



EPA Proposes Cleanup Plan, Seeks Public Comments

WPSC Manufactured Gas Plant Site

Stevens Point, Wisconsin

June 2012

Public comment period

The EPA encourages you to comment on the proposed plan. The comment period runs from July 2 to Aug. 3.

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/stevenspoint/pubcomment.html

To request a public meeting, contact Community Involvement Coordinator Susan Pastor by Monday, July 9.

Read the proposed plan

You may read the detailed proposed plan¹ and other site-related documents at the information repository: Portage County Public Library, 1001 Main St., Stevens Point; in the EPA Records Center in Chicago; or at www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/stevenspoint.

For more information

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pastor.susan@epa.gov

Leslie Patterson

Remedial Project Manager
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You may call EPA toll-free at 800-6201-8431, weekdays, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Contaminated sediment would be removed from the Wisconsin River under a cleanup plan proposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The recommended plan also includes covering pond sediment, a ban on using ground water, limits on future use of the site and monitoring the ground water's natural recovery. The EPA consulted with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on the plan, which was one of several alternatives. EPA will make a final decision after the agencies review comments from the public.

Background

The Wisconsin Public Service Corp. Stevens Point MGP site is a 3-acre area that includes a former manufactured gas plant, a portion of Pfiﬀner Pioneer Park, a man-made pond, the city of Stevens Point municipal parking lot and a portion of the Wisconsin River. The ground water, soil, and river and pond sediment are contaminated with benzene (a volatile organic compound) and several compounds typically found in motor oil.

WPSC operated the manufactured gas plant from approximately the 1890s to the late 1940s or early 1950s, producing gas primarily from oil. The plant ceased production when piped natural gas became readily available to the Stevens Point area. The plant buildings were located on the west side of the site, while the east side was used for storage and disposal of process waste and other materials. WPSC has been a subsidiary of Integrys Energy Group since 2007.

Cleanup History

Site investigation and cleanup activities have been ongoing since the mid-1980s. Investigations prior to 1998 focused on identifying sources of contamination in soil and ground water.

In 1998, the WDNR managed several cleanups including excavation and disposal of more than 16,000 tons of contaminated soil and debris. These materials were removed from the former manufactured gas plant operations area where potential sources of coal tar and other process waste were identified. Former underground structures with contaminated materials were also removed, and ground water was treated. Finally, the site was backfilled and the surface was restored.

Additional investigations in 1999 and 2002 evaluated other portions of the site. These investigations focused on Wisconsin River sediment, ground water monitoring, and issues related to ground water seeping into a storm sewer.

Additional soil, ground water, sediment, and surface and stormwater information was collected between June 2007 and January 2008. The focus was on soil quality in nearby properties, ground water near a storm sewer, and possible

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, remedial investigation, feasibility study, and other documents in the administrative record for the WPSC Stevens Point MGP site. They are available for review at the Portage County Public Library, 1001 Main St., Stevens Point, Wis. and EPA Records Center, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago.

contamination near the pond and Wisconsin River. In October 2008, monitoring wells were installed to determine the area of contaminated ground water. In January 2011, additional monitoring wells were installed and soil samples were collected.

Summary of Cleanup Options

EPA considered a number of options to clean up contaminated soil, sediment, ground water, and surface water. All of the alternatives – except those where the contaminated sediment would be disposed of off-site (R4a, R4b, R4c, and P4, as shown in the following table) – would require five-year reviews which regularly evaluate a cleanup’s performance to make sure it continues to protect people’s health and the environment.

Alternatives S2, S3, G2, G3 and G4 shown in the table would use site controls such as deed restrictions, easements or covenants to limit people’s exposure to contaminated soil and ground water.

