

Mill River Cleanup Project Update

July 2016

Update No. 20

The following is a monthly project update for the cleanup of lead impacted sediment by hydraulic dredging in the Mill River. As noted in previous updates, we have completed the sediment dredging portion of the project and are currently in the on-going process of dewatering the sediment, treating the filtrate water from the dewatering process, discharging treated water back to the Mill River, and disposing of the dewatered sediment to an off-site/out-of-state disposal facility(ies). All of the sediment dewatering and water treatment work is occurring at the facility on Exide's property at 2190 Post Road in Fairfield. TRC is the firm conducting the cleanup work for Exide.

What Has Happened in June

The following activities occurred in June:

- Dewatering of sediment located on Exide's property is ongoing. With active dredging completed, the water treatment plant (WTP) is now operated periodically, as necessary. During June, the WTP treated filtrate (i.e., water) on two days. The water treatment process has been very effective. Since the WTP began operation in October 2014, the average concentration of lead in water discharged through June 2016 is very low, 12.65 ug/L (i.e., parts per billion). This 8% of the CT DEEP permitted discharge limit of 150 ug/L.
- An influent water sample to the WTP (i.e., untreated filtrate) and an effluent water sample from the WTP (i.e., treated filtrate) were collected and analyzed for PCBs. PCBs were not detected in these two samples.
- Monitoring and sampling as required by CT DEEP is being conducted, and permit limits are being met.
- As discussed in the previous updates (No. 18 and 19), during required waste characterization sampling as part of the trial run load-out, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were detected, which required discussions with the regulatory agencies, CT DEEP and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The USEPA is the regulatory agency that has the primary regulatory oversight regarding how PCBs are managed and disposed of.
- Accordingly, loadout of the dewatered sediment has been temporarily suspended pending agency direction.
- A Plan was submitted on May 18, 2016 and revised on May 31, 2016 to USEPA for review and approval that outlined the steps and approach to manage and dispose of dewatered sediment that contains PCBs.
- Sampling and analysis of dewatered sediment within the geotextile tube bags was performed per the Plan submitted to USEPA.
- Results of the sampling and analysis of dewatered sediment for PCBs were assessed, and a letter was prepared to the USEPA that presented the PCB results and the disposal plan for USEPA review and approval. The letter was submitted to the USEPA on June 24, 2016. Of the 150 discrete samples collected for PCB analysis, all results were less than or equal to 25 mg/kg (i.e., parts per million). The vast majority of PCB sample results (i.e., 96%) were less than 10 mg/kg.

- Note, two “PCB Fact Sheets” are available to the public, that were prepared by the Town of Fairfield (May 16, 2016) and by the CT DEEP (May 18, 2016).

What to Expect in July

In July, we will continue to conduct, the following activities:

- Dewatering of sediment and treatment of filtrate will continue at Exide’s property. Monitoring and sampling will continue, as required by CT DEEP. Discharge monitoring will be intermittent during this period reflecting the infrequent generation of treated water.
- The WTP will remain active at the Exide property, and continue to treat filtrate as the sediment continues to dewater. The discharge analysis will include testing for PCBs. The WTP is expected to remain in operation until all of the dewatered sediment is removed from the Exide property and the basin is empty.
- Load-out of dewatered sediment will resume subject to approval from USEPA of disposal at permitted disposal facilities.
- As the dewatered, moist sediment is loaded and removed, the following practices will be used:
 - A proactive odor control plan is in-place that is being implemented to minimize odors. These natural odors are related to decaying organic material dredged from the river and may smell like “low tide.”
 - A proactive dust control plan is in-place that will be implemented to control potential dust from the on-site gravel haul road. This dust is not from the sediment. A water truck is maintained on-site and the haul road will be sprayed with water, as needed to minimize potential dust.
 - The odor control and dust control plans are available on the Town of Fairfield’s website.

For More Information

Please note that our friend and colleague Richard R. Chandler is taking a position with another company and unfortunately will no longer be the point of contact for the project. We appreciate all the hard work and contributions Rich gave to the project, and the community involvement he invested over the years, and wish him well.

If you have any questions or comments, or would like to be added to our distribution list for future project updates, please contact Exide’s environmental consultant CCA, LLC as follows: Ralph A. Klass P.E., L.E.P. (203) 598-5595 ralphklass@ccaengineering.com.

The CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has project information on its website: http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2719&q=517076&depNav_GID=1654, including a fact sheet: http://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/water/tmdl/millriver/deepmillriver_factsheet_9_14.pdf