

EPA Proposes No Further Action After Emergency River Cleanup

WPSC Campmarina Manufactured Gas Plant Site

Sheboygan, Wisconsin

July 2012

For more information

There will be a public meeting for the WPSC Campmarina MGP site, Wednesday, Aug. 8 at 7 p.m.

Mead Public Library
Rocca Meeting Room
710 N. 8th St., Sheboygan

EPA representatives will make formal presentations and answer questions from the audience.

If you need special accommodations at the meeting, contact Community Involvement Coordinator Susan Pastor by Wednesday, Aug. 1.

Public comment period

The EPA will accept comments on its proposed plan during the public comment period that runs from July 18 to Aug. 17. Written comments may be submitted:

- By mail (see enclosed form).
- Electronically via the Web at www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/campmarina/pubcomment.html.
- By fax to Susan Pastor at 312-385-5344.
- By e-mail to Susan Pastor at pastor.susan@epa.gov.

Contacts

Susan Pastor

Community Involvement Coordinator
800-621-8431, Ext. 31325
pastor.susan@epa.gov

Pablo Valentin

Remedial Project Manager
800-621-8431, Ext. 32886
valentin.pablo@epa.gov

Richard Nagle

Assistant Regional Counsel
800-621-8431, Ext. 38222
nagle.richard@epa.gov
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., weekdays

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency plans to take no further action on the Sheboygan River at the Wisconsin Public Service Corp. Campmarina Manufactured Gas Plant site, after an emergency cleanup is completed. EPA officials believe the company's cleanup will effectively protect people and the environment.

WPSC was responsible for the contamination, which was primarily polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, or PAHs. The EPA considered this to be an emergency cleanup last year. WPSC built a coffer dam made of metal sheet piling to isolate the PAHs, then used a backhoe on a barge to dig up contaminated sediment (mud). The company also removed PAH-contaminated soil from the shoreline and river sediment toward Boat Island outside of the coffer dam. EPA monitored the company's work, which was paid for by WPSC.

During the contaminated sediment and shoreline soil removal, WPSC treated the water which came from the sediment that was removed and prepared for disposal.

About the WPSC Campmarina site

The WPSC Campmarina MGP site is on the north bank of the Sheboygan River at 732 N. Water St. The area was historically industrial but is now a Sheboygan city park and marina with a river walk next to the shoreline.



PAH-contaminated sediment is dredged from the Sheboygan River during the 2011 emergency cleanup.

WPSC owned and operated the gas plant from 1872 to 1929 to provide fuel and electricity from coal. It stopped producing coal gas in 1929. Structures were removed between 1950 and 1966.

Coal waste was dumped in nearby ravines and ditches or used as fill for construction projects. Much of the waste included hazardous materials such as cyanides, metals, solvents and oily tars. The oily tars are composed primarily of PAHs.

The Campmarina site includes two sections, also referred to as operable units, or OUs. The 2.3-acre upland OU is adjacent to the Sheboygan River, one mile west of Lake Michigan. The river OU is immediately adjacent to the upland OU and is approximately 4.5-acres. This area extends 80 feet upstream of the upland OU, 200 feet outward from the shoreline, and about 1,000 feet downstream of the upland OU. The river OU is completely within the Sheboygan River and Harbor Superfund site, but the Campmarina emergency cleanup is separate. The EPA is, however, coordinating the two projects to ensure effectiveness and best use of resources.

The upland OU was cleaned up from 2000-2002 by WPSC under Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources supervision. That work included soil treatment or removal-and-disposal, an underlying ground water treatment system and a soil cover. In 2007, the EPA and WPSC agreed to clean up the rest of the Campmarina site.

In 2008, WPSC completed cleanup studies under EPA oversight and in consultation with the WDNR.

Summary of site risks

A study of potential risks to public health, wildlife and the environment was done for Campmarina. The primary contaminant was PAHs, which may cause cancer in people. PAHs are commonly found at MGP sites in the form of coal tar buried under soil. The PAHs at the Campmarina site did not pose a direct health risk to people because the coal tar was in sediment in a part of the river where wading or swimming does not occur. People were unlikely to come into direct contact with the contamination. If coal tar residues touch skin, they can cause redness or a rash. In some people, the coal tar can cause a sunburn effect on skin. Eye irritation is another hazard if coal tar residues get in the eyes.



