

## **Mill River Cleanup Interim Project Update**

### **May 2016**

### **Update No. 18**

The following is an interim monthly project update for the cleanup of lead impacted sediment by hydraulic dredging in the Mill River. As noted in the previous update (No. 17), 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 April/early May**

The following activities occurred in April/early 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 April/early 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.
- Site preparation was performed to support the load-out of the dewatered sediment (loading of trucks, and trucks transporting dewatered sediment to an off-site disposal facility).
- Sampling of dewatered sediment to characterize the material for disposal.
- The dewatered sediment trial run load-out began in April and was completed on April 21<sup>st</sup>.
- During required waste characterization sampling, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were detected, which requires certain regulatory discussions/interpretations with CTDEEP and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), as the USEPA is the regulatory agency that oversees how PCBs are managed/disposed of.
- Accordingly, loadout of the dewatered sediment has been temporarily suspended pending agency direction.

#### **What to Expect in May**

In May, we have conducted, and 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 WTP is expected to remain in operation until all of the dewatered sediment is removed from the Exide property and the basin is empty.

- A proposed plan on how the dredged sediment with detectable levels of PCBs will be managed and disposed of is being prepared, and is targeted to be submitted to the USEPA the week of May 16<sup>th</sup>.
- In addition, CTDEEP is preparing a “PCB Fact Sheet” that will be available to the public in the near future.
- Load-out will resume upon confirmation from the USEPA of the proposed disposal plan and approval from appropriate 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](mailto: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](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](http://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/water/tmdl/millriver/deepmillriver_factsheet_9_14.pdf)