Summary of Cleanup Options Stevens Point MGP Site			
Shading indicates the EPA’s recommended alternative			
Area	Option	Description	Cost
Soil	S1	No action, except for five-year reviews	\$42,000
	S2	Site controls, such as deed restrictions, property use restrictions, and five-year reviews	\$169,427
	S3	Excavation and disposal of contaminated soil from approximately 0.4 acres northeast of pond, to a depth of 16 feet, restoration of site with clean soil, and five-year reviews	\$3.1 million
Ground Water	G1	No action, except for five-year reviews	\$42,000
	G2	Site controls, such as deed restrictions, property use restrictions, and five-year reviews	\$77,000
	G3	Natural processes to break down ground water contaminants, regular monitoring of ground water monitoring wells, and five-year reviews	\$991,000
	G4	Ground water extraction to pump out contaminated ground water, construction of filter and treatment system, pumping of treated ground water to city sanitary sewer system, and five-year reviews	\$3.9 million
River Sediment	R1	No action, except for five-year reviews	\$42,000
	R2a	Placement of a 6-inch sand cover over the area of contaminated river sediment where contaminant levels are high enough to cause adverse health effects in freshwater bottom-dwelling organisms such as worms and shrimp (known as the probable effects concentration, or PEC)	\$480,000
	R2b	Placement of a 6-inch sand cover over area of contaminated river sediment where the contaminant level may cause adverse health effects in freshwater bottom-dwelling organisms (known as the threshold effects concentration, or TEC)	\$738,000
	R3a	Placement of a 6-inch sand cover and a 3-inch layer of stone over the area of river sediment with contaminant levels that exceed the PEC	\$519,000
	R3b	Placement of a 6-inch sand cover and a 3-inch layer of stone over the area of contaminated river sediment where contaminant levels exceed the TEC	\$863,000
	R4a	Dredge and dispose of off-site, river sediment where contaminant levels exceed the PEC and place a 6-inch sand cover over the dredged area and the area of river sediment where contaminants exceed the TEC	\$1.5 million
	R4b	Dredge and dispose of off-site, river sediment with contaminant levels exceeding the TEC and place a 6-inch sand cover over the dredged area	\$2.3 million
	R4c	Dredge and dispose of off-site, river sediment with contaminant levels exceeding the PEC and place a sand cover over the dredged area	\$1.3 million
Pond Sediment	P1	No action, except for five-year reviews	\$42,000
	P2	Placement of a 6-inch sand cover over area of contaminated pond sediment	\$258,000
	P3	Placement of a 6-inch sand cover over area of contaminated pond sediment, with activated carbon to absorb organic contaminants, five-year reviews	\$273,000
	P4	Dredging and disposal of up to 3.5 feet of contaminated pond sediment, placement of clean sand layer	\$703,000

Evaluation of Cleanup Options

To propose a cleanup plan, the EPA compared each of the soil, ground water, river sediment and pond sediment options against nine criteria to evaluate them individually and against each other. The nine criteria are shown on the following page. The chart on Page 3 shows the comparison of the cleanup options. The EPA’s recommended cleanup plan combines Soil Option S2, Ground Water Option G3, River Sediment Option R4c, and Pond Sediment Option P3.

This combination of cleanup options protects people and the environment by preventing exposure to contaminated soil and ground water, is effective both in the short term and long term, is easy to implement, and is cost-effective. It will

reduce sediment and ground water contamination and will limit the movement of contaminants. The estimated total cost of the EPA's recommended options is \$2.6 million.

Cleanup Options Comparison Table			
Evaluation Criteria- Soil Options	1	2*	3
Overall protection of human health and the environment	□	■	■
Compliance with ARARs	□	■	■
Long-term effectiveness and permanence	□	□	■
Reduction of toxicity, mobility, or volume through treatment	□	□	□
Short-term effectiveness	□	■	□
Implementability	■	■	■
Cost	■	■	□

Evaluation Criteria- Ground Water Options	1	2	3*	4
Overall protection of human health and the environment	□	■	■	■
Compliance with ARARs	□	□	■	■
Long-term effectiveness and permanence	□	□	■	■
Reduction of toxicity, mobility, or volume through treatment	□	□	□	■
Short-term effectiveness	□	■	■	■
Implementability	■	■	■	■
Cost	■	■	■	□

Evaluation Criteria- River Sediment Options	1	2a	2b	3a	3b	4a	4b	4c*
Overall protection of human health and the environment	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Compliance with ARARs	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Long-term effectiveness and permanence	□	□	□	□	□	■	■	■
Reduction of toxicity, mobility, or volume through treatment	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
Short-term effectiveness	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
Implementability	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Cost	■	■	■	■	■	□	□	□

