from P&G.

Earnings rose 36 percent of increases in unit volume, higher margins and the sale of some minor brands, the company said.

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# CLEANUP STARES DOWN THE FOX RIVER

## Divided parties try to ward off EPA

The possibility of a negotiated Fox River cleanup settlement still exists

By Brian M. Kerhin  
The News-Chronicle

Last year, seven paper companies identified as potentially responsible for polluting the Fox River were negotiating with the state toward a voluntary cleanup plan.

Suddenly — and quite unexpectedly — the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency stepped in and said it may designate the river as a Superfund site.

Armed with that designation, the federal government could clean the river and bill the companies.

The state Department of Natural Resources and the companies have opposed the Superfund designation for a variety of reasons — they say it's too costly, too drawn out, too likely to be bogged down in court.

The companies also claim the EPA is too bent on dredging the river to remove PCBs and other contaminants buried deep in the sediment.

But with the EPA reportedly just a few weeks away from formally nominating the river for Superfund, the state and the paper companies have made no attempts to reach a voluntary settlement and avoid the designation.



H. Marc Larson / The News-Chronicle

**A CONTROVERSIAL CLEANUP IS IN ORDER** for the Fox River. Pictured is dredging equipment for performing the delicate task of removing PCBs from the sediment resting on the river's bed.

Despite their joint disdain for the federal intervention, the two sides have not met to negotiate since November, said Dennis Hultgren of Appleton Papers and Bruce Baker of the DNR.

"We got to a point where we made an offer for negotiations and left it up to them," said Baker, deputy administrator for the DNR water division.

But Hultgren said he hopes a meeting can be held before Memorial Day.

The paper companies' desire to reach a negotiated settlement has not changed — and a deal is still possible despite the EPA's actions, he said.

"It's better to work it out cooperatively than (to) work it out in a courtroom," Hultgren said.

On that point, Baker agreed with

Hultgren.

The EPA staff is expected to propose the river for Superfund listing by June, with acceptance possible within a year.

The DNR is performing a background Remedial Investigation Feasibility Study, despite objections from the companies that wanted oversight on the project. That disagreement is one reason no negotiations have been held, both suggested.

Yet, the parties' shared distaste for the Superfund option begs the question: why haven't more talks been held?

"I think it was more time (availability) than anything else," Hultgren said.

Baker said perhaps the companies, which have hired attorneys who spe-

cialize in Superfund cases, are not totally opposed to the Superfund process or the information that can be gleaned from it.

Neither Baker nor Hultgren suggested a deal could be in place before the EPA proposes listing the Fox River, but said an agreement is possible before any final decisions are made.

A "global" settlement would require approval by the DNR, the seven companies, the EPA, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, another federal agency and two American Indian tribes.

The seven paper companies are Appleton Papers, Fort James, U.S. Paper Mills, NCR, Wisconsin Tissue Mills, P.H. Glatfelter and Riverside Paper.





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## Dangerous effects will face public scrutiny

*News Chronicle 4/23/98*

public meeting about the danger of PCBs, it is still scheduled for Monday.

Titled "Restoring the Lower Fox: Perspectives on PCBs and Public Health," the session is designed to let people know the reasons why governments and companies are discussing spending millions or billions of dollars to clean up the river, said Emily Green of the Sierra Club.

The focus will be on the human health and ecological effects of PCBs. At one time, PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, were legally released into the river by paper companies but were later banned after evidence emerged that they cause cancer and other ailments, including birth defects in wildlife.

Speakers on Monday are expected to include two representatives from the federal Toxic Substances and Dis-

Wisconsin waters, including the Fox River, will be the focus of a Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters conference May 1 at SAC.

Several different sessions are scheduled throughout the day, while U.S. Rep. Jay Johnson, D-Green Bay, will address the conference at lunch.

Fox River cleanup will be discussed by representatives of the DNR, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the seven paper companies identified as potentially responsible parties.

Also, David Ulrich, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 director, will discuss the river, Lake Michigan and Great Lakes water resources.

The fee is \$45, including lunch. For more details, call the academy at 800-443-6159.

ease Registry — Chris DeRosa, director of toxicology, and Heraline Hicks, senior environmental health scientist. Henry Anderson, chief medical officer for the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, will also speak.

The DNR originally organized the session because of comments by Fox Valley business leaders questioning the severity of the PCB danger. After those comments were retracted, the state agency pulled out of the meeting.

The same speakers are still scheduled to appear and the need for the public to learn more still exists, Green said.

The meeting is at 7 p.m. Monday at Liberty Hall, 800 Eisenhower Drive, Kimberly. It is just east of the intersection of U.S. 441 and County CE (College Avenue).

### The effects of PCBs and the Fox River cleanup efforts will be subjects of separate meetings next week

By Brian M. Kerhin  
The News-Chronicle

There are two chances next week for the public to learn more about the Fox River, the hidden dangers buried in its sediment and the overall cleanup process.

One meeting will be Monday in Kimberly, while the other is May 1 at St. Norbert College in De Pere.

Although environmental groups and the state Department of Natural Resources have sparred about the sponsorship of, and need for, a

TODAY  
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SPORTS

by Jeff Miller and Bill Hinds

THE GREEN BAY NEWS-CHRONICLE

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The fight for civil rights is far from over.  
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**Timothy P. Bass**  
 Green Bay

IN THE REAR

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## Truth hidden about PCBs

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Surely some political  
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The free presentation  
 is still on, thanks to the  
 Clean Water Action  
 Council, Sierra Club and  
 others. Everyone is wel-  
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 scheduled for 7 p.m.  
 April 27 at Liberty Hall,  
 800 Eisenhower Drive,  
 Kimberly.

Come and hear about  
 the threats PCBs pose to  
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**Thomas Kees**  
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The News-Chronicle  
 Green Bay, WI 54306-2467

E-mail: chronicle@not.com  
 Fax: 920-432-8581

*News-Chronicle*

## People's Forum

Green Bay, WI 54306-2467

### Attend PCB meeting

NEENAH — Strange how a weak  
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 threats that PCBs pose to human health;  
 information others may not want you to  
 hear.

**Thomas Kees, Neenah**

*Press-Gazette*

# Companies eye wetlands buy

## The Fox River Group is eyeing Point au Sauble as a conservation project

By Carter Group  
The News-Chronicle

A coalition of seven paper companies may buy 170 acres of Point au Sauble northwest of Green Bay and set the land aside for preservation.

The point is a three-tiered wetlands, a submerged ecosystem of water lilies and wild celery that gradually changes into forest, along the bay near Waquoick.

Despite the 600 pounds of PCBs that flow from the Fox River into the waters of Green Bay each year, slowing waterfowl reproduction and deferring some bird species, Point au Sauble is relatively well preserved.

The coalition, Fox River Group, has designated \$10 million toward cleanup of local waters.

Of that, \$7 million will go to dredge PCBs out of the Fox River, \$2 million is slated for scientific research and \$1 million will aid land preservation projects like Point au Sauble.

Buying land at Point au Sauble is an opportunity for the Fox River

Group to do something visible for the environment, which the group hopes will be completed by the end of the year, said George Borowow of the state Department of Natural Resources.

"Au Sauble is unique," said Bob Harris, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay ecology professor. "It's a coastal wetlands and (it's) on the east side of the bay where there are few wetlands."

The wetland thrives with plants because of the diversity of ecosystems there, Harris said.

Point au Sauble is close to UWGB, the school has used it as a model for students.

The Nature Conservancy, a national land preservation organization, holds 120 adjacent acres at the site, so the Fox River Group's purchase would boost the plot to almost 300 acres.

The cost of the acquisition will not be released until after the purchase,

which the group hopes will be completed by the end of the year, said George Borowow of the state Department of Natural Resources.

Meanwhile, the Fox River Group and the DNR continue discussing how to perform the river cleanup and avoid a prolonged, expensive court battle.

"We want to work in cooperation with (the DNR) to find out what cleanup techniques will get us the most bang for the buck," said Dennis Halgren, an environmental specialist at Appleton Papers.

If an agreement is not reached, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency can act on its own. Under federal law, it can order the cleanup and bill the responsible paper companies if it determines the Fox River is dirty enough.

# Dead girl is Wallace

The News-Chronicle

AMBERG — An autopsy has confirmed a body found in a swamp Tuesday is that of Jennifer Wallace, 12, who disappeared Nov. 28.

Marquette County Sheriff James Kavukula said late Wednesday night

that the girl was strangled or suffocated and that authorities searched the area based on a statement by Norbert "Bill" Ellis, who is being held on an unrelated charge.

Ellis is considered the only suspect and the district attorney is reviewing the case, Kavukula said.

210555

# All remains quiet on Fox cleanup front

**Fox River cleanup settlement talks have not been held since November and none are scheduled**

By Brian M. Kerlin  
The News-Chronicle

Less than two weeks before a state-imposed deadline, a global agreement clean up the Fox River appears highly unlikely.

The state, three federal agencies, 10 American Indian tribes and seven paper companies have been negotiating a possible settlement to initiate cleanup. Because the talks in-

volve all of the interested parties, it has been dubbed a "global agreement."

If reached, the deal would likely outline cleanup procedures and who would pay for it.

But a deal has not been reached and no new talks are scheduled, said Bruce Baker, deputy administrator of the division of water for the state Department of Natural Resources.

"We are still hopeful there's a chance for a global agreement," Baker said. "We are becoming more pessimistic on the chance, however."

Mark Reimer, an attorney for Fort James Corp., said no talks have been held for several weeks.

The Feb. 1 deadline is somewhat arbitrary, however, and missing it

**"The longer we go (without a settlement), the more legal things are going to happen with this."**

**Bruce Baker**

DNR's water division, on hopes of settling out of court

may not mean much. The deadline was set last year when a \$10 million pledge by the paper companies toward a demonstration cleanup project was announced.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service may proceed with a Natural Resources Damage Assessment, although preliminary studies will not be done until later this year.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, is considering going ahead with a cleanup through a

federal Superfund process, but its work is in its early stages.

An agreement could have stopped both the assessment and the Superfund process, but now both will probably continue full-steam ahead, Baker said.

All of the parties involved had said they wanted a negotiated deal so money could be spent on cleanup instead of lawyers.

"The longer we go (without a deal) the more legal things are going to

happen with this," Baker said.

On a related subject, an EPA decision about who will perform a key preliminary decision for a Superfund cleanup has not been finalized.

The EPA and DNR announced the state will perform the Remedial Investigation Feasibility Study, instead of the seven paper companies. The companies, however, have appealed the decision. EPA Administrator Carol Browner has not issued a ruling, although a decision is expected in the next few weeks, said Jim Hahnenberg of the EPA.

The seven paper companies are Fort James, U.S. Paper Mills, Riverside Paper, NCR, P.H. Glatfelter, Appleton Papers and Wisconsin Tissue Mills.

# Feds seek feedback for Fox River plan

**Bird embryos, eggs and fish would be examined for pollution levels under a federal plan**

By Brian M. Kerlin  
The News-Chronicle

Public comments are being sought about a federal agency's plan to do

more study on the Fox River. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS) is working on a Natural Resources Damage Assessment to determine the extent of damage caused to the Fox River and Green Bay by pollution discharged by seven paper companies.

Some studies have already been completed. But now, the USF&WS is considering performing several more

studies, according to the Federal Register.

The public has until the end of January to comment on the proposed studies.

Among the new work planned:

- Collection of walleye for assessment of fish health;
- Determination of contaminant concentrations in waterfowl tissues;
- Determination of contaminant

concentrations in tree swallow eggs;

- Determination of PCB toxicity to Forster's tern embryos;
- Evaluating the navigation and transportation service problems associated with PCB contamination;
- Measurement of PCB concentrations in fish and birds on the Oneida reservation, and associated cultural damage.

