



# EPA to Begin Residential Soil Cleanup

May 2023

## Ten-Mile Drain Superfund Site St. Clair Shores, Michigan

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is set to begin the cleanup of contaminated soil at residential and commercial properties as part of the Ten-Mile Drain Superfund site. Since 2019, EPA has completed remedial design sampling at 222 properties, of which 50 properties are eligible for cleanup—including two commercial properties. Construction is scheduled to start this summer and is expected to last until November 2024. The cleanup is at no cost to the homeowner. EPA is utilizing funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) for this cleanup project.

### Upcoming Work in Your Neighborhood

Cleanup eligibility at a property is based on the PCB level found. If your property is selected to be tested or cleaned up, EPA will contact you directly to request access.

- Residential properties with more than 1 part per million (ppm) of PCBs in soil.
- Commercial properties with more than 10 ppm of PCBs in soil.
- Right-of-way/Utility Corridor properties with more than 21 ppm of PCBs in soil.

EPA and its contractor work closely with the eligible property owner about what to expect during the cleanup and restoration of the property. The soil cleanup process generally occurs as follows:

- Meeting with property owner to conduct a walkthrough of the property to go over the specifics of the cleanup.
- Excavation of contaminated soil according to cleanup designs and transporting it off-site for safe disposal at an EPA-approved facility
- Backfilling with clean soil, and restoration of lawn areas, including vegetation and landscaping items.
- Maintenance period providing watering services to restore any vegetation for 4 weeks.
- Closeout meeting with owner to discuss the cleanup and restoration work was done at the property.
- EPA issues a letter of cleanup completion to the property owner.



### What are PCBs?

PCBs are a group of man-made chemicals that were widely used as coolants or lubricants in electrical equipment. Exposure to high concentrations of PCBs have been linked to health effects, including skin and airway irritation, reproductive issues, and cancer. For this reason, the manufacture of PCBs was stopped in the United States in 1977. PCBs do not break down easily once released into the environment, and people can be exposed by ingestion of contaminated soil or water, skin contact, or breathing in contaminated dust. Cleanup of PCB-contaminated soil will substantially reduce the risk exposure to current and future residents, commercial property users and utility workers. For more information about PCBs, please visit [www.atsdr.cdc.gov/ToxProfiles/tp17.pdf](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/ToxProfiles/tp17.pdf), or scan the QR code to the right.

### Site Background

The Ten-Mile Drain site is on the western shores of Lake St. Clair in Macomb County, Michigan. The site covers several city blocks where PCBs have been found inside the drain system, near-surface soil, and sediment in the Lange and Revere Street canals. The PCB contamination appears to originate from the commercial property and was either dumped or used to control dust. EPA addresses cleanups at sites like Ten-Mile Drain, where assessment of the site's contamination is still ongoing, using a "phased approach," allowing smaller sections of the site to be cleaned up to reduce immediate threats to human and environmental health. The near-surface soil cleanup project addresses near-surface soil contamination at selected residential and commercial properties, as well as along selected utility lines. In 2023, EPA plans to issue a proposed plan and select a remedy to address the remaining PCB-impacted portion of the TMD system (including backfill materials), which EPA believes are serving as a residual source of PCBs to the rest of the drainage system and the canals. In a future decision document, EPA intends to select and implement a final remedy for the PCB-impacted sediment in the Lange and Revere Street canals.

**For more information**

If you have questions or comments, please contact:

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You may also call EPA toll-free: 800-621-8431, weekdays, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

[www.epa.gov/superfund/ten-mile-drain](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/ten-mile-drain)



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