Evaluation Criteria- Pond Sediment Options	1	2	3*	4
Overall protection of human health and the environment	■	■	■	■
Compliance with ARARs	■	■	■	■
Long-term effectiveness and permanence	□	□	■	■
Reduction of toxicity, mobility, or volume through treatment	□	□	□	□
Short-term effectiveness	□	■	■	■
Implementability	■	■	■	■
Cost	■	■	■	□

*Denotes EPA's recommended option. ■ Fully meets criteria □ Partially meets criteria □ Does not meet criteria

Explanation of evaluation criteria

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

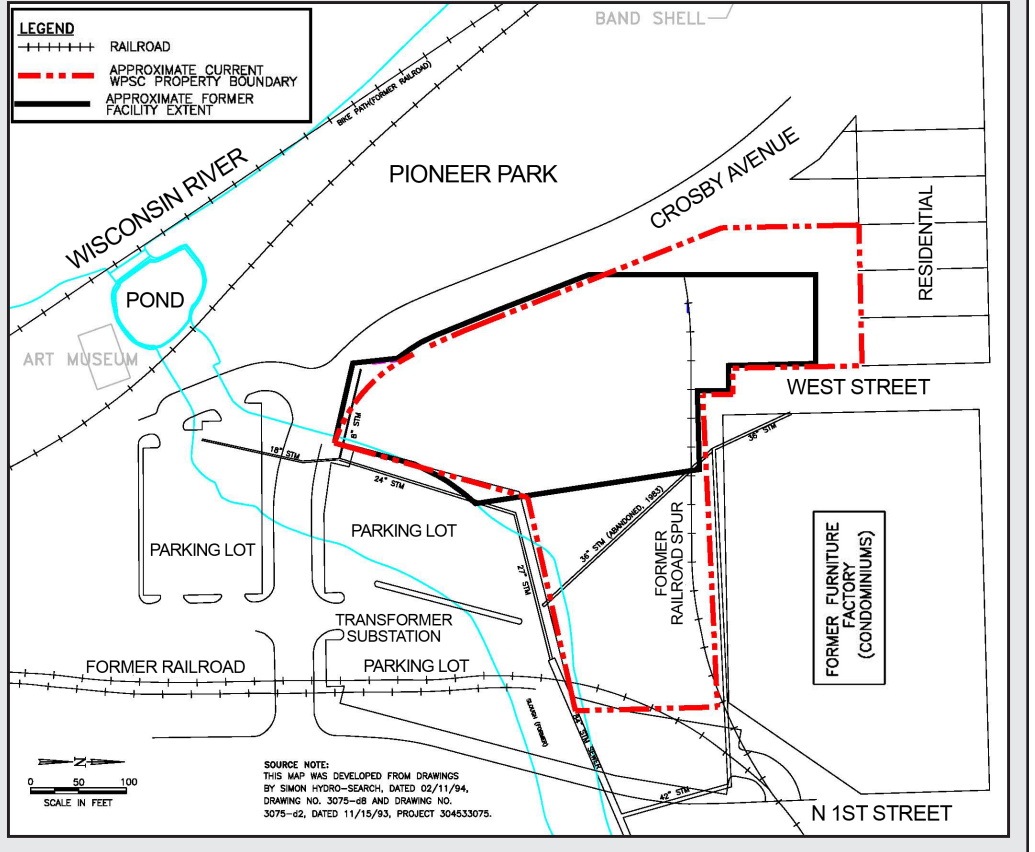
- 1. Overall protection of human health and the environment** examines whether an option protects both human health and the environment. This can be met by reducing or removing pollution or by reducing exposure to it.
- 2. Compliance with applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements, or ARARs**, 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.

What's next?

Before making a final decision, the EPA will review all comments from the public. The EPA will respond to the comments and make those responses available. The EPA could modify its recommended cleanup plan based on public comments and its consultation with the WDNR.

The EPA will announce its selected cleanup plan in the local newspapers, place a copy in the public library and post it on EPA's website.

WPSC Stevens Point
MGP site



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WPSC MANUFACTURED GAS PLANT SITE EPA Proposes Cleanup Plan, Seeks Public Comments

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77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590



WPSC Stevens Point Manufactured Gas Plant Site Comment Sheet

Fold on Dashed Lines, Tape, Stamp, and Mail

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

Place Stamp Here

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