Through the assessment, the

USF&WS could make companies deemed responsible for the damage pay to restore the ecosystem and repay the public for lost use because of the damage. The studies are expected to be completed by the end of 1998.

The seven companies are Fort James, U.S. Paper Mills, Riverside Paper, P.H. Glatfelter, NCR, Appleton Papers and Wisconsin Tissue Mills.

**FYI**

**OPINIONS WANTED**

— Requests for copies of the new plan should be made to Frank Horvath, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 3 (ATTN: Es/EC-NR/DA), BIW Federal Building, 1 Federal, Ft. Snelling MN 55111-4096.

— Public comments about the plan should be submitted before Jan. 29 to the same address.

## Search for girl comes up empty

Associated Press

MADINETTE — Divers and



# "This is my 4th new Saturn — I just love it!"

"I'm very pleased with the sales and service department. I would recommend a Saturn to anyone. They're the best!"

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4 Tuesday, December 23, 1997

LOCAL

# River Fox cleanup talks face number of challenges

PHIL SERVIDA

Last week, the EPA announced the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources would have primary responsibility for the study.

Monday, the EPA announced it accepted they would accept the lead role in EPA Administrator's Phil Servida.

"This decision to bring the study to the office is really a fundamental change in the direction of all of the discussions that have been going on," Servida said. "It takes us down a turn toward litigation as opposed to cooperation."

The EPA's rules say the potentially responsible parties usually should be given a chance to conduct the study. Allowing the companies greater participation initially would reduce the chance of litigation, according to Servida.

But because the companies' estimate of how long the study would take was six months longer than the state's estimate, the EPA gave control to the state.

The other companies believe the results from next summer's dredging project should play a more prominent role in the larger cleanup, Servida said.

"We would like to make (decisions) based on science as opposed to just making a decision without any calculation as to whether it's going to improve the health of the river or the environment," he said.

### FUNDING TROUBLES

The EPA ruling to take the study from the paper companies may jeopardize funding for the demonstration project, which is targeted for a PCB hot spot near Fort James Corp.'s Broadway mill.

While Servida would not say the companies are meeting on a \$10 million pledge, the group is re-evaluating it.

"EPA doesn't want a cooperative approach, in our opinion," he said.

But Bruce Baker, Deputy administrator for the DNR's water division, said the paper companies are maintaining the positions of the DNR and EPA.

As for the study, the government



PHIL SERVIDA, CENTER, ANSWERS questions during a Fox River Group news conference Monday. Listening to Servida is Jim Coffin, left, and Dennis Hultgren.

and efforts of soil and not the water. Of course we would like to see the water cleaned up."

### IS CLEANUP THE ANSWER?

The two sides are also debating who wants what for the cleanup effort.

Servida said the DNR and EPA are opposed to the idea of dredging the river expensive project and it would be the paper companies' fault could result in the unnecessary suspension of currently buried contaminated sediment.

The top layer of sediment is relatively clean and can be left in place, as a cap on the highly contaminated material, Servida said. Other options should be considered, he said.

Bob Paulson, a DNR environmental toxicologist, said while the top layer may be cleaner than deeper sediment, that layer still forces the fish to eat it and other problems.

On the last day of testing, some PCB levels are still 500 times above the allowable limit, Paulson said.

The DNR is committed to looking at other cleanup options through the study process, Baker said. Dredging is not automatically the answer, he

pays the bills — and it has not been ruled out that some tax dollars could be used.

### DEAL: SIGNED SILENTLY

All of these public statements and responses makes it appear a state-imposed deadline of reaching a so-called global agreement by Feb. 1 simply will not happen.

The state hoped to have a negotiated settlement — involving the paper companies, three federal agencies, two American Indian tribes and the DNR — by Feb. 1.

Servida said the two sides have not been in the table in a month and the new meeting isn't scheduled. Given the EPA's decision to give control of the study to the state, the companies believe it will be difficult to reach a deal.

Baker said the ball is in the companies' hands. The issue is waiting for a counteroffer and has not received one. But he said the prospects for agreement by Feb. 1 are dim.

"(The paper companies' news conference) is not characteristic of a good negotiating process," he said. "But I don't think (a deal) is out of



Revisions would have primary responsibility for the study.

Monday, the EPA announced that it would accept the decision of the EPA Administrator, Carol Browner.

"This decision is very disappointing," says a DNR spokesman. "The EPA is not changing its position on the decision of the DNR. It is not going to be a 'no' decision. It is not a 'yes' decision. It is a 'no' decision as applied to the study."

The EPA states that the possibility of a study should be given a priority to conduct the study. Allowing the companies greater participation in the study would reduce the chance of litigation concerning their services.

But the EPA says the study would not be any longer than the state requires, the EPA spokeswoman says.

The paper companies believe the results from next summer's demonstration project should play a more prominent role in the larger cleanup. Services said.

"We would like to make (decisions) based on science as opposed to just making a decision without any calculation as to whether it's going to improve the health of the river or the ecosystem," he said.

**FUNDING THREATENS**

The EPA ruling to take the study from the paper companies may jeopardize funding for the demonstration project, which is expected for a PCB hot spot near Fort James Corp.'s Broadway Mill.

While Services would not say the companies are stalling on a \$10 million project, the group is evaluating it.

"EPA doesn't want a cooperative approach," he said.

Bob Bruce Baker, deputy administrator for the DNR's water division, said the paper companies are misreading the positions of the DNR and EPA.

As for the study, the government agencies want to include the paper companies and the results of the demonstration project.

"To suggest somehow that they are being shut out of the process couldn't be further from the truth," Baker said.

The demonstration project results will be included, if they are finished — but the state does not want completion of the study dependent on the mill-connected demonstration project. And since the paper companies control when the project will be done, it is up to them to get the results to the DNR.

"Why would we spend the time



**PHIL SERVICES, CENTER** ... **Group news conference Monday, listening to Services of Jim Case, left, and Dennis Mulcrone.**

and efforts of staff and ... **Baker said.**

**IS DISCUSSING THE**

The two sides are also ... **method.**

Services said the DNR and EPA ... **said.**

The top layer of sediment ... **should be considered,**

Bob Paulson, a DNR environmental ... **advises and other problems.**

On the back day of ... **acceptable limit,**

The DNR is committed ... **is not automatically the answer,**

Services said if the companies ... **could see — delaying the process.**

The mills have to remain ... **not be an option.**

"Going along means going out ... **Services said.**

Baker said the government ... **part of the process of figuring out who**

... **is not.**

**WANT TO GET**

All of these public statements ... **will not happen.**

The state hoped to have a ... **by Feb. 1.**

Services said the two sides ... **will be difficult to reach a**

Baker said the ball is in the ... **agreement by Feb. 1 of the**

The paper companies have ... **is out of**

Services said he did not know ... **would affect negotiations.**

The EPA's primary staff members ... **negotiated decision.**

The paper companies at ... **Tate's Mill.**

12/23/97

# Public will have say on Fox cleanup

**Cleanup and disposal methods top the list of public concerns for the Fox River**

**By Brian M. Kerhin**  
The News-Chronicle

There will be more chances for public input as the Fox River cleanup process continues, government officials say.

At a recent public update meeting — hosted by the state Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and three other government agencies — people complained about the lack of opportunity to give their input.

Apparently the government agencies got the message.

There will be more opportunity for public comment soon, said Bri Bill, community relations specialist for the EPA.

One of the main targets of criticism, said Bruce Baker, deputy administrator for the DNR's water division, agrees there has been a lack of input, but said many of the complaints stem from how slowly the cleanup process is talking.

"I think people should be frustrated and they need to keep demanding that things be done more quickly," he said.

The state and federal agencies are negotiating with seven paper companies that have been held responsible

## FYI

### PROVIDE INPUT

An update of the Fox River cleanup process is scheduled for 7 p.m. Dec. 9. A general comment period is slated for the end of the meeting. The next day from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. a general comment period with officials from six government agencies is scheduled. Both meetings will be at Apple Creek Inn.

for polluting the Fox River, especially with PCBs.

The nature of those talks means the public will not be invited to the table, Bill said, but the agencies will look for other ways to get more public input.

For example, at that hearing, a questionnaire asking for opinions about various subjects was distributed.

The result? Concerns about what cleanup methods will be used and how the sediment will be disposed of topped the list of items people wanted more information about.

Bill said the questionnaire illustrates the problem the agencies have been grappling with.

Specific details about cleanup and disposal methods, and the associated costs, won't be known until after the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RIFS) is completed.

Because the EPA has few details, it is reluctant to ask for public comment now. Normally, the public input period occurs after a specific cleanup

method is chosen, Bill said.

But, given the public's desire to comment, the timeline for input has been moved up.

At the next update meeting Dec. 9, a general comment period will be added to the end of the session. The next night, the public can speak to officials from the various agencies at an open house.

The regular public hearings built into the EPA's Superfund process will still be held, said EPA project manager Jim Hahnenberg.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has its own process underway through the Natural Resources Damage Assessment.

A cleanup method would be recommended after the RIFS, but a final decision won't be made until after a public hearing.

The RIFS is an example where the government wants to act, but the paper companies are arguing for more study. Public pressure could help speed up the study, Baker said.

He also credited the EPA and Fish and Wildlife Service for being open to changes in the process, because federal agencies don't always reach out for as much public involvement.

The DNR loses trust and credibility with citizens the longer the process drags on. But the DNR represents the people at the table and it has to be empowered to act — and that is better than leaving the cleanup to the paper companies, Baker said.

Also, the state has had a longer history with the project than the out-of-

state federal agencies.

"We have a lot of insight into people's thinking on the Fox River," Baker said.

Meanwhile, the clock is ticking toward the Feb. 1 deadline for a global settlement — a concern expressed by people at the public hearing.

The six government agencies are jointly negotiating with the seven paper companies to try to strike a deal that outlines cleanup procedures and defines who would pay for it.

People want a chance to have input before any settlement deal is announced.

Hahnenberg and Baker said beyond the general comments accepted at the Dec. 9 and 10 meetings, the agencies probably will not ask for specific input on the global agreement.

However, if a settlement is reached, it is likely to be a general framework for cleanup and not include specific details. The entire proposed pact would be subject to public review, Baker said.

And, once specific parts are ready to be implemented — like choosing a cleanup method — more public hearings will be held, Hahnenberg said.

The seven paper companies are Fort James (through its acquisition of Fort Howard), U.S. Paper Mills, Riverside Paper, P.H. Glatfelter, NCR, Appleton Papers and Wisconsin Tissue Mills.

210033

Green Bay News Chronicle, Wed. Oct. 29, 1977

## Little progress made on river cleanup

■ Three dozen people attended an update session about Fox River cleanup Tuesday night

By Brian M. Kerlin  
News-Chronicle Reporter

A Feb. 1 deadline for a negotiated global agreement for cleanup of the Fox River could come and go — but two federal efforts would still continue.

Representatives of three federal agencies, two Indian tribes and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources gave an update Tuesday on river restoration process to about three dozen people gathered at Brown County Library.

Many of the public comments, some of which reflected increasing frustration with the lack of actual cleanup to date, urged the agencies to keep the process open, moving — and out of the hands of the paper companies.

Those government agencies are working with seven paper companies deemed potentially responsible for polluting the river with PCBs and other chemicals.

The state has set a Feb. 1 deadline to get a "global agreement" with all of the parties involved to implement and pay for cleanup.

Bruce Baker of the DNR would not divulge specific details on the status of those negotiations.

"If we were close to an agreement, I could speak more to it," he said.

A representative of the paper companies has said it is unlikely an agreement will be reached.

