[Left side box]

For more information

EPA is hosting an information session to talk about cleanup options for the Allied Paper Landfill site. Sessions will be held at on ?? at ?? and at ??.

You can read more about the site at www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/alliedpaper. The feasibility study is a large document and the website version does not include appendices. You can call or email either Patricia Krause or Michael Berkoff for a CD of the study. The entire feasibility study is also available on CD at the information repository at the Kalamazoo Public Library, 315 S. Rose and at the Waldo Library, Western Michigan University, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo.

Contact EPA

If you have questions, concerns or need more information, you can contact these EPA team members:

Michael Berkoff
Remedial Project Manager
312-353-8983
berkhoff.michael@eapa.gov

Patricia Krause
Community Involvement Coordinator
312-886-9506
krause.patricia@epa.gov

[end of box text]

EPA Releases Report on Landfill Cleanup Options –

– Public Availability Sessions Coming this Winter

Allied Landfill – Allied Paper/Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund Site

Kalamazoo, Michigan November 2013

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has completed the "feasibility study" for the Allied Landfill portion of the Allied Paper/Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund site. The feasibility study does not propose a specific cleanup plan, it ~~The feasibility study~~ is a detailed description and analysis of potential cleanup options ~~considered for~~considered for ~~a~~ the site. . The proposed cleanup plan ~~will be~~will be developed and presented to the public at a later date. Allied Paper Landfill occupies 89 acres including Portage Creek between Cork and Alcott streets in the city of Kalamazoo (*see map on Page X)*.

Contamination report

A study of the nature and extent of contamination at the site was completed for the Allied Paper Landfill in 2008. This study known as a "remedial investigation" focused on polychlorinated biphenyls or PCBs. The PCBs at the landfill are associated with paper ~~waste residuals~~making residuals ~~and~~which ~~come~~ are waste from the past recycling of carbonless paper. PCBs are the primary contaminant at Allied Landfill. Other pollutants identified in the study in lesser amounts were metals and a family of ~~petroleum-based~~ chemicals called semi-volatile organic compounds. This study concluded that the conditions that exist at the site required the establishment of cleanup goals.

Cleanup goals

EPA has established cleanup goals that protect people's health and the environment and comply with state and federal regulations for PCBs in soil, groundwater and sediment. "Groundwater" is an environmental term for underground supplies of fresh water. Sediment is saturated soil. Cleanup to these goals will be protective to public health and the environment. EPA will sample soil and sediment and if the tests show certain levels of PCB contamination, then the soil and sediment will be excavated.

If sampling shows PCB concentrations are below the cleanup goal, then the areas will be backfilled with clean material. If the target area is a wetland, the section will be restored and an environmental covenant will be put in place requiring the area remain a wetland. An environmental covenant is a long-term, land-use control on the property.

Under the federal Superfund law, a five-year review of the site is also required whenever waste remains on-site. This will be required for some of the cleanup alternatives. The review done every five years for the foreseeable future evaluates whether the cleanup continues to protect people and the environment.

Evaluating cleanup alternatives

EPA's feasibility study for the Allied Landfill details and compares cleanup alternatives that work at the landfill. The cleanup options included in the report are: no further action (this is required at all sites); consolidation and capping; removal and disposal; and encapsulation and containment.

All of the cleanup ~~alternatives~~alternatives (except the no-action alternative) would protect people's health and the environment over time, EPA's primary goal. The Agency will further evaluate these alternatives and select the one that best protects in the short- and long-term, uses treatment to reduce toxicity or mobility of the pollutants, and is cost-effective.

Common elements of the cleanup options

All of the alternatives (except the no-action one) require excavation of contaminated material from the former operations area near Alcott Street and from sections east of Portage Creek such as the Goodwill property and nearby residential lots. The various cleanup alternatives require different amounts of excavation in the other parts of the site. PCB-containing materials located under the Goodwill buildings would not be removed. If there is any contaminated material left under buildings, groundwater monitoring would be performed and land-use covenants installed.

