The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will conduct a time-critical cleanup this summer to remove PCB-contaminated soil from selected residential areas of the Ten-Mile Drain Superfund site. Time-critical cleanups are done when there is a risk of a pollutant or contaminant presenting an imminent and substantial danger to humans or the environment based on consultations with health agencies. EPA will contact property owners prior to each individual property cleanup.

Soil samples taken in the area last year showed elevated levels of PCBs at or near the surface at eight properties: six public right-of-ways and two residential yards. Removal locations are on Bon Brae Street, except for one area on Lange Street.

Cleanup includes removing trees and vegetation as appropriate, digging up contaminated soil, and taking the soil to an approved disposal facility. Workers will restore the property to as close to its original conditions as possible. The restoration will include seeding or placing sod and replacing trees or bushes. The cleanups will be at no cost to the property owners. There may be street closures during the cleanup.

Due to Covid-19 concerns, EPA personnel and contractors will adhere to protective measures including social distancing, increased sanitation, and the use of face covers when in enclosed spaces. These special provisions, among others, are documented in the site-specific Health and Safety Plan.

EPA is only cleaning up the eight properties this summer. For residents wondering about their yards that were sampled and received notice of PCB concentrations exceeding the cleanup level of 1 part per million (ppm), the Agency will clean those up under the Superfund Remedial Program pending availability of federal funding.

Site description
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.

What is the current site status?
In 2018, EPA selected a residential and commercial cleanup plan for 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 2). In 2019, EPA sampled 160 of 195 properties, with a total of 42 properties exceeding PCB concentrations of 1 ppm. This spring, EPA completed soil sampling at an additional 39 properties and expects to mail soil sampling results to residents later this summer.
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.