The deadline apparently is an arbitrary one, because the federal actions underway won't be done until after Feb. 1.

Jim Hahnenberg, project manager for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, said the evaluation of the Fox River to add it to the Superfund list will be done in January.

After that, a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study will be done to evaluate cleanup options.

The EPA is currently negotiating with the seven companies on who will pay for the study. Another meeting on the topic is scheduled for today.

The study could be completed by

the end of next year, at which time a public hearing would be held on the recommendation before cleanup methods are selected, Hahnenberg said.

At the same time, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working on its Natural Resources Damage Assessment, said the agency's David Allen.

The overall plan should be finished by the end of next year, he said.

No decisions have made on cleanup methods, several officials have said.

Still, the DNR's Bob Paulson said landfilling the PCBs tends to provide the greatest security at the lowest cost while getting the contaminants out of the river.

Although finding such a disposal site may be a problem, there has been interest from the private sector, Paulson said.

Paulson also presented details on two demonstration cleanup projects being planned for next summer. One is located at Fort James' Broadway mill, the site of the highest-known PCB concentration in the river.

## Parkway fund-raiser picks up steam

# Agreement delaying suit against paper companies will be extended

■ Seven paper companies will pay for a Fox River cleanup feasibility study

By Brian M. Korbin  
News-Chronicle Reporter

A temporary agreement for a federal agency not to sue seven paper companies for polluting the Fox River will probably be extended.

Meanwhile, the same companies have agreed to pay for a cleanup feasibility report, rather than being billed for it later on by a different federal agency.

The first issue is a possible lawsuit by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service against the companies. Currently, the USF&WS and the companies are in their third tolling agreement, in which the agency agrees to delay filing the suit. It expires next week.

A comprehensive deal will not be done by then, so another tolling agreement is likely, Bill Hartwig,

USF&WS Region 3 director said Wednesday.

The length of the new delay will be up to the attorneys, but 60 days is likely, he said. The three previous timeouts were for 90, 60 and 60 days.

One reason for the delay is the USF&WS's role in a larger effort to make river cleanup happen.

Two American Indian tribes, the state, USF&WS, along with two other federal agencies — the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration — are all trustees of the resources that have been damaged.

"We continue to make progress. We've met with the state and tribes and other federal agencies. Our positions as trustees are getting closer," Hartwig said.

The group of six agencies previously announced they want a deal in place by Feb. 1. If no deal is reached, legal action might commence.

Talks with the companies about an overall agreement may not be making much progress, but there is good news in one area, said Dennis Hultgren of Appleton Papers.

The seven parties have agreed to fund a Remedial Investigation Feasibility Study, a fancy name for a report to chronicle the problem and examine possible solutions.

The EPA could have done the report itself and later forced the companies to pay for it, but the firms have agreed upfront to foot the bill, Hultgren said.

The study is not expected to be done for more than a year, however.

The extended timeline has made the paper companies less than optimistic about reaching an overall agreement by the Feb. 1 deadline, Hultgren said.

The seven companies are Fort James (formerly Fort Howard), U.S. Paper Mills, Appleton Papers, Riverside Paper, NCR, P.H. Glatfelter and Wisconsin Tissue Mills.

# Environmentalists proven right

The Fox River and bay of Green Bay have been in the news a fair bit of late, what with decisions at the federal level and via the courts that overturned plans by the local establishment to "clean up" contaminated sediments in the Fox and to expand Renard Island with additional dredge spoils.

In a nutshell, area environmentalists once again were proven right and the "good ol' boys" of the local establishment got egg on their faces.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finally got fed up with the pussy-footing ways that area polluting industries and the state Department of Natural Resources — who quaintly called themselves the "Fox River Coalition" — were using to carry out a so-called "clean up" of the contaminated sediments, and it decided to force the issue of getting at the immense problem in the river that creates health hazards for fish, wildlife and humans.

Instead of waiting for the "feel-good" method of the FRC to waste more time, the EPA is

BY THE  
BAY

MITCH BENT  
OUTDOORS



now considering the lower Fox River for Superfund status so as to expedite a cleanup. The agency wasn't willing to accept the "demonstration projects" and other touchy-feely notions that the FRC was foisting as true clean-up plans, and it made its decision at the behest of local environmental groups.

There was no "carrot-and-stick" approach to the FRC's direction, which was its fatal flaw. Although it goes contrary to the Conservative Manifesto and current Political Correctness, polluting entities only clean up their messes when there is a plan and a timetable to achieve those goals. In other words, when they are forced to do so.

The original cleanups on the Fox and other waters weren't achieved by yukking it up with the perpetrators of pollution — industry and municipalities — and sitting around a table while holding hands. The cleanups were done by setting standards to be achieved and timetables to achieve them.

Of course, that happened back in the days when the DNR was not a politically-manipulated agency as it is today, when the agency had some backbone. Today, citizens and groups have to do what the agency should be doing for the sake of cleaning up the river.

The Renard Island issue also illuminated the fact that environmentalists knew that of which they spoke.

The establishment said you could dump more dredge spoils around Renard, expanding it, and all would be well. But the hearing examiner on the Renard Island issue firmly stated that the models for dissolved oxygen contents used by the island expansion proponents were flawed, and thus the ex-

pansion of Renard was halted. As one goes over the history of the lower bay of Green Bay and the Fox River, one thing becomes painfully clear: Whenever a tussle arises between those who wish to alter and degrade the quality of the river and bay and those who wish to protect and preserve, the latter end up being shown to be correct.

The filling of the former Atkinson Marsh, protested loudly back in the 1960s by the likes of the Brown County Conservation Alliance and the Green Bay Duck Hunters Association, has been a waste of resources and taxpayer money. The best freshwater marsh in the Great Lakes region was converted into an "industrial park" whose soil basis was contaminated dredge spoils overlying 80 feet of loon doo-doo. No industry in its right mind would locate there.

In the early 1980s, the establishment in Green Bay wanted to fill in the "Tank Farm" marsh on the west side of the Fox River for a railroad spur. Environmentalists protested, and the Army Corps of Engineers

denied the permit required to debase the marsh. In the end new route for the rail spur was found, one that was cheaper to build and environmentally benign.

And on and on. It would be nice if the establishment in Green Bay and Brown County would swallow their pride and accept the fact that they have been wrong in their approach to dealing with activity in the lower Fox River and the bay of Green Bay. Taxpayers' money would be saved and the local environment would be healthier if we listened to the conservation and environmental community rather than to the establishment.

But we don't. For whatever reason, we have it fixed in our heads that those groups that operate on small budgets but large volumes of energy and environmental concern are goofy. And we concomitantly believe that the establishment in the city and county that operate with your tax money and mine are right.

Yet history, if examined objectively, shows the opposite to

## again

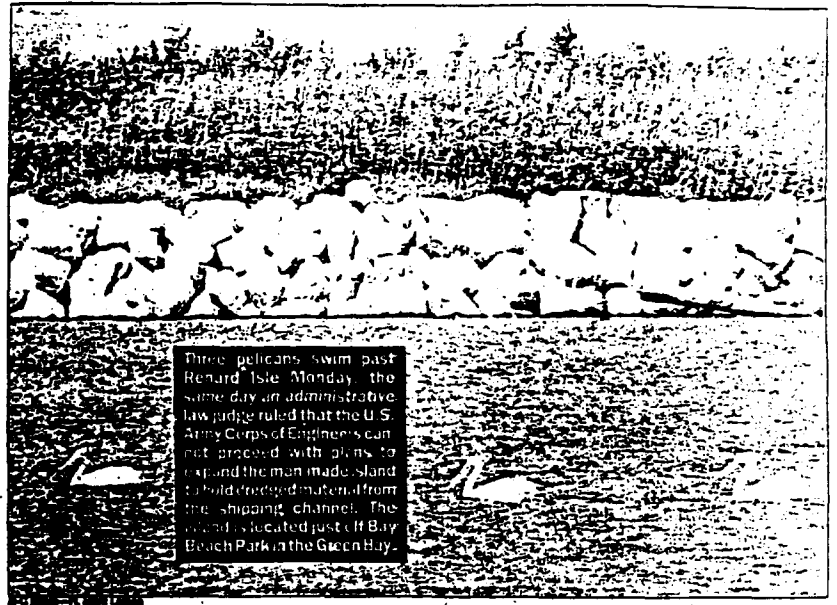
be true. Why we keep wanting to believe those who have wasted our tax dollars and destroyed our local environment boggles the mind. As the Kingston Trio once sang, "... when will they ever learn?"

# The Green Bay News-Chronicle

7/15/77

Locally owned and operated for and about the people of Northeast Wisconsin

Local officials promote Fox for federal American Heritage River designation: 37A



Three pelicans swim past Renard Isle Monday, the same day an administrative law judge ruled that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can not proceed with plans to expand the man-made island to hold dredged material from the shipping channel. The island is located just off Bay Beach Park in the Green Bay.

## Renard expansion thwarted

Concerns about dissolved oxygen levels are sufficient enough to block expansion of Renard Isle, a judge ruled

By Brian M. Kerbin  
News-Chronicle Reporter

Expansion of Renard Isle may not proceed, an administrative law judge ruled Monday. In a 24-page decision, Judge Jeffrey Boldt said concerns about water quality are legitimate and reason enough to stop the project to add dredged material to the man-made island and increase its size. Reactions, predictably, were mixed. Few people, however, had reviewed the entire decision as of Monday afternoon, when it was mailed to the parties from

Expansion: to Page 3A

RENARD ISLE EXPANSION DENIED

# Judge: Model 'lacked credibility'

Expansion from Page 1A  
Madison.

"Abhhhhhh! That's great. Wow! That's great," said Rebecca Leighton-Katers, one of the petitioners and executive director of the Clean Water Action Council, when informed of the decision.

"It shows citizens can make a difference," she said. "There are a lot of legitimate concerns which aren't being raised because citizens don't have the resources."

The Clean Water Action Council, an environmental group, is still paying legal bills associated with the challenge. The ruling shows there is already a problem with oxygen levels that need to be addressed, she said.

Yana Hodkiewicz, 1539 East Shore Drive, helped lead a coalition of neighbors opposed to the expansion.

"I'm tremendously pleased," she said.

Although the issue was decided on scientific merits, there was a strong human side to the debate that did not go ignored, and that was a positive part of the process, Hodkiewicz said.

The application to expand the island came from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which is responsible for maintaining the shipping channel.

"I guess we're not going to build an extension in the next year or two like we thought," said Scott Parker, deputy district engineer and project manager.

Brown County port director Jeff Finley was disappointed by the decision, but pragmatic.

"We haven't had the island (expansion approved) for the last 12 years, so we'll get along without for a year or so while we decide what to pursue," he said.

The decision means the corps cannot proceed with a 126-acre expansion of the island, which lies just off the shore from Bay Beach Park.

The key issue was whether an expansion would negatively affect the dissolved oxygen levels in the waters surrounding the island. State law requires minimum amounts of oxygen in the water to support wildlife.

A permit was rejected once be-



Secretary George Meyer.

No decision to appeal has been made yet — but will be considered, Parker said.

"We'll think it through pretty thoroughly. It (may) take the rest of the summer to decide the next step," he said.

Gary Weidner, president of the Brown County Harbor Commission, said after two debates, it may be time to move on and drop the expansion idea.

"I can't see spending a lot more money on that option," he said — although he would not rule out recommending an appeal after he reads the decision.

The DNR participated in last summer's hearing, defending its decision to grant the permit. Attorney Charles Hammer said the decision to appeal would probably be left up to the corps and Brown County.

Leighton-Katers believes an appeal would be an "outrageous" waste of taxpayers' dollars.

The state recently granted approval to expand the dikes at the Bay Port Industrial Park. That should be enough for storage, she said.