~~Cleanup goals~~

~~EPA has established cleanup goals that protect people's health and the environment and comply with state and federal regulations for PCBs in soil, groundwater and sediment. "Groundwater" is an environmental term for underground supplies of fresh water. Sediment is mudsaturated soil. Exceeding these goals and protecting public health requires that action be taken to protect public health. EPA will sample soil and sediment and if the tests show certain levels of PCB contamination, then the soil and sediment will be excavated.~~

~~If sampling shows PCB concentrations are below the cleanup goal, then the areas will be backfilled with clean material. If the target area is a wetland, the section will be restored and an environmental covenant will be put in place requiring the area remain a wetland. An environmental covenant is a long-term, land-use control on the property.~~

~~Under the federal Superfund law, a five-year review of the site is also required whenever waste remains on-site. This will be required for some of the cleanup alternatives. The review done every five years for the foreseeable future evaluates whether the cleanup continues to protect people and the environment.~~
Below are the cleanup alternatives included in the Allied Landfill feasibility study:

Alternative 1 – No action
This option must be considered at every Superfund site. At the Allied Landfill, it would mean leaving soil and sediment in place with no engineering work or maintenance. Five-year site reviews would be part of this alternative. **Estimated cost: $120,000.**

Alternative 2 – Consolidation and Capping
Under this option, excavated materials at Allied Landfill would be consolidated in areas of the landfill known as the Monarch historical residual dewatering lagoon and the main body of the landfill that includes the former residual dewatering lagoon, the former Type III landfill, and the Western disposal area *(see map on Page X)*. There are three versions of this alternative called 2A, 2B and 2C.

- Alternative 2A leaves the Monarch historical residual dewatering lagoon in place under a cap. Monarch is a disposal area separated from the main body of the landfill by Portage Creek. **Estimated cost: $43 million.**
- Alternative 2B calls for the contaminated material at Monarch to be consolidated into the main body of the landfill. **Estimated cost: $41 million.**
- Alternative 2C is the same as 2B except EPA will also look for hot spots of extremely high PCB concentrations and if found excavate and ship them off-site for incineration. It is estimated 5 percent of the soil dug up would require off-site incineration, which would increase transportation expenses. **Estimated cost: $62 million.**

The consolidated area under Alternative 2 would be covered with an engineered landfill cap consisting of six layers. The six layers will include (from bottom to top):

- A non-woven geotextile layer~~ – a sheet of strong plastic-like material to stop downward water drainage and upward escape of gases~~.
- A sand layer for gas venting.
- An impermeable ~~(waterlight)~~ plastic ~~liner~~ cover ~~– a sheet of strong plastic-like material to stop downward water drainage and upward escape of gases~~
- A geosynthetic drainage layer that allows for liquid flow without soil loss.
- A 24-inch-thick (minimum) drainage and soil protection layer.
- A six-inch-thick (minimum) topsoil layer with vegetation.

During the design phase of this alternative, EPA will evaluate the necessity of the existing sheet-pile wall, which is an underground barrier that stabilizes the sloped ~~bottom edge~~ or toe of the existing landfill. The sheet-pile wall may not be necessary in those cleanup alternatives that would involve pulling back large amounts of material from Portage Creek. An evaluation will determine if the sheet-pile wall can be removed completely or if parts of the wall are still needed to stabilize the base of the landfill along Portage Creek.

At those areas where contaminated material would be excavated and pulled back from Portage Creek, clean material would be placed to act as a protective buffer to keep the energy of the creek off of the cap during floods, to give a clean area for groundwater monitoring well installation, and create distance

between the waste and sensitive stream environment. After that work, more samples would be taken to make sure cleanup goals have been achieved. Monitoring wells and if necessary a groundwater collection system would be installed between the landfill and Portage Creek. Monitoring the groundwater that flows from a landfill is one way EPA can observe if a cleanup is successful at preventing contamination from moving off-site. As a part of the long-term monitoring, EPA would require these wells be sampled at regular intervals well into the futurely. This cleanup alternative also includes long-term inspections and maintenance of the newly installed engineered caps and the any remaining sheet pile.

