
EPA to Begin Remedial Design Sampling in Residential Areas

Ten-Mile Drain Superfund Site

St. Clair Shores, Michigan

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For more information

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency plans to start remedial design sampling in two residential areas of the Ten-Mile Drain Superfund site in St. Clair Shores, Mich., this spring and summer. This work follows the cleanup plan the agency selected last year to address PCB-contaminated soil at residential and commercial properties at the site. This fact sheet summarizes the remedial design sampling process and provides an update on the status of other areas of the site.

Sampling on residential yards

EPA recently sent out access agreements to property owners requesting permission for agency representatives and contractors to take soil samples from residential yards at **NO COST** to the property owner. EPA will collect samples at each residential property from approximately eight to 16 locations to a depth of 4 feet in the front and back yards, if applicable. All samples will be analyzed for PCBs. The sample holes will be about the size of a soda can. Grass and soil will be replaced, and care will be taken to leave each yard the way it was prior to sampling. None of this work can be done without property owner's written permission, so filling out and signing the access agreement is important. The property owner will be notified of sample results.



Hand sampling with an auger to clear utility lines. Sampling can also be done by Geoprobe (See photo on Page 2).

Investigation Areas

The agency's selected residential and commercial cleanup involves certain properties in two areas: Investigation Area 1 around Lakeland and Bon Brae Streets and Harper Avenue, and Investigation Area 2 centered on the Lange and Revere Street canals (*see map, Page 4*). Based on data collected to-date, the near-surface soil cleanup would address 25 known residential properties, part of a commercial property and three utility corridors. Based on future sampling in the two investigation areas, the cleanup could also address up to 75 additional properties.

Site background

The site is northeast of Detroit on the western shores of Lake St. Clair in Macomb County, Mich. The site covers several city blocks where PCBs have been found inside the Ten-Mile Drain system as well as near-surface soil and sediment (mud) in the Lange and Revere Street canals connected to Lake St. Clair. The site was placed on the National Priorities List in 2010 making it eligible for cleanup funds under EPA's Superfund program.

Investigators believe PCB-contaminated oil originated from a historical release at the commercial property located at the corner of Lakeland Street and Harper Avenue in Investigation Area 1. It appears the PCB-tainted oil was dumped there or used for dust control on a former dirt parking lot. There is not an ongoing release of PCBs from the commercial property to the Ten-Mile Drain system.

The PCB-contaminated oil was likely tracked onto adjacent properties by vehicles and people and flowed into the Ten-Mile Drain system where the pollution stuck to canal sediment. Suspended PCB-contaminated sediment may also have been inadvertently pumped out of the canals to water lawns, further spreading pollutants (See figure on Page 3.)

Cleanup

If the PCB levels on a property are above EPA's cleanup goals (depending on property type; see below), EPA will recommend removing and replacing the contaminated soil. This cleanup work will occur in the future, when the agency is ready to implement its remedial action and federal cleanup funds are made available. Work associated with soil removal and replacement would include:

- Entering into a separate access agreement with each property owner for the soil removal and replacement;
- Discussing with property owners the steps EPA will take to clean up and restore the yard;
- Documenting the condition of the existing house and other buildings;

- Measuring and taking inventory of existing features such as landscaping, decks and patios;
- Excavating near-surface soil with PCB concentrations exceeding selected cleanup goals;
- Off-site disposal of PCB-contaminated soil at an appropriate landfill; and
- Replacing contaminated soil with clean soil and sodding the yard to restore the property.

Cleanup Goals

Human health risk-based cleanup goals were identified for PCBs in residential, commercial and utility corridor soil. These cleanup goals will protect people and the environment.

Residential soil: EPA set a cleanup goal of no more than 1 part per million (ppm) of PCBs in soil.

Commercial soil: EPA set a cleanup goal of no more than 10 ppm of PCBs in soil.

Right-of-way/Utility Corridor soil: EPA set a cleanup goal of no more than 21 ppm of PCBs in soil.



Sampling will be done either by using a Geoprobe (shown above) or by hand (shown on Page 1).

PCBs

PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, are a group of fabricated chemicals originally used in industrial processes and products such as coolants and lubricants. Production was banned in the U.S. in 1977, but PCB mixtures remain in old electrical equipment and other items. Eating PCB-contaminated food or coming in contact with PCB-tainted soil or water can pose potential health risks. EPA considers PCBs to be a possible cancer-causing chemical compound.