But Finley disagreed, saying the backlog of dredged material would not fit there. Other options may have to be pursued, he said.

If another option is chosen, it could end up costing the county a lot more money than an expansion of Renard, Parker said.

Port Director Jeff Finley says he will wait a year or so before deciding what the next option for storing materials gathered during dredging the shipping channel will be.

fore due to concerns about dissolved oxygen levels, so the corps did another computer model projecting the island's impact.

Boldt, however, was not impressed with the results of the new study, performed by the corps' Waterways Experiment Station.

"The WES model does not have a sufficient credibility upon which to make engineering decisions. Further, the WES model failed to prove its credibility when matched with real-world observed data in connection with a confined verification and calibration exercise. As a result, the WES Model results do not provide 'reasonable assurance' within the meaning of (applicable state law) that the . . . standard for dissolved oxygen will be met," Boldt wrote.

While there are already violations of the dissolved oxygen standards, expansion would cause more — and that is unacceptable,

he ruled. The decision can be appealed to the circuit courts or to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

## An old plan may resurface

The decision to deny expansion of Renard Isle means work on an end-use plan will soon begin.

After the man-made island finishes settling, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which built it, will shape and contour the island to meet the desires of local officials.

An end-use plan was completed a decade ago, but was never adopted by the Brown County Board. A new plan was requested last year, but no work was done because of uncertainty about the size of the island, said Chris Knight, county planning director.

But with the decision in and the size set at 88 acres — pending any possible appeal — work can begin, he said.

Buildings cannot be constructed, because there is not a solid foundation, but many other possibilities exist.

The 1987 plan called for a mix of natural areas and "passive recreation" — trails and a field. Other ideas have included a golf course, soccer fields, Frisbee park and expansions of the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary and Amusement Park.

— Bruce H. North

## Renard Isle Information

Some basic questions and answers about Renard Isle and the proposed expansion project:

**What is Renard Isle?** It is a man-made, 88-acre "confined disposal facility" for material dredged from the shipping channel. Sometimes it is referred to as Kinney Isle because of its shape.

**What is in it?** Most of the material is silt, silt and farm runoff.

**Why must it be confined?** The material contains PCBs, dioxin and other toxic substances — but not at high enough levels to meet federal definitions of hazardous waste.

**Who owns and operates the island?** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for maintaining the channel. The corps would have paid the \$30 million bill to expand the island. Dredging itself is paid for by a per-ton tax on commodities moved through all harbors.

**Why was expansion requested?** The current island is full. Brown County can store material in dikes at the Bay Port Industrial Park, but those can handle only the annual dredging waste, said Brown County port director Jeff Finley.

Because the channel isn't being dredged to its proper depth and width for years, an expanded island would have held the backlog of material. An expansion of 126 acres would have held 2.5 million cubic yards of material.

**What is next?** Those who disagree with Monday's decision can seek to have it overturned in court or by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Secretary George Meyer.

The corps had selected island expansion from among 12 options for disposal, so it could go back and examine the other 11 or look at other ways to store the material.

7/15/87

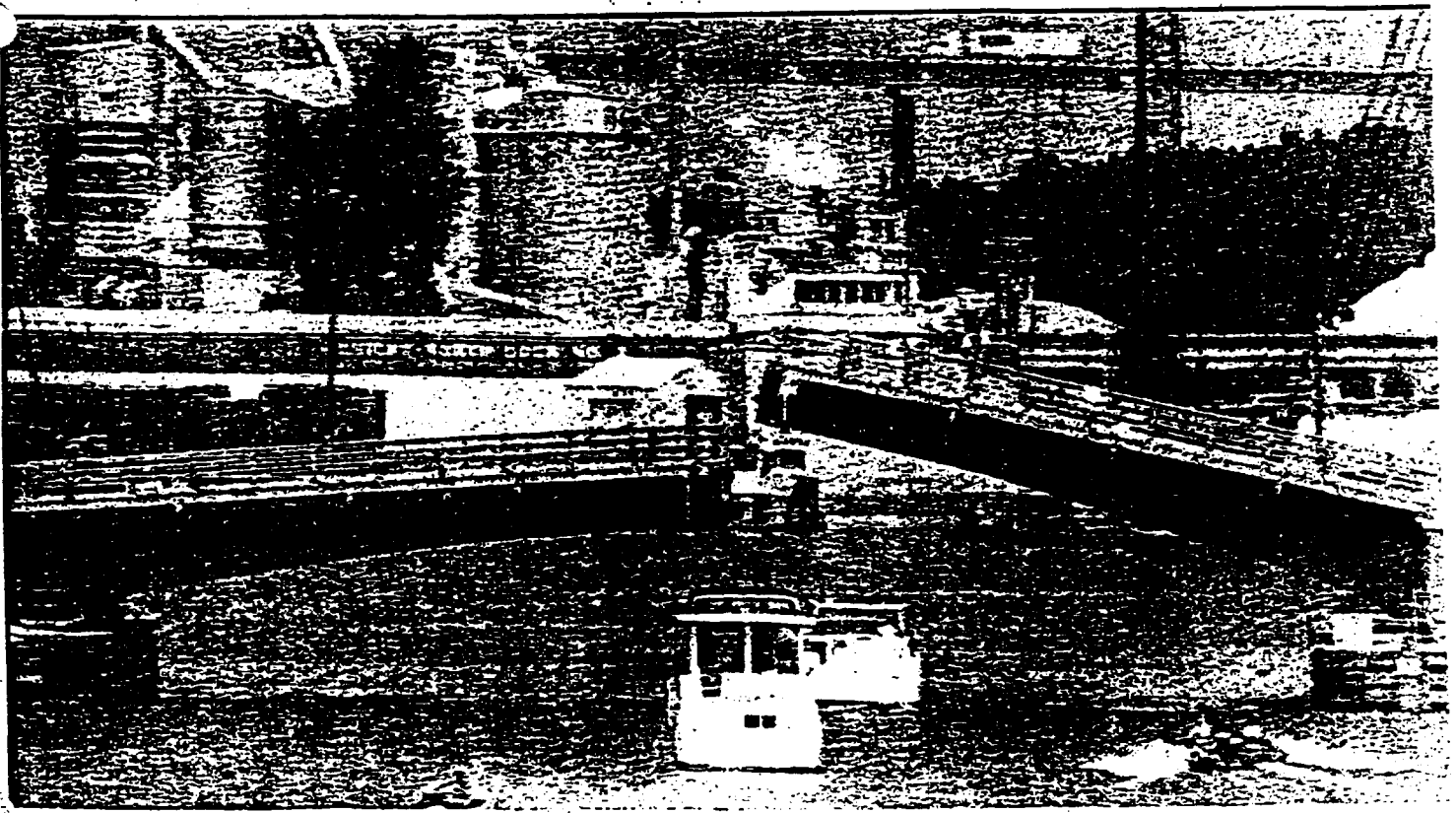
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**WEEKEND EDIT**

**The Brown County**

# **Chronicle**

**SATURDAY-SUNDAY,  
JULY 12-13, 1997**



208868



Recreational boaters pass through the Walnut Street Bridge on Friday afternoon. Although it will be at least two years before Fox River cleanup can begin, area leaders are optimistic that a joint effort can complete the task without having to list the river as a Superfund site.

7/12-13/97

# Resources pooled for Fox River cleanup

**A new committee will work on a plan to clean up the Fox River**

By Nick Wood  
Chronicle Reporter

A comprehensive plan to clean up toxic sediments in the Fox River could be finalized by Feb. 1 following an agreement by state, federal and tribal governments to end a turf war over who should lead the cleanup effort.

At a Friday news conference in Green Bay, representatives of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Menominee Tribe and the Oneida Tribe announced the formation of a committee made up of one representative from each unit to oversee cleanup of the river.

The Lower Fox River/Green Bay/Lake Michigan Environment Management Committee was created to pool government resources and merge three current cleanup actions — USF&WS's Natural Resources Damage Assessment,

USEPA's Superfund listing and WDNR's voluntary Fox River Coalition — into one.

The speed of the cleanup now depends partly on how well the people on the committee work together, and partly on the willingness of the seven potentially responsible paper companies to work with the committee, said Bill Hartwig, director of USF&WS Region 3, Minneapolis.

"Although the issues are complex, I believe the agreement we are about to sign will enable the government parties to work together to make sure the responsible parties clean up the resource damage, compensate the public for its lost resource values, and continue to maintain a strong local economy," Hartwig said.

Dave Ullrich, acting director of USEPA's Region 5 Office, Chicago, said the agreement will "substantially advance the process of getting cleanup."

Despite skepticism over the EPA's use of the Superfund law to speed up cleanup, Ullrich said he is firmly convinced it will lead to a faster and better solution.

## Committee members

Committee members to restore the Fox River are: George Meyer, secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; Bill Hartwig, regional director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Dave Ullrich, acting regional administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Gary Jordan, vice chairman of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin; Apesanhawok, chairman of the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin; and John Lindsay, of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

DNR Secretary George Meyer, who in the past has said the Fox River should not be a Superfund site, said the Superfund process could be avoided if the committee can come to an agreement for long-term, comprehensive cleanup and restoration of the river.

"I hope we do not have to list this as a Superfund site. If we can (develop a plan) collaboratively by the end of January, I think we can avoid a lot of the long process."

Realistically, even with the most streamlined process, it will be at

least two years before they move any mud, Meyer said.

There are an estimated 90,000 pounds of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the sediment of the Fox River between Lake Winnebago and the Green Bay.

The state has identified seven paper companies — Fort Howard, P.H. Glatfelter Co., NCR Corp., Riverside Paper Corp., U.S. Paper Mills Corp., and Wisconsin Tissue Mills — as potentially responsible for much of the contamination.

NC 8857

## LOCAL

# Government reach deal on cleanup

■ Fox River cleanup should proceed more smoothly with a new deal in place

By Brian M. Martin  
News-Chronicle Reporter  
A disagreement between Wisconsin and the federal government on who will finance cleanup of the Fox River has been settled. Representatives of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Me-

wisconsin Tribe and Oostda Tribe have scheduled a news conference for later today to announce specifics of the agreement.

As the various agencies pursue cleanup of the Fox River, the state and federal agencies have differed on who will be responsible for cleanup and who will make certain decisions.

Those differences have now been resolved. "No question this is a big step forward. It takes three away from the (cleanup) projects to have the state argue with one another," said Bruce Baker of the DNR.

"We think we can work together

constructively," said Jim Hahnenberg, executive project manager for the EPA.

The agreement will act to rule out any of the proposed cleanup options by any of the agencies. Also, the deal is just between the governing agencies on the decision-making process.

Even though the seven-page cooperative agreement targeted by the EPA was already made one step deal with the state, the companies are not a part of this agreement, said Cliff Bowers, spokesman for Fort Howard Corp.

In fact, when the \$10 million pledge by those seven companies

was made, the state and federal government were already very close to a deal, Baber said.

The deal did not happen, however. Then, the EPA took many people by surprise when it announced it would pursue a Superfund cleanup of the river.

Since then, just one meeting was needed to iron out the control issues between all of the parties, Baber said.

Under the new deal, all of the agencies will still be able to pursue cleanup and no single agency will have total control, said Joan Gail, Bayle, of the USFWS.

Whether the deal affords the chances for a voluntary settlement with the county sales remains to be seen, although Baber speculated it might make a deal more difficult to reach.

The deal is an administrative one; it does not address how the cleanup itself will proceed. The EPA, for example, is committed to proceeding with the Superfund process, Hahnenberg said.

The river is targeted for cleanup by the agencies primarily because of the thousands of pounds of PCBs, a suspected cancer-causing agent, in the river.

