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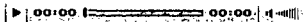
EPA plans to clean up Woonasquatucket River

By FLO JONIC (2011-11-07)

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PROVIDENCE, RI (WRNI) - The EPA begins taking public testimony this week on a six-year plan to remove cancer causing chemicals from the Woonasquatucket River and its banks in North Providence. The plan is to deposit the contaminated sediment in a special containment area on the Johnston side of the river.

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A one-and-a-half mile stretch of the Woonasquatucket River in North Providence is a Superfund site as a result of decades of industrial dumping. The EPA proposes to spend more than \$100 million cleaning it up. 126,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil would be excavated and deposited in a secure containment area on the Johnston side of the river. Johnston mayor Joseph Polisen says he wants written assurances the city will be protected.

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"Although it's not going to be in a highly populated area," Polisen says, "they just need to guarantee us, the town, and the residents that it's not going to be an issue once they dig all this toxic soil up."

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Polisen also wants a guarantee that the clean-up work will go to Rhode Islanders.

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