



EPA Proposes Dredging; Seeks Public Comments

WPSC Manufactured Gas Plant Site

Marinette, Wisconsin

August 2012

Public comment period

The EPA encourages you to comment on the proposed plan. The comment period runs from Aug. 29 to Sept. 28. There are several ways to submit written comments:

- Fill out and mail the enclosed comment sheet.
- Send an email to Susan Pastor at pastor.susan@epa.gov.
- Send a fax to 312-385-5344.
- Visit www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/marinette/pubcomment.html

To request a public meeting, contact Community Involvement Coordinator Susan Pastor by Wednesday, Sept. 5.

Read the documents

You may read the engineering studies¹ and other site-related documents at the information repository:

Stephenson Public Library
1700 Hall Ave., Marinette, or at
www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/marinette.

For more information

Community Involvement

Coordinator

Susan Pastor
312-353-1325
800-621-8431, Ext. 31325
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., weekdays
pastor.susan@epa.gov

Remedial Project Manager

Margaret Gielniewski
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Contaminated sediment would be removed from the Menominee River under an expedited cleanup plan recommended by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The plan for a former manufactured gas plant site in Marinette is based on a study referred to as an engineering evaluation/cost analysis, or EE/CA, which evaluated cleanup options for contaminated sediment near the site.

The purpose of this cleanup is to protect human health and the health of organisms that live in the bottom of the river. The cleanup would involve setting up a temporary containment system to aid the dredging of sediment (mud) contaminated with polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, or PAHs. The containment system also will prevent the sediment from floating downstream. The sediment will be removed from the river, placed on a barge, and stored on-shore until most of the water is removed. This is done by adding a chemical mixture to the sediment to make it more solid. Then it can be transported to a licensed landfill in Menominee, Michigan. Wisconsin Public Service Corp. was responsible for the contamination and is paying for the studies and cleanup. WPSC has been a subsidiary of Integrys Energy Group since 2007.

EPA's Superfund staff will be monitoring the company's work. This WPSC Marinette cleanup is one of two major sediment removal projects on the Menominee River. Staff from a different EPA program is overseeing the Ansul Inc. project. Both are working together to coordinate the cleanups. When these projects are completed by 2013, the Menominee River can be deleted from the list of Great Lakes Areas of Concern.

Background

The WPSC Marinette MGP site comprises about 4 acres with about 1.3 additional acres of contaminated sediment in the nearby Menominee River. Between the river and the site is Boom Landing Park, with a public boat launch. The river portion of the site is located about two miles from the river mouth draining into Lake Michigan. The river portion, where the proposed cleanup will take place, includes a part of the area between Boom Landing Park and Strawberry Island. Strawberry Island is located about 400 feet north of Boom Landing Park.

The site is located in a historically industrial area that had lumber operations and asphalt manufacturing. WPSC owned and operated the gas plant from 1910 to 1960. While it operated, the plant produced gas from coal and oil.

¹ Section 300.415 (b)(4)(i) of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan and Section 113(k)(2) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, known as the Superfund Law) requires publication of a notice describing the EPA's recommended alternative. The EE/CA must also be made available to the public for comment. This fact sheet is a summary of information contained in the EE/CA and other technical documents for the WPSC Marinette MGP site. They are available for review at the Stephenson Public Library, 1700 Hall Ave, Marinette and EPA Records Center, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago.

Waste byproducts from the process included tars and oils, which contaminated soil and ground water. "Ground water" is an environmental term for underground supplies of fresh water.