208583

GREEN BAY NEWS CHRONICLE  
6/20/97

# Superfund reaction mixed

Opinions differ on whether EPA involvement will hasten or hamper efforts to clean up the Fox River

By Nick Wood  
News-Chronicle Reporter

Given the current political climate in the state, federal involvement is the best way to ensure quick cleanup of the lower Fox River, according to Emily Green, policy specialist with the Sierra Club.

The Sierra Club Thursday praised the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's decision to attempt to accelerate cleanup of the river by placing it on the Superfund list of hazardous waste sites.

"We believe that federal involvement through Superfund at this

point is really the sort of stick that's going to get the (cleanup) process moving," Green said.

But Al Toma, director of environmental affairs for Fort Howard Corp., said it is too early to know what effect the EPA's decision will have on the cleanup process.

"This is just another bureaucratic process which, quite frankly, at least based on history, would lead one to believe it has the potential to lengthen the (cleanup) process," he said.

Until now, the cleanup has been handled through voluntary cooperation between the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Fox River Group (FRG), a coalition of seven pulp and paper companies thought to be responsible for much of the pollution.

But Green and others have ques-

tioned the commitment of the FRG and DNR to reach a quick solution without some prodding from the federal government.

"We believe the (voluntary process) has been fairly easy on the responsible parties," Green said. "Many people would not argue that the DNR is fairly politicized right now, and the lack of progress does not do anything to reassure us that they really want to clean up the river."

Toma said the FRG and the DNR felt they were making good progress toward cleanup, given the "extraordinarily complex" nature of the situation.

It is estimated there are 90,000 pounds of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in a 39-mile stretch of the river. In addition to the seven FRG companies, several municipalities and wastewater treatment

facilities have contributed to the pollution. The estimated cost to remove the toxic sediments has varied widely, from \$100 million on the extreme low end to more than \$1 billion.

Toma said it is not right to characterize the voluntary process as a way to postpone an inevitable payout.

"We've said all along that we recognize that we're part of the problem and that we definitely have to be part of the solution," Toma said. "We entered into an agreement with the state in good faith. We have provided funds. We have set up a mechanism to move forward on this process. At least until yesterday we were moving forward in a manner which made an awful lot of sense."

Bruce Baker, head of the DNR's water division, could not be reached for comment Thursday.

air at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, has been pushed back a week to June 28.

CNN was in Denmark and Green Bay Wednesday, June 11 to profile *The News-Chronicle*.

The show is a week behind schedule because it was preempted by developments in the Oklahoma City bombing case.

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West Town Ave  
1177 29 & Packard Dr

1977 Ford F-250 crew cab  
with 4 cylinder as a unit  
fact, he claims, tanks and

# The Green Bay News-Chronicle

Locally owned and operated for and about the people of N

THREE SECTIONS 156 PAGES

THREE SECTIONS

## EPA JUMPS IN FOX

■ Bypassing the state of Wisconsin, the federal agency is stepping in to accelerate cleanup of the Fox River

By Nick Wood  
News-Chronicle Reporter

Saying the state's voluntary approach has not led to any actual cleanup of pollution in the lower Fox River the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said Wednesday it will speed up the process by adding the river to its Superfund list of hazardous waste areas.

In a letter to Gov. Tommy Thompson seeking his

Face to Page 3A

**Champions!**  
Deanna Highgate  
State Social 1984-86A

## Brown County B University Avenue

### TIRE RECYCLING



Tim Cochart walks past a mound of shredded tires. At the end of this month, a state-financed program

## All tired out

■ A state program to reclaim tires ends with concern about whether the public will follow its lead and recycle on its own

208580

CHECK WITH GRANDMA

BYE BYE BANISH  
Southern

HAIRY M  
Manhattan woman who sp  
after taking Rogaine is suing

county-owned property near the Mental

while Kinnis would not give a cost estimate, some quick figuring based on an esti-

Nussbaum countered that site owner Procter & Gamble had bought the site in small parcels the MITC site, but changed its mind when the new site became available.

# Mixed reviews for EPA

■ Rep. Jay Johnson hopes the EPA's move spurs the cleanup process forward

By Nick Wood  
News-Chronicle Reporter

The prospect of a quicker clean up for the Fox River drew praise from some, cautious optimism from others.

Rebecca Katers, executive director of the Clean Water Action Council (CWAC), was pleasantly surprised by the U.S. EPA's announcement that it wants to put the lower Fox River on its Superfund list of hazardous waste sites.

"This is something we've waited 10 years for," Katers said. "We're very glad the EPA has decided to step in after all the delays."

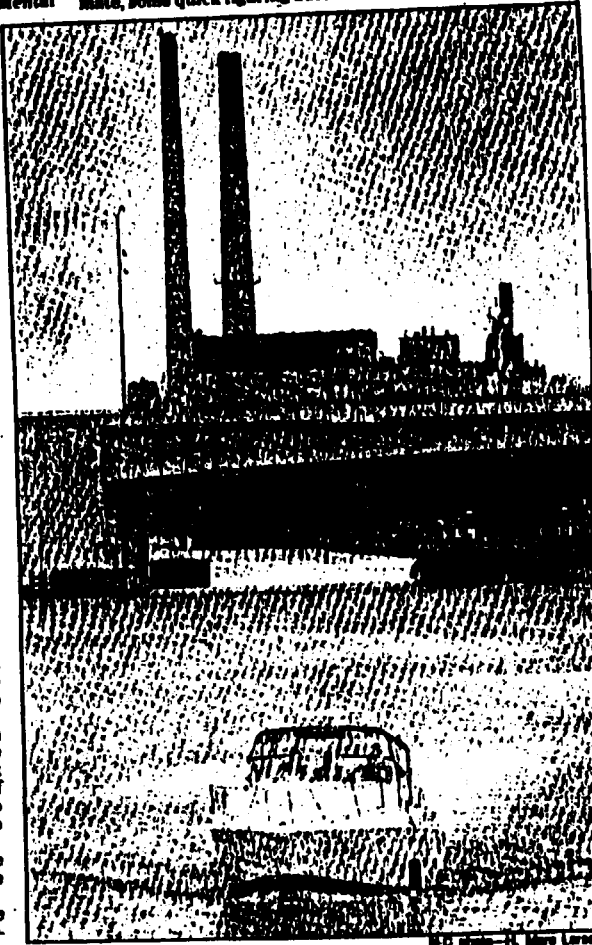
Katers and the CWAC have been critical of the slow progress made to date by the state and the Fox River Group (FRG), a coalition of seven paper companies thought to be responsible for polluting the river.

"This is very direct action," she said. "Essentially it's saying the state is taking too long."

Katers has long believed the lower Fox River should be a Superfund site. She compared the Fox to the Love Canal toxic waste dump in New York state with a river running through it.

"I'm just sorry it (EPA involvement) didn't happen sooner," Katers said.

Meanwhile, Congressman Jay Johnson, D-Green Bay, has been



Pleasure boaters cruise the Fox River at Green Bay Wednesday. The river could be part of a Superfund cleanup.

watching the developments with interest.

He said all parties concerned agree that the river needs to be cleaned up as soon as possible.

"I think (the EPA's decision) will be interpreted as good and bad," he said. "But if it speeds up the process, which is what everybody wants, it can be good."

# FRG says move is disappointing

Fox from Page 1A

support of the action, EPA Acting Regional Administrator David Ulrich said Superfund listing will increase the likelihood of a total cleanup of PCBs in a 30-mile stretch of the river.

The state and a group of paper companies potentially responsible for the contamination were not happy with the EPA's decision. They had been working together to find a voluntary solution to the contamination problem.

"(The EPA's decision is extremely disappointing," said Kevin Keane, press secretary for Gov. Thompson. "We believe we're on the right track. EPA action would steer us off course dramatically."

The Fox River Group (FRG), a coalition of seven paper companies thought to be responsible for much of the pollution, echoed the governor's dismay.

"Today's announcement from the EPA shows the federal government prefers process over progress," said Cliff Bowers, FRG spokesman, and an employee at Fort Howard Paper Corp.

Bowers said the EPA's announcement is unnecessary given that the FRG has committed \$10 million to begin restoration of the river and "to develop a plan for the cleanup."

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

But EPA officials say that while a cooperative approach is preferred, there is no indication what has been done so far will lead to cleanup of the entire river.

"We wanted to give the (FRG) process some time," said EPA Re-

gional Project Manager Jim Hahnberg. "(But) we don't really see a comprehensive cleanup on the horizon, or a commitment to doing the cleanup anywhere in the reasonable future."

The EPA's action will be in addition to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA) process. The NRDA names the seven FRG paper companies as the producers of the contamination. If filed, the NRDA would hold the FRG companies responsible for restoring environment.

Unlike the NRDA, which concentrates first on assigning liability, the Superfund process allows the government to do the cleanup first, then decide who is responsible for payment.

"We felt the Superfund process would be a good way to move the process forward," Hahnberg said.

But although the Superfund law gives EPA broad powers to clean up the river, the intent is not to be heavy-handed, Hahnberg said.

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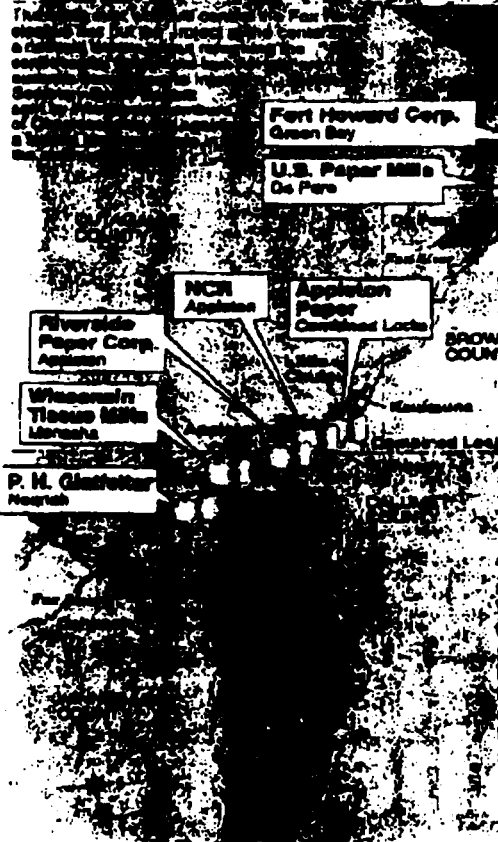


Our environment

TO: ROGER

5/14/97

# The political pollution



### The players:

"We are writing to express our serious concern regarding the lack of progress in discussions between the Fish & Wildlife Service, other federal trustees and the State of Wisconsin in the development of a Memorandum of Agreement regarding that Natural Resources Damage Assessment on the Fox River..."

— U.S. Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., and U.S. Sen. Mark Kohl, D-Wis.

"We believe that the recent agreement between the state of Wisconsin and the PRPs (potentially responsible parties) represents the beginning of another innovative, successful solution to our nation's natural resource problems. As such, we believe that it is worthy of your strongest support..."

— U.S. Rep. Thomas Petri, R-Randolph Wis. and U.S. Rep. Jim Johnson, D-Green Bay



Feingold



Kohl



Petri



Johnson

Photo Credits: Courtesy of Bob Harvey and Jim Hilde

## Bickering threatens to delay Fox cleanup

### Jurisdiction and reform issues need settling

By Susan Carroll  
Press-Gazette

The Fox River cleanup is at the center of a maelstrom of lobbying that rages across Wisconsin's borders to Oshkosh and Washington, D.C.

Further conflict and politicking on already divisive local issues is an obstacle to link the cleanup with a separate effort to reform the national Superfund law.

Bickering between the state and federal governments about jurisdiction threatens to delay the cleanup, which allows more toxic substances to be swept into Green Bay and Lake Michigan.