Campmarina Site Map

Similarities between the Campmarina and Sheboygan River and Harbor Superfund sites:

- Both projects address sediment contamination in the lower river near Boat Island.
- Both projects involve dredging.
- Both projects address human health and the environment.
- Both projects involve coordination among the EPA, the WDNR, Pollution Risk Services (the company responsible for the Sheboygan Harbor and River cleanup) and WPSC.

Differences between the Campmarina and Sheboygan River and Harbor Superfund sites:

- Sheboygan River and Harbor Superfund site involves PCBs; Campmarina involves PAHs.
- Contamination in the Sheboygan River and Harbor site is found in 14 miles of river; Campmarina includes approximately one-half mile of river.
- Pollution Risk Services is responsible for the Sheboygan River and Harbor site cleanup; WPSC is responsible for the Campmarina cleanup.

However, the sediment does pose a risk to animals. The cleanup addressed that to protect the food chain.

Emergency Cleanup

The WPSC project, as noted previously, cleaned up PAH-contaminated sediment in the Sheboygan River by Boat Island. EPA required this cleanup to prevent the movement of PAHs from the Campmarina site which could happen when the PCB cleanup of the nearby Sheboygan River and Harbor site starts.

The emergency cleanup, which was done under a legal agreement between WPSC and EPA, consisted of:

- Constructing a coffer dam by Boat Island to isolate PAHs in the sediment and river shoreline.
- Excavating and disposing of sediment in Zones C, D and E at an off-site landfill.
- Removing pure oily PAHs along the river shoreline (Zone E).
- Dredging of sediment with PAH levels of at least 45 parts per million in the top 2.5 feet of the sediment/water interface after PCB-contaminated sediment is removed as part of the Sheboygan River and Harbor project. This eliminates the possible exposure to PAH-contaminated sediment and lowers risks to those who may come in contact with river sediment. (Zone C and D). See Risk Zones box on Page 4.
- Placing clean cover in dredged areas that have remaining PAH levels over 45 ppm.

Next steps

The EPA, in consultation with the WDNR, will evaluate public reaction to EPA's proposal before selecting a final plan. Based on public comments, the EPA could modify its recommendation or pick another option.

Information repository

You may review site-related documents and files at:

Mead Public Library

710 N. 8th St.
Sheboygan

This proposed plan¹ fact sheet provides background information about the Campmarina site and describes the emergency cleanup done by WPSC. EPA invites your comments on the Agency's proposal to take no additional cleanup action at the river portion of the Campmarina site.

On the Web

www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/campmarina

The EPA will respond in writing to the comments in a responsiveness summary, which will be attached to the final plan. The EPA will announce its final decision in the local newspaper and will send a copy of the final plan to the local information repository and post it on its website.

In conjunction with the emergency cleanup, the EPA is using funds under the Great Lakes Legacy Act to study and clean up additional areas in the Sheboygan River that are not covered under the Superfund program.

Next year, EPA will review the upland OU, which was cleaned up by WPSC in 2002, to make sure that it still protects people and the environment.

Explanation of evaluation criteria

The EPA compares each cleanup option or alternative with these nine standards established by federal law:

- 1. Overall protection of human health and the environment** examines whether an option protects both human health and the environment. This can be met by reducing or removing pollution or by reducing exposure to it.
- 2. Compliance with applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements, or ARARs**, ensures options comply with federal and state laws.
- 3. Long-term effectiveness and permanence** evaluates how well an option will work over the long term, including how safely remaining contamination can be managed.
- 4. Reduction of toxicity, mobility or volume through treatment** determines how well the option reduces the toxicity, movement and amount of pollution.
- 5. Short-term effectiveness** compares how quickly an option can help the situation and how much risk exists while the option is under construction.
- 6. Implementability** evaluates how practical the option is and whether materials and services are available in the area.
- 7. Cost** includes not only buildings, equipment, materials and labor, but also the cost of maintaining the cleanup for the life of the project.
- 8. State acceptance** determines whether the state environmental agency accepts the option.
- 9. Community acceptance** is considered by evaluating the public comments on the proposed plan and alternatives.

