

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

EPA to Propose Cleanup at Canton Steel Mill

Republic Steel
Canton, OH

May 2012

EPA's Proposed Remedy Coming Soon

EPA will be publishing the Statement of Basis document for the public to review and will notify you when it's available. It will be located at Stark County District Main Library in Canton and on our website, found at the end of this letter. It will provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the proposed cleanup at the Republic site. It will also provide a date and time for our public meeting, which you are encouraged to attend.

For more information

The following EPA team members can be contacted for questions, comments or more information about the Republic cleanup:

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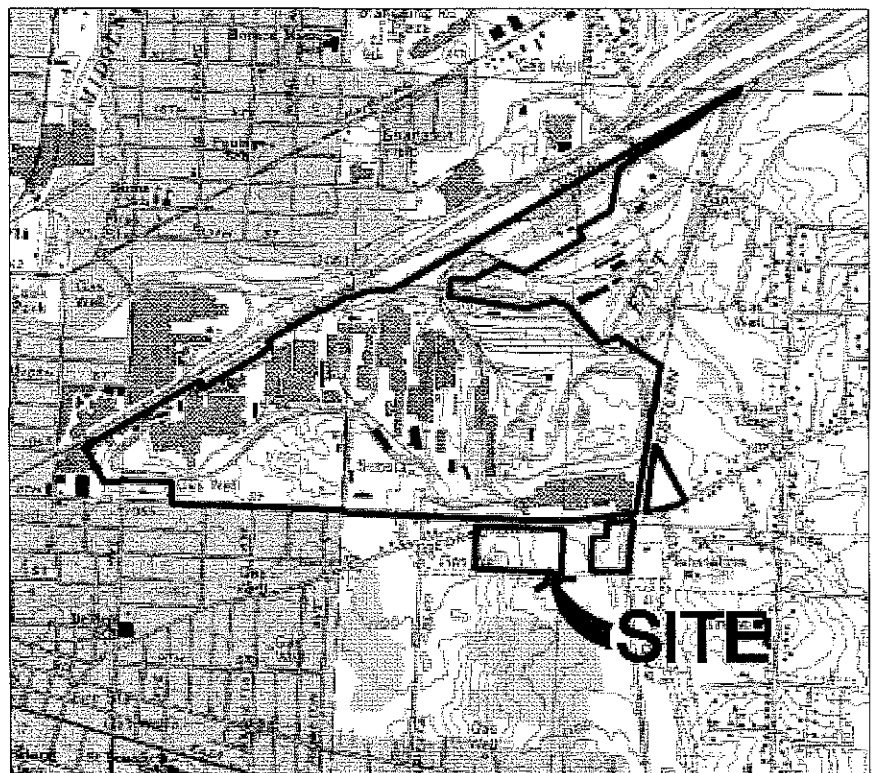
Region 5 address:
EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Region 5 toll-free:
800-621-8431, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.,
weekdays

EPA will be proposing an environmental cleanup at the Republic Steel site in Canton, OH in the near future. The proposed cleanup will be provided in our "Statement of Basis" document, forthcoming. That document will describe the cleanup in detail and give the public a chance to comment. EPA will notify you when it's published.

Republic is a steel production facility that currently occupies approximately 380 acres in Canton. Republic entered into an Order, or legal agreement, with EPA on August 2, 2004, relative to RCRA Corrective Action. Under the Order, Republic had a responsibility to demonstrate to EPA where contamination might exist on site and pose a potential risk to human health or the environment. EPA identified 44 Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) and 22 Areas of Concern (AOCs) that required investigation.

Of those 66 areas, EPA identified 37 that require remediation and will be proposing appropriate cleanup methods for them in our Statement of Basis document. In addition to those areas, a cleanup is also being proposed for contaminated sediment in the East Branch Nimishillen Creek.



Republic Steel's property boundary is outlined in black. The site is over 300 acres and is largely surrounded by other industrial properties.

EPA will be proposing a variety of cleanup methods at the site to address contamination in soil, groundwater, and creek sediment. They include: soil excavation and off site disposal; sediment excavation and off site disposal; soil capping; long-term groundwater monitoring; institutional controls; work place controls; and, financial assurance. Some areas of contamination will receive more than one of these proposed remedies. The entire site will be covered under institutional controls. These measures place long-term property restrictions on the site to ensure future use is consistent with the level of risk present. At Republic, the future use is anticipated to remain industrial, as it is today.

Site Details

Republic is located in a mostly industrial setting with some commercial and residential property nearby. The site is used for steel production with current and future land use expected to remain industrial. The East Branch Nimishillan Creek runs through this area and bisects a portion of the site. With the exception of the creek, there is no ecological habitat at the site. There is currently a State-issued fish consumption advisory for the Nimishillen Creek due to PCB contamination and a statewide advisory for all Ohio water bodies due to mercury.

Investigations of site soils, groundwater, surface water and creek sediment have been completed. Concentrations of contamination were screened against appropriate risk-based criteria. For those areas where concentrations exceeded screening criteria and posed unacceptable risk, remedies have been proposed. Contaminated soils primarily contain metals. Creek sediment and groundwater contain metals, volatile organics, and semi-volatile organics.

The remedies are consistent with the current and reasonable future use of the land, industrial. The most likely exposed individuals include onsite industrial workers and construction workers. However, to ensure all possible receptors are protected, trespassers and recreational users of the creek were also evaluated. The proposed remedies will be protective for all those individuals.

Cleanup details

A combination of remedies will be proposed for Republic to address contamination across the site. Contaminated soil would be dug up and properly disposed of from

several areas on site and protective asphalt would be put in place. Capping protects people by eliminating the exposure pathway. The total cost of these soil remedies would be approximately \$630,000.

Contaminated sediment, as proposed, would be removed from the creek and properly disposed of off site. EPA will propose to remove 500 feet of creek sediment adjacent to the site in addition to several hot spots. The sediment will be removed down to the natural streambed. Approximately 69,228 cubic feet of contaminated sediment would be removed. The approximate cost of the sediment removal will be \$370,000.

The proposed creek remedy would remove sediment that has accumulated behind an 80-year-old dam located adjacent to the Republic facility. The ownership of the dam is uncertain; however, it serves as a nuisance by way of collecting sediment from upstream. The proposed remedy would remove a high volume of contamination that may be largely historic and from a variety of sources nearby and upstream. Approximately 2,749 pounds (lbs) of chromium, 2,216 lbs of lead, and 4,767 lbs of zinc would be removed from the creek as a result of this remedy--among other contaminants. Per pound, over 91% of the characterized contamination located adjacent to the facility would be removed.

The proposed remedy will include groundwater monitoring, work place controls, and institutional controls. The groundwater monitoring would ensure contaminated groundwater does not migrate off site, impact receptors, or adversely impact the creek. Work place controls and institutional controls would protect current on site workers and future landowners.

Next steps

EPA will be proposing the remedies for Republic in our Statement of Basis document. We will publish this document for the public's consideration and provide you an opportunity to comment. We encourage your input on this document, which will be available at the Stark County District Main Library at 715 Market Avenue N, Canton, or, at the following website:

<http://www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/rcra/republicsteel/index.html>

That document will also provide information on our public meeting, which EPA encourages you to attend. We look forward to your participation and input.