The federal government is proceeding with a National Resources Damage Assessment to assess

the cleanup of the river and bay. The assessment, borne of the 1980 Superfund law, is the federal government's strongest regulatory tool for environmental damage.

The assessment process has been sharply criticized for interfering with the state's effort to negotiate a voluntary cleanup by paper mills believed responsible for the contamination.

In recent letters to U.S. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, eight congressmen — including four from Wisconsin — accused the federal government of refusing to work with the state and paper mills on the voluntary cleanup.

"Several went further, highlighting the Fox River project as an example of how federal intervention

"It really upsets me that people would take something so necessary as cleaning this mess up and turn it into something political."

— Apocahriquet, Menominee Indian Nation chairman

► Excerpts from other letters against a federal leadership role in cleanup/A-2

Please see Cleanup/A-2





use.

more direct, claiming the DNR is 100 years — is unaccepta

GS  
News Chronicle  
5/22/97

# Water fight with tribe not finished

■ Both the tribe and area municipalities expect court battles to continue over who'll control water quality on the old Oneida reservation

By Ray Barrington  
News-Chronicle Reporter

The Environmental Protection Agency's withdrawal of agreements for the Oneida Tribe of Indians to regulate water quality on its historic reservation land — and the EPA's prior agreement to do so — will still face court fights.

Oneida Chairwoman Deborah Duxtator said Wednesday the tribe will oppose the withdrawal and continue to press for a court decision.

So will area municipalities opposed to Oneida control, according to Hobart Chairman Len Teresinski.

"Our thinking is what we've been told by our lawyers — to resolve the suit because we've spent all this money already," he said.

In January, the EPA granted "treatment-as-a-state" status provided under the Clean Water Act for the Oneidas and three other Wisconsin tribes, allowing them to set and enforce water-quality rules on their reservations.

Nationwide, about 150 agreements have been made with tribes on resource management, including 21 for controlling water quality.

Some states have fought the moves, but none as aggressively as Wisconsin, where the state Department of Justice and others filed multiple lawsuits seeking to overturn agreements they see as an infringement on state power to control public waters.

Under pressure of the lawsuits,

the EPA withdrew the agreements for the Oneida tribe and the Lac du Flambeau band of Chippewa Indians Tuesday and asked that the lawsuits be dismissed.

In seeking dismissal, EPA lawyers said: "Certain documents filed in this case contain statements which may not be complete or fully accurate, or may have inadvertent omissions."

State attorneys recently told the courts they suspected some documents purportedly used in reaching the agreements with the tribes actually were prepared after the decisions were already made.

Duxtator said Oneida lawyers had not seen those documents.

"What's happened here is the federal authorities are in full retreat," said James Haney, spokesman for Attorney General James Doyle. "That's why we intend to oppose the motion to dismiss. We will urge both judges (in Madison and Milwaukee) to rule on the merits of these cases."

Teresinski said the pursuit of a local lawsuit is not aimed at the tribe so much as at the EPA.

"The way (the EPA) pursued it impacted both local communities and the tribes themselves," he said. "Really, the EPA's at fault in this whole thing. We're not blaming the tribes or anyone else. It's just unfortunate government agencies aren't more responsive."

The state lawsuit against the EPA in the Lac du Flambeau case is before U.S. District Judge Barbara Crabb of Madison; the Oneida case is before U.S. District Judge Charles Clevert of Milwaukee.

Duxtator said the tribe was "absolutely outraged" by the EPA's change of position.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.



## Two to t

■ Amado Servais a Jesse Sanchez will s trial for their alleged in the stabbing death Jeffrey Neosh

By Brian M. Kerkia  
News-Chronicle Reporter

Two Green Bay men alleged another man to stab. Neosh will stand trial on his charges, a court commis ruled Wednesday.

Amado Servais, 20, 17 George St., and Jesse Sanchez 1177 E. Walnut St., will ente to charges of being party to decree intentional homicide. Servais is yet to be schedule

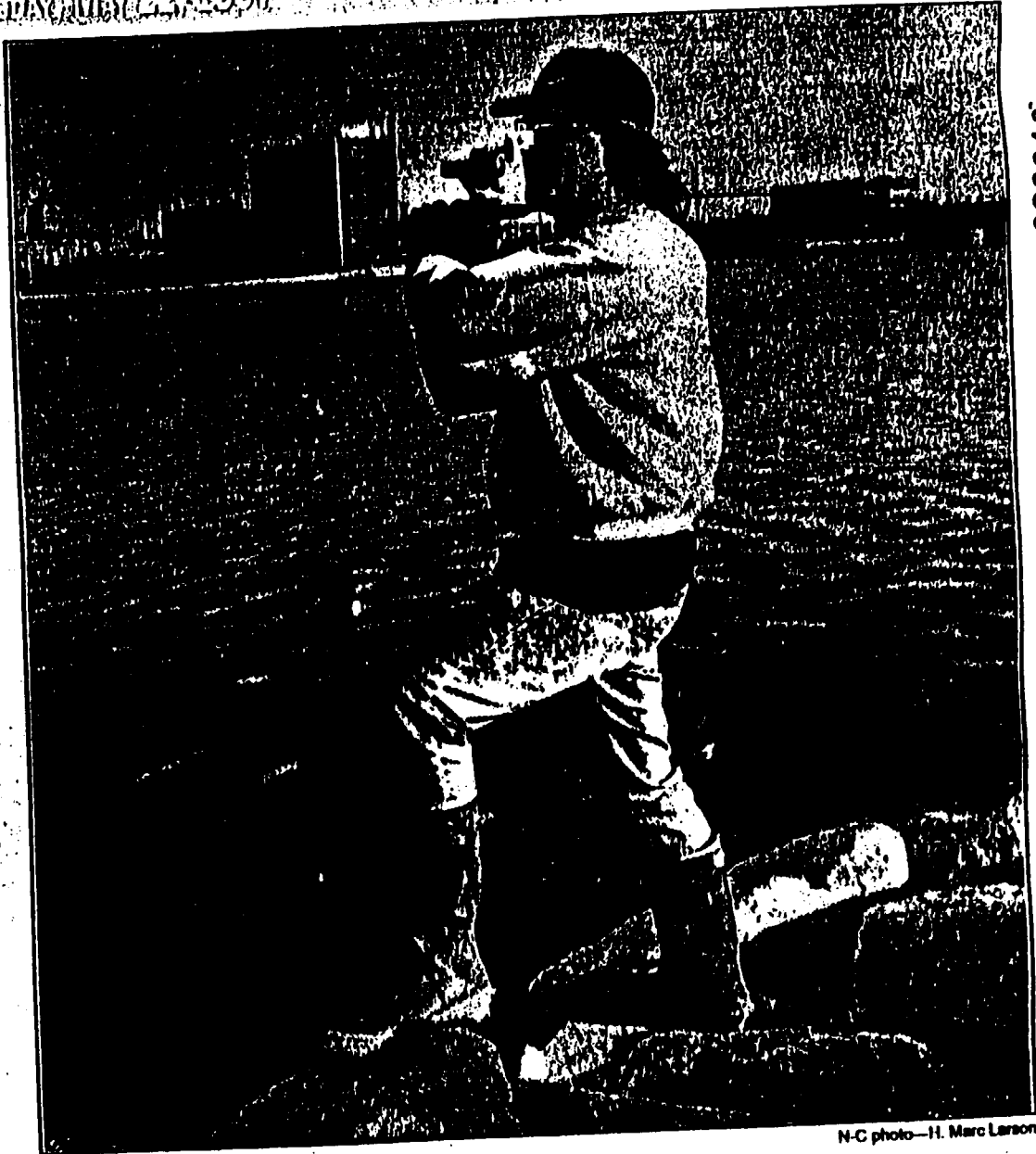
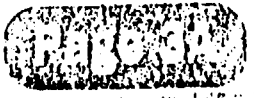
The Green Bay man actually fatally stabbing and wounding Damon Schw Shane Gressel, 1177 E. Walnut is currently undergoing a competency examination. Gressel's arraignment will be held after psychiatric review is complete.

In the decision, Brown County Court Commissioner Law

FOX  
WILL  
COME  
CLEAN

CB News Chronicle

Contaminated Fox River will  
be saved, federal official vows



208340

N-C photo—H. Marc Larson

Steve Kasten fishes along the west bank of the Fox River in Green Bay early Wednesday evening. An official from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said during an informational public meeting on Fox River cleanup Wednesday that the federal government will not hesitate to sue seven Fox River Valley paper firms to assure that PCBs ( ) other contaminants are cleaned from the river.

**LOCAL/STATE**

208339

# DNR rapped at Fox cleanup hearing

■ One way or another, the federal government will see to it the Fox River is cleaned up, an official says

By Brian M. Kerhin  
News-Chronicle Reporter

Public skepticism of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources ran hot and heavy Wednesday during discussion of a possible Fox River cleanup process. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considering filing a Natural Resources Damage Assessment, or NRDA, against seven paper companies it says caused PCB-based pollution. Those companies would be liable for restoring the environment and compensation for lost life.

The federal agency is leading the assessment effort, but negotiations involving the state and other trustees continue, said Fish and Wildlife Service regional director William Hartwig. About 100 people attended an informational forum at the Brown County Central Library sponsored by the service.

Tom Erdman, a field biologist who has worked on the river and the waters of the Green Bay, criticized the DNR for wanting to be involved now when it allowed the problem to get this bad.

Steve Abitz, president of Clean Water Action Council, a local environmental group, said "we need the NRDA more than ever" because he believes the state wants to stop the process to force a cleanup.

Curt Anderson of Green Bay was more direct, claiming the DNR is

"honeycombed with corruption" by working for the paper companies, not the public.

Hartwig said the Fish and Wildlife Service wants to work out a deal between the state and paper companies. Money should be spent on cleaning up the 40 tons of PCBs left in river sediment — not for attorneys, he said.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has agreed not to file the NRDA until at least June 1 to allow negotiations to continue. A deal probably won't be done by then, but Hartwig suggested the filing moratorium will continue past then.

If a deal can't be struck, Hartwig said, the Fish and Wildlife Service will not hesitate to proceed; leaving Fox River cleanup to Mother Nature — which would take at least 100 years — is unacceptable, he

said. The seven potentially responsible parties — Fort Howard Corp., U.S. Paper Mills Corp., Riverside Paper Corp., NCR, Appleton Papers Inc., Wisconsin Tissue Mills and P.H. Glatfelter Co. — didn't publicly comment at the meeting.

Afterward, however, Dennis Hultgren of Appleton Papers said he's convinced a cooperative approach is better.

While the paper companies are "easy targets" for the Fish and Wildlife Service, Hultgren said, the seven firms have worked successfully with the state, forging an interim deal to clean up the river.

In fact, despite criticisms by some, the DNR has a deal and a pledge for a \$10 million payment from the companies for cleanup projects next year at selected sites.

That's something the federal government can't say, Hultgren said.

As for the NRDA itself, David Allen of the Fish and Wildlife Service said the planning process will continue for about another 18 months — hopefully concluding by the end of 1998. After that, any federal government-directed cleanup would start, although the state or companies may initiate cleanup on their own.

No decisions on cleanup methods or cost estimates have been made, and won't be determined until the end of 1998, Hartwig said.

While some people wanted the scope of the study or cleanup expanded, Hartwig said, that likely won't happen because the agency is committed to solving what it calls the major problem — PCBs.

## Water fight with



## LOCAL/STATE

# Fox River cleanup lawsuit deadline nears

Details of a possible lawsuit will be explained Wednesday

Brian M. Kerlin

News-Chronicle Reporter

Cleanup of the Fox River has become one of the most talked about environmental issues in Northeast Wisconsin for years.

