

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Centredale Manor Restoration Project

December 2002

☛ The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management are working with the Town of North Providence and the Woonasquatucket River Management Action Committee to address contamination at the Centredale Manor Restoration Project located along the Woonasquatucket River in North Providence, RI. Below is an update on activities.

Dioxin Affected Soils and Sediments Being Removed from Alongside the River

Loureiro Engineering Associates (LEA), on behalf of the group of responding parties which is conducting the removal action under EPA supervision, is completing excavation of dioxin affected soils and bordering sediments from affected areas alongside the eastern shore of the Woonasquatucket River in North Providence. The areas requiring excavation activity were identified from data collected during the spring and summer of 2002. Earlier excavation activities occurred at Allendale Dam during reconstruction of the dam. LEA began the more recent excavation activities in late October by lowering the water level of Allendale Pond. This was done through removing the stop logs and opening the sluice gate at the newly restored Allendale Dam. The excavation work is being conducted using a combination of hand tools, light construction equipment, and a vacuum truck.

The vacuum truck is used to vacuum the loosened soil and sediment from each excavation area into a tank situated upon the truck. The material is then transported to a containment pad near the Allendale Dam where it is emptied from the vacuum truck and temporarily stockpiled until all of the soils and sediments are excavated. Once the excavation is complete, the stockpiled soils and sediments will be covered and controls will be put in place until the material can be transported off-site for disposal. This will ensure that the material on the containment pad is protected from rain or any disturbance.

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Excavation activities (November 2002, LEA).



Vacuum truck (November 2002, LEA).



An excavated area alongside Allendale Pond (November 2002, LEA).

Excavation activities are expected to be completed by mid-December and the excavated material is expected to be transported off-site for disposal by the end of the year.

EPA Presses on with Investigations

EPA contractors are collecting additional samples near Centredale Manor and Brook Village. Contractors are taking a second round of groundwater samples from 33 existing monitoring wells near Centredale Manor and Brook Village as well as soil samples from the former tailrace behind Centredale Manor. The information is being used to evaluate the groundwater and soil and to determine if there is a need for future actions in these areas.

In October, EPA investigated the layers of sediment on the bottom of the river using boat-mounted ground-penetrating radar (GPR) in Allendale and Lymanville Ponds to determine the magnitude and depth of the sediments in the ponds. The investigation includes a study of the sediment depths and how the shape (or geometry) of the river channel and water flows over time have come to deposit or move bottom sediment in these areas of the river and ponds. As part of this investigation, EPA will take verticle cores of sediment in the river in the spring.

The preliminary estimate of the thickness of soft sediment in Allendale and Lymanville Ponds using GPR ranges up to nearly 7 feet in depth with an average depth of between 3 and 3 1/2 feet. The GPR data will be evaluated further to construct cross-section profiles of the bottoms of the ponds.

This information will be used to determine the extent and cost of potential cleanup options for the Woonasquatucket River. This work is expected to continue through next year and the beginning of 2004, when options for cleaning the river will be presented to the public.

Project Contacts:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Anna Krasko
Project Manager
617-918-1232

or

(toll free) 1-888-372-7341 x 81232

Angela Bonarrigo
Community Involvement Coordinator
617-918-1034

or

toll free: 1-888-372-7341 x 81034

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

Louis Maccarone
Environmental Engineer
401-222-2797 x 7142

Remember to Use the Woonasquatucket River Responsibly:

Please remind children to stay out of any mud flats created by the low water and to stay away from construction areas.

Walking, running or bike riding along the river are acceptable activities, as are paddling a canoe or kayak on the river.

Do not eat fish, turtles, eels or plants from the Woonasquatucket River.

Do not wade in the shallow water or swim in the river.

Do not walk on the exposed mud in Allendale Pond or play on the ice.

Obey the warning signs posted along the river.

Remember to wash thoroughly after any contact with the river water or sediment.