¹Section 117(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, known as the Superfund Law) requires publication of a notice and a proposed plan for the site cleanup. The proposed plan must also be made available to the public. This proposed plan fact sheet is a summary of information contained in the technical proposed plan, action memorandum, remedial investigation, feasibility study, and other documents in the administrative record for the WPSC Campmarina MGP site. They are available for review at the Mead Public Library, 710 N. 8th St., Sheboygan, WI and EPA Records Center, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago.

Risk Zones

The levels of PAHs found in specific areas of the river were divided into zones and the levels of PAHs were measured in parts per million, or ppm. To help put this in perspective, ppm equates to 23 drops of dye in 10,000 gallons of water.

Zone A – Pre-existing PAHs not caused by Campmarina operations (18 ppm and below).

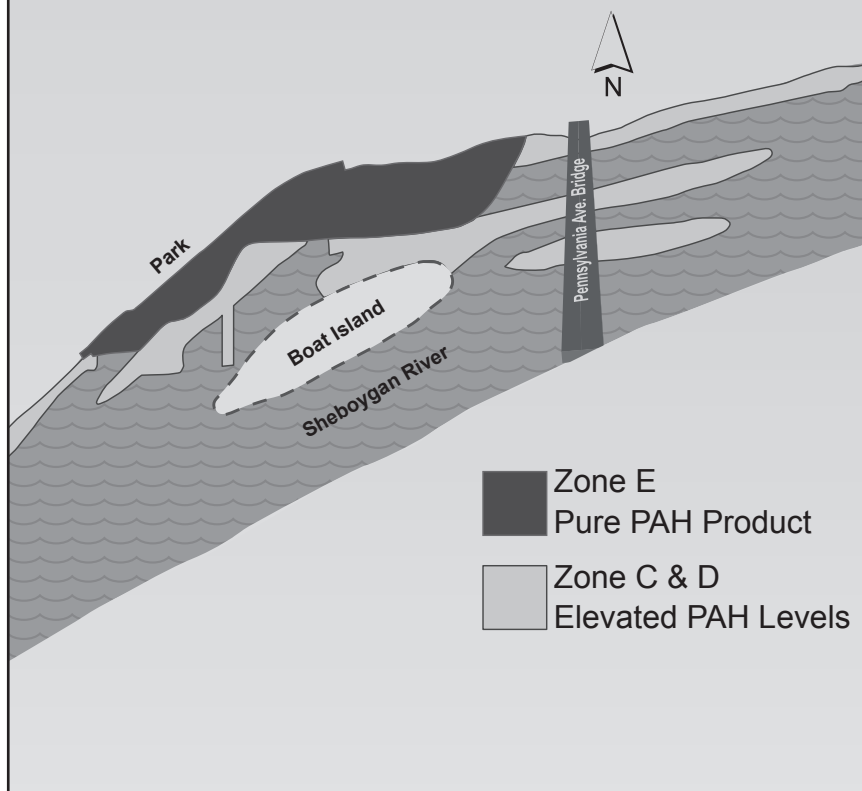
Zone B – Minimal amount of risk to animals in the sediment caused by Campmarina operations (18-45 ppm).

Zone C – Moderate amount of risk to animals in the sediment caused by Campmarina operations (45-125 ppm).

Zone D – Definite risk to animals in the sediment caused by Campmarina operations (129 ppm and above).

Zone E – Pure oily PAH product (see Page 3).

Campmarina Emergency Cleanup Area




This fact sheet is printed on paper made of recycled fibers.

WPSC CAMPMARINA MANUFACTURED GAS PLANT SITE: EPA Proposes No Further Action After Emergency River Cleanup

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS


United States
Environmental Protection
Agency
Region 5
Superfund Division (SI-7J)
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

WPSC Campmarina Manufactured Gas Plant Site Comment Sheet

Fold on Dashed Lines, Tape, Stamp, and Mail

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

Place Stamp Here

Susan Pastor
Community Involvement Coordinator
EPA Region 5 (SI-7J)
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590