Armed with a key deadline approaching June 1, the federal agency that could force seven paper companies to pay for that cleanup is hosting a public question-and-answer session Wednesday night.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considering filing a lawsuit for a Natural Resources Damages assessment against the seven companies it claims caused the

PCB and other contamination to the river.

The goals are to assess the level of injury on fish, wildlife and habitats resulting from contamination; restore those resources; and compensate the community for its loss.

The Fish and Wildlife Service hasn't filed the suit yet because negotiations with the companies are scheduled to last until June 1. If no deal is reached, the agency must file its suit by then.

But first, the public will get a chance to find out more about the assessment and ask questions, said Joan Guilfoyle, a Fish and Wildlife Service spokeswoman.

It's something everyone should be interested in, said Rebecca Leighton-Katers, executive director of the Clean Water Action Coun-

cil, a local environmental group.

"It's the most important environmental issue in the region — and it affects everyone," she said. "It's been two years since the last public meeting, so we're anxious to ask questions."

The federal efforts have differed from those by Wisconsin and its Department of Natural Resources.

The state has struck a deal with the seven companies — Fort Howard Corp., U.S. Paper Mills Corp., NCR, Appleton Papers Inc., Wisconsin Tissue Mills, P.H. Glatfelter Co. and Riverside Paper Corp. — for the firms to donate \$10 million toward initial cleanup efforts.

More payments are expected, DNR Secretary George Meyer has said.

But the federal government

wasn't a part of that agreement, partly because control issues between the state and feds couldn't be agreed to.

The companies have been pushing for voluntary payments and a cooperative approach. The Fox River Coalition, which includes many paper companies, the state and local governments, has worked for years on trying to get some cleanup.

If the federal lawsuit is filed, the companies could fight any liability in court — a reason they say the cooperative approach is better.

All of the PCB discharges were legal at the time. Up to 90,000 pounds of the suspected cancer-causing chemical is believed to be floating in the river and buried in the sediment between Lake Winnebago and the Green Bay.

### Q&A

**Your chance:** The public's opportunity to ask questions about the proposed Natural Resources Damage Assessment — a lawsuit targeted at seven paper companies accused of polluting the Fox River with PCBs and other contaminants — is scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Brown County Central Library, 515 Pine St. A one-hour presentation explaining the assessment will be followed by a one-hour question-and-answer session.

Sunday  
Edition  
March 9,  
1997

# The Green Bay News-Chronicle

Locally owned and operated for and about the people of Northeast Wisconsin

Friday  
Sports  
Update

## Fort Howard a state leader in pollution

**PAST WEEK'S**  
births, deaths  
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**Top 10 Brown County Companies ranked by toxic releases to the environment**

Company	Toxic environmental releases (pounds)	Released and transferred off site (pounds)
Fort Howard	1,181,035	313,900
Kruccer International	523	201,738
Career Boat	155,973	0
Lake to Lake	0	151,700
Green Bay Pkg mill div.	100,318	256
Paper Converting	1,300	75,844
Industrial Protective Coatings	1,800	72,882
Nicolet Paper	72,048	180
Carsten Technology	38,408	15,573
ShadeUnited	6,620	41,370

Pollution figures released by the state show companies' performance

**Firm's size is reason, papermaker says**

By Brian M. Kerhin  
News-Chronicle Reporter

Brown County is the fifth largest contributor of toxic releases to the environment in the state, according to a report recently released.

But the 39 companies which emitted about three million pounds of material only account for a small percentage of the 132 million pounds released statewide in 1995.

In all, 855 state businesses filed Toxic Release Inventory forms with the state, said Wes Taylor, of the Bureau of Integrated Science Services at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

All of the discharges are legal. This program does not address that, however, it's simply an inventory of toxic releases of 600 different chemicals.

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Pollution permits themselves are handled separately.

The state uses the figures in developing permit levels, fashioning pollution prevention programs and just answering basic questions about pollution, Taylor said.

The releases are divided into two categories: total environmental releases and treated/offsite releases.

The environmental releases are actual emissions into the air, water or land. These are potentially more dangerous because of that, Taylor said.

The environmental releases totalled about two million pounds in 1995 in Brown County, 32 million pounds statewide.

The treated and offsite transfers include water sent to municipal treatment plants and materials sent offsite for treatment, recycling, storage or other handling.

Brown County's offsite transfers totalled about one million pounds in 1995, while the state total was 100 million pounds.

Fort Howard Corp. easily led the Brown County list of polluters, and was the third highest in the state behind two other paper mills, Taylor said.

Part of that is due just to the sheer size of it being the county's largest manufacturing employer, said company spokesman Cliff Bowers.

He reiterated Taylor's comment that all of the releases are legal and well-below permit limits. Also, the figure is inflated compared to other firms because the company has its own coal-fired power plant instead of buying power from another company, he said.

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# Outcome of Fox clean-up talks unclear

■ Apparently no deal has been reached in Fox River cleanup talks held Friday in Madison

By Brian M. Kothla  
News-Chronicle Reporter

Few details were released on a meeting Friday which could have major implications for the cleanup of the Fox River.

The session, held behind closed doors in Madison, was about the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's planned Natural Resources Damage Assessment.

The NRDA would seek to have seven companies — Fort Howard Corp., U.S. Paper Mills, Riverside Paper Corp., NCR, Appleton Papers, Wisconsin Tissue Mills and P.H. Gladfelter — declared responsible for discharging tons of pollutants into the Fox River, including PCBs, which are suspected of causing cancer.

A spokeswoman for the USF&WS said late Friday she didn't know if any decisions were made.

Mark Reimer, an attorney with Fort Howard, said the company "is hopeful (the meeting) will lead to a

“

**I don't want to jeopardize things by discussing the confidential settlement talks.**

Maryann Sumi  
executive director, DNR

”

successful resolution.”

But he wouldn't define what a successful resolution would be from the company's perspective and he also couldn't say what happened at the meeting.

Maryann Sumi, executive assistant for the Department of Natural Resources, described the meeting as “not acrimonious,” but would say little else.

More discussions will be held but Sumi wouldn't say if that meant there still isn't a deal in place.

## Raffles for Packer tickets to be held

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Dr. (McG)

Dr. (McG) 73, of former phur S early F in Kno; Tellico A grad Helena, cal Sch-former t Bay Pac. County) can Mec member of Wisco of Bellin Vincent America; Surgeons Bay area for 50 year pörment moved to munity in ment and Ridge Vo- tive Educ He was parents, G-day McG McGuire; s wif, Ann vora Includ; McGuire; e nnel McGul san McGuir St. Cloud, B and Keith B and Mary ar bury, N.Y.; and Steven Wis., Daniel Columbus, In ner of Winsl and Michael Wis., 13 gra brother-in-l

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LOCAL/STATE

# Controversial isle could see recreational future

■ The Harbor Commission defends the need for Renard Island, and looks toward future uses

By Brian M. Koshin  
News-Chronicle Reporter

How about shooting 18 holes on the Renard Island golf course?

Or maybe a nice trip to the Renard beach for a picnic? Or a visit to the wildlife preserve?

Those could be possibilities once the confined disposal facility is filled and capped, according to Brown County Port Director Jeff Finley.

The island, just off the shore of Bay Beach Park, is nearly full of material dredged from the shipping channel.

Finley readily acknowledges that as is, the 55-acre island is an eyesore. But, he said, the island won't always be a work-in-progress. And that's where an updated land use plan will come in.

The port will work with the community, nearby residents and the county's planning staff to update the completed — but never formally adopted — 1987 recreation plan, he said.

That calls for a 50-50 split between a wildlife area and passive recreation, including a beach, wooded area, bird nesting area and lookout point. A walkway bridge between Bay Beach and the island would connect the two.

In an updated plan, the uses could be changed to include a golf course or other activity areas. Besides being a beneficial reuse, such work could enhance property values and encourage use of the bay, Finley said

## Port saves on fuel use

More than 18,000 rail cars or 82,000 semitrailers would be needed to transport the material that passed through the port of Green Bay in 1985, a new study says.

The third annual modal shift study, performed by the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission, compared the fuel use and emissions of various modes of transportation.

In 1985, 1.8 million tons of material was imported and exported through the harbor. In reality, 143 ships brought in the material. Study comparisons, however, are based on 131 ships, which would

be minimum number of full-loaded ships needed.

The ships used 1.3 million gallons of fuel. If only rail cars actually handled the material, 3.3 million gallons of fuel would be needed — an increase of 158 percent. For trucks, 11.4 million gallons of fuel would be needed — an increase of 778 percent, compared with ships.

Exhaust emissions for the ships would equal 240.73 tons. Rail emissions would be 1,148.74 tons — an increase of 377 percent. Truck emissions would be 1,767.57 tons — an increase of 634 percent.

— Brian M. Koshin

at a Harbor Commission meeting Monday.

An expanded Renard and other full cells at the Bay Port Industrial Park storage site could be incorporated into such planning, he said.

Meanwhile, the controversial expansion was again defended by the commission.

The Remedial Action Plan's science advisory and general policy committees recently called on the county and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to abandon Renard in favor of using Bay Port.

Finley said Renard is needed to hold the 3-to-4 million cubic yard backlog of material from the channel. That won't fit at Bay Port, even with its impending expansion.

Harbor Commission president Gary Weidner said the RAP shouldn't tell the port how to conduct its business.

The RAP seems to be ignoring the

considerable work done by the county. Also, the county can't control what the state or federal governments do or their budget constraints, Weidner said.

Finley suggested the RAP was being too heavily influenced by the Clean Water Action Council — a local environmental group that has actively opposed the project.

■ If Renard is ever expanded, the federal government is committed to paying the full \$20 million bill.

Current law, however, forces municipalities to pay the entire cost of such facilities. That may be changed to force a 75 percent federal and 25 percent local cost share. That would be good news for most ports, but not Green Bay.

Even if that law passes, full federal funding has been assured, Finley said. Despite that, he's working to get a specific reference in the new law exempting Renard Island.



# The Green Bay News-Chronicle

Locally owned and operated for and about the people of Northeast Wisconsin

TWO SECTIONS, 36 PAGES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1988

50 CENTS

## This 'Puppy' digs for dirt

■ An EPA research vessel is in Green Bay for two weeks, helping test river bottom sediments

The "Mud Puppy," a research vessel operated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, is back on the Fox River.

The boat is in Brown County this week and next, helping sample sediments from the Fox River.

The vessel is assisting the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Fox River Coalition as part of the FRC's on-going river clean-up effort.

Jo Mercurio of the DNR said the unique equipment on the Mud Puppy can extract a sediment core as deep as 15 feet. In the Fox River, there are soft sediments as deep as 20 feet and as shallow as three feet, according to Mercurio.

The EPA has awarded a \$125,000 grant to the Fox River Coalition for the project which involves evaluating the location and concentrations of PCBs from the De Pere dam to the mouth of the river. The FRC is contributing \$120,000 and the DNR \$15,000, as well as in-kind services.

A team of 10 people, including DNR and EPA staff, local volunteers from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and OMNI Associates, an environmental consulting firm, are

working six days a week to maximize the use of the Mud Puppy.

Results and analysis of the study will be completed by late 1988.

The Fox River Coalition will propose a draft plan for remediation of the river and a timetable for clean-up of the river. That's supposed to be done by the end of this year.

Mercurio acknowledged the results of this year's testing won't be available to impact the first phase plan for the river clean-up, but she said it will better identify hot spots downstream of the De Pere dam in a more cost-effective manner and will enhance FRC's ability to predict environmental improvements in the river.