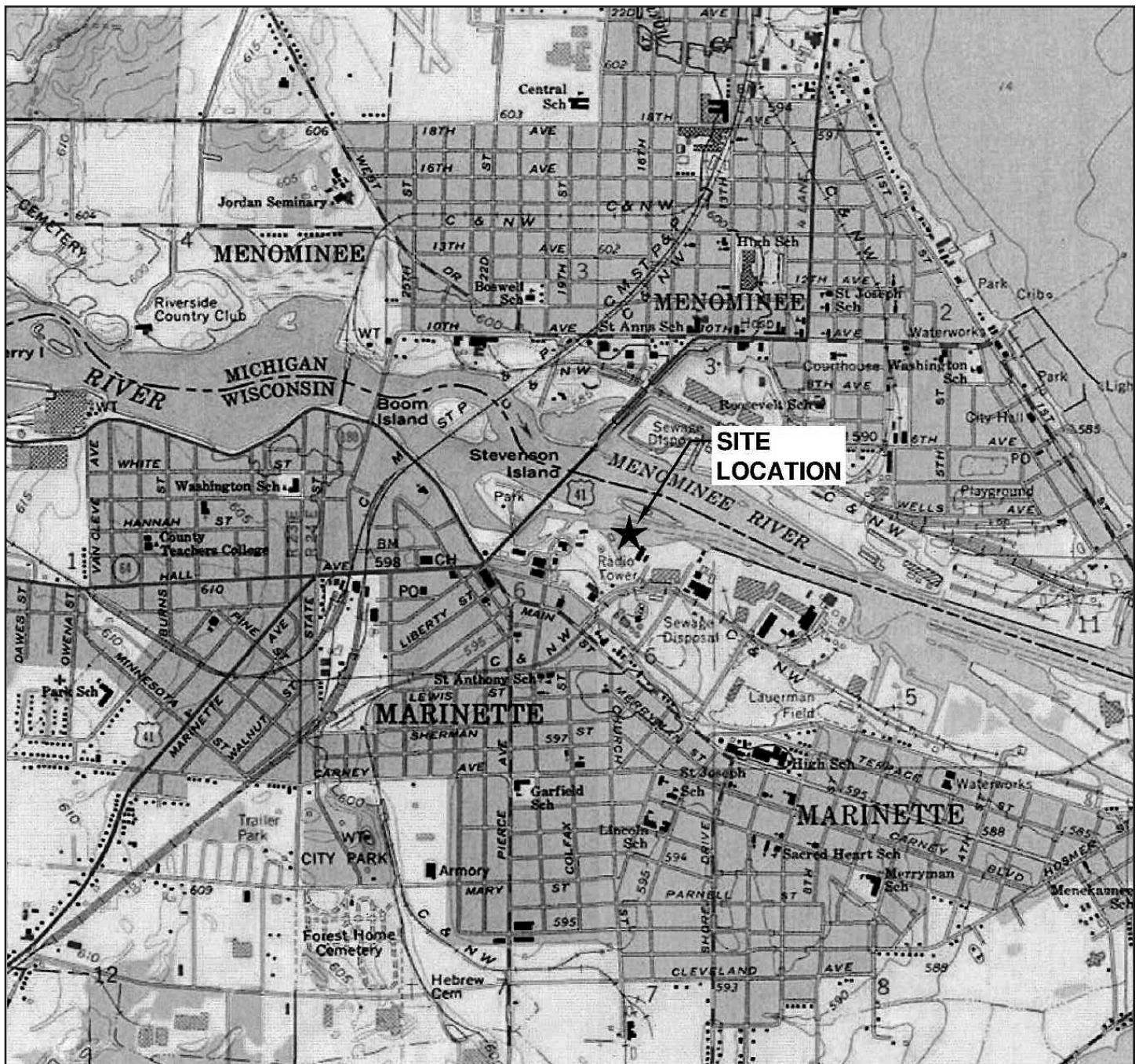
Cleanup history

Various investigations of the Marinette site were conducted from 1994 through 2002. In 2004, some contaminated soil was removed when the city of Marinette modified the sewage (waste water) treatment plant. Ground water is monitored annually. Soil at the site contains oily compounds. Sediment in the river shows evidence of MGP waste such as odor, sheen, tar and oil.