Alternative 3 – Total Removal and Off-site Disposal
This cleanup option would involve the complete excavation of Allied Landfill. The extent of areas with PCB-contaminated material would be identified confirmed and then excavated. This would includes all outlying and landfill areas containing PCBs. EPA estimates 1.5 million cubic yards of PCB-contaminated materials would be removed. These materials would be dug up and transported off-site to a licensed disposal commercial landfill. PCB-containing materials located under buildings would not be removed. After excavation, sampling would make sure cleanup goals were achieved. Wetland areas that are excavated would be backfilled with clean material and restored. The excavated and backfilled area would extend over 65 acres. Legal covenants to maintain wetlands would also be put in place after cleanup activities are completed and will clearly separate those areas to be maintained as wetland, commercial, and industrial.

The total excavation option could take five years to complete depending on factors such as the size and depth of the contaminated area and the funding available for the cleanup. If 100 percent funding was not available, the cleanup would last more than five years. This alternative would require local traffic safety precautions for the period of cleanup work because of the estimated 115 truck trips per work day. In addition, the sheet pile wall along the western bank of Portage Creek would be removed along with the groundwater treatment system. If there is any contaminated material left under buildings, groundwater monitoring would be performed and land-use covenants installed. **Estimated cost: $189 million.**

Commented [PA Ed1]: I tried to use more neutral language to match the narratives from the other options. Words such as "the most" and "compared to other alternatives" reveal our bias. - editor

Alternative 4 – Encapsulation Containment System
This alternative involves digging up PCB-contaminated material and encapsulating it in a new landfill on-site. The new landfill would be constructed in areas of the currentgenerally within the footprint of the existing landfill. This plan would include:

- Constructing a bottom liner spanning the former landfill area.
- Placing excavated materials on the newly constructed landfill liner.
- Adding Constructing a cap over the new landfill area covering about 50 acres. This is the same type of six-layer cap described in Alternative 2.

Some material would be transported off-site and disposed of in licensed landfills. The sheet pile wall could be removed along the western bank of Portage Creek. Portions of the sheet pile wall would may be left if they are necessary to maintain a proper for a slope into the landfill and bank stability will be evaluated. Groundwater monitors monitoring would be located outside areas where waste remainsof the constructed remedy to effectively monitor for the occurrence of any groundwater contamination.
Estimated cost: $136 million.

Next steps

EPA will be hosting public availability sessions in Kalamazoo during the fall and early winter of 2013. At these meetings, EPA will discuss the site conditions and the potential cleanup alternatives with the public. These availability sessions will be somewhat different from previous public meetings on the Kalamazoo site as EPA will use posters and other visual aids to present the topics. With this change, EPA is seeking to have more one-on-one, in-depth conversations with members of the public.

~~After the availability sessions,~~ When EPA proposes the cleanup plan the Agency will issue a new document called the Allied Paper Landfill Proposed Plan. EPA does not have a release date for the proposed plan The proposed plan presents EPA's recommended cleanup alternative for the Allied Landfill to the public. EPA does not have a release date yet for the proposed plan. The publishing of the proposed plan will mark the beginning of the official public comment period, during which EPA will be collecting statements by mail or Internet submissions and holding a public hearing. At the hearing, EPA will explain the proposed plan, and people can comment for the record. EPA will consider people's comments as it selects the cleanup alternative for Allied Landfill and may make changes to the ~~preferred~~ recommended option or select another alternative.

After reviewing public comments, EPA will make a final choice on a cleanup alternative and announce its decision in a document called a "record of decision" or ROD. EPA will summarize and answer public comments made in the case in a "responsiveness summary" included in the ROD.

[place this chart anywhere that fits]

CLEANUP ALTERNATIVES	ESTIMATED COST
No Action	$120,000
2A – Monarch area capping	$43 million
2B – Monarch area consolidation	$41 million
2C – Monarch area hot spot removal	$62 million
3 – Total removal and off-site disposal	$189 million
4 – Encapsulation containment system	$136 million