## Fox cleanup tough: panel

■ No matter who pays for it, the Fox River has to be cleaned up soon, experts say

By Brian M. Kerhin  
News-Chronicle Reporter

People want to know three things about plans to clean up the PCB-laden Fox River:

When will it happen? How much will it cost? And who will pay for it?

The simple answers at a forum Thursday were "soon," "it's too early to tell," and "everyone."

But the answers really aren't that simple and will take more time to answer, according to the panelists at the session, sponsored by the Fox River Coalition.

There are more than 30 hotspots with more than nine-million-cubic-yards of contaminants. The coalition of industry, business and governments has been studying the problem for several years.

A clean-up plan should be ready by the end of the year, said Jo Mercurio, of the Department of Natural Resources.

But it's too early to say how much that will cost because of the decisions which have to be made yet on how much should be cleaned up, where and with what methods, said Bud Harris, director of the Institute for Land and Water Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

Different sites will require different methods. Several potential options were discussed, including landfilling, thermal destruction and capping.

Annette Rasch, of the NEW Envir-

### Lake Michigan meeting next

While Thursday's meeting focused on cleaning up the Fox River, there'll be another meeting next week on Lake Michigan's health.

The LAMP — a lakewide management plan — aims at reducing toxic chemicals in the lake.

The LAMPs are designed to define the problems, identify pollutants and sources, create a clean-up schedule, evaluate remedies and monitor progress, said Jo

Mercurio of the Department of Natural Resources.

The eventual goal is elimination of the 362 contaminants — one-third of which are toxic — from the lake.

The public is invited to the meeting Tuesday. It starts with a social hour from 6 to 7 p.m., followed by presentations and discussion from 7 to 9 p.m.

It will be held at the Holiday Inn-City Center, 200 N. Main

onmental Network, suggested above-ground storage facilities be built so industry doesn't bury the problem and forget about it.

But DNR's Bill Fitzpatrick said landfills may be best option to remove contact with the environment. There'll be more debate on the methods once a plan for specific sites is unveiled.

Industry will pay its fair share because it doesn't want to court over this, said Jim Beason of Appleton Papers.

However, because more than industry caused the problem, it's acceptable for the general public to pay some of the clean-up costs, said Dan Burke of the Lake Michigan Federation.

That bothers some people, including Lara Valigorsky.

"To say (to industry) that we're going to clean up after you is not a good sign," she said.

Some of the 100-or-so people at the

forum criticized the coalition for not getting more public input. This meeting was designed to give out information, not get feedback, said Mercurio.

Public input is wanted and hearings will be held on the different options once they are developed for specific sites, she said.

That didn't satisfy some. Long-time area activist Bob Schmitz said he'd organize his own meeting so people could voice their opinions.

All of the panel members stressed the need to get clean-up efforts going before too much material is washed into the Green Bay, where it's unrecoverable. That will mean a commitment by the public and industry, Mercurio said.

There will always be some uncertainty in the clean-up methods used but at some point value judgements must be made and work started, Harris said.

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TWO SECTIONS, 32 PAGES

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 1995

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## Clean-up of Neenah PCBs put on hold

■ The project manager is upset with a delay in the clean-up of Deposit A

By Brian M. Kerhin  
News-Chronicle Reporter

Clean-up of a PCB-laden deposit in Little Lake Butte des Morts in Neenah is on hold.

The area, identified as "Deposit A," is one of the largest single beds of contaminated sediment in the Fox River. It was scheduled to be the site of a demonstration clean-up project.

But with the industry- and government-sponsored Fox River Coalition close to issuing a plan for clean-up over the length of the entire river, talks on cleaning up Deposit A have been put on hold, according to Bill Fitzpatrick, project manager for the Department of Natural Resources.

He'd prefer to see the project — which would test a dry excavation method of clean-up — go ahead while the Fox River Coalition ponders its decisions. It was supposed to happen already, but negotiations and planning have slowed the

progress.

Jo Mercurio, the DNR staffer for the Coalition, said the Deposit A clean-up isn't being delayed.

With the coalition close to having a clean-up plan for the entire river, going ahead with one costly project doesn't make sense, she said, adding, Deposit A should be a part of the coalition's overall plan.

That plan should be done by the end of the year. It's too early to say what it will include, however.

Deposit A contains more than 1,400 pounds of PCBs. The clean-up

is expected to cost \$15 million, with the state and P.H. Glatfelter — a nearby mill deemed primarily responsible because of the proximity of the mill and the deposit — splitting the bill somehow.

But with the coalition coming up with a plan for more extensive and expensive clean-up, Deposit A should be a part of it, Mercurio said.

Fitzpatrick would prefer to see Deposit A work move forward before it loses more PCBs to the Green Bay.

Deposit A and the entire river cleanup will be discussed at a forum

Thursday at the Holiday Inn City Centre, 200 N. Main St.

The public is invited. Mercurio hopes people will suggest ways to help the clean-up. The meeting starts at 7 p.m.

PCB contamination downstream is important to water quality in Brown County. Free PCBs gather behind the De Pere dam before going over and out into the bay. Once there, they are considered unrecoverable, so a clean-up of the river is considered the best option — although the means of the actual clean-up are hotly debated.

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# The Green Bay News-Chronicle

WEEKEND EDITION

Pre Set In C OPEN

## Meeting here on Fox River cleanup

■ A network of environmental groups says the voluntary approach favored by the state is taking too long to complete

By Brian M. Kerhin  
News-Chronicle Reporter 8-5-8

A public open house will be held Thursday to discuss and describe efforts to clean-up toxic sediments from the Fox River.

But a band of environment groups already blasting the Fox River Coalition for what it calls slow progress.

The Fox River Coalition consists of local and state governments, sewerage treatment plants, businesses and others. It has been studying ways to clean-up the PCB-laden river.

It has scheduled an open house for next Thursday in Green Bay to discuss the work and how the pollution affects humans and wildlife. A similar session has already been held in Appleton.

But coalition has spent too much taxpayer money and hasn't done enough actual clean-up, according to Annette Rasch of the NEW Envir-

onmental Network.  
"We would like to see a voluntary approach work for cleaning up the Fox River, but time's up. We've waited too long already. An enforcement action is needed if we don't see results soon," she said.  
The network is particularly critical because less than 15 percent of the first fundraising effort came from the polluters, while most of it has come from taxpayers.

The state has favored working with industry on a voluntary basis believing it is more cost-effective than initiating lengthy and costly legal battles.

Coalition members have said the Fox River project could be a model for the nation, if given the chance to work.

The public sessions will include informational booths and displays as well as discussions. The meeting starts with an open house at 6:30 p.m., with the presentations at 7 p.m.

The meeting is at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Holiday Inn City Centre, 2001 Main St.

The river is home to more than 500 beds of PCB-laden soils. The PCBs are partially responsible for fish and wildlife health advisories that may affect human health.

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FRIDAY, JULY 21, 1995

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N.C. photo—H. Marc Lars.

Jo Mercurio of the Department of Natural Resources and Al Toma of Fort Howard Corporation are members of the Fox River Coalition.

## A river seeks support

■ The Fox River Coalition will hold an open house to inform the public of various clean-up options

By Nick Wood  
News-Chronicle Reporter

The Fox River Coalition sees a window of opportunity — one which it says could soon close forever. And, it doesn't want to miss the chance to take advantage of that window.

The opportunity lies in removing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) while they're still contained in sediment beds in the Fox River, Lake Winnebago and Little Lake Butte de Morts. The coalition wants to clean up the PCB's now, before they're washed downriver. Once dispersed into Green Bay, clean-up would be virtually impossible.

PCB's, a byproduct of industry and wastewater treatment, work their way into the food chain and cause damage to fish, wildlife and humans who eat them. The Fox River Coalition is a collection 35 public and private groups, at least some of which played a part in contaminating the

Fox River. Now they're banding together to voluntarily clean up the mess before it's too late.

"We have an opportunity if we act quickly to manage these pollutants," said Jo Mercurio, a water resources specialist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Mercurio said the DNR sees the Fox River Coalition as the best vehicle to effect swift action.

For the past three years, the coalition has been studying the extent of PCB contamination in river sediment, identifying hotbeds of contamination and is now looking to take the next step — clean-up.

Al Toma, director of environmental affairs for Fort Howard Corp., said instead of spending precious time pointing fingers in court, the parties have accepted responsibility and are now using that time to clean up the river.

"Certain industries have contributed to the problem and we want to be part of the solution," Toma said.

But even a broad-based coalition such as the Fox River Coalition can't tackle the huge job alone. Public input and support of the project are essential, Mercurio and Toma agreed.

Mercurio said the public will have

to decide how far to go with clean-up.

The coalition has identified the most contaminated sites and ranked them in order of importance. In an ideal world, coalition members and the public would be willing to clean up all the contamination. Realistically, however, the coalition understands the public will decide how much it's willing to pay. In order to make an intelligent decision, the public needs to be informed about the various options.

Following the Aug. 10 open house Toma said he'd like to see the coalition develop an action plan.

"We want to know what we're going to do where and when," Toma said.

Once a plan is in place, the coalition can start working on financing the project. About \$285,000 has already been raised through the coalition and another \$250,000 may come from an Environmental Protection Agency grant.

Toma said he'd like clean-up to begin by the end of 1996, but Mercurio gave a more conservative estimate of mid-1997. If the clean-up effort is successful, the Fox River Coalition will be a national model of public-private partnership.

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# Superfund reaction mixed

**Options differ on whether EPA involvement will hasten or hamper efforts to clean up the Fox River**

By Nick Wood

News-Chronicle Reporter

Given the current political climate in the state, federal involvement is the best way to ensure quick cleanup of the lower Fox River, according to Emily Green, policy specialist with the Sierra Club.

The Sierra Club Thursday praised the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's decision to attempt to accelerate cleanup of the river by placing it on the Superfund list of hazardous waste sites. "We believe that federal involvement through Superfund at this

point is really the sort of stick that's going to get the (cleanup) process moving," Green said.

But Al Toma, director of environmental affairs for Fort Howard Corp., said it is too early to know what effect the EPA's decision will have on the cleanup process.

"This is just another bureaucratic process which, quite frankly, at least based on history, would lead one to believe it has the potential to lengthen the (cleanup) process," he said.

Until now, the cleanup has been handled through voluntary cooperation between the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Fox River Group (FRG), a coalition of seven pulp and paper companies thought to be responsible for much of the pollution.

But Green and others have ques-

tioned the commitment of the FRG and DNR to reach a quick solution without some prodding from the federal government.

"We believe the (voluntary process) has been fairly easy on the responsible parties," Green said. "Many people would not argue that the DNR is fairly politicized right now, and the lack of progress does not do anything to reassure us that they really want to clean up the river."

Toma said the FRG and the DNR felt they were making good progress toward cleanup, given the "extraordinarily complex" nature of the situation.

It is estimated there are 90,000 pounds of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in a 30-mile stretch of the river. In addition to the seven FRG companies, several municipalities and wastewater treatment

facilities have contributed to the pollution. The estimated cost to remove the toxic sediments has varied widely, from \$100 million on the extreme low end to more than \$1 billion.

Toma said it is not right to characterize the voluntary process as a way to postpone an inevitable payout.

"We've said all along that we recognize that we're part of the problem and that we definitely have to be part of the solution," Toma said. "We entered into an agreement with the state in good faith. We have provided funds. We have set up a mechanism to move forward on this process. At least until yesterday we were moving forward in a manner which made an awful lot of sense."

Bruce Baker, head of the DNR's water division, could not be reached for comment Thursday.

air at 8:20 p.m. Saturday, it been pushed back a week June 28.

CNN was in Denmark a Green Bay Wednesday, June to profile *The News-Chronicle*

The show is a week behind schedule because it was preempted by developments in the Oklahoma City bombing case.

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