Since November 2011, WPSC/Integrays has been collecting soil, sediment, ground water and vapor samples as part of an overall study referred to as a remedial investigation, which is looking at a long-term cleanup plan. Some of that information has been integrated into the EE/CA. This sediment removal will assist in the overall cleanup plan for the site.

A legal agreement was signed between WPSC and the EPA in May 2006. Under this agreement, WPSC agreed to investigate sediment, soil and ground water.

A second legal agreement was signed in July 2012 in which WPSC agreed to write the EE/CA for removal evaluation.



Site Location

Summary of cleanup options

The EPA considered numerous options to clean up contaminated sediment at the Marinette site. These options are listed below. Full details are available in the technical documents on file at the Stephenson Public Library or on the Web.

Dredging and Disposal Options

Option 1A—Dredging and Disposal of Area 1.
Cost: \$6 million.

Option 1B—Dredging and Disposal of Area 1 and Area 2
(RECOMMENDED OPTION). **Cost:** \$6.5 million.

Option 2—Dredging and Capping. **Cost:** \$8 million

Option 3—Capping. **Cost:** Due to some technical issues, the cost estimate for capping alone was not evaluated.

Evaluation of cleanup options

1B is the EPA’s recommended option because it meets the evaluation requirements (see *Table below*) to meet the agency’s cleanup goals. It should be completed in a relatively short timeframe (by the end of February 2013) while protecting people’s health and the health of organisms in the bottom of the river. This option will be effective over the long-term.

What’s next?

Before making a final decision, the EPA will review all public comments. Responses will be available in a

document called a responsiveness summary. This summary will be attached to another document called an action memorandum that provides details of the cleanup. The EPA could modify its recommended cleanup plan based on public comments.

The EPA will announce its selected cleanup plan in the local newspapers, place a copy in the Stephenson Public Library and post it on the Web at www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/marinette.

The action memorandum will be placed in the library, at the EPA Records Center in Chicago, and on the Web.

Explanation of evaluation criteria

The EPA typically uses three criteria to compare the alternatives and to recommend a practical cleanup plan. The evaluation criteria consist of:

- 1. Effectiveness**—considers the length of time needed to implement a cleanup alternative and the risks the alternative poses to workers, residents, and the environment during implementation.
- 2. Implementability**—considers the technical and administrative feasibility of implementing the cleanup alternative, such as the availability of goods and services.
- 3. Cost**—includes estimated capital, operation, and maintenance costs, as well as present worth costs. Present worth cost is an alternative’s total cost over time in terms of today’s dollars.

Evaluation of cleanup options

Removal Action Alternatives	Effectiveness				Implementability			Cost
	Short Term	Long Term and Permanence	Compliance with Federal and State Laws	Reduction of Toxicity, Mobility, and Volume through Treatment	Technical Feasibility	Administrative Feasibility	Availability of Services & Materials Needed	Present Worth Cost
Dredging and Disposal Alternatives								
Option 1A – Area 1 Oily Sediment Only	●	⊙	●	⊙	●	⊙	●	\$6 million
Option 1B – Areas 1 & 2 Oily Sediment with PAHs	●	●	●	⊙	●	●	●	\$6.5 million
Dredging and Capping Alternative								
Option 2 – Area 1 Oily Sediment	●	●	●	⊙	●	⊙	●	\$8 million
Capping Alternative								
Option 3 – Area 1 Oily Sediment	●	⊙	●	⊙	⊙	⊙	●	N/A

● Fully meets criterion ⊙ Partially meets criterion

See Section 3 of the EE/CA Report for additional details on criteria evaluation.

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WPSC MANUFACTURED GAS PLANT: EPA Proposes Dredging; Seeks Public Comments

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

WPSC Marinette MGP Site Public Comment Sheet

Detach this page, fold on dashed lines, staple, stamp, and mail

Fold on Dashed Lines, Tape, Stamp, and Mail

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

Place Stamp Here

Susan Pastor
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