

Mill River Cleanup Project Update

June 2016

Update No. 19

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 May

The following activities occurred in May:

- 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 May, the WTP did not require operation. The filtrate (i.e., water) treatment process has been very effective. Since the WTP began operation in October 2014, the average concentration of lead in water discharged through March 2016 is very low, 12.7 ug/L (i.e., parts per billion). This is less than 8% of the CT DEEP permitted discharge limit of 150 ug/L.
- 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), 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.
- During the end of May, mobilization and preparation for the additional sampling and analysis of dewatered sediment within the geotextile tube bags began pursuant to the Plan submitted to USEPA.
- Two "PCB Fact Sheets" were made available to the public by the Town of Fairfield (May 16, 2016) and by the CT DEEP (May 18, 2016).
- Two samples of untreated filtrate water from the dewatering of the sediment were collected and analyzed for PCBs. This is the water that is later treated in the WTP. PCBs were not detected in these samples.

What to Expect in June

In June, 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.
- Sampling and analysis of dewatered sediment within the geotextile tube bags began pursuant to the Plan submitted to USEPA will continue.
- Load-out of dewatered sediment will resume subject to results of the additional PCB sampling and 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

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: Richard R. Chandler L.E.P., C.P.G. (203) 815-3141 richardchandler@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