Use of Canal Water

EPA believes that using water from the Lange and Revere Street canals may have caused yards to be contaminated with PCBs, as displayed on the figure shown to the right. In order to protect the soil cleanup remedy and prevent yards from being re-contaminated, EPA, in partnership with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, recommends a prohibition on the use of canal water until cleanup of the PCB-contamination sediments in the Lange and Revere Street canals is completed.

For more information

You can read documents related to the Ten-Mile Drain site at:

www.epa.gov/superfund/ten-mile-drain

or at the information repository:

St. Clair Shores Public Library
22500 Eleven Mile Road
St. Clair Shores

Update on Other Site Areas

EPA officials have completed a remedial investigation of the site and are working to develop a cleanup plan for the remaining contaminated areas of the site – namely contamination inside certain areas of the Ten Mile drain system and the contaminated sediments in the Lange and Revere Street canals. EPA expects to issue a document called a “proposed plan” in 2020 which will outline the recommended cleanup plan for these remaining areas of the site.

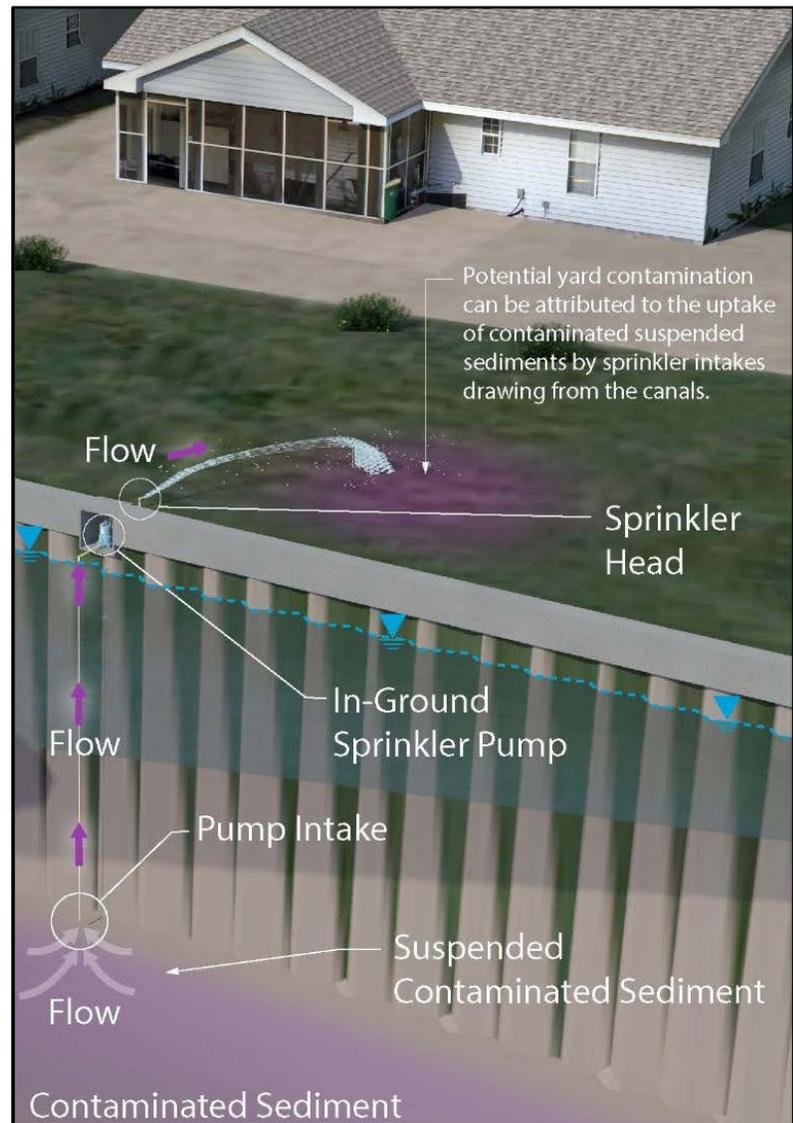


Figure showing use of canal water.



EPA cleanup project for near-surface soil in the Ten-Mile Drain site involves properties and utility corridors in Investigation Areas 1 and 2. Under the-cleanup plan, EPA will remove soil contaminated